

Hastings and St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership Agenda

Monday, 21 July 2014 at 10.00 am

Council Chamber - Town Hall, Queens Road, Hastings TN34 1QR

If you are attending the Town Hall for this meeting, please enter the building via the Community Contact Centre entrance.

For further information, please contact Jenny Ling on 01424 451844 or email jling@hastings.gov.uk

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Hastings & St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership

Minutes 28th April 2014

Present:

Statutory Sector

Catherine Ashton	Hastings & Rother Clinical Commissioning Group
Cllr Nick Bennett	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Jeremy Birch	Hastings Borough Council (Vice-Chair)
Alan Blackwell	Sea Change Sussex
Bruce Campbell	Job Centre Plus
Nigel Cusack	ESFRS
Paul Frost	University of Brighton in Hastings
Simon Hubbard	Hastings Borough Council
Jenny Jones	Hastings Academy
Paul Phelps	Sussex Police
Mark Philips	Ark (Academy Sponsor)
Mike Thompson	Amicus Horizon

Community & Voluntary Sectors

Lawrence Bell	Hastings Community Network
Marie Casey	Hastings Community Network
Carole Dixon	Education Futures Trust
Julie Eason	Hastings Community Network
Jackie Everard	Hastings Community Network
Steve Manwaring	Hastings Community Network
Mark Turczanski	Hastings Community Network
Catherine Watson	Hastings Community Network

Business Sector

Clive Galbraith	Chamber of Commerce (Chair)
Drew Knight	General Dynamics

In Attendance:

April Carrol	Sussex Coast College Hastings
Jane Hartnell	Hastings Borough Council
Jenny Ling	Hastings Borough Council
Jenne McTaggart	St Leonards Town Team
Erica Smith	St Leonards Town Team

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr Robert Cooke	Hastings Borough Council
Ch Supt Neil Honor	Sussex Police

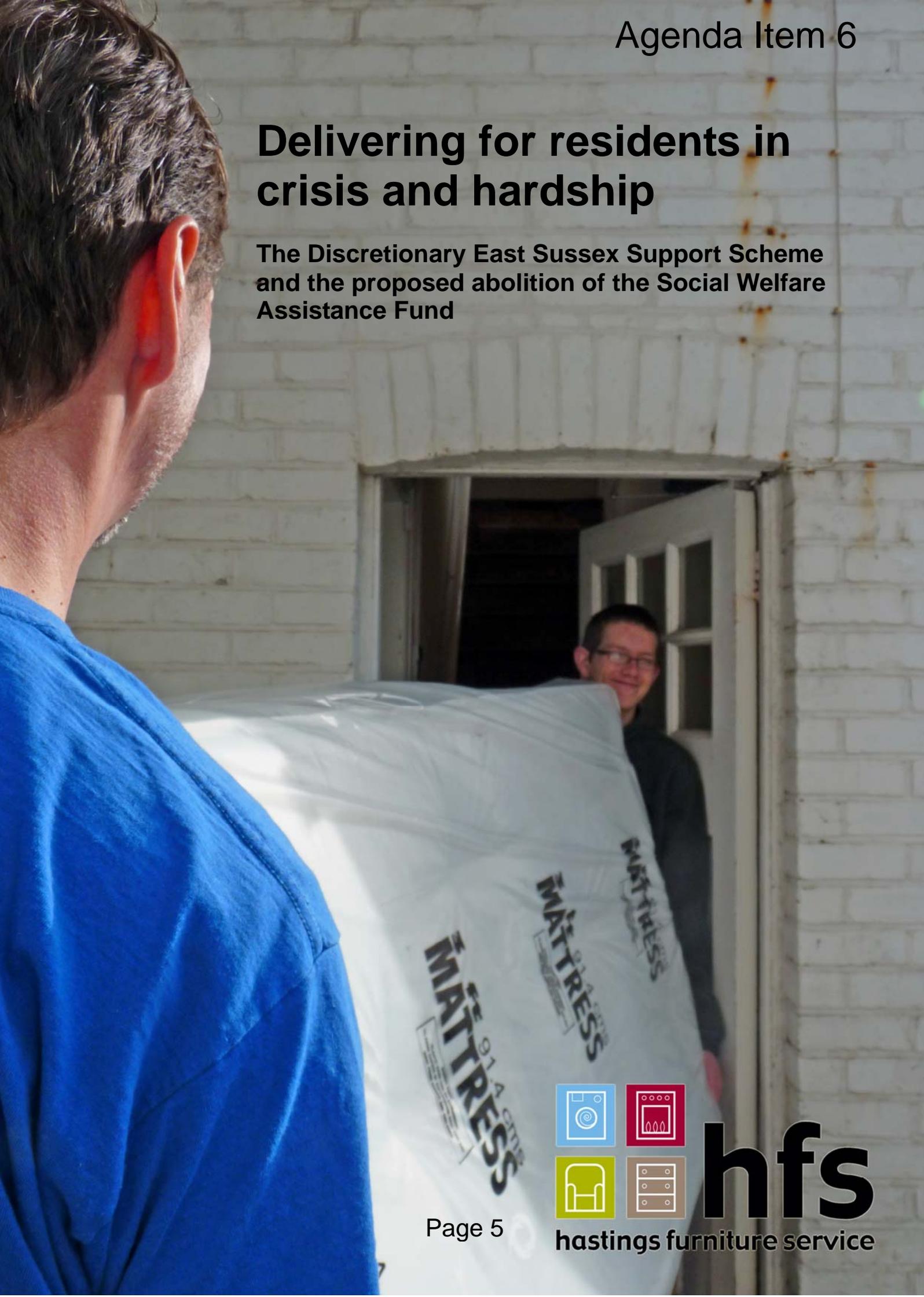
<p><u>1</u></p>	<p><u>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made. Apologies were noted.</p>	
<p><u>2</u></p>	<p><u>HANDOVER OF CHAIR</u></p> <p>The biennial handover of the LSP Chairperson took place. Marie Casey, representing the community, will chair the Board. Clive Galbraith was thanked for all his hard work over the last two years and a presentation was made.</p>	
<p><u>3</u></p>	<p><u>NOTIFICATION OF URGENT ITEMS</u></p> <p>None</p>	
<p><u>4</u></p>	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></p> <p>None</p>	
<p><u>5</u></p>	<p><u>MINUTES</u></p> <p><u>(a) RESOLVED</u> – that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2014 be approved as a true record with the following matters arising.</p> <p>(4 – Education Update) Simon reported that a meeting to discuss barriers to recruitment has recently been convened with relevant partners. A number of actions were agreed including research into the suitability of privately rented housing stock and developing a ‘Hastings story’ to help market the town externally to suitably qualified professionals. Jenny Jones added that closer working with local primary schools will be necessary as families will be attracted by good quality local provision. A representative for local primaries on the LSP Board was suggested, Carole Dixon will look into this.</p> <p>(6 – Housing and Homelessness) Julie Eason reported that SEAP and HARC have been working together to provide advice and assistance for people going through the work capability assessment and to support them to ensure that ATOS or future contractors of this service make the correct decisions during these assessments.</p>	<p>CD</p>
<p><u>6</u></p>	<p><u>UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON IN HASTINGS</u></p> <p>Paul Frost, the interim director of the University, gave an update on the future plans for the organisation.</p> <p>Expansion from the current number of 800 students to 2000 by 2020 is hoped to be achieved by focussing on 3 academic areas: journalism, media and digital studies; environmental, marine and coastal studies and training for professions such as teaching, social work and nursing.</p> <p>A considerable amount of capital is being invested and close working with partners is also taking place to develop halls of residence to ensure that a guaranteed place can be offered to all first year students. The development</p>	

	<p>of a digital media centre, a student union and sporting facilities is also planned.</p> <p>It is hoped that the new prospectus will attract students from outside of the area who will stay living within the town after qualifying and that staff will also be drawn to live here.</p> <p>To date, business courses have not been popular and closer working with the business community was discussed at the recent Executive Delivery Group meeting to examine and address possible reasons for the low uptake. Clive Galbraith noted that advanced engineering and manufacturing training is still not provided and 'growing our own' future employees in this field will be required. Tourism and cultural activities were also identified as key areas of development for the town.</p> <p>Paul informed the group that the curriculum should not be constrained by the undergraduate programme in Hastings but could include short courses or link with the curriculum in Brighton.</p> <p>The Board welcomed the achievements the University has made through partnership working. Steve Manwaring highlighted the Greenway project which would benefit from further partnership working including the University.</p>	
<p><u>7</u></p>	<p><u>SUSSEX COAST COLLEGE HASTINGS (SCCH)</u></p> <p>April Carrol, Deputy Principal for SCCH gave a presentation on their progress since the poor Ofsted report in November 2011 which gave an overall score of 4, inadequate.</p> <p>A reassessment was carried out in January 2013 and showed a marked improvement in many areas. The latest inspection in January 2014 has elevated the overall score to 2, good, with Leadership and Management rated as outstanding.</p> <p>Various members of the Board offered congratulations to the College on their remarkable results. Ensuring that we do not let complacency set in but continue to work together to achieve even better results is now necessary. Capturing good practice and rolling it out to other educational establishments will also help spread the positive effects.</p> <p>April reassured the Board that the College are developing strong links with other learning bodies both locally and nationally and constantly reviewing and revising targets to achieve excellence.</p>	
<p><u>8</u></p>	<p><u>FOCUS ON ST LEONARDS</u></p> <p>This Board received three presentations focussing on St Leonards.</p> <p>The first by Ch. Insp. Paul Phelps outlined the 'reduce the strength' campaign. This initiative aims to reduce the supply of high strength beers, lagers and ciders in the local area; improve enforcement and offer help to those dependant on these products.</p> <p>Andrew Palmer then gave an update on the Coastal Space project which aims to address long term problems associated with the private rented sector, support community involvement and the local economy. Work to</p>	

	<p>improve a number of properties in the 7 street renewal area has been undertaken and is combined with an enforcement programme of inspections to raise standards.</p> <p>Erica Smith and Jeanne McTaggart then updated the Board on the work of the St Leonards Town Team. This body is a mixture of local business people, residents and other partners whose aim is to make high streets more accessible, attractive and safe. A 10 point plan for 3 distinctive areas of the town has been developed to help achieve this.</p> <p>The Community Network reported that rumours had been circulating about the possible closure or change of use of Heron House. The Job Centre currently operates from this site and is an essential service for the local community and if necessary an alternative venue must be found.</p> <p>Bruce Campbell said that Job Centre Plus are aware of the situation and considering their options but have not yet been officially informed of any changes of tenancy from the Ocean House landlords. He will keep the Board updated as and when information becomes available.</p> <p>Clive Galbraith thanked Erica and Jeanne for their presentation on the Town Team and suggested that the Chamber of Commerce also have the opportunity to hear it. He will liaise with them to make arrangements.</p> <p>The Board welcomed the positive steps being taken in St Leonards and recognised progress that has been made to date. The consensus was that families, education, community leadership and access to jobs are key themes which will help to continue the upward trend. Rolling out good practice to other areas, in particular Castle ward, could help to spread the success.</p>	
	<p><u>FOR INFORMATION ITEMS</u></p> <p>Reports on the following items were submitted for information only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seawater Bathing Quality • Equality Charter Report • Regeneration update • Family Keywork Update • LSP Executive Delivery Group Notes – 1st April 2014 • East Sussex Strategic Partnership Notes – 21st January 2014 	
	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Monday 21st July 2014.</p>	

Delivering for residents in crisis and hardship

The Discretionary East Sussex Support Scheme and the proposed abolition of the Social Welfare Assistance Fund



hfs

hastings furniture service

Local welfare assistance schemes and the Social Fund

In April 2013, central government devolved £347 million from the previous system of Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans (1) to local Councils to enable the poorest individuals and households to establish or maintain independent life in the community.

Allocating a proportion of the funding to local government was generally welcomed by local authorities and third sector organisations as they felt they had a better understanding of need and local conditions in their own areas.

In East Sussex, the Local Welfare Assistance scheme is known as DESSS: the Discretionary East Sussex Support Scheme.

Local authorities, the Local Government Association (2) and charities are shocked that this year's Local Government Finance Settlement revealed that Government funding would not be renewed in 2015.

With overall funding for local government cut by more than 40% since 2010, it will not be possible for local authorities to meet the cost of local welfare assistance schemes and the impact on children and those with long term sickness or disability could be disastrous.

This briefing note aims to:

- demonstrate the value and impact of the local East Sussex scheme
- put forward points for consideration in relation to the future of the scheme.

Discretionary East Sussex Support Scheme (DESSS)

East Sussex County Council has used its share of the local welfare assistance budget to set up DESSS to help East Sussex residents in crisis and temporary financial hardship (3).

ESCC contracted local charities and social enterprises to provide the goods and services in their area, obtaining additional social value from the investment by spending the funds with organisations that provide a wider range of services and opportunities for people with low incomes, including training and paid work opportunities.

The ethos of these organisations is also key to the success of the East Sussex scheme. It's clear that the charities have put thought and care into choosing items to provide (for example, ensuring all electrical goods supplied are rated energy efficient so that clients can afford to run them), and provide efficient, speedy and friendly delivery.

1. A community care grant was a payment from the social fund for people on certain benefits to help meet costs which would enable them to remain in the community. Like all payments from the social fund, the amount of money available to help people was limited, so a case had to be made for payment. Not everyone who applied was helped. Community care grants were often used to help people remain in their homes or to help with the costs of setting up a home.

2. See LGA announcement 24 February 2014 www.local.gov.uk#sthash.5D87FC4l.dpuf

3. <http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/benefits/desss>



HFS and Furniture Now worked together to source reliable suppliers and maintain a stock of equipment so that deliveries can be provided swiftly for those in need. Essential household appliances provided by DESSS include cookers, fridges, micro-waves, mini-ovens, washing machines, kettles and toasters.

The East Sussex scheme stipulates that

- The need cannot be met any other way
- There is a significant risk to a person's health and safety (eg homelessness or other emergency including lack of food or warmth)

The scheme aims to:

- Meet the most fundamental needs of hunger and warmth in an emergency or crisis and on a short term basis.
- Provide assistance to people to set up home or be able to continue to live in the community.

DESSS provides assistance either through an in-kind provision or through referral to a support service. It does not provide cash or loans, but instead liaises with a range of organisations to provide:

- essential food
- essential goods associated with infants/ children
- heating or electricity
- emergency travel costs
- help in the case of major upheaval or disaster
- alternative clothes if no others than the ones they are wearing are available

People leaving residential care, long term hospital, prison or resettling after being a victim of domestic violence may be considered for help with:

- Beds / bedding
- Provision of heating appliances
- Essential domestic appliances/cookware
- Essential domestic furniture
- Assistance with moving home may be provided where a person or family has to move due to circumstances beyond their control or some unexpected circumstances.

Circumstances not covered by DESSS

DWP has retained some support schemes, which can prove confusing for people in crisis. It is not known how long these alternatives will remain in place as central government plans further to reduce the welfare benefits budget.

ESCC has put a policy and procedure in place for the local administration of the fund. DESSS does not, for example, cover people whose benefits have been withdrawn under sanction by the Job Centre, excluding many with no income for food or fuel from applying.



Refuge Manager:

DESSS is very much needed by services like ourselves. Without it I don't know how we would obtain the items needed for the families we support.

Our clients have fled their homes as a result of domestic violence, so they literally have nothing to furnish their homes after they leave refuges.

HFS has delivered for our families with great success. Our clients often cry tears of joy when they realise that the DESSS will give them the basic items they need to move into their new home.



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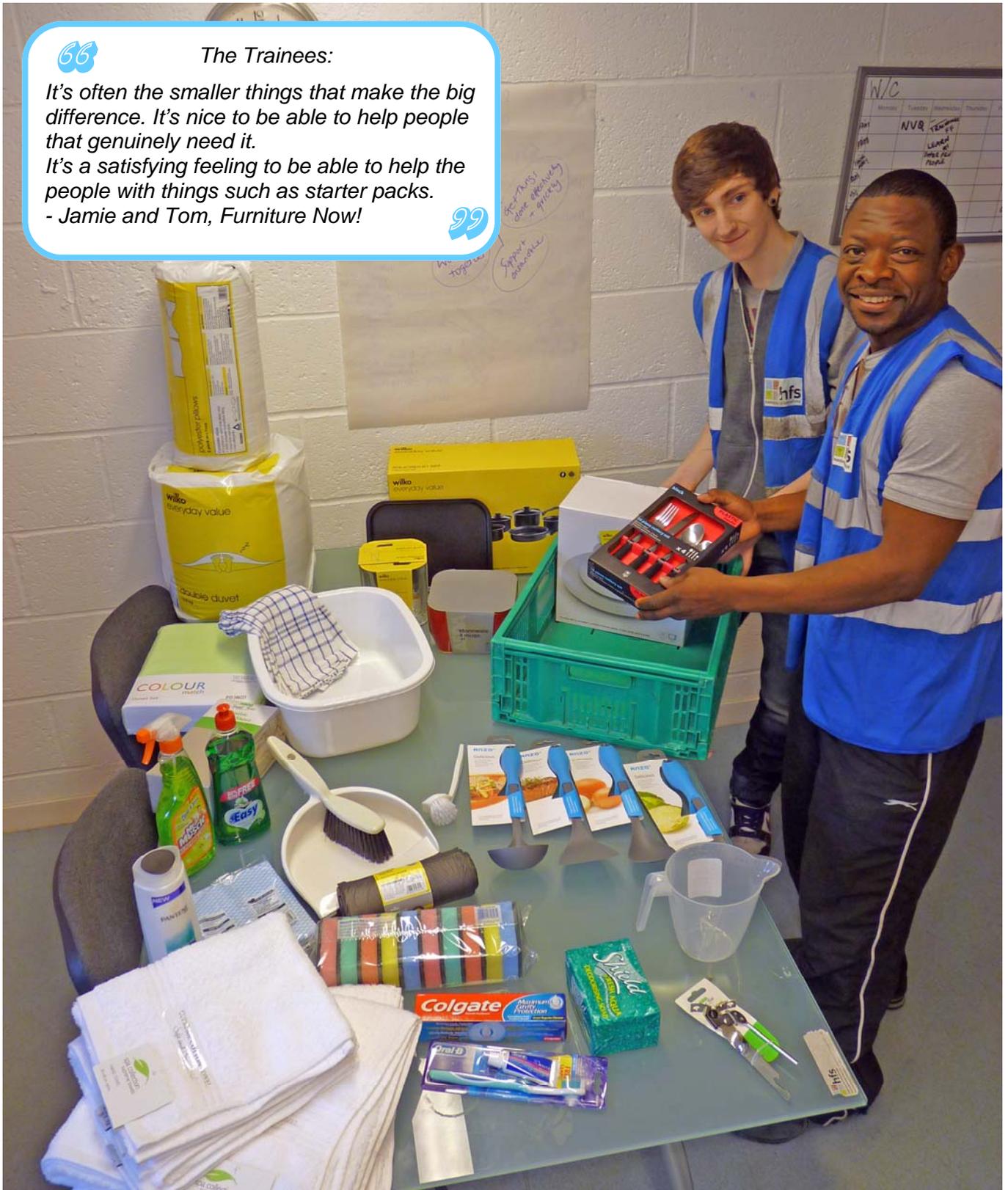
The Trainees:

It's often the smaller things that make the big difference. It's nice to be able to help people that genuinely need it.

It's a satisfying feeling to be able to help the people with things such as starter packs.

- Jamie and Tom, Furniture Now!

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The DESSS can provide starter packs, which include basic crockery, cutlery, glasses and mugs, cooking pans and essentials, cleaning equipment and materials, towels, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste and shampoo. Bedding packs can be provided containing duvets and pillows with sheets and covers.

Impact of DESSS in first 12 months

In the first 12 months of the scheme assistance was provided to 1,152 households. 70% of applications were awarded in full or in part(4).

A total of £746,289 was spent to alleviate the crises in which destitute people and families found themselves. This is approx 25% less than the budget set aside for that period, but with further welfare reform measures approaching and the scheme being so new, it was prudent not to spend the full allocation for the period in case of emergencies caused by adverse weather or impacts from welfare reforms.



In the first 12 months:

- The scheme was set up and run efficiently from 1st April 2013, with applications handled on average within 0.6 days on receipt of full information
- Homelessness was prevented or resolved for nearly 400 households
- The scheme worked with Housing departments in Districts and Boroughs to provide rent in advance or deposits for 157 people who could not access housing any other way
- 45 people were supported to move out of residential care into independent living
- Essential furniture or white goods were delivered to 699 households in crisis or resettling
- 453 awards were made for food, utilities, travel and clothing for people in emergency situations. In most of the County, food assistance was provided by Foodbanks which were given grant funding towards setting up or running costs.

In addition DESSS funds were used to:

- Enable the credit union to set up a direct payment card account for people who do not have bank accounts. 60 people have already opened the accounts which cannot go overdrawn and which don't allow withdrawals by other parties.
- Provide a CAB debt advice service throughout the County, helping 498 households better manage £3.3 million debt to date.

4. The total number of applications during the year was 1665, but 513 were refused as they were not thought to meet the requirements of the scheme. The number refused because they were under sanction by JCP or should have been assisted by DWP/HMRC is not clear. Eligibility criteria will be reviewed by ESCC at the end of the first year.

Examples

Ms D faced starting a new home for her two children with very little money, having fled from an abusive partner. She went to an HFS store to buy some second-hand beds so the children would at least have something to sleep on and staff there told her about DESSS. She called the helpline to apply and the DESSS responded quickly, sending confirmation of her award within 24 hours, which HFS was able to deliver the next day. Ms D was delighted that the scheme provided bedding for her beds and also a cooker, kitchen starter pack and fridge-freezer so she could make meals for her family.

Mrs O lives with her adult son in social housing. She is unwell and her son has mental health problems. Her ESA (Employment Support Allowance) was stopped after an Atos assessment months ago, which also led to her Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support being stopped. She was trying to live on her Disabled Living Allowance alone.

She fell behind in paying her bills, had rent and Council Tax arrears, all of which made her anxious, exacerbating her health condition and making it harder for her to cope or take action to resolve the problems.

CAB contacted her landlord and utility providers who agreed to suspend action. They helped her to appeal the ESA decision which has now been overturned, leading to the reinstatement of the benefits to which she is entitled towards her rent and Council Tax as well.

Mr C has severe mental health problems and agoraphobia. He was left without ESA payments for over a month in the Winter because his GP's certificates were lost by the DWP and, even though they had been re-found there would be a delay before his benefit was reinstated.

He had no food and no fuel to heat his home or cook with. Seaview and CAB helped him apply to DESSS and explain the urgency of his situation. He was provided with a top-up voucher for electricity and a voucher for the Foodbank.

Mr A works part-time for minimum wage and has three young children. When his washing machine broke down he reached crisis point. The prompt delivery of a new washing machine was funded by DESSS. He said: "I thought I was going to have to go to a loan shark, but I was scared I'd never get out of debt again if I did."



Customer Feedback:

Our Situation was dire. We were basically homeless after our home burnt down with all our belongings.

We got the same day service from Furniture Now! Absolutely GREAT!

Thank you.



The case studies make for difficult reading as it is clear people have found themselves with no resources and with nowhere to turn. The crucial issue to be considered is what will become of those in similar circumstances in 2015 and beyond?



HFS and Furniture Now employ young people as Apprentices and are partners in a scheme called L-earn that offers paid part-time pre-apprenticeship opportunities for 16-19s who would otherwise be "NEET" (Not in Education, Employment or Training). The DESSS deliveries are excellent real world work experience.

What will happen after April 2015?

Will Universal Credit replace DESSS?

Central government is urgently working on Universal Credit, an IT system for welfare benefit claims. Eventually, it is hoped to include all working age welfare benefits within the same programme so that people can set out their circumstances and then get the right benefits.

One of the reasons that local welfare assistance schemes are needed is to help people whose welfare benefits are incorrectly assessed or very slow in being processed, and because of this central government believes that Universal Credit will displace the need for such schemes. Unfortunately the Universal Credit project has been beset by delays and overspends, so even if it is a viable solution for some cases, it is unlikely to be fully operational for many years. The most recent projection for UC rollout in East Sussex is 2017.

Universal Credit is also unlikely to provide any allowances for the large essential items, rent deposits or rent in advance needed by some vulnerable people who are being resettled after homelessness, time in residential care or fleeing abuse.

Will the County Council be able to fund DESSS from their core grant?

The County Council already faces a funding challenge in 2015 when its core grant will be reduced by a further 25%. Maintaining the DESSS scheme from the core grant would be impossible without serious and significant reductions in other services.

Will people be able to access loans from Credit Unions instead?

Credit Unions exist to help people better manage their money. They encourage people to set up and manage accounts without going overdrawn and make small loans to existing account-holders only if they assess that the loan repayments are affordable for them. In situations where people do not already have a Credit Union account or where households with very low incomes need furniture and electrical goods to establish a home (e.g. women with children moving on from Refuge), the Credit Union is unlikely to be the right solution.

Will local charities fill the void?

Charities such as the Lions or Hastings Area Community Trust may try to help by funding small grants for specific households in need that they are aware of, but low interest rates, the economic climate and “donor fatigue” mean they have less funding to distribute while the need is increasing. If the DESSS is abolished, the demand will increase even further. In addition, applications to charities are dependent on vulnerable and desperate people knowing about them and how to apply. Often those most in need are least able to argue their case.

When will decisions be made?

Discussions on budget and Council priorities will be taking place from September 2014.

What is the way forward?

The way forward is for agencies in the statutory and voluntary sector, as well as politicians at all levels, to get together and discuss the means by which this work to support and stabilise most vulnerable households in our community can be continued.



Refuge Manager:

If the DESSS was to be cut, vulnerable women and children would struggle to access essential items for their new property when they move on from the refuges.

They need basic home-making items such as beds, bedding, fridges, and cookers.

Most of our clients are not eligible for any other funding for these items, and do not have any surplus income to save towards the items, so they would literally have to move into an empty property without DESSS support.



What will happen if there is no DESSS service?

The potential abolition of DESSS leaves vulnerable adults and children in an impossible position as local authorities will not have the means to help and there will be no other recourse to emergency funds .

The main groups affected will be:

- Women fleeing domestic violence,
- People suffering from mental and physical health burdens they cannot deal with
- Those who are in work but have had a series of misfortunes they could not find the means to cushion themselves against, who might otherwise resort to loan sharks
- People who are homeless

There is evidence to show that the results are likely to be increases in:

- The number of children taken into care because their parents are not able to provide adequate home environments or food.
- The level of homelessness if rent in advance cannot be funded any longer.
- The level of long-term worklessness as people who do not have their basic needs in terms of shelter, a bed and food are unlikely to participate in work or training.
- The incidence of poor mental and physical health, suicides
- Increase in reoffending and criminal activity such as shoplifting, anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

All of the above lead to increased expenditure by other public bodies, therefore the abolition of the local welfare assistance budget is likely to cost taxpayers considerably more than any savings that might accrue.



Federation of Small Business

Chairman:

The 1066 area FSB would be extremely disappointed if funding for the East Sussex DESSS were to be withdrawn.

This funding is vital for areas like Hastings, St Leonards, Bexhill and Eastbourne that have high levels of deprivation and unemployment, helping vulnerable citizens who require urgent assistance to set up and maintain a home including the very basic necessities that we take for granted such as food, power and beds.

It is illogical to expect citizens who do not have access to these basics to function and contribute to the community in a positive way, or to participate usefully in the training and employment opportunities that our members, the many small and medium size businesses in the South East, strive to create.

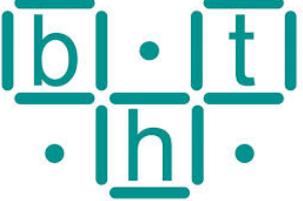


Summary

- The East Sussex DESSS has been established to provide a good quality, sympathetic, well-organised service to help vulnerable local households.
- The involvement of local social enterprises and charities in the provision of goods and services is welcomed as a model of best practice that ensures a high quality of service as well as deriving additional social benefits from the DESSS investment.
- If DESSS is abolished, the initial impact will be felt by the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our community, including women surviving domestic violence, ex-offenders, hardworking people with low incomes and homeless people. The result is likely to be additional costs passed on to other support services.
- If DESSS support is not provided to enable individuals and households to establish or maintain themselves, the outcome can only be a larger number of unstable individuals and households, unable to participate in work or community life, provide a healthy environment for children or other dependents, which has an impact on our whole community and our economy.

We call on decision makers to maintain this vital service for local residents:

3VA	Hastings & Rother Credit Union
AmicusHorizon Housing Association	Hastings Furniture Service
Bexhill Foodbank	Hastings Voluntary Action
Brighton Housing Trust	Horizons Community Learning CIC
CAB 1066	Lewes Town Partnership
Changing Lives in Cheshire	Newhaven Community Development Centre
East Sussex Credit Union	Refuge
Eastbourne Foodbank	Rother District CAB
Federation of Small Businesses	Seaview Project
Furniture Now!	Women's Voice
Hastings Advice and Representation Centre	

 <p>Federation of Small Businesses</p>	 <p>Refuge For women and children. Against domestic violence.</p>	 <p>citizens advice bureau</p>	 <p>AmicusHorizon</p>
 <p>HARC Hastings Advice & Representation Centre</p>	 <p>NCDA Newhaven Community Development Association</p>	 <p>Seaview Project</p>	 <p>Bexhill foodbank</p>
 <p>HVA Hastings Voluntary Action</p>	 <p>Rother District Citizens Advice Bureau</p>	 <p>Hastings & Rother Credit Union</p>	 <p>blit</p>
 <p>horizons community learning cic</p>	 <p>3VA Supporting Voluntary Action across Eastbourne, Lewes District and Wealden</p>	 <p>Furniture Now! Re-use • Recycling • Training</p>	 <p>EASTBOURNE Housing Access Project HASTINGS Housing Access Project</p>
 <p>Women's Voice</p>	 <p>LEWES TOWN PARTNERSHIP</p>	 <p>Eastbourne foodbank</p>	 <p>Changing Lives in Cheshire For a Brighter Future!</p>
 <p>EAST SUSSEX CREDIT UNION</p>			 <p>hfs hastings furniture service</p>

This briefing has been prepared by Mary Denning on behalf of HFS and other organisations that are concerned about the proposed abolition of DESSS.

This document is available online: www.hfs.org.uk/desss.html

For more information contact Hastings Furniture Service report@hfs.org.uk



Education and Accountability – going to school in Hastings in 2014

Thursday, 19th June 2014

Position statement

Introduction:

Each quarter the Hastings Community Network run a themed event on an issue of importance to the sector. The HCN event of 19th June 2014 focused Education and Accountability. The education landscape has changed rapidly in Hastings over the last few years with a rapid growth in academies compared with the rest of East Sussex. Hastings has 8 academies (4 secondary and 4 primary) out of a total of 21 schools, not including the special schools. Of these there are 4 secondary's and 17 primaries. Within the academies framework the accountabilities of schools and councils have been transformed.

Jointly planned with Brighton University's CUPP (Community University Partnership Programme) and the Education Futures Trust, the network event aimed to:-

- raise awareness of the growth of academies in Hastings, the changing accountability framework within education;
- to explore how partners may work together to maximise this opportunity to improve outcomes for Hastings children;
- promote networking, share information, practice and ideas in order to develop strong partnerships in education related issues.

Over sixty people attended the event and there were representation from the voluntary and community sector, schools, the Youth Council and the University of Brighton.

The event

Presentations were made by Martin Kaliszewski, Centre for British Teachers provided an overview of Hastings academic performance. Theresa Phillips, Principal of The Hastings Academies, Mark Phillips, from the William Parker academy (Ark group) and Francis Robinson from West St Leonards Primary talked about their experience of becoming academies. The wider voluntary and community perspective was outlined by Steve Manwaring (HVA) and Carole Dixon (Education Futures Trust). Academics Yvonne Hillier and Mandy Curtis presented their on-going research commissioned by ESCC which highlights the importance of engaging effectively with parents as researchers to influence school policy.

Two key themes ran through the forum discussion:-

- § Examination of the development of academies as a model and the changes in accountability
- § How we maximise community participation within education

The points made raised by the HCN event included:

- 1. A joined up approach at a strategic level and a joint vision for the town.** All organisations with an involvement with education and family / child related services in Hastings should be involved in formulating a joined up vision rather than working in isolation. It was felt that it was important to view education as a wide partnership around the school. Some aspects of this have been lost with the end of the Local Partnerships for Children. How would this be coordinated?
- 2. Operational within schools.** All schools are challenges with adapting to a changing set of requirements from the DFE. Education is constantly changing. For example, the impact of moving to 8 GCSEs. Schools would like to have more lead in time; Headteacher's need to be skilled at filtering out what changes are for the long haul and those not.
- 3. Better co-ordination.** There are a range of agencies and organisations working to support children and their families. It was felt that their impact could be maximised by better communication between schools and other services supporting children and families. There may be opportunities for joint training for staff and volunteers etc.
- 4. Changing educational landscape in Hastings and St Leonard's.**
Communication and discussion about the changing landscape across partnership agencies is required, including:
 - a. Understanding the accountabilities of ESCC and the Academies – sharing this with parents and VCO's..
 - b. How schools can become more involved with the VCS? How do we share intelligence about needs and opportunities to work together?
 - c. Understanding admissions policy of schools and the responsibility of ESCC.
 - d. Understand how children with Special Educational Needs or a Disability will be supported within the new accountability framework..
 - e. How schools pupil premium money is being spent?
 - f. Understanding monitoring, evaluation and research to improve pupil attainment the end of reception and KS1. What interventions are most effective?

5. Meeting the needs of Families in poverty

The significant issues affecting families in Hastings were highlighted together with the need to access a wider network of advice and support around debt, welfare benefits and basic support.

Future Actions

As a result of the event Hastings Community Network will be:-

1. Working with Education Futures Trust and local VCOs to strengthen partnerships between VCS and schools. For example through setting up a VCS slot on the half- termly Headteacher meetings, co-ordinated by Education Futures Trust and through the Local Authority weekly email to heads circulated through Czone.
2. Strengthening representation on advisory bodies through HCN.
3. Meeting with ESCC Children's Centres to review what early years interventions have most impact to children's attainment in reception and KS1.
4. Facilitate discussions on the most effective use of Pupil Premium across Hastings and ST Leonards (LSP, CSPG?) and sharing and celebrating good practice.
5. Promoting understanding about the admissions process – there is a process to explain and some myths to “bust” so that parents and those who support them can understand the process and where accountability lies.

Future HCN Discussion Topics

- Cultural regeneration - improving health and wellbeing,
- Poverty and Community Cohesion – migration, trafficking,
- Question time with prospective candidates,
- Play Strategy

Appendix A: Summary of the Presentations:

Carole Dixon from Education Futures Trust

Steve Manwaring representing Hastings Community Network

Martin Kaliszewski, Centre for British Teachers, presented what the data tells us about school life in Hastings. The 2013 data early years foundation stage profile 'Good level of development' (measured a couple of terms into schooling) was reached by 52% nationally but in Hastings the figure was 38%. This illustrates the point about levels of disadvantage as a baseline for schooling in Hastings. In secondary key stage 4 Hastings schools are lagging in English and Maths, but ahead on other measures and demonstrate an impressive degree of catch up from the picture at primary school entry. New Government changes will mean that pupils will need to take 8 subjects to GCSE level. A concern is that children with special educational needs may struggle even more, without dedicated multi agency support, under this new system.

The local Secondary and Primary academies were represented by 3 Headteachers.

Theresa Phillips, Principal of The Hastings Academies Group reported that before academy status the schools were in special measures and had a poor media profile. The schools are now out of special measures and she considers that partnerships are key to this success. Over half of pupil get pupil premium so are considered disadvantaged. The poorest performing group are white students from poor backgrounds. Lots of partnerships have been built on or developed - horizontal with other schools and vertical with the college and university. Things are improving in lots of areas but pupil attainment still needs attention.

Mark Phillips, from the William Parker academy (Ark group), talked through his early experience of developing the school. A major concern for him is that overall support for the most vulnerable students can be poor and needs to be improved.

Francis Robinson from West St Leonards Primary considers that there is lots of good practice going on but challenges remain significant. Senior staff have a high level of accountability and pressure on them to ensure that schools perform well.

Yvonne Hillier and Mandy Curtis, University of Brighton Yvonne Hillier Mandy Curtis, University of Brighton then talked us through their local research. In 2010 large numbers of children were not attaining levels that should have been and there was an expressed danger of a lost generation of 'neets' (young people not in education, employment or training). The Turning Point project successfully utilised parents to be researchers to influence school policy. The researchers confirmed that it is not a myth that it is hard to engage parents. A range of approaches is needed, with an emphasis on the use of social media key. The Parent Researcher Projects funded by East Sussex County Council helped identify some critical Interventions. The project used parent researchers targeting pupils in receipt of school meals. Examining the issue of the confidence of parents to help children with reading came up with useful new approaches e.g. new mechanisms for communication with parents. The researchers found that parents liked working with parents and the

project improved the quality of feedback and enabled improvements in reading levels.

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Update for the Local Strategic Partnership Bathing Water Quality (Hastings)

Actions since your last meeting:

Misconnections:

The February-March investigation into misconnected households and sewer faults uncovered 30 instances of houses with foul drainage wrongly connected into storm water sewers and around 50 missing or broken caps on sewer pipes. The HBC Environmental Health team has worked with the contractor and residents to correct all of the misconnected households. Southern Water agreed to replace all missing or faulty sewer caps and now report that this has been completed.

A survey of a further 5 areas, centred around the Ore Valley Stream, is now underway. Upon completion in August, we anticipate another list of households where drainage corrections will be needed.

Southern Water will begin their contribution to the investigations and rectifications this month. They will be addressing problems in their network as they are uncovered and reporting any misconnections they find to HBC.

By the end of this programme, all the main catchments along the Alexandra Park Stream and Ore Valley Stream will have been assessed.

Alexandra Park

I attach a map summarising the wetland creation works in Alexandra Park to filter the stream as it passes through parkland. Works at Buckhole Ponds 1 and 2 have been completed as has the planting of vegetation in areas of the stream. The remaining project for this summer is the widening of the stream in the lower lawn. All of these works are designed to slow the flow of water and filter the contents of the stream as it passes over silt traps and wetland vegetation.

Engineering solutions

Southern Water is assessing the feasibility and cost of two engineering solutions: the extension of the current outfall to various points further out to sea and the diversion of the Alexandra Park stream into the storm sewer in periods of dry weather. The outfall extension, if it is viable, will be a longer term solution; only the stream diversion is possible within the timeframe necessary to help us meet the deadline for the new EU standard. We expect to have the results of Southern Water's investigations in August.

Bathing Water Results for the 2014 Season

Water quality monitoring results so far this year, continuing the improving trend of 2013, are very good and would meet the new EU standard. Until we

experience some severe weather, however, it is not clear whether enough has yet been done to minimise pollution in wet weather. Also, as results against the new standard are assessed on a 4 year average (2012-2015), there is still a risk that periods of poor weather this year or next, added to a poor 2012, would result in failure. If we are able to demonstrate continuing improvement through the rest of 2014 as a result of actions explained above, possibly including stream diversion, then we can apply to DEFRA in early 2015 for a 'step change', dropping earlier poor year results because we have demonstrated significant corrective action resulting in marked improvement in water quality monitoring results.

Conclusion

Although the situation is encouraging, the risk of failure has not yet been removed. Actions and monitoring results from now through November will be critical. The Bathing Water Executive Group, through the Leader of the Council and the MP, will be monitoring closely and ensuring that the public agencies and the utility all continue to meet their commitments to a positive result for Hastings.

Virginia Gilbert
Hastings Borough Council
16 July 2014

Improving water quality in Alexandra Park

The Council is working to ensure the water coming out of Alexandra Park and flowing down to the sea is free of pollution and silt.

Why? Water from Alexandra Park flows under the Town and is discharged into the sea at Pelham Place.

The Council and the Environment Agency are working together to improve the quality of that water and improve the biodiversity of Alexandra Park at the same time.

This is what we are proposing over the next 12 months..

1

Buckshole Catchment Pond 2

Remove fish and allow the silt to settle to the bottom of the pond. Without the fish the water should clear and prevent contaminated silt travelling down stream. Some trees will be removed to create views and allow more light in.

2

Buckshole Catchment Pond 1

Clear vegetation and spread silt to make a series of silt traps. This will allow water to spread evenly across the area allowing silt to be trapped. The trapped silt will be removed annually. We will create a valuable wetland habitat and open up the views to the ponds by removing some trees.

4

Creating new habitat at the lower lawn

We are considering widening out the stream at the lower lawn to divert the main stream through a newly created habitat of shingle and Reedbed vegetation. This will be a major piece of construction that will alter the way the stream side will look at this part of the park.

3

The stream in the lower park

We will introduce vegetation into the stream. This will increase the variety of plant life, provide a habitat for wetland species of plants and animals and act as a freshwater filter to purify the water as it travels down the Park.

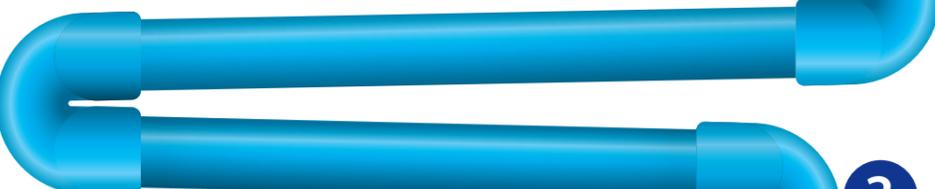
The ponds in the lower park

A lot of the silt that comes down through Alexandra Park ends up in the lower ponds. We are taking the opportunity to increase the amount of Reedbed habitat in the ponds which will clean and filter the water. Creating wetland areas will decrease the amount of open water and reduce the vegetation on the islands.

5

2

EARLY SUMMER 2014



1

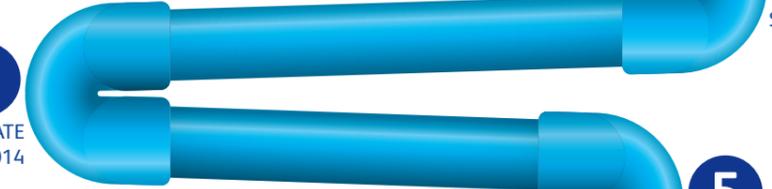
SPRING 2014

3

SUMMER 2014

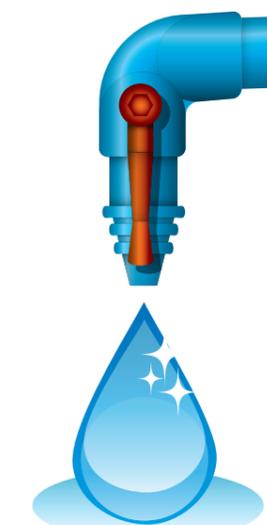
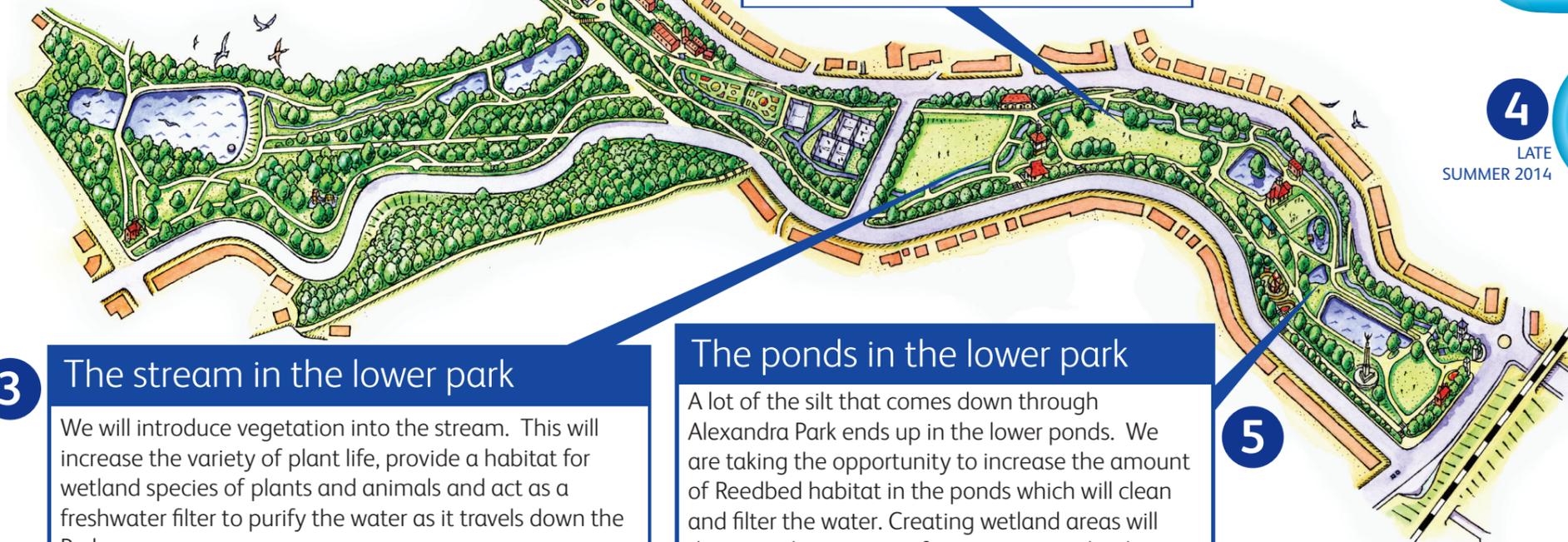
4

LATE SUMMER 2014



5

BY SPRING 2015



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HASTINGS & ST LEONARDS LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

21ST JULY 2014

BRIEFING NOTE ON REGENERATION

Employability & Apprenticeships

1. **Own Grown Challenge** 1,321 pledges to date, towards a revised target to reach 2,014 pledges in 2014.
2. **"St Leonards Works"** drop-in employment advice centre in Silchester Rd opened 1st April, 5 days/week, run by Hastings Works and supported by Amicus-Horizon and HBC
3. **Employability Forum:** met 39th April; 13 attendees.
4. **Apprenticeship promotion** - National Apprenticeship Service-funded (£15,000) "Widening Participation" project delivered at 4 Hastings industrial estates and 5 community events April-July (also 2 industrial and 4 community locations in Rother). Run in partnership with SCCH and Hastings Works.
5. **Schools:** Education Futures Trust schools "business ambassadors" project, and Culture Shift "Creative Cafes" pilot implemented to bring businesses into schools.
6. **Youth Council:** Own Grown partnership looking to build on work with schools, including partnership with Youth Council to increase value of PSHE lessons.
7. **Talent Match:** long-term mentoring support, training and employment placement for long-term unemployed 18-24 yr olds. Local delivery in Hastings, Rother and Eastbourne commenced with recruitment of mentors by Prince's Trust, and identification of beneficiaries by Amicus-Horizon and others, June 2014.
8. **East Sussex Employability and Apprenticeship Strategy:** consultation feedback provided: a good action plan for ESCC as an employer, but does not present a county-wide strategy.

Evening and Night Economy and Students

9. The Evening Economy Partnership meets quarterly to discuss development and progress towards a better evening economy. There has been one meeting on 3rd July since the last LSP report and one internal cross-cutting thematic working group to inform the agenda. The following issues were raised:
 - Following on from the survey of Saga employees a further survey of staff at HBC, University of Brighton, Hastings and Sussex Coast College Hastings has been carried out and the results are being analysed.
 - East Sussex County Council is running a consultation on future bus services which may impact on the evening economy.

- The Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust is funding 12 cultural events on the beach / foreshore land during 2014/15. Many are likely to go on to the early evening and draw residents and visitors in to the town.
- Stade Saturdays started in June and run through to Bonfire night 18th October. Three Stade Saturday events take place during Freshtival 2014 which will run from 27th September for two weeks.
- HBC has appointed Polly Gifford as the Council's Cultural Strategic Development Manager with the brief to drive the preparation and delivery of a cultural programme in 2016 (the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings). The purpose is to achieve positive national and international publicity and increase the number of cultural visitors to Hastings. Polly starts in September.
- This year, St Leonards Festival will be over three days for the first time, with a ticketed opera show on the Sunday to subsidise some the overall cost of the event.
- Coastal Currents will be running from Friday 29th August – Sunday 14 September. It will be managed by Creative Coast and Home Live Art on behalf of Hastings Borough Council.
- Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA) - Hastings and St Leonards has been declared as an LAAA area by central government (Feb 14). There are twenty such areas across England and Wales and the purpose is for local agencies, including licensing authorities, health bodies and the police to come together with businesses and other organisations to address problems being caused by alcohol in their area.

SUCCESS programme

10. HBC is managing the SUCCESS programme (South-East Urban Coast Creative Enterprise Support Scheme), a Regional Growth Fund of over £2m providing grants to creative businesses in Hastings, Thanet and Tendring to support the creation and safeguarding of over 300 jobs. The programme launched December 2013 and has invited 47 enterprises to submit full applications for grant. The assessment panel meets monthly with the next set for late July 2014. The grant value is from £3k to £150k to eligible businesses providing up to 50% funding of their growth investment plan which needs to create or safeguard jobs. The scheme is open to those wishing to establish or expand a creative enterprise, as well as providing support for creative elements of other businesses that result in sustainable creative jobs. The majority of the applicants are from start-ups and a marketing push is planned by Hastings and partners to publicise and support all businesses in applying. This scheme has only a little more than six months to run, so businesses are encouraged to apply soon. www.success-creative-fund.biz

LSP Executive Delivery Group - Minutes**24th June 2014****Present:**

Monica Adams-Acton
 Shabana Bayjou
 Alan Blackwell
 Cllr Jeremy Birch
 Nigel Cusack
 Carole Dixon
 Stuart Gallimore

Simon Hubbard
 Steve Manwaring
 Andrew Palmer
 Dan Shelley
 Mike Thompson
 Catherine Watson

Item No	Subject	Action By
1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Simon welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies were received from Bruce Campbell, Marie Casey, Paul Frost, Clive Galbraith, Jane Hartnell and Paul Phelps.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None</p>	
3.	<p>a. Minutes and actions from the last EDG – 1st April 2014</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed with no matters arising.</p> <p>b. Minutes of LSP – 28th April 2014</p> <p>The minutes were noted.</p> <p>c. ESSP – 29th April 2014</p> <p>Noted. (4) We are still awaiting confirmation of the regional funding allocations from SELEP. It is hoped that our successful bid for Assisted Area Status will add recognition and prioritise our case.</p>	
4.	<p>Introduction of New Director of Children’s Services</p> <p>Stuart Gallimore, the new Director of Children’s Services at East Sussex County Council was in attendance to introduce himself and to outline the work and priorities of the department. Stuart has previously held the same post at West Sussex County Council so brings a wealth of experience in this area.</p> <p>The specific challenges to bring attainment in Hastings into line with the County average were recognised, at present only about 50% of schools are achieving this. The County’s ‘Excellence for All’ strategy clearly outlines how this can be achieved. http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/GovernanceCommitteeReport.pdf Engaging with all the schools in the town to provide guidance and support will be a primary aim.</p> <p>A recent Ofsted inspection at County has yet to make public its recommendations but there is confidence that the action plan will be able to deliver the necessary outcomes to ensure that the town’s schools meet the national average this year, exceed it next year and are all rated outstanding or good within the next 3 years.</p>	

Item No	Subject	Action By
	<p>Cllr Birch recognised the trend for schools in coastal towns to show poor educational performance but questioned why this should be when ESCC have received a good report from Ofsted for their 'looked after children' service.</p> <p>Steve Manwaring reported that a recent HCN education event identified that 'in year' admissions are high within the town. Changing schools is recognised as having a detrimental impact on learning. How can we manage this?</p> <p>Stuart's opinion was that, in the past, there has been an ambiguous message on the role of the local authority in steering schools whilst their responsibility in safeguarding children has been clearly defined. In recent years, the increasing number of academies and funding being directly allocated to schools has resulted in a further blurring of the lines.</p> <p>Stuart reported that now, the local authorities' involvement is more direct, with frequent visits to establish close working relationships. Good results are already being seen. He committed to look into the rates of in year admissions and welcomed further discussions. He was clear on the role of ESCC in partnership working, to provide support, help raise attainment and act as a broker to bring in expertise from other successful education providers.</p>	
5.	<p>Community Led Local Development (CLLD)</p> <p>Steve Manwaring gave an update on the CLLD bid which was submitted late last year. The outcome of the bid is still pending but supporting information has been added to further evidence our submission and our chances are considered to be good. The decision will be subject to discussions not only within the SELEP but also at the European commission level and the case for Hastings will be represented at the next meeting on 8th July.</p> <p>Partners recommended keeping ahead of the game. If we are 'work ready' and able to move quickly if and when funding is agreed this may also help strengthen our bid. A cross-sector local action team has been established which will consider how to push the social and economic inclusion agenda.</p>	
6.	<p>Peer Challenge</p> <p>Cllr Birch gave an update on the recently completed peer challenge process for County.</p> <p>The final report has been agreed by partners and will be ratified at County Cabinet in the near future. Developing a brand for County was a key target within the action plan but is not expected to tailor this for individual towns such as Hastings. However the action plan will include some targeted actions within the region.</p>	
7.	<p>Update on East Sussex Fire and Rescue</p> <p>Nigel Cusack gave an update regarding the public consultation which ended on April 28th. The East Sussex Fire Authority met on 5th June to discuss the outcomes and made the following decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to remove one fire engine from the Brighton and Hove area 	

Item No	Subject	Action By
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to remove a retained appliance from The Ridge fire station and use the savings to bolster personnel at Battle fire station • Introduce 'day crewed plus' at Roedean, Brighton and at The Ridge, both are currently 'wholetime' stations <p>These changes have been primarily undertaken to meet with constrained budgets. It is hoped that the effect on Hastings will be minimal and that the '8 in 8' target (eight firefighters in attendance within eight minutes) will be maintained. However, provision will be stretched if two major incidents occur together.</p> <p>He also reported that industrial action is ongoing, notification of any future strike dates will be distributed if and when they are confirmed.</p>	
8.	<p>Anti Poverty Strategy Update</p> <p>Andrew Palmer updated the group on the progress of the Anti Poverty Strategy. Work is ongoing to deliver the action plan agreed at Cabinet in January and is now supported by a dedicated officer, Annalise Elam. Annalise will work closely with agencies and officers to put the plans into action, to poverty proof existing strategies and an invitation for her to attend the next EDG meeting will be extended.</p>	SB
9.	<p>Street Community Hub</p> <p>Mike Fagan, Community Safety Manager and Emma Thomas, Senior Housing Options Practitioner were in attendance to outline the plans to operate a 'Hastings hub' in July of this year. The Hub will be run from the WRVS building in St Leonards day and night over 3 days and bring together a range of agencies who will work intensively with rough sleepers to provide immediate and long term solutions. Funding comes from central government and via the SHORE initiative, established by a partnership made up of 13 local authorities in Sussex, who have retained St Mungo's Broadway to provide rough sleeper outreach and prevention services until 2015.</p> <p>The group welcomed the initiative with the proviso that a review is undertaken 6-8 weeks after the Hub is launched to evaluate the success and outcomes. Finding long term solutions for individuals will demonstrate the greatest level of success and validate the investment. Publicising the scheme as widely as possible may also help any other potential referral agencies to engage. The Community Network newsletter would be a good place to advertise and Emma agreed to flag this up with the Police who are leading on the delivery of this project.</p> <p>Mike Thompson offered to discuss the issues further with Emma to identify any additional help Amicus Horizon may be able to provide.</p>	ET ET/MT
10.	<p>HS1 – High Speed Rail Link</p> <p>Kevin Boorman was in attendance to report on the latest proposals regarding the Hastings to Ashford line. If this line were to be electrified, with modest infrastructure improvements, it could provide a faster service to London than is currently possible on the Charing Cross route. Network Rail are considering this option and the potential to operate High Speed Trains along the line. This could mean a journey time into the City in under 70 minutes, a great opportunity for the town and its residents.</p> <p>These proposals are by no means definite and so proving the economic need with</p>	

Item No	Subject	Action By
	supporting evidence will be essential to demonstrate our case. Hastings and Rother Taskforce are pursuing this aim with the support of the three local councils. Mobilising public support at a later date could also help sway opinion in our favour.	
11.	LSP Agenda The agenda for 21 st July 2014 was noted.	
12.	Any Other Business None	
13.	Date of Next EDG Monday 22 nd September 2014.	

Meeting Notes

Tuesday 29 April 2014

Council Chamber, Bexhill Town Hall

IN ATTENDANCE

ESSP Members present:

Catherine Ashton (on behalf of Amanda Philpot)	Eastbourne, Hailsham & Seaford, and Hastings & Rother CCGs
Ian Chisnall	Churches Together in Sussex
Gill Cameron-Waller (on behalf of Cllr Bob Standley and Charles Lant)	Wealden District Council
Cllr Keith Glazier (Vice Chair)	East Sussex County Council
Kim Goodall	Job Centre Plus
Neil Honor	Sussex Police
Jeremy Leggett	Action in Rural Sussex
Steve Manwaring	SpeakUp Representative
Cllr Carl Maynard	Rother District Council
Helen Preston	Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust
Ashley Scarff	High Weald Lewes Havens CCG
Keith Stevens (Chair)	Sussex Associations of Local Councils
Michael Turner (on behalf of Chris Wick)	Environment Agency
Gary Walsh	East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Also in attendance (official observers):

Andy Arnold (speaker)	East Sussex County Council
Shabana Bayjou	Hastings Borough Council
Indea Cadman-Rivers	East Sussex County Council
Sarah Feather	East Sussex County Council
Derek Godfrey (speaker)	East Sussex Business: vice chair of SELEP
James Harris (speaker)	East Sussex County Council
Becky Shaw	East Sussex County Council
Carol Studley	Rother District Council

Apologies for absence:

Cllr Chris Dowling	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Jeremy Birch	Hastings Borough Council
Katy Bourne	Police and Crime Commissioner
Rob Cottrill	Eastbourne Borough Council
Charles Lant	Wealden District Council
Amanda Philpot	Eastbourne, Hailsham & Seaford, and Hastings & Rother CCGs
Cllr Bob Standley	Wealden District Council
Cllr David Tutt	Eastbourne Borough Council
Chris Wick	Environment Agency

1) Welcome and Apologies

Keith Stevens welcomed Helen Preston as new member of ESSP and also welcomed ESSP members, delegates, observers, guests and speakers. Apologies were given and those attending on behalf of others were identified. Keith also thanked Cllr Maynard for hosting ESSP at Bexhill Town Hall, Council Chamber for the meeting.

2) Urgent items of business

Becky Shaw told members that a new bid had come into the Community Covenant as bids are approved through ESSP. Members agreed to delegate to Becky power to authorise bids on their behalf.

3) Notes of the meeting held on 21 January 2014 and Matters Arising

Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and actions confirmed as completed.

4) SELEP Growth Bid and feedback from the Open For Growth Peer Challenge

Derek Godfrey, East Sussex Business, introduced the item by giving background to the SELEP and its remit to unlock barriers to growth. The barriers identified when the SELEP was first set up in 2011 were: confidence, broadband, coastal issues and skills. The SELEP submitted its Strategic Economic Plan and Growth Deal to the Government on 31 March 2014. James Harris, ESCC, provided further detail of the Strategic Economic Plan and Growth Deal. The proposals in the Strategic Economic Action Plan set out the objective for £10 billion investment for the South East over the next 6 years.

Ian Chisnall, Churches Together in Sussex, asked that the Voluntary and Community Sector were recognised as important to the economic growth in East Sussex. Derek agreed and highlighted that it had been a point of discussion at the last meeting that the Voluntary and Community Sector were vital in people developing skills.

The Strategic Economic Partnership/ Growth Deal document is available at www.southeastlep.com/about-us/activities/our-growth-deal-and-strategic-economic-plan and the East Sussex chapter is between pages 88 and 108. The SELEP Business Engagement and Communications Manager, Zoe Gordon, is collating messages of support and endorsement. Please contact zoe.gordon@essex.gov.uk if you wish to add a message of support.

James Harris also provided feedback on the recent two tier 'Open for Growth;' peer challenge. The peer challenge took place in March and the report would be shared after the local elections in Hastings with a view to develop an action plan in line with the SELEP strategic economic plan and the current ESCC economic strategy to ensure no duplication of work.

Action: All to contact Zoe Gordon to provide support/endorsement message for the SELEP Strategic Economic Partnership.

Peer challenge report to come back to ESSP either at a meeting or as part of the Assembly. SF/ICR to put on forward plan.

5) Update from partners – Proposed changes to Service Provision in East Sussex and the City of Brighton and Hove.

Gary Walsh, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, gave ESSP an update on the proposed changes to service provision in East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS). Gary highlighted the reductions in spending and outlined a continued commitment to partnership working at both a strategic and operational level to make people safe in their houses, safer on the roads and continue to educate children. Gary acknowledged that although a total merger with West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service was not going to go ahead at this time, and this would have helped to reduce budgets, there are still plans to merge the call centres and training facilities. Gary pointed out that ESFRS is still 'open for business' and hoped that ESFRS would still be approached to explore other ways of being more joined up and creative so that resources can have the greatest impact.

The Fire Authority would be looking at proposals and results of the consultation on the 5 June 2014.

The presentation for this item can be found online at the ESSP website.

6) Environment Strategy Annual Update

Michael Turner, Environment Agency, provided the annual update of the Environment Strategy and asked ESSP to endorse the recommended actions for 2014-15.

Michael and Andy Arnold, ESCC, spoke of the work of the energy saving partnership and the importance of using the voluntary and community sector to get information out to residents on how they might use products from the Government's green deal to save money and reduce fuel poverty.

There were no objections to the recommended actions for 2014-15. The presentation for this item can be found online at the ESSP website. Michael agreed to attend a meeting later in the year to present progress.

Action: Michael Turner to attend future ESSP meeting to present progress update. SF/ICR to add item to future ESSP meeting.

7) Information items (not for discussion)

Update papers were circulated for information about the following items:

- Family Keywork
- SPACES – Members were asked to contact Simone Cuthbert if they were able to offer space or had a requirement for space based on the spreadsheet that was circulated.

8) Any Other Business

Keith Stevens invited partners to give an update on their organisation at future ESSP meetings.

Keith Stevens asked any partners if they could offer a venue to host ESSP to contact Sarah Feather or Indea Cadman-Rivers. Kim Goodall offered the District office for JCP in Lewes for a future meeting,

Becky Shaw informed ESSP that Ditchling Museum has been shortlisted as Museum of the Year. Ditchling Museum is one of the six nominees of this year's Art Fund prize.

Action: Any partner who wishes to present an update at the October meeting to contact Sarah Feather/Indea Cadman-Rivers.

Any partner who can offer a venue to host an ESSP meeting in the future to contact Sarah Feather/Indea Cadman-Rivers

9) Future meetings:

- Monday 14 July 2014 – the ESSP meeting will follow the East Sussex Assembly.
- Thursday 30 October 2014 (venue tbc)

All meetings to take place at 10am.

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS –	
Item	Action
4	All to contact Zoe Gordon to provide support/endorsement message for the SELEP Strategic Economic Partnership.
4	Peer challenge report to come back to ESSP either at a meeting or as part of the Assembly. SF/ICR to put on forward plan.
6	Michael Turner to attend future ESSP meeting to present progress update. SF/ICR to add item to future ESSP meeting.
8	Any partner who wishes to present an update at the October meeting to contact Sarah Feather/Indea Cadman-Rivers.
8	Any partner who can offer a venue to host an ESSP meeting in the future to contact Sarah Feather/Indea Cadman-Rivers