

Bromsgrove Partnership Board

10 December 2009 at 2pm

MINUTES

Present:

| | | |
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| Cllr Roger | Hollingworth | Bromsgrove District Council (Chair) |
| Liz | Altay | NHS Worcestershire |
| Mike | Brown | Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT) |
| Maggie | Bryan | Worcestershire County Council (WCC) |
| Angela | Burnet | West Mercia Police |
| John | Cypher | Parish Councils (CALC) |
| Kevin | Dicks | Bromsgrove District Council |
| Marie | Green | Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT) |
| Judy | Hallam | NEW College |
| Rachel | Jones | Act on Energy (formerly WEEAC) |
| Della | McCarthy | Bromsgrove District Council |
| Cllr Ed | Moore | Worcestershire County Council (WCC) |
| David | Shaw | West Mercia Police |
| Ann | Sowton | Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (BARN) |
| Phil | Street | Bromsgrove District Council |

Invitees:

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| Adam | Newman Turner | Institute of Community Cohesion (iCoCo) |
| Nick | Parker | Worcestershire Family Intervention Project |
| Mark | Reah | Worcestershire Family Intervention Project |

Item 1 APOLOGIES

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| John | Morgan | Small and Medium Businesses (Vice-Chair) |
| Hugh | Bennett | Bromsgrove District Council |

ACTION

Item 2 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

RH welcomed everyone in attendance and each person introduced themselves in turn.

Item 3 MINUTES OF MEETING 10 OCTOBER 2009 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes were approved as a true record and there were no matters arising.

Item 4

WORCESTERSHIRE FAMILY INTERVENTION PROJECT

Nick Parker was welcomed and gave a presentation on the Worcestershire Family Intervention Project (FIP). It was explained that FIPs was a service for families at risk of homelessness or children entering the criminal justice system because of anti-social behaviour (ASB). The service challenged and supported families to address the root causes of their ASB and provided intensive support as a 'last chance' option. It was stated that the approach had started in Dundee in 1995.

Nick Parker reported some national outcomes relating to FIPs such as: 85% of family complaints about ASB had either ceased or reduced; 80% of tenancies had been stabilised and taken away risk of homelessness; and in 83% of cases a child's mental health had improved through FIPs. It was believed the project worked due to a number of things such as the key worker taking an holistic approach towards the whole family rather than concentrating on individuals. One benefit to agencies which was pointed out was the cost savings.

Mark Reah, a Project Worker, addressed the Board and informed members of the type of work he carried out. He explained that his aim was to find out why there was ASB and liaise with other relevant agencies. It was pointed out that spending time with the family to understand all the issues and to work effectively with other agencies involved was vital. Project workers could spend up to two years with one family and would spend time with them whenever necessary, i.e. in the morning, afternoon, evening and for as long as required.

Nick Parker explained that Worcestershire FIP was partner funded and had a Partnership Board which included representatives from the Police, Children's Services and Housing Associations. Funding had been secured until March 2011 with a total of 60 proposed cases for 2010-11 across the County, with five from Bromsgrove. Referrals were received from various agencies but primarily Housing and the Police. Since the project had commenced in Worcestershire last year, the caseload had expanded in all areas, including Bromsgrove which currently had three cases. It was hoped Total Place would be an opportunity to bring funding together.

The Board had several questions which Nick Parker answered and he invited any LSP member to get in touch after the meeting and visit them to find out more. It was agreed that newsletters on Worcestershire FIP could be circulated to LSP Members.

Nick Parker / DM

Item 5

WORCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COHESION STRATEGY

Adam Newman Turner, a Consultant from the Institute of Community Cohesion (iCoCo) informed the Board that the Worcestershire Partnership had asked iCoCo for assistance in creating a countywide strategy on community cohesion. It was explained that iCoCo were gathering information from Worcestershire Partnership Theme Groups and all LSP Boards across the County to find out where there were examples of community cohesion working and where there were issues. The intention was to provide this information back to members at an event in January 2010 with a view to using the research to create a strategy. It was emphasised that this was not about creating new work streams and instead was more about finding common ground.

Adam Newman Turner stated that he would be happy to speak to anyone on an individual basis outside of the meeting and/or was equally happy to provide more information if required.

It was pointed out that the main project under the Bromsgrove Partnership which related to community cohesion was the work at the Trunk and DS also mentioned the work of the Community Safety Partnership relating to activities for young people in the Catshill area.

There was some concern expressed over the difficulties relating to community cohesion and it was agreed that it was an ambitious goal. However, it was hoped that a community cohesion strategy would simplify processes and create efficiency savings.

It was confirmed that stakeholders would be involved in the process and would be consulted via focus groups and through one-to-ones. It was felt that it was inevitable that someone could be missed out but iCoCo would be engaging with the community as widely as possible to obtain a cross section of views. It was also confirmed that the Government's definitions relating to community cohesion had been used in the presentation; however, it was anticipated that local definitions would be adopted.

RH stated that he would be interested to hear the outcome of the research to see if Bromsgrove Partnership could learn from others. Adam Newman Turner stated that the workshop giving detailed feedback on initial views gathered would be held on 25 January 2010 and if anyone wished to get in touch his contact details were: Email - adam@newmanturner.com and Telephone - 07729 113175.

ALL

Item 6 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY FORUM**

As agreed at the last Board Meeting, copies of minutes of the Equality and Diversity Forums from August and October 2009 were submitted, together with a list of future forum dates for 2010 for information.

Item 7 **THEME GROUP PERFORMANCE UPDATES**

Theme Group Chairs provided the following updates:

Community Safety Partnership

DS stated that criminal activity was very low and a Bromsgrove Winter Community Safety Campaign had been produced jointly by partners including the Police, Fire and the District Council. DS informed the Board of various operations planned over the winter period including those relating to targeting pickpockets and car robbery prevention.

Better Environment Theme Group

RJ mentioned the recent 'Switch it off' week long campaign and stated that the results were that Worcestershire had beaten Warwickshire for the first time by 1%. It was stated that 2.4% of savings had been made by turning things off over a 2 hour period.

The loft and cavity wall insulation scheme for over 60s was available again but due to the small amount of funding, it was anticipated it would only last until early on in the New Year.

A surgery had been held in Alvechurch but, due to bad weather, the turnout had been disappointing. However, it had worked well in other Districts and further surgeries were planned in this District at the Customer Service Centre and the Town Centre in the New Year when people would be receiving their fuel bills.

RJ stated that it had been announced that from April 2010 anyone with a low efficiency boiler could apply for £400 cash back to upgrade. Further information on boiler efficiency grading could be found on www.boilers.org.uk

It was reported that there were funding restrictions relating to the Warm Front Grant and there was a 6 month wait on new applications. Further funding was expected in April 2010 but in the meantime, partners were asked to assist in managing expectations.

Finally, it was mentioned that two energy efficiency bids for the LAA reward fund had both been provisional agreed but it had been asked that they be combined and the bid would then be reconsidered by the Management Board.

Town Centre Project Group

PS reported that the Town Centre Regeneration was becoming a multi-million pound project but it was acknowledged that due to the economic climate, it was not the ideal time to regenerate the town.

It was believed that the high street surface was a challenge but would have a significant impact; therefore, a scoping exercise was planned to check viability on how it could be progressed.

It was anticipated that the Police and Fire Stations would commence Autumn 2012 and complete Summer 2013 and it was noted that Windsor Street was a very important area. PS had also received confirmation that contracts relating to the medical centre had been exchanged.

Longbridge Project Group

PS referred to the developments on the North site but there was still issues relating to infrastructure and Section 106 monies that needed to be resolved. It was also reported that there had been petrol and diesel leakages found on the East site which were currently being cleared. It was confirmed that it was anticipated that there would be a park and ride scheme set up but Longbridge Lane needed to be upgraded first.

Economic Theme Group

MG stated that a representative from Midwest Rural Enterprise attended the last Theme Group meeting and gave a presentation and showed a DVD relating to setting up and running a social enterprise. The next meeting of the Theme Group was planned to be held in the New Year.

A Task and Finish Group had been set up to organise a training, volunteering and jobs fair in Bromsgrove in December 2009, specifically targeting those with mental health and learning disabilities. However, following expert advice, it was decided a fair would be better attended April time so the Task Group was put on hold until the New Year.

Health and Wellbeing Theme Group

LA stated that bids were currently being written such as one for the Age Well scheme.

The Healthy Weight Project Group had met for the first time and an action plan was being developed. LA informed the Board that childhood obesity figures for 2008/09 showed a decrease compared to other Districts in Worcestershire; however, 25% of 4-5-year olds and up to 30% at age 11 were still classed as obese.

The District Council's scrutiny investigation relating to takeaways was mentioned and a Health Improvement Fund bid was being developed for a Nutritionist post. It was stated that District Council officers were looking at the planning policies around takeaways to try and help with healthy eating and anti-social behaviour issues.

LA reported that the Active People's Survey last year showed that the figure for NI 8 (Adult participation in sport) had increased but it still showed that approximately 40% of adults were completely inactive.

EMoore

Once again, LA reminded the Board that four bids from County Councillors covering Bromsgrove had not been received including Cllr EM. MBryan stated that her team were assisting in chasing for bids and confirmed to RH that Councillor Dr. Lord still had some funding unallocated.

Older People Theme Group

AS stated that the Older People's Day had been a success and thanked partners for their support. Next year's event due to be held on 1 October 2010 was already being planned.

AS explained that the Older People Theme Group was currently operating as a 'virtual' Theme Group and work was continuing through the Older People Scrutiny Task Group.

It was pointed out that there would be cut backs from April 2010 for Age Concern which would have an impact.

Housing Theme Group

MBrown stated that the Audit Commission's Oneplace website catalogued all activities and confirmed that the affordable housing target had been achieved for the last two years and was on target for 2009/10.

It was reported that despite the tension around housing issues, partners were making good progress, for example, achieving Regional Centre of Excellence for Youth Homelessness. However, there was a concern over maintaining the momentum, particularly in light of the lack of future funding which meant alternative ways of progressing would be required.

The issue around the cost of County Council owned land was raised as it was felt that there was a conflict between various targets. It was explained that due to County housing targets, County Councils needed to release land at a viable rate of at least half the market value if not for free. It was noted that the Audit Commission had challenged the County Council due to the housing targets being key LAA targets. MBryan agreed to

MBryan

find out more on the links between releasing County Council owned land and LAA targets.

Transport Theme Group

On behalf of HB, DM informed that Board that in October 2009, BURT (Bromsgrove Urban and Rural Transport) had travelled 754 miles. It was stated that BURT had broken down once but, as agreed with Redditch Borough Council, a spare vehicle was provided to ensure the service could continue. There were six weekly maintenance checks and officers were looking to link these with the MOT and vehicle services.

Very positive comments had been received from service users such as: finding the bus comfortable; enjoying the social interaction the service provides; and liking the door to door service. Residents from many areas of the District were using the service and further promotion was being considered for other areas.

With regards to Bromsgrove Train Station, it was reported that Network Rail had held a meeting with funding parties to discuss further options for funding and technical work. It was explained that there was still a range of technical issues to resolve to match the design to the funding available. Subsequently, both County and Network Rail had started to commission work to take forward the design works for the forecourt and highways and the railways and station building respectively. A programme and strategy on taking things forward had been approved by Network Rail and the next partner meeting was scheduled to be held later in the month.

RH highlighted the concern around the amount of car parking spaces for the train station which had been significantly reduced compared to the original plan. RH reported that the Leader of the County Council was working on this issue to try and avoid increased car parking by train users on residential roads nearby.

Item 8 AREAS OF HIGHEST NEED – THE TRUNK

PS reported that the final bid relating to the Trunk had been submitted. Initial indications were positive and it was anticipated that £500,000 over 5 years from March 2010 would be received.

It was reiterated that a neighbourhood approach had been taken and the project was very much a partnership project focusing on 15 National Indicators (NIs).

PS clarified that the main difference between the former MARC and the Trunk was that the Trunk did not employ a large

amount of staff and instead other agencies were being commissioned to deliver services to address key LAA targets. Three part time learning ambassadors would be recruited for sustainability. PS also referred to the excellent work of Debbie Roberts from EPIC.

PS explained that there was the business case document (which had been circulated to the Board) and a separate Section 10 document which listed partner funding. The NIs included were key but not exclusive. MBrown stated that during BDHTs 10 day Audit Commission Inspection, the work taking place at the Trunk had impressed inspectors.

Item 9 **CHILDREN'S TRUST ARRANGEMENTS**

PS reported that the County's Children's Trust would commence from April 2010 and work was continuing on transforming the District's Children and Young People's Theme Group.

PS stated that the terms of reference that had been circulated was only an initial draft version. It was expected that the District level Children's Trust role would be to look at what was being delivered, consider intelligence, identify gaps and recommend improvements for the future.

Work was continuing with County colleagues on the Shadow Board to ensure effective engagement and participatory opportunities for young people. It was believed the Children's Trusts would have the same standing and importance as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), particularly due to the commissioning element.

Item 10 **LSP STRUCTURE REVIEW**

It was proposed that an LSP Theme Group Away Day be held in February 2010 to: (i) consider and finalise the LSP Theme Group structure; and (ii) for Theme Groups to undertake a strategic self-assessment to develop a delivery chain analysis and ensure each Theme Group contributed to the work of the Trunk.

KD questioned the timing due to the Worcestershire Partnership reviewing its governance arrangements to be implemented July 2010. It was confirmed that the Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-13 and the initial draft structure RH had developed was in line with the current Worcestershire Partnership Strategy and arrangements but the draft structure would be checked.

DM

Item 11 **WORCESTERSHIRE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

KD informed the Board of the Worcestershire Partnership governance review undertaken by Deloitte Consulting. It was anticipated that final recommendations would be considered in February 2010 and implemented in July 2010.

KD referred to the first Oneplace assessment recently published for Worcestershire which gave Worcestershire a green flag for reducing CO2 emissions, water use and addressing climate change and two red flags for: (i) differences in quality of life in Redditch; and (ii) flood defences in Tenbury Wells. It was pointed out that a green flag highlighted where others could learn from outstanding achievements or improvements or an innovation that has very promising prospects of success. A red flag, on the other hand, highlighted significant concerns meaning that local partners needed to address the issue to improve prospects.

In light of the red flags, particularly the differences in the quality of life in Redditch, the Management Group had gone back to Theme Groups to look at the bids submitted for LAA reward funding to see if bids could address the red flags.

Item 12 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

DM stated that she had hard copies of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2010-13 for all Board members and these would be distributed at the end of the meeting.

DM

Printed copies of the Worcestershire Partnership Newsletter, 'Partnership Matters' were also supplied for anyone who wished to take a copy.

Item 12 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was stated that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled to be held on **4 February 2010 at 2pm** at the Council House in Bromsgrove.

ALL

Members were reminded that future meeting dates for 2010/11 had been circulated via email and should be included in their diaries.

ALL