

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Local Strategic Partnership Board** held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Wednesday 08 June 2016 from 10am to 11.18am.

Present:	Steven Halls (Chairman)	Three Rivers District Council
	Councillor Sara Bedford (SB)	Three Rivers District Council
	Deirdre Dent	Herts Constabulary
	Simon Gentry (SG)	Herts County Council
	Jonathan Smith (JS)	Herts Fire and Rescue Service
	Cllr Stephen Giles-Medhurst (SGM)	Three Rivers District Council

In attendance:

Cllr Roger Seabourne (RS)	Three Rivers District Council
Andy Stovold (AST)	Three Rivers District Council
Karl Stonebank	Three Rivers District Council
Shivani Dave	Three Rivers District Council
Mike Simpson	Three Rivers District Council

Apologies for absence were received from Elspeth Mackenzie and Jo Barrett (Thrive Homes), Tina Barnard (Watford Community Housing Trust), Councillor Teresa Heritage (Herts County Council), Marion Ingram (Herts County Council), Sarah Hill (Herts Valleys CCG) and Sue Coster (Job Centre Plus)

LSP01/16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 02 March 2016 were agreed by the Board and signed by the Chairman.

LSP02/16 MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no matters arising.

LSP03/16 FAMILIES FIRST AND EARLY HELP UPDATE

The Board received a presentation from Simon Gentry, Programme Manager, Early Help and Thriving Families at Herts County Council.

He explained that Families First had evolved from Thriving Families and had expanded criteria which aimed to deliver a more preventative approach than previously, and encouraged families to take more responsibility for their futures and be less dependent on agency support.

SG explained the Early Help model and its benefits, and that early intervention could save the lives of young people as well as reduce costs in the long-term.

Following the presentation, AST asked whether resources would allow the frequency of weekly panel meetings between participating partners that was proposed as resourcing multi-agency meetings was always an issue. SG replied that core partners may be required to work with others in order to achieve targets, and a workshop was being planned to explore this.

SB commented that much of what was proposed by Families First was previously undertaken by Home-Start, and asked what was Home-Start no longer doing. SG replied that he was unable to speak on behalf of another agency.

The Chairman stated that the number of cases requiring intervention within Three Rivers was below the average for the county, and asked why, therefore, were there so many referrals within the district when services and partnerships were in place.

SG replied that with the provision of a greater number of services and facilities, partners and agencies communicated more with each other which resulted in increased identification of issues.

RESOLVED:-

The contents of the presentation were noted.

LSP04/16 LOOKED-AFTER CHILDREN AND LEAVING CARE UPDATE

The Board was due to receive a presentation from Sally Orr, Head of Early Childhood and Early Help Commissioning at Herts County Council. Unfortunately she was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following information by email:

Please find below some bullet points detailing how Three Rivers DC can help us address our shortage of foster carers:

- . *Let us know about the next residents' mail-out/newsletters so that we can include information about fostering*
- . *Include our information/ logo/ link on your website (we are happy to provide case studies, photos, additional information)*
- . *Let us know about local events – especially careers fairs, family days, etc.*
- . *Like us on Facebook and follow us on twitter and share our posts! (www.facebook.com/hertfordshirefostering and @HCCFosterAdopt)*
- . *Have a discussion around housing and how we could work together to be more flexible for potential carers who have relevant skills but no spare room)*

Please contact the recruitment team if you could help

Fostering.recruitment@hertfordshire.gov.uk or call us on 01438 843281

The contact for any queries about employing a care leaver apprentice is: Aidan.moffat@hertfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01438 844885

In the absence of Sally Orr, AST advised the Board that mapping had shown that in-house fostering in Three Rivers was at 73% against a County average of 48%, and asked the Board whether the Council could support the recruitment of more fosterers.

Of particular concern to the service was the percentage of care-leavers that were not in employment education or training (NEETS).

JS said that Herts Fire and Rescue Service ran a support programme aimed at 16-25 year olds leaving care, in which Youth Connexions were involved.

LSP05/16 JOINT HOUSING PROTOCOL UPDATE

Kimberley Grout, Housing Services Manager, presented an update of the Joint Housing Protocol, a working agreement between Herts County Council, the ten District and Borough Councils and Herts Young Homeless. She explained that the Protocol was in place since 2004 but was updated in May 2015.

Although some areas of the Protocol were working very well, major upcoming challenges included the reduction of the benefit cap from £26,000 to £20,000 per year from October 2016, and from April 2018 the application of the single room rate to all forms of tenure for tenancies granted after April 2016 to those aged under 35 years.

RESOLVED:-

The contents of the presentation were noted.

LSP06/16 REVIEW OF CO-JOINED MEETINGS OF THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

The Board summarised the report and noted the results of the survey taken in April 2016 with reference to the merging of the Local Strategic Partnership Board and Community Safety Partnership Board, which indicated a preference by respondents to retain the status quo.

RS questioned some of the comments in the survey regarding 'clarity of purpose' and said that they were contradictory.

RESOLVED:-

The Board agreed to continue the current arrangements, with the Local Strategic Partnership Board meetings followed by the Community Safety Board meetings, and with the same frequency.

LSP07/16 PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The report on the Public Health Update – Children and Families was presented to the Board and its contents noted.

RESOLVED:-

The latest local Public Health Update relating to Children and Families was noted.

LSP08/16 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN UPDATE

AST presented the District Performance Update. SGM said there was no Three Rivers perspective to data provided for hospital admissions for injuries, and asked whether the figures related to safeguarding issues or domestic injuries. In reply it was stated that the data was aggregated as it was not possible to be sure of the cause of injuries upon initial admission.

It was explained that the child's postcode was used when compiling the data, and was therefore open to interpretation.

AST said that of greater significance was the data that related to admissions for Mental Health, Self-Harm and Substance Abuse among Under 18s.

RESOLVED:-

The latest local performance report on safeguarding children was noted.

LSP09/16 WORKPLAN 2016-17

AST informed the Board he had not received any requested for items to be explored under the 2016-17 Workplan.

LSP10/16 AOB

RS expressed concern about the number of absentees from the meeting, and that Council Officers and Members outnumbered those representing agencies and questioned if it was a coincidence, as topics discussed focused on input from partnerships and collaboration amongst them.

AST offered to approach the housing providers to ask them to nominate substitutes for future meetings. SB said she did not accept that the roll-out of new computer software at the offices of housing providers was an excuse for non-attendance, especially when senior members of the uniformed services were present.

SGM suggested that issues relating to housing were revisited when service providers were present.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

12 October 2016 at 10am

8 March 2017 at 10am