

17 MARCH 2015

Present: Shabana Bayjou, Alan Blackwell, Marie Casey, Carole Dixon, Stephen Dodson, Sarah Feather, Clive Galbraith, Stuart Gallimore, Paula Gorvett, Jane Hartnell, Andrew Palmer, Paul Phelps, Mike Thompson and Richard Watson

Apologies for absence were noted for Bruce Campbell, Clive Cooke, Paul Frost, Kim Goodall, Steve Manwaring, Dan Shelley and Richard Watson.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The notes of the EDG meeting held on 17th December 2014 were agreed as an accurate record with no matter arising.

The draft LSP Board notes from 26th January 2015 were noted for information.

3. EAST SUSSEX BETTER TOGETHER

Paula Gorvett, the Director for the East Sussex Better Together programme was in attendance to give the group an overview of the aims and progress of the project. This is a joint initiative between ESCC and the 3 local Clinical Commissioning Groups. It aims to transform the health and social care system across East Sussex by ensuring people receive proactive, joined up care and supporting them to live as independently as possible.

This is a challenging aim taking into account ongoing changes to the NHS and social care nationally as well as significant budget restrictions but is expected to last 150 weeks to completion.

4. HASTINGS AND ROTHER REDUCING HEALTH INEQUALITIES PROGRAMME

Richard Watson outlined the work of the Reducing Health Inequalities programme which aims to improve health outcomes and access to health care services for those with the poorest health in targeted communities in Hastings and Rother. This will be achieved using a number of measures including interventions to promote healthy lifestyle choices as well as addressing inequalities through general practice.

DISCUSSION

EDG members welcomed the two presentations but pointed out that these are not new ideas; narrowing the gap has been a key priority for a number of years. How are we learning from the past in order to achieve success this time? Education is paramount

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to improving the health of our residents but lifestyle choices such as smoking and drinking alcohol are not being significantly reduced to achieve long term health improvements.

Paula and Richard agreed that there is still a long way to go and the answers to our problems are not always apparent. However the difference is the commitment and the financial drivers as well as a consistent national message. Inequality will always exist but the national evidence base is constantly improving and as a result provides good opportunities for learning, innovation and transformation.

Simon suggested that another discussion at EDG and possibly at LSP Board may be beneficial to further explore the specific interventions being implemented to achieve long term change. The structure and relationship of the existing local and regional health subgroups and boards also needs further consideration to better understand their effectiveness, influence and decision making abilities.

5. DIGITAL BY DESIGN - OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Stephen Dodson, transformation manager at Hastings Borough Council outlined the Digital by Design work being undertaken within the organisation to streamline processes and achieve efficiencies by enhancing online services.

A number of concerns have arisen during this work, including how to authenticate online users, how to increase online transactions and how to provide services for the estimated 20% of residents who don't want to or cannot get online. It was suggested that these issues could be tackled by initiating a digital inclusion working group to hold further discussions with partner organisations also looking to develop their own web services.

A number of partners indicated their interest in being a part of the subgroup, Stephen Dodson agreed to make arrangements to convene an initial meeting and an update will be brought back to EDG in June.

6. UPDATE ON FUTURE POLICING ARRANGEMENTS - SUSSEX POLICE OPERATING MODEL

Chief Inspector Paul Phelps informed the group that recent announcements have confirmed that 12 District Commanders in Sussex will be reduced to six. It is likely that Hastings will merge with Rother to form one district and an Area Commander appointed. Lewes, Wealden and Eastbourne may also become one district. Budget restraints will result in a workforce reduction of approximately 20%. Savings ranging from £1 million to £17 million will need to be achieved in each of the next 4 years. This will mean that investigations into crime may only be initiated after being assessed against criteria such as threat, harm and risk to victims. Signposting customers to other organisations and support groups will also be prioritised.

The finer details of the future structure are still unclear but further clarification is expected in the near future and will be reported to the EDG when available.

Marie Casey and Cllr Forward expressed their dismay that no substantial consultation has been undertaken and at the lack of opportunity to influence the new structure.

HASTINGS & ST LEONARDS LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP EDG

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The EDG recognised that partnership working will be even more important to coordinate work that the Police may now be unable to undertake, especially as all organisations are under the same budget restrictions.

Paul gave assurance that all statutory responsibilities will still be met and agreed that partnership working will be key to ensure that any gaps in the new system are identified and filled to prevent those with complex needs not receiving the help they require.

7. ADDRESSING POTENTIAL GAPS (AND OPPORTUNITIES) ARISING FROM REDUCTIONS IN BUDGETS OF LOCAL PARTNERS

Simon Hubbard reported that, in consultation with Steve Manwaring and Clive Cooke, a report has been drafted which identifies some suggested first steps in reducing the potential impact of funding reductions to partners. This includes the establishment of a small working group to be chaired by Clive who will draw up a pro-forma for completion by partners to identify potential gaps and make recommendations to the June EDG meeting for action to address this shortfall.

The EDG agreed the proposal. A request for nominations from partners for officers willing to sit on the working group will be distributed as soon as possible.

Action: Simon Hubbard

8. EDUCATION - SCRUTINY REVIEW UPDATE

Joy Collins updated the EDG on the progress of the scrutiny review of education. Four meetings have been held since the last update with a number of invited guests from relevant organisations including Helenswood Academy, County Council, Hastings and St Leonards Academies, Sussex Coast College and Ark in attendance. Future guests are expected to be Graham Lancaster from Essex County Council and the Diocese of Chichester.

The general emerging theme of the review has been the need for greater collaboration between the various educational providers and sponsors for Hastings. The role and influence of the new Regional Schools Commissioner is also a key factor and at the present time it is still unclear what impact this may have.

An additional concern is community access to facilities within schools that have become or are in transition to academies.

On conclusion of the review a draft report will be brought to EDG for information.

9. DRAFT LSP AGENDA, MONDAY 27TH APRIL 2015

Was noted for information.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT EDG: WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE 2015, 10AM, TOWN HALL

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 1.15 pm)

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