

HASTINGS & ST LEONARDS LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP EDG

17 DECEMBER 2014

Present:

Shabana Bayjou
Cllr Jeremy Birch
Alan Blackwell
Marie Casey
Joy Collins
Carole Dixon
Annalise Elam
Mike Fagan

Stuart Gallimore
Kim Goodall
Jane Hartnell
Simon Hubbard
Andrew Palmer
Dan Russell
Mike Thompson
Catherine Watson

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Simon welcomed those present to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Bruce Campbell, Nigel Cusack, Paul Frost, Clive Galbraith, Paul Phelps and Richard Watson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

3.1 EDG 22nd September 2014

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters arising:

(8) Simon reported that an invitation to bid for CCLD is still awaited as decisions on the number of areas that will be awarded and other details are still being discussed.

3.2 LSP 20th October 2014

The minutes were noted.

4. ANTI-POVERTY UPDATE

Annalise Elam, the Anti-Poverty officer was in attendance and gave a brief introduction and synopsis of her role. The Anti-Poverty Strategy was adopted in 2011, the accompanying action plan was revised last year and a steering group appointed to monitor progress.

There is a strong community and partnership commitment to address the issues affecting residents and the steering group gives the opportunity for improved joint working and campaigning as well as a valuable repository of knowledge and expertise to achieve this aim.

The recently implemented changes to the welfare system, reduced funding to advice bodies and streams such as the Discretionary East Sussex Support Scheme mean any measures will be even more important. The Council are looking to make long term

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impact by tailoring spending plans and budgets as well as embedding poverty implications into reports going for decision to internal committees.

Identifying gaps and lead organisations who can address these will be a key aim of the Anti-Poverty steering group to support and upskill those most affected.

A further revision of the strategy and action plan will take place in the new year and changes notified to the EDG at the March meeting if completed.

5. DWP/JCP UPDATE - PLANNED ROLLOUT OF UNIVERSAL CREDIT 15TH APRIL 2015

Kim Goodall gave an update on the position with regard to Universal Credit (UC) implementation. It is now hoped that Hastings and Rother will be part of the roll out earlier than expected, the date potentially identified is April 20th. Kim has been working closely with Jean Saxby from the Revenue and Benefits team at HBC to plan the details and the necessary training events which will be provided for staff. There will also be training for social landlords.

The first tranche will be implemented for single persons only, there is plenty of good practice feedback from other areas which have already gone through the process so hopefully we can achieve a smooth changeover. So far in these areas UC seems to be preferred as many will be better off, although there are more stringent demands on the claimant with regard to proving that work is actively being sought. However, moving into work and managing changes in working patterns should be an easier process to manage as a greater degree of flexibility is achievable. Individual circumstances such as complex disabilities can also be considered more fully with specialist advisors already in place to work with claimants. Volunteering is still permitted but the emphasis is very much on gaining paid employment so evidence that this will be a natural progression will be required.

More information will be circulated electronically when available. **Action: Kim Goodall**

6. SCRUTINY REVIEW UPDATE - EDUCATION

Joy Collins reported on the 'Scrutiny Review of the Council's role in raising educational achievement in Hastings and Educational Outcomes for the Town's Children and Young People in an Academised Context'. The project initiation document was distributed for information.

The scrutiny panel have already met twice receiving valuable input from Carole Dixon and Martin Kaliszewski and is making good progress. A third meeting is scheduled for January when Clive Cooke and Fiona Wright will be in attendance.

The reviews main aim is to establish a framework for dialogue between educational institutions and partners in the town and the outcomes identified will be of particular interest to the LSP as raising educational attainment has been a key focus for the board for some time. Updates will continue to be provided when appropriate and once concluded the outcomes discussed at a future meeting.

7. THE FUTURE OF POLICING IN SUSSEX

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Mike Fagan was in attendance to update the EDG on the service implications of reduced funding streams for the Police over the next five years.

The current structure of five districts will likely be reduced to two, there will be a reduction in functions to focus on the core priorities of reducing threat to people and communities. There will also inevitably be a number of staffing reductions of back office staff and frontline officers, possibly by as much as 35% or 1000 officers.

The group thanked Mike for the information but had some concerns about how some functions will be picked up and by whom. The Local Authority is also facing substantial funding reductions and not in a position to be able to take on further responsibilities. Individuals who engage with the Police as a result of mental health problems may be particularly vulnerable to gaps in the service, we must be vigilant that they do not fall through the net. It was suggested that a joint impact assessment may be necessary to ensure that a comprehensive analysis is completed.

An increase in crime as a result of the cuts is also feared.

Inspector Dan Russell from Sussex Police gave assurance that these will be issues that are considered when more detail regarding the structure is revealed in the new year.

Policing and community safety will be the main topic of the January LSP Board meeting.

8. LSP TERMS OF REFERENCE - UPDATED DRAFT

Shabana Bayjou distributed a first draft of the revised LSP terms of reference for the group's consideration.

A couple of changes were suggested including strengthening the commitment to improve the lives of residents through partnership working and clarifying the degree to which members can sign up on behalf of their organisation.

A revised draft will be distributed for comments. **Action: Shabana Bayjou.**

9. DRAFT LSP AGENDA - MONDAY 26TH JANUARY 2015 FOR INFORMATION

The agenda for 26th January 2015 was noted.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 17th March 2014, 11.30.

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