

Unconfirmed - Urram Board Meeting Notes 4th December 2025 9.30pm

		Action
1	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>Present: James Hilder, Gill Calver, Elizabeth Carmichael, Sally Semple, Peter Winnington-Ingram</p> <p>Staff: Tracy Cameron, Sarah Kemp</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <p>Sandra Lawton, Ali Upton, Jenni, James Campbell, Denise Anderson Catriona Hunter, Karen-Anne Wilson</p> <p>James opened the meeting. Louise is on annual leave. It is hoped Catriona will be able to join us soon having made a good recovery.</p>	Louise
2	<p>Minutes of the last Meeting : proposed Gill, and seconded Elizabeth</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <p>Item 8 – Possible Change of Constitution - was taken first whilst waiting for everyone to log-in – it was noted that following a review of the Constitution which indicates our services cover “West Lochaber” although voting Membership is only open to those in the 5 community council areas – including Glenug, there was no reason other than volunteer resources why we cannot offer services to the residents of Roshven or possibly Lochailort if requested. Conclusion - No Need to amend constitution.</p> <p>Ali, Denise and Gill were attended the Highland Care Conference- hosted by Angus MacDonald (24th Oct) and Gill had circulated a report. It seems there was a positive and constructive atmosphere but universal acknowledgement of the huge challenges facing the sector. Spotlight was put on Uram as an example of good practice.</p>	
3	<p>Finance</p> <p>Current Bank account at £58,640</p> <p>£80,000 - The Savings account with Hampshire savings.</p> <p>Funding</p> <p>The vehicle associated with the Plugged in Communities fund has been ordered.</p> <p>The CRF application has been submitted - for the Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle. The funding bid to the Mobility Foundation will take 21 days to receive.</p>	
4	<p>Services update</p> <p>The Services Update Paper had been circulated by Tract in Louises absence. Briefly</p> <p>Social Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Crafted Creations have started at the Strontian Craft Hub in conjunction with the Sunart Community Company, Building slowly with more activities planned with the craft Hub Coordinator. 2) Urram transport has been taking 2 people from Ardgour to Ewens Room, Open Doors, Strontian weekly on a Thursday. There is a need for a driver rota as this is using up a lot of Sarahs hours. 	

	<p>3) Initial contact made with Cafe' Sunart to trial meal delivery in Strontian as took place in Acharacle. Possible roll out in 2026.</p> <p>4) Sarah represented Urram at the Planning for Progress event in Fort William and open to the general public, this was a well attended day and well worth Urram attending.</p> <p>5) Lochaline lunches continue to be well attended by a wide age range of people,</p> <p>6) The hall and food is booked for the 2026 season.</p> <p>7) Coming up is the Glenborrodale light lunch (14 booked so far, but clashing with some other local events) and get together on 5th December and Glenug coffee on 17th December. Help on the day would be appreciated</p>	
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Hospital Transport

	<p>8) We've welcomed three new volunteer drivers this month, with another lady currently waiting for her PVG to be completed.</p> <p>9) November was another busy month, with trips to Glasgow, Oban and Inverness, as well as more locally. A couple of volunteers highlighted a lack of working EV chargers in some areas – particularly frustrating are reports of cars "parking" in charging bays, blocking access to those needing to use the chargers.</p> <p>10) Team are considering using only the Berlingo in future for Glasgow trips.</p> <p>11) This month has seen an increasing number of last minute requests for transport as it seems NHS appointments are being sent out with very little notice. Unfortunately, this has led to some last minute re-arrangements affecting the availability of cars, which has had a knock-on effect on Urram's plans to provide transportation to community events such as Ewen's Room and Crafted Connections.</p> <p>12) Board discussed these conflicts and the importance of Medical appointments taking priority where-ever possible but there needs to be a 'cut off' date whereafter if we have committed transport to a social event this cannot be cancelled at short notice. (Also need to check the online booking system does not allow "double booking" which seems to have occurred on one occasion)</p> <p>13) This situation likely to be eased once we have a new car available.</p> <p>14) Janice has attended a Volunteer Management training course which was useful.</p> <p>15) Costs for Car Chargers in Kilchoan and Ardgour are now confirmed so work will begin in the New Year to get these on stream. There is a slight shortfall in funding (circa £1,000) for the Ardgour charger but Urram will under-write this whilst still seeking the funding.</p>	Tracy/Janice to agree protocol
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	<p>16) Tracy has struggled to focus on purely SIRD outcomes given all the other activities that require her time and this needs careful handling. The delay to employing the Good Neighbours Coordinator is having some knock on effect.</p> <p>17) Delays from Social Work to processing requests for assessments or responding to referrals is proving frustrating for Tracy and clients in need. Hopefully a Local Care Model meeting on the 16th December will see a clearer definition of roles and perhaps shed some light on where the blockages are. JH offered to attend but Tracy happy to proceed without Trustee involvement at this stage.</p> <p>18) There are good synergies emerging from working with the NHSH Community Link Worker, for which we have some funding.</p> <p>19) Tracy to focus on building the PA development in New Year – as this has worked well – matching PA's to clients (who pay them) as his results in quicker provision of support than waiting for Social Work to follow due process.</p>	Tracy/Louise
5	<p>Projects</p> <p>Local care model</p> <p>Louise and Ian Thomson still working on a paper to define Urrams' role going forward (also linked to possibly providing some services from DailMhor)</p> <p>Childcare</p> <p>Still progressing on two fronts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To organise work/play groups where parents can work in a next door room at the Sunart Centre and a play leader will run children's activities for a few hours. Urram to host 2 hours per week with a play leader and then another organisation – possibly Highlife Highland offer another 2 hours consecutively. The aim is a trial 8 week service to use the residue of Childcare funding amassed to date by Urram. Parents will pay a contribution per hour. 2) Exploring if there is a financial model that would work in Strontian, if there was a third party running Early Learning Childcare services. This would involve a social enterprise taking over the existing Council-run Nursery but offering childcare for 0-2 year olds as well using the other spare room at the Sunart Centre, so a more encompassing service. Care and Learning Alliance assisting hugely with this, and seeking funding for a pilot project. 	Louise
6	<p>Dail Mhor House- (no NHS staff present)</p> <p>The papers are still working their way through NHS Highland procedures. James had met Arlene Johnson at the Highlands Care Partnership Conference organised by Highland Hospice on 5th November and she said she was still working on it.</p>	
7	<p>Staffing</p> <p>Due to a change in the personal circumstances of the successful applicant the Good Neighbour Co-ordinator post will not begin as planned and is now deferred until January. Elizabeth has been in contact with the applicant who remains enthusiastic. To be reviewed in January</p>	Louise

	<p>Christmas Lunch – a reminder that the annual Urram Christmas lunch will take place at the Ariundle Centre on December 18th – anyone who has not responded to Sarah please confirm.</p> <p>No other items.</p>	
8	A.O.B None	
10	<p>Date of next Board meetings –</p> <p>15th January 7.30pm</p> <p>26th February 9.30am</p> <p>2nd April 7.30pm</p>	