



STRATFORD DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the LSP Core Group Meeting held at Elizabeth House, Stratford-upon-Avon on Thursday 27 August 2009

Present:

Alan Bartlett	LSP Vice Chair
Mike Brain	Economic Development and Enterprise
Charles Goody	LSP Chair
Trevor Honychurch	Stratford Community Forum
Julia Phillips	Stronger Communities
Athena Roderick	Voluntary Action Stratford-on-Avon
Trevor Russel	Stour Community Forum
Deb Saunders	NHS Warwickshire
Bob Stevens	Warwickshire County Council
Stephen Thirlwell	Henley and Studley Community Forum
Les Topham	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Ian Whiting	Warwickshire Police
David Wise	Southam and Feldon Community Forum

Support Officers:

Trevor Askew	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Jenny Murray	Warwickshire County Council
Dave Nash	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Karin Stanley	Stratford-on-Avon District Council

		Action
1.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <p>Graeme Betts (Warwickshire County Council)</p> <p>Simon Jackson (Climate Change and Environment)</p> <p>Jayne Longfield (Healthy Communities and Older People)</p> <p>Bill Lowe (WALC)</p> <p>Martin Penny (Children, Young People and Families)</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2009</p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true record.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising</p>	
3.1	<p>School leavers lacking basic literacy/numeracy skills</p> <p>Information on this topic had been requested at the last meeting on the basis of national reports indicating that one in five children were leaving school without having attained a basic level of literacy and numeracy skills. A report provided by David Bristow of WCC confirmed that 95.8% of pupils in maintained schools in Stratford District achieved at least a basic qualification in both English and mathematics in June 2008. This meant that 59 pupils did not attain a basic qualification. All pupils in the grammar schools had reached the basic level; none of the pupils in special schools had done so, and in the mainstream secondary schools there had been between 2 and 7 pupils not reaching the basic level.</p>	

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	<p>AGREED: That the CYPF Theme Group be asked to monitor ongoing performance and to report back to the Core Group only if there is evidence of deteriorating performance.</p>	Martin Penny
3.2	<p>2009/10 Narrowing the Gap funding bid</p> <p>It was reported that three organisations had responded to the consultation on the proposed project. Each had expressed an interest in potentially helping to deliver the outcomes sought. There had been no feedback proposing any amendment to the proposal.</p> <p>AGREED: That the feedback be noted and reported to the LAA Manager.</p>	Dave Nash
4.	<p>Presentation – Narrowing the Gap – the CYPF perspective</p> <p>The anticipated presenting officer was unable to be present at the meeting.</p> <p>AGREED: That the presentation be deferred to the meeting to be held on 29 October 2009.</p>	Geoff King
5.	<p>Presentation – the role of the WCC Partnerships and Performance Unit</p> <p>The anticipated presenting officer was unable to be present at the meeting due to illness.</p> <p>AGREED: That the presentation be deferred to the meeting to be held on 29 October 2009.</p>	Jenny Murray/ Bill Basra
6.	<p>Report from Draft Core Strategy Task and Finish Group</p> <p>Alan Bartlett introduced the paper that had been previously circulated. Following discussion, it was AGREED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) that arrangements be sought to ensure that future reviews of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Core Strategy are co-ordinated; and 2) that the arrangements for the LSP's consideration of the revised draft Core Strategy be noted and a report be presented to the next meeting. 	Alan Bartlett
7.	<p>Developing an LSP Community Engagement Strategy</p> <p>Dave Nash introduced the paper that had been previously circulated. A discussion ensued which highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a wish to further develop the effectiveness of the six community forums; • the importance of effective communication and feedback; and • the potential contribution of the Virtual District programme in opening up new methods of engagement. <p>AGREED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That a Task and Finish Group be established with the remit to develop a partnership-based Community Engagement Strategy 	Dave Nash/ Richard Hood

		Action
	<p>for adoption by April 2010, and that Richard Hood be requested to lead this group; and</p> <p>2) That the membership of the Group be one representative from each of the following – Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Warwickshire County Council, WALC, NHS Warwickshire, VASA, Warwickshire Police and the District's Community Forums.</p>	Dave Nash
8.	<p>Public Service Board</p> <p>The minutes of the PSB meeting held on 25 June were considered. The following issues arose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Working Together Working Locally</u> An Action Plan had been agreed by the LAA Stronger Communities Board. This is consistent with the approaches being developed within Stratford District to strengthen the role of the Community Forums, improve joint working with parish councils, build community capacity and co-ordinate communication, consultation and engagement. • <u>LPSA2 Reward Grant</u> Information was provided on the bids that had been developed via the LAA Theme Groups and the current LPSA2 Lead Officers. On the basis that these bids would include ongoing actions within Stratford District it was accepted that the LSP should not at this stage seek to develop any further bids. However, it was noted that a similar opportunity may arise in future years as Warwickshire begins to receive LAA Reward Grant, and on this basis it was AGREED: That the Theme group leads be requested to consider potential projects that could be supported via the future award of LAA Reward Grant, preparing by the end of December 2009 any outline bids as may be considered appropriate. • <u>Update from PSB Governance Group</u> It was reported that the Group has identified the need to improve the performance management of partnership activity, to streamline county-level groups and potentially to combine the activities currently pursued by the Safer/Stronger blocks and the Economic Development and Enterprise/Climate Change and Environment blocks at both county and District level. However, at this stage no formal recommendations to the PSB have been formulated. A discussion arose on the perceived proliferation of forums within the District, with particular reference to the establishment of a Youth Forum within Stratford-upon-Avon. An assurance was sought that any such forums should have clear lines of engagement with the Community Forums and/or the LSP Theme Groups, thereby ensuring that issues raised in such forums have a real impact on decision making. 	<p>Theme Group Leads</p> <p>Dave Nash</p>
9.	Delivery Plans 2009-11	
9.1	<p>Economic Development and Enterprise</p> <p>An updated draft had been circulated. Certain specific actions relating to skills development needed to be confirmed and the Core Group felt that a further action concerning selling skills should be considered.</p> <p>Subject to any additions arising from the above, it was AGREED that the draft plan be endorsed.</p>	

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9.2	<p>Action Planning: Overview of the process</p> <p>The paper prepared by Dave Nash and Jenny Murray was discussed. The Core Group endorsed the conclusion that a disproportionate amount of time and effort had been devoted to developing the Action Plans. It was felt that the capacity and skills available to the partnership should now be focused on delivery. It was also agreed that the six separate plans had not successfully addressed cross-cutting issues such as access to services/rural transport. On this basis the preference within the group was to roll forward the 2009-11 plans into a single co-ordinated programme of activity for 2010-12, providing an improved focus on an achievable set of priority actions that better reflect partnership capacity. It was evident that a clear process needs to be established to ensure that all theme groups, via their leads, can contribute to the single plan and identify the contributions that each can make to support the delivery of cross-cutting outcomes.</p> <p>AGREED: That the Chair, Vice-Chair and main support officers establish a draft process, consult with theme group leads and report back to the next meeting with a firm proposal for developing a single plan.</p>	Charles Goody/ Dave Nash
10.	Reports from Theme Groups	
10.1	<p>Safer Communities</p> <p>Ian Whiting presented the report, confirming that performance in the identified priority areas is much improved. There is a particular focus on improving detection rates for violent crime incidents and preventing acquisitive crime.</p> <p>In response to a question about road accidents, it was confirmed that the road casualty reduction partnership continues to implement schemes designed to improve safety at known accident black spots. Reference was made to recent work on the Fosse Way.</p> <p>The report was received with thanks.</p>	
10.2	<p>Stronger Communities</p> <p>Julia Phillips drew particular attention to the terms of reference for the newly formed Equality and Diversity Forum and to the potential impacts on the Third Sector of the new leadership arrangements at regional level. She presented the end of year reports on the Community Gardening and Parish Plans/Rural Outreach projects, and these were endorsed. It was confirmed that VASA is maintaining the rural outreach work pending a decision on the 2009/10 project proposal by the PSB.</p> <p>The report was received with thanks.</p>	
10.3	<p>Children and Young People</p> <p>There was no report.</p>	
10.4	<p>Healthier Communities and Older People</p> <p>In presenting the report, Deb Saunders added that at its most recent meeting the group had received a presentation on the Virtual District Programme and considered its potential to support independent living; it had also discussed stroke awareness.</p>	

		Action
	<p>Attention was drawn to the expectation that the group will take forward the issues raised at the last Core group meeting about access to health services for residents at Lighthorne Heath.</p> <p>The report was received with thanks.</p>	Jayne Longfield/ Deb Saunders
10.5	<p>Economic Development and Enterprise</p> <p>In receiving the report it was noted that the recent River Festival at Stratford-upon-Avon had been very successful. It was hoped that other events and festivals across the District that would have a positive economic impact would be similarly supported with funding.</p> <p>The report was received with thanks.</p>	
10.6	<p>Climate Change and Environment</p> <p>The submitted report was noted.</p>	
11.	<p>Key Issues from Community Forums</p> <p>Overall, the Group acknowledged that the more successful forum meetings have been those where the community had clearly taken the lead in raising issues.</p> <p>Some common issues had been arising, most noticeably in respect of speeding and other highway-related issues and of the upcoming Fire Service Review. It was noted that this review would be considered at special meetings of the forums over the next few weeks. Reference was made more generally to an apparent trend in services being withdrawn from the more rural areas of the District.</p> <p>There was acceptance that the short term priorities were to improve attendance at the meetings via more effective promotion – a question was posed about the availability of transport to enable people to get to the meetings – and to clarify the most important issues needing to be addressed in the short term (agreeing the 'Locality Pledge').</p>	Jenny Murray
12.	<p>Future Items</p> <p>The following items were noted:</p> <p>October 2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrowing the Gap – the CYPF perspective (Geoff King) • WCC Partnerships and Performance Unit (Bill Basra) • Draft Core Strategy (Alan Bartlett) • Development of a Single Action Plan 2010-12 (Charles Goody) • Social Networking (Julia Phillips) <p>February 2010:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft outline bids for future year projects (All Theme Group leads). 	
13.	<p>Dates of future meetings</p> <p>29 October 2009, 10am 08 December 2009, 10am Dates for 2010 will be brought to the next meeting</p>	

Dave Nash
Strategic Director