

## Drug & Alcohol Forum Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross Forum Notes 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### Organisations Represented:

Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association (Tenant Engagement and Support), Highlife Highland Youth Services (Skye Youth Development Officer, Volunteer & Youth worker), Ward 5 and Ward 10 Councillors, Skye, West & Mid Ross Assistant Ward Manager, SLCVO (Chief Officer & Forum Chair), Samaritans Scotland (West Highland and Skye Project and Partnerships Manager), Police Scotland (Area PC), Scottish Fire and Rescue (Station Manager) Living Hope (Key worker)

### Apologies:

Counselling Care Skye and Lochalsh, Ward 5 and 10 Councillors, Highlife Highland Youth Services (Wester Ross YDO), Living Hope (Volunteer), NHS Highland (Public Health) *Note: many of Forum participants from Wester Ross were taking part in a health and wellbeing day at Ullapool High School arrange by the Highland Cares Team and NHSH.*

### Key Discussions from Forum Meeting

- Information about Counselling Care Skye and Lochalsh Services (CC:SL) was shared by the Forum Chair who confirmed there is not a 6 month waiting list and CC:SL will always give priority to people in urgent need of help. People do not need a GP referral and can self-refer. CC:SL are soon to launch a dedicated counselling service for young people aged between 18 and 24, alongside their school based counselling service for all primary and secondary school pupils across Skye and Lochalsh aged 6- 18. For more information visit <https://counsellingcaresl.org/>
- Closing of the S&L Drug and Alcohol Forum bank account and use of funding was discussed. The Chair confirmed the funds should only be for Skye and Lochalsh as they were for the original forum. Two Forum members volunteered to become signatories and the general consensus was that the funds should be used for match funding if forum members in Skye and Lochalsh developed a joint-working project.
- It was agreed that the information provided in the quarterly SLWR Drug and Alcohol Forum Bulletin was beneficial to members and if it was shared as an editable document groups could use the information in a format relevant to their service users. There was a discussion as to whether an online bulletin/information would be useful, it was agreed that this would be. SLCVO will host a page dedicated to the forum on their website.
- There was discussion around the four suggested areas of activity/subgroups:
  - **Sharing of Information** - It was agreed that information sharing for forum members be managed by SLCVO though their website and bulletin. Jo Ford, SLCVO Chief Officer, asked Forum members to email her content /information they would like to share ([jo.ford@slcvo.org.uk](mailto:jo.ford@slcvo.org.uk)). **Content deadline for next bulletin Friday 7th July for issue on Friday 21st July.**

- **Engagement with employers** - Councillor Drew Miller (Ward 10) suggested the Forum contact the local Licensing Standards Officer to see if they could help engage with licensed premises. Jo Ford agreed to make contact with Licensing
- **Engagement and support for adults / young people and families** - it was agreed to combine the sub-groups for adults and young people and have two sub-groups based on smaller geographical areas: Skye & Lochalsh and Wester Ross. This would not preclude area wide action but would allow for targeted action on the ground.
- As the majority of meeting participants were from Skye & Lochalsh discussions mainly focused on issues and possible actions for that area.
  - It was suggested a dedicated post for the area would be a very beneficial. Where this post would be hosted and its remit was not agreed however, the consensus was that the Skye & Lochalsh Sub-group should take the action forward. Forum members acknowledge that before funding could be sought more evidence is needed and there needs to be a wider understanding of what services are available or may be planned. To start this process SLCVO agreed to host a workshop to look at how groups, services and businesses can work together to tackle the drug and alcohol challenges facing communities, families and individuals in Skye and Lochalsh.
  - Nicholas Kelly asked forum members if it was possible to have posters printed and information shared with the general public for the reporting of drug crime and anti-social behaviour. He has produced a poster that the Police Scotland representative agreed to take PS media Team for review. There was some discussion as to the lack of reporting by the public and Councillor Ruraidh Stewart (Ward 10) suggested people may need more information as to the process so they feel safe knowing their anonymity is assured. It was agreed that the forum Chair would investigate what information was available.

#### **Forum Meeting Dates**

- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 1.00pm - 2.30pm
  - **Microsoft Teams meeting Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**
  - [Click here to join the meeting](#)
  - Meeting ID: 324 143 777 060 Passcode: 8PtrRb
  - [Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)
  - [Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 1.00pm - 2.30pm
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 1.00pm - 2.30pm
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 1.00pm - 2.30pm
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 1.00pm - 2.30pm

**Table of Actions**

Meeting date	Action	Update	Status
28/03/2023	1. Terms of Reference agreed		Completed 28/03/2023
28/03/2023	2. New signatories for bank account so funds can be distributed and account closed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13/06/2023 Councillor Drew Miller and Lowri Richards LSHA Tenant Engagement and Support offered to be signatories. Forum Chair, Jo Ford, to facilitate next action</li> <li>16/06/2023 Jo Ford has contact Inspector for bank details to arrange a meeting with bank</li> </ul>	Open
28/03/2023	3. Forum Chair to connect to other Forums across Highland and Scotland to build connections and share experience/learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action for later in year</li> </ul>	Not started
28/03/2023	4. SLCVO to invite other groups and services to be part of the Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13/06/2023 some invitations issues</li> <li>16/06/2023 see action 8</li> </ul>	On-going
28/03/2023	5. SLCVO to create a Forum Bulletin - It was agreed that a Bulletin is a good way to share information from a central point. Forum members will email SLCVO with information they want to share in the Bulletin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30/05/2023 The first bulletin was issued as a PDF</li> <li>13/06/2023 it was agreed to send to send the bulletin as an editable document so grouse could use the information</li> <li>Content deadline for next bulletin Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July for issue on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July</li> </ul>	On-going
13/06/2023	6. SLCVO to set-up a dedicated webpage on the SLCVO website for the Forum		Open
13/06/2023	7. SLCVO to contact Licensing Standards Officer to see if they could help engage with licensed premises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16/06/2023 – contact has been and they are looking at ways to connect the frum to licensed premises</li> </ul>	Open

13/06/2023	8. SLCVO to host a workshop for the Skye & Lochalsh Sub-group to look at how groups, services and businesses can work together to tackle the drug and alcohol challenges facing communities, families and individuals in Skye and Lochalsh.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16/06/2023 – Workshop arranged for 18<sup>th</sup> July at Kyleakin Hall, invitations sent to forum members, Community Councils, Development Trusts, NHSH, SkyeConnect and groups who deliver support activities</li> </ul>	Open
13/06/2023	9. Lowri Richards LSHA Tenant Engagement and Support and Roddy MacLeod Skye Youth Development Officer for Highlife Highland to ask respective organisations if they would consider hosting a D&A staff role		Open
13/06/2023	10. Nicholas Kelly to liaise with Police Scotland Rep to get agreement of poster (reporting pathways for criminal activity) from the media team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16/06/2023 Poster with Police Scotland</li> </ul>	Open
13/06/2023	11. SLCVO to look at what information there is to reassure public about the reporting process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16/06/2023 information shared with YDO and Youth worker about Crimestoppers 'Fearless campaign' a dedicated service for 11 to 17 years olds to report crime <a href="https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless">https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless</a></li> </ul>	Open

**SLCVO** Skye and Lochalsh Council  
for Voluntary Organisations

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