

Hastings and St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership Agenda

Monday, 15 July 2019 at 10.00 am

Council Chamber, Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings. East Sussex, TN34 3UY

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For further information, please contact Chantal Lass tel: 01424 451483 or email: class@hastings.gov.uk

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1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence (Chair)	
2. Notification of Urgent Items	
3. Declarations of Interest	
4. Minutes and Matters Arising (Chair)	1 - 8
5. Professor Whitty, Chief Scientific Advisor to the Department of Health and Social Care 'Reflection of his visits to Hastings on the 21st June 2019 and next steps' <i>(Darrell Gale, Director of Public Health, East Sussex County Council, Steve Manwaring, Director Hastings Voluntary Action and Richard Watson, Health Inequalities Programme Manager)</i>	
6. Scoping the Future of Regeneration in Hastings <i>(Simon Hubbard, Director Hastings Borough Council)</i>	
7. Hastings Local Plan Review - looking forward until 2036 <i>(Thomas Jackson, Hastings Borough Council)</i>	
8. Hastings Pier – update <i>(Simon Hubbard, Director Hastings Borough Council)</i>	
9. Climate Change Declaration - make Hastings carbon neutral by 2030 What collective and collaborative action can we take?	

(Councillor Peter Chowney, Leader Hastings Borough Council)

10. Heroes of Hastings - the peoples picture
(Steve Manwaring Director Hastings Voluntary Action)
11. Urgent Items
12. Next Meeting Date 14th October 2019

Agenda Item 4

Hastings and St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership

Minutes 29 April 2019

Present:

Clive Galbraith (Chair)
Chantal Lass – HBC
Susan Vaughn – CGL
Caroline Evans – ESCC
Sarah Godley - ESPS
Councillor Peter Chowney - HBC
Julie King -
Teresa Flower - ESCC
Carole Dixon- EFT
Steve Manwaring - HVA
Teresa Andrews- HARC
Simon Hubbard - HBC
Councillor Rob Lee - HBC
Tracy Dighton – Citizens Advice
Teresa Andrews – HARC
Annie Whelan – Seaview
Chris Gibbs (minutes) - HBC

Apologies for absence from:

Sean Dennis
Richard Watson
Catherine Orbach
Vanessa Biddiss
Dr John Smith
Tracey Rose
Cllr Bennett
Mark Turczanski

61	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> <u>Notification of urgent items</u> Chantal Lass: Prof Chris Witty research Steve Manwaring: Locality meeting in July <u>Declarations of Interest</u> None	
62	<u>MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING (CHAIR)</u> <u>RESOLVED</u> – that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th January	

2019 be approved as a true record

The chair asked that LSP members respond to the Future of the LSP question, which was sent round, as soon as possible.

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SUSSEX POLICE - DRUGS HARM IN HASTINGS

(Sarah Godley, Chief Inspector District Commander, Sussex Police)

Presentation attached (appendix 1)

Sarah Godley presented an overview of drugs harm in Hastings including an overview of how Sussex Police operate locally to nationally, highlighting the ability to draw on national policing resources.

She explained the difference between County Lines and Organised Crime Group, locally known as 'OCG Jarrow'. The biggest difference between county lines and OCG Jarrow is the commodity supplied. County lines supply crack and heroin, OCG focus on the supply of cocaine and cannabis. The business model is different between the two but both result in the exploitation of vulnerable people especially local young people.

County lines exploit vulnerable households by taking homes 'cuckooing' for short periods of time and deal from these temporary locations. OCG Jarrow have safe houses but don't deal from these they just keep illegal items here. Sarah further explained the established and Organised Crime Group operating in Hastings, advising it was sophisticated and organised and involved the importation and supply of cocaine and cannabis into the UK. The criminal activity includes the wholesale supply of drugs to other OCGs as well as street supply within Hastings and the surrounding area.

OCG Jarrow has no competition at this time so there is little violence in Hastings however the potential for violence is high. Demand for drugs is high in Hastings so there is enough space for everyone to operate. . There was a successful campaign at the end of last year where 250 wraps of cocaine were seized from the night time economy. OCG Jarrow is operating internationally as well as locally, the imprisonment of a principal member last year has resulted in 50% of the 'business' being owned by a third person not based in the UK.

A local concern is that vulnerable young people are being used by the gangs who are being attracted by the financial rewards. However, once they are involved it is very hard to get out of, with gang members becoming 'debt bonded' to deal and supply for the group. Behind the scenes, OCGJ – exhibit a significant high level of violence to control, coerce and enforce the market share.

Sarah advised that locally, Sussex Police led by the Hastings and Rother Prevention Team are working to identify and disrupt the supply chain involved in the supply of illegal drugs. Often cocaine users ignore what's going on behind the scenes that results in

their personal usage, increasingly 'middle class' users in their 20s and 30s. Sarah advised that recreational cocaine use is a huge issue for Hastings. The police have recently taken swabs of most pubs in Hastings, most tested positive for cocaine.

Sarah asked the LSP how can we collectively work together to help tackle organised crime? How can we better work together?

- How can you help?
- What intelligence gaps can you fill and how?
- What educational gaps can you fill and how?
- Are we working together as effectively as possible to protect vulnerable people?
- How can we reduce the demand for drugs in the town?

Board Members asked what intervention was happening with regard to schools. Sarah advised that there is a Prevention Youth Officer who works with local schools, but as much of the cocaine usage is outside of the school environment, other educational/ informative messages are needed to engage 20- 30 year olds.

The Board asked what is the key to educating people in their 20's /30's? Do these people have prior drugs history or are they just picking it up now due to its popularity?

Caroline Evans answered that there needs to be education around the supply chain, the exploitation that results from the supply of cocaine may put people off buying/using the drug. Involve local employers make sure it is it's on local employer's radars.

She commented that most users don't consider themselves to be addicts and are able to normally function and hold down jobs; however this will cause health problems later on if use continues. She continued to say that it is important to improve existing services rather than making new ones that people will have to seek out. Community projects and outreach services, include as part of everyday conversations. These people may have a previous drugs history but may not and are new. The purity of cocaine is higher and the price is cheaper which is attracting more people to it. It doesn't have the same side effects as heroin. Ultimately we need to reduce the demand. It has become somewhat of a status symbol like party drugs such as ecstasy were. People are buying from people they know that they don't consider dealers and don't think about the supply chain, if they knew more about the violence and exploitation around the supply chain then they probably wouldn't use it.

Members spoke about the drug problems in Rye including open dealing in some specific places and school children dealing. Chief inspector Sarah Godley responded by saying that Hastings has been used as a trial licensing using a range of powers such as Child Abduction Warning Notices and Criminal Behaviour Orders, and a similar approach will be used in Rye. They are aware of the issues in Rye and are currently doing a lot of work in the area. She also commented that they need intelligence to effectively police the issues.

Members commented that harm is being done to people in the supply and the people in use of the drugs. The drugs are illegal so the trade is being run by criminals; cannabis has been a widely used drug for a long time and cocaine appears to be going that way. Members asked if the moral argument would have traction as opposed to the enforcement and health arguments against the drug. Chief inspector Sarah Godley answered that the moral argument will have traction as the damage to humans in the supply chain is large and as they are buying from people they know who they don't see as dealers. There is a massive black market around cocaine and is different to cannabis which is more prevalent as it can be grown in the UK. She also mentioned that investment in the PCC is important and a Bid has been put in for an extra youth officer to help protect vulnerable young people.

Members commented that the education of the out of school cohort will be very important and very difficult to achieve. An example was suggested to be the pirated video campaign which had a large campaign around it that did not really affect the sale of pirated content, members added that best practice should be drawn on to inform the approach to take with this new campaign. Chief Inspector Sarah Godley added that the police are coming from an enforcement side so need help from members around the other approaches, there needs to be a national buy in and a co-ordinated effort. Caroline Evans added that the key is that the conversation doesn't stop here, people don't want drugs in their area and if people keep using then they will suffer medical problems. The health effects of these drugs are not widely publicised and it is a public health issue like drinking or healthy eating.

In order to develop an effective local campaign we need behavioural insight, local expertise and ideas to create social change.

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EAST SUSSEX DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICE - UPDATE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP WORKING

(Caroline Evans, Strategic Commissioning Manager –Substance Misuse ESCC AND Susan Vaughan, Implementation Manager for East Sussex, Change Grow Live)

Caroline Evans presented an update, the re-tendering process for the drug and alcohol service in East Sussex finished at the end of January and was awarded to Change Grow Live (CGL). She stressed that it would not be a continuation of the services from before but all new services. She then introduced Susan Vaughan the manager for CGL.

Susan Vaughan presented an update on the drug and alcohol service. She started by saying that it was day 1 of week 4 in the role so it is still very new. However she commented that she has a long history of working in East Sussex especially in Hastings and is not new to the problems. A fixed term contract for 4 months the first weeks were familiarisation with the team and their challenges. It is an adult treatment service that treats from alcohol through to opiates. Services are across East Sussex and it is a treatment

service. One of the main problems is that they cannot treat people who don't want to be treated so they must think of ways to engage with people.

On the subject of cocaine she said that when she spoke to one of the the recovery workers about a cocaine group that he ran and how successful it was he said that he would like to run more. Although lack of engagement is a problem he went to their place of work, with their permission, and engaged with them at work this was part of its success. She commented that a mixture of people come to the building, from people referred by their GP for alcohol use to heavy opiate users, and they need the service to be welcoming to all.

She commented that they are running a number of launches which everyone is invited too. They will be an opportunity to see what CGL do, talk to them and invite them to areas where they might be helpful. They have had a high turnover of staff in management level recently and it has been difficult to recruit these positions. They are now recruiting a locality lead as although there are similarities between Hastings and Eastbourne, there are some specific Hastings issues. This means they need to have someone who knows these issues and can focus on them.

Members commented that people in Hastings have been very challenged in and there has been a lot of work in the area. They are happy to hear of someone to focus on this area. Hastings has low property values and high levels of deprivation and places like this do need high levels of focus. It was asked that given that the services are given in different ways, what are we all doing working together joined up in a simple way the people can see. It was also commented that Seaview would like to have a conversation with CGL around this.

Susan Vaughan answered that things have changed since the first bid was won in Hastings and focus has shifted. This has lost some of the good interactions that were had but it is not too late to get these back. She also commented that she used to be a board member for Seaview and they would have been top of her list to work with so she is happy to have the conversation with them.

Caroline Evans added that working in partnership with key local players she fully anticipates and expects star service (which is the new name of the service) to be part of these discussions.

Members spoke on the challenges of managing the many services in a single environment and welcomed the idea that it can be rolled out in a number of different locations. This will help the people attempting to get help at the early stages not feel intimidated by the diverse needs of the people that receive help. They also spoke on the recent report on prescription addiction and how people don't see themselves as addicts as the opiates are prescribed by a doctor.

Caroline Evans answered that with opiate based painkillers there is a significant problem that is above national average in Hastings and Rother for prescription led addiction. There is a pilot project in station plaza. Routine

reviews have found poor prescription management in some areas, with poor monitoring of repeat prescriptions. . After they undertook work alongside the GP and pharmacist to educate staff about prescriptions and a recovery worker worked with patients and provided a recovery programme, this project has seen a reduction. This project will be rolled out to High Glade surgery next and work will be carried out within the town.

CGL will look at the use of satellite venues where people are going to be anyway instead of places they have to go to, surgeries are a good use for this however anywhere can be used for a recovery worker such as coffee shops, places of employment or voluntary centres.

The custody block and chief inspector will work together to get people the help they need and the recovery worker will work with client after they have left the custody block.

Tracy Deighton commented that they were seeing more clients exhibiting various levels of intoxication at the CAB which was affecting their ability to provide a service to an individual, often requiring them to return for support on another day.

65 FUTURE OF HASTINGS TOWN CENTRE - CREATING A NEW VISION FOR HASTINGS TOWN CENTRE

(Simon Hubbard Director, Hastings Borough Council)

Presentation attached (appendix 2)

Simon Hubbard gave a presentation on a bid submitted by HBC for up to £25m from a budget of £675m that is focused on town centres struggling to transform. It is a two stage competitive process against other towns. He commented that the town centre has done really well, Hastings operates three town centres and its level of empties is at or below national averages. Queen's Road is doing better than ever before, but since the closure of the university, Hastings has to change its brand from a university town and needs a new unique selling point and vision

The town is at an interesting phase and there is lots of office space which is more or less full. There needs to be an answer with what to do next with the university building following public investment. Queensbury house has an uncertain future but has had an approved planning application for change of use to a hotel. There is an absence of accommodation in the town centre which affects potential tourism.

Members commented that if everyone competing for the money asks for £25m then it will fund a total of 27 towns and this would make it an extremely competitive process taking into consideration the amount of towns that will need this. Local towns will also be in direct competition with Hastings and perhaps it should have been considered to make joint applications. Simon Hubbard commented that Bexhill have already applied separately and did not wish to do a joint application.

	<p>Members commented that one of the issues is that it is not just about Hastings town centre as central St Leonards could have had a bid all of its own as it needs regeneration. Why are we not applying for these other town centres?</p> <p>Simon Hubbard answered that a town the size of Hastings can only apply for one town centre, but the way around this is looking at how this is connected to those other areas. If the bid is successful then we must show how all these areas are linked, Bohemia is looking like it is struggling and when we come to do the more detailed work then we can include these linkages</p> <p>Members commented that as this fund is targeted at failing town centres and compared to other town centres Hastings in not failing as much. Coastal towns have had to fund themselves through competitive bidding for a while now and these are short term in nature. This is forcing the poorest towns in the country to compete amongst themselves for funding. Looking at all the projects that the council could work on they will continue to apply for any funding available.</p> <p>Simon Hubbard added that he is optimistic about the future of the town and the council will continue to try and fight on every front to acquire funding for the improvement of the town. If this bid doesn't work then we need to continue to look forward.</p>	
<p><u>66</u></p>	<p><u>REGENERATION UPDATE(S)</u></p> <p>See appendix 3</p>	
<p><u>67</u></p>	<p><u>EXECUTIVE DELIVERY GROUP NOTES (11TH MARCH 2019)</u></p> <p>None see appendix 4</p>	
<p><u>68</u></p>	<p><u>EAST SUSSEX STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP NOTES (20TH MARCH 2019)</u></p> <p>None see appendix 5</p>	
<p><u>69</u></p>	<p><u>URGENT ITEMS</u></p> <p>Professor Chris Whitty is the Lead for the National Institute for Health Research and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department of Health and Social Care. He will be visiting Hastings on the 21st June as part of a national tour to better understand the public health challenges different areas face and how research could help.</p> <p>Throughout the day, Prof Whitty hopes to see or visit places to get a good sense of what's happening in Hastings. We hope to end the day with some kind of small event which will celebrate the work that is going on in the area.</p> <p>Peter Aston Health Improvement Principal, ESCC is asking LSP members would like to see achieved through the visit and also if any of them would like to be involved in it.</p> <p>Please contact Peter Aston directly with your thoughts</p>	

Email: Peter.Aston@eastsussex.gov.uk Tel: 01273 337207 / 078 2408 5359

Steve Manwaring added that there is a further Locality Network event in July these are attended on average by 70 people representing a broad spectrum of local organisations. Contact HVA for further information
<https://hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/hcn/hcn-information>

Steve Manwaring also advised that Hastings Voluntary Action have secured 'Inclusive and Active Volunteering funding' (£50k) and are one of five national projects following a very competitive process where 200 organisations bid for funding.
LSP members are reminded that their PSPO commentary must be in by the 10th of May.

<u>70</u>	<u>NEXT MEETING DATE 15TH JULY 2019</u>	
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(Meeting closed at 12:07)