

**Open Minutes of the Social and Community Development Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday, 13 January 2021 at 9 am in the Council Chamber**

<u>Present:</u>	Chairman:	Hon Anthony Green, Chairman (Hon TG)
	Deputy Chairman:	Hon Cyril Leo (Hon CL)
	Members:	Hon Derek Thomas (Hon DT) Hon Jeffrey Ellick (Hon JE) Hon Gavin Ellick (Hon GE)
	Non-Voting Members:	Mrs Tracy Poole-Nandy, Director of Children & Adults Social Care (TPN) Mrs Gillian Francis, Deputy Chief Secretary (GF)
	Secretary:	Mrs Nicole Plato, Executive Assistant, Corporate Services (NP)
	Invited:	Ms Samantha Dunn – <i>for item 2 only</i> Ms Ann Muir, Social Policy Planner – <i>for items 3</i>

Hon TG welcomed all to the meeting with a special welcome extended to SD. Introductions were made.

1. Declarations of Interest

Hon GE declared his interest for item 9. Members were reminded to declare their interest when necessary throughout the meeting.

2. World Café with Young People Project

SD made a short presentation on the above to the Committee. SD thanked the Committee for the opportunity to inform them about her research project on children's rights and participation to help inform her Education doctorate. SD was previously on Island from 2014 to 2016 as a Social Worker. In her research, she was unable to find any research of children on St Helena i.e. how they are supported on island which was surprising but St Helena does feature in adult research. The world café model shows what's matters to them and is an approach that has been chosen to analyse childhood through the eyes of children, in terms of supporting their right to inclusion, through participation. This approach allows the voice of children to be include in planning. This method also aims to create environments in which participants share activities enabling positive responses to problems and challenges.

SD had come across a number of 16-17 year olds on island who expressed a willingness to be involved with this event. Two youths from the youth parliament will also attend this event.

The world café event will be held on Friday, 6 February at Anne's Place. Children will be invited to attend; it is about providing the stage for children to talk about what matters to them and there will be no set agenda. It will be open to children as to the topics they wish to discuss to link and connect ideas and have fun. Materials for children with autism has also been developed so they can be included as well.

A graphic recorder will also visualize and cartoonise each of the table discussions; no names will be taken so as to protect the children. As an additional protective measure, all participants in the event will also need to sign a consent form.

SD advised that this is just an event for the youth therefore no officials or councilors will be invited; this will encourage the youth to speak freely in this forum.

TPN felt that this was a very positive event to hear the children's voice and supports this initiative.

The Committee was very happy to express their support for this event which will help inform Councillors on the views of young people on island topics which they can take into account in decision making that has impacts on the islands future. This will also empower the youth. The Committee wished SD all the best with the world café event.

SD agreed to send SCDC a copy of the graphic recording from the world café event on 6 February to see what young people think. NP to keep in view (KIV).

(Action: SD/NP)

3. Review of the Minimum Income Standard (MIS) update

AM was welcomed to the meeting.

AM reported that they had held a number of workshops in October 2020 to rebase the MIS and the Statistics team had been collecting prices for the MIS basket. AM was looking at what it means for a single adult family which will be taken back to the workshop group following which we will have a confirmed figure for the minimum wage. AM said that the MIS is not linked to Social Security but is linked to wages and it is a powerful tool. Therefore, there will be a complete separation of the MIS linked with Income Related Benefits (IRB) which means that a new mechanism will be introduced to calculate IRB and Basic Island Pension (BIP). NP to ensure that AM is invited to the next SCDC meeting to present the proposed mechanism for calculating IRB and BIP.

(Action: AM/NP)

Hon JE declared his interest as well as Hon GE did as they both operate private businesses.

AM was thanked for the progress made on the review of the MIS.

4. Confirmation of open minutes from the meeting held on 9 December 2020

The open minutes from the meeting held on 9 December 2020 was confirmed.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Review of Fees & Charges

These will hopefully be submitted to ExCo soon.

NP reported that she had spoken to the Director of Police about the review of Immigration Fees which he advised has been done but he is in the midst of reviewing them to refine them etc. and will hopefully be submitted to SCDC at their February Committee meeting. NP to keep in view (KIV).

(Action: NP)

5.2 Equality & Human Rights Commission (EHRC) ½ yearly report

TPN reported that the issue of equality legislation had been raised with the AG's Chambers and they have agreed to meet with SCDC at their next meeting in February to discuss the issues that the EHRC have raised. NP to add this item to the next SCDC meeting agenda and invite the necessary parties to attend.

(Action: NP)

5.3 Update on Public Consultation on the draft Immigration Policy

Hon DT advised that a consultation report had been compiled which is now being checked by the Working Group following which it will be submitted to SCDC to discuss and agree next steps.

NP to ensure that a meeting is arranged with the Immigration WG and the Elections Review Sub-Committee to discuss the impacts of introducing the permanent resident status will have on voting as well as suffrage rights.

(Action: Hon DT/NP)

5.4 EHRC Update

Hon DT said that he was still to take forward with Elected Members the possibility for Career Access St Helena (CASH) to help with the role of enforcing the Employment law but would do so soon.

(Action: Hon DT)

5.5 Draft Domestic Violence Policy

TPN advised that she had sent the above to the Committee but no feedback had been received therefore she will now ensure that the policy is sent to the AG's Chambers to inform the drafting of legislation.

(Action: TPN)

DRAFT