

# Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross Drug & Alcohol Forum

## Forum Meeting Notes 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023

### Organisations Represented:

Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association (Tenant Engagement and Support), 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 Scottish Fire and Rescue, Counselling Care Skye and Lochalsh, Skye and Lochalsh Citizens Advice Bureau

### Apologies:

5 and 10 Councillors, Highlife Highland Youth Services (Wester Ross and Skye YDO), NHS Highland (Public Health)

## Key Discussions from Forum Meeting

### Skye and Lochalsh Sub-group Workshop held on the 18th July

J Ford provided an overview of the Skye and Lochalsh Sub-group Workshop held on the 18th July. A key issue identified at the workshop was the lack of knowledge about existing services and support. To improve this:

- Workshop members took part in a mapping exercise which identified more services, toolkits, and support to be included in the SLWR Drug and Alcohol Forum Directory of Resources and Services
- Participants agreed the Forum should submit an expression of interest to the Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Local Improvement Fund for a project that facilitates the sharing of information, engages with key groups and supports capacity building of local groups to develop drug and alcohol services.

A review of the workshop will be in the September Bulletin.

### Lochalsh Community Champions Project

J Ford gave an overview of the Lochalsh Community Champions Project to be submitted to the Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Local Improvement Fund. N Kelly (Broadford Youth Club) had raised a concern about this project which he wanted the rest of the forum to discuss. His primary issue with the project is it is not Skye based and does not support a dedicated Drug and Alcohol worker for the area. There was some discussion by meeting participants about the project including:

- Aversion to the terminology 'Community Champion'. J Ford explained the term champion has been used as the Scottish Government use this in relation to health champions however agreed that when developing the network there should be consultation about the name.
- Concerns about protecting personal information and confidentiality. J Ford advised that KLCT has strong safeguarding and GDPR policies which will be followed in the project

- Location of project and lead organisation. J Ford explained that Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust are leading the EOI as they have the governance structure and established community network through their community transport e-bus, the Lochalsh Collaboration Forum and Lochalsh Loves Local project. In addition the Kyle of Lochalsh Youth Trust have a current drug and alcohol prevention programme and Living Hope the recovery charity are based in Kyle.
- Meeting participants acknowledged there is a need in Skye however the Local Improvement Fund was not the correct fund for a dedicated post and more evidence of need is required before a group is able to apply for funding for this.

There was agreement for Kyle of Lochalsh Community Trust and SLCVO to continue with the EOI because if the application is successful, it will develop a framework that can be shared across the area and would give the forum a dedicated resource 1.5 days a month which can support groups in gathering the evidence required to develop activities to support identified need.

### **Samaritans Scotland**

Fiona Thompson, Samaritans Scotland West Highland and Skye Project and Partnerships Manager gave an overview of their lone worker project and training they can provide Forum members, including their 'Conversations with Vulnerable People' course which is online running over two mornings – usually 09.30-12.30pm. Details of the course and an overview of other webinars on offer can be found here [Samaritans Scotland's West Highlands & Skye Training Course](#)

The Forum will work with Samaritans Scotland to arrange training for members in the autumn however groups are able to contact them direct at [highlands@samaritans.org.uk](mailto:highlands@samaritans.org.uk)

**Open forum actions** were also discussed for which there are notes in the table below.

### **Next Forum Meeting Dates**

- **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 1.00pm - 2.30pm**
  - Microsoft Teams meeting
  - Join on your computer, mobile app or room device
  - [Click here to join the meeting](#)
  - Meeting ID: 396 409 324 249  
Passcode: YzdrxN
  - [Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)
- 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. Governance Terms of Reference agreed.		Completed 28/03/2023
28/03/2023	2. Governance  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 Millar 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> <li>25/07/2023 bank paperwork is ready to be collected from Police station Action J Ford to collect paperwork and pass information to DM and LR</li> </ul>	Open
28/03/2023	3. Highlighting good practice and learning  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>13/06/2023 Action for later in year</li> <li>25/07/2023 connection has been made with the Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership who joined the Skye &amp; Lochalsh sub-group workshop on the 18<sup>th</sup> July</li> </ul>	Open
28/03/2023	4. Sharing knowledge, data and information  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> <li>25/07/2023 participants at the Skye &amp; Lochalsh sub-group workshop on the 18<sup>th</sup> July signed-up to the Forum mail list of which there are now 62 subscribers from third sector and public sector organisations</li> </ul>	Closed
28/03/2023	5. Sharing information, Highlighting good practice and learning	<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 groups can use the information</li> </ul>	Closed

	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10/07/2023 Second bulletin issued by email to mail list</li> </ul>	
13/06/2023	<p>6. Sharing Information</p> <p>SLCVO to set-up a dedicated webpage on the SLCVO website for the Forum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25/07/2023 Webpage is now live meeting notes and bulletins will be shared on this as well as other information that will help groups  <a href="https://www.slcvo.org.uk/slwr-da-forum">https://www.slcvo.org.uk/slwr-da-forum</a></li> </ul>	Completed 10/07/2023
13/06/2023	<p>7. Sharing knowledge, data and information</p> <p>SLCVO to contact Licensing Standards Officer to see if they could help engage with licensed premises.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16/06/2023 – contact has been and they are looking at ways to connect the forum to licensed premises</li> <li>25/07/2023 – no update</li> </ul>	Open
13/06/2023	<p>8. Sharing knowledge, data and information</p> <p>SLCVO to host a workshop for the Skye &amp; Lochalsh Sub-group to look at 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.</p>	<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, Skye Connect and groups who deliver support activities</li> <li>25/07/2023 notes from workshop will be issued in September bulletin</li> </ul>	Completed 18/07/2023

13/06/2023	<p>9. Skye &amp; Lochalsh Sib-group Drug &amp; Alcohol Workers for Area</p> <p>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&amp;A staff role</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25/07/2023 update provide at the workshop on the 18th July confirmed that both organisations are open to hosting positions. Skye and Lochalsh CAB have also noted interest in hosting a position. Before any position can be applied for groups need to identify need through research, quantitative evidence, and community engagement. The Community Champion Network project includes 1.5 days a month for SLCVO to support groups in identifying need and collating evidence. If the application to the Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Local Improvement Fund is not successful, the Forum will need to look at other way resources can be allocate to this.</li> </ul>	Open
13/06/2023	<p>10. Sharing information - how to report criminal activity</p> <p>Nicholas Kelly to liaise with Police Scotland Rep to get agreement of poster (reporting pathways for criminal activity) from the media team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16/06/2023 Poster sent to Police Scotland for review</li> <li>25/07/2023 The poster has been distributed in Broadford however, at the forum meeting on the 25 July Police Scotland advised the poster and internal Police Scotland email should not be used as the poster does not follow Police Scotland standards and reporting criminal activity should follow below.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Always dial 999 in an emergency</li> <li>By phone – 101 for non-emergencies</li> <li>Online – for issues of a non-serious nature use the <a href="#">Contact Us form</a></li> <li>In person – Find your local <a href="#">Police Stations</a> and check the <a href="#">Public Counter opening hours</a></li> <li>Text Relay - 18001101 for deaf, deafened, hard of hearing or speech-impaired callers</li> <li><a href="#">Support for British Sign Language users/speakers</a></li> <li>In writing – to PO BOX 2460, Dalmarnock, Glasgow, G40 9BA</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>ACTION: Police Scotland to liaise With NK for the removal of posters</p>	Open

13/06/2023	11. Sharing Information 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>	Completed 10/07/2023
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**SLCVO** Skye and Lochalsh Council  
 for Voluntary Organisations

A charity registered in Scotland number SC013885, Company limited by Guarantee SC177372.

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