

## THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Local Strategic Partnership Board** held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Wednesday 27 June 2018 from 10.10am to 11.31am.

Present:	Cllr Sara Bedford (SB), Chair	Three Rivers District Council
	Tina Barnard (TB)	Watford Community Housing Trust
	Marian Ingram (MI)	Herts County Council
	Steven Halls	Three Rivers District Council
	Alison Hopkins	National Probation Service
	Emma Morris	National Probation Service
	Karl Stonebank (KS)	Three Rivers District Council
	Andy Stovold (AS)	Three Rivers District Council
	Marion Seneschall (MS)	Citizens Advice Service in Three Rivers
	Chief Inspector Nick Lillitou (NL)	Herts Constabulary

In attendance:	Shivani Davé (SD)	Three Rivers District Council
	Debbie Barker (DB)	Office of the PCC
	Mike Simpson	Three Rivers District Council

Apologies for absence were received from Elspeth Mackenzie, Concetta Kyriakou, Tim Hutchings and Sarah Hill.

### **LSP 01/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 March were agreed by the Board and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

### **LSP 02/18 DELIVERY PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2018-23**

AS introduced the report, and said current partnerships were analysed with the aim of not using resources in areas for which processes were in place.

At present more support was provided to families than individuals, and there was a case for focusing more support on adults without children. It was accepted that all partners had limited resources, and it was necessary to make best use of those available.

The challenge now was to identify how to move forward, and look at how some areas cut across the priorities while identifying those issues where improvement can be made. AS invited members of the Board to contribute ideas and suggestions, and the Chairman asked whether there were any questions.

NL said there was a requirement for more fluidity in what was essentially a five year plan, and asked whether the Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) could be more efficient and effective in merging some areas. KS agreed there was a need for greater fluidity amongst the schemes. AS said the existing partnership structure should be used where possible, even when addressing a new objective, and cited hoarding as being an area that was addressed by the CSP without the setting-up of a new body. TB agreed that there were currently too many partnership groups and meetings, and questioned whether referrals were being directed to the correct one. In summary, less is more. AS said that we can only

affect District partnerships. With regards to County partnerships we can only request or challenge.

MS suggested that the Poverty, Employment & Prosperity (PEP) group consider what parts of the strategy the members work towards delivering.

**RESOLVED:-**

That the Board agreed the recommendations in the report:

- The LSP Poverty, Employment and Prosperity subgroup focus their attention on support and services for adults with developing or existing complex needs.
- The Board chooses a key topic for each meeting that cuts across all Community Strategy themes.
- The Board receives annual Community Strategy progress reports.

**LSP 03/18 DOMESTIC ABUSE REVIEW**

AS introduced the report and said it was better to look at Domestic Abuse outcomes at both District and County level. He said that DA cuts across several areas, and accurate data was not readily available in all areas so the report was not perfect. He said that the 18,760 domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police in Hertfordshire in 2017/18 provided an opportunity to intervene and engage.

NL said of the 5,000-6,000 crimes recorded in Three Rivers on average per year, between 1200 and 1300 contained a DA element, and in many cases the Police knew the identity of the perpetrator but the victims were disinclined to press charges.

He questioned whether victims who called the Police in relation to a DA matter also called one of the other supporting agencies. He said that the issue needed looking at nationally as well as at local level. He added that there were always problems with data sharing, but when a threat to personal safety was a factor it should be possible. He said that Domestic Abuse was not limited to those in social housing and the like, and that people in more affluent areas were also at risk.

AS said the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA), provided by Refuge in Hertfordshire, had engaged 49% of the 141 referrals in 2017/18, which was higher than the County level.

Referrals to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Centre (MARAC) were not as high, although many of the referrals were repeated. Data of MARAC cases was not available to share with other agencies, but further analysis of MARAC's processes and outcomes, and the results of a County MARAC Audit may explain performance figures.

The Domestic Abuse Caseworker (DAC) was now in its second year and in 2017/18 received 556 referrals. While it was considered positive that so many referrals were received, the service was clearly overworked and there was a need to scope what potential increase to its resources are required.

NL said that from the Police perspective there could be more joint working between the Police and partners.

NL also said that the relatively low prosecution rates are due to a number of factors: both 'crime' and 'non-crime' DV incidents involve a number of family incidents – shouting, hitting...etc. where there was never going to be a prosecution and where both parties are considered perpetrators in some cases.

TB asked whether there are better ways of categorizing incidents.

AS said that he has asked MIND to produce a report of options going forward with regard to the Domestic Abuse Caseworker (who has an ever increasing waiting list).

It was agreed that:

- Probation would send representatives to the local DV Forum.
- The board agreed to the recommendations within the report.

The Chairman asked whether Board members were happy with the recommendations, to which they responded affirmatively.

**RESOLVED:-**

The board agreed the recommendations as follows:

- That Local Strategic Partnership agencies identify which partners may be able to make further contributions to the Three Rivers Domestic Abuse Caseworker in order to increase the capacity of the service to respond to referral rates.
- That the Board encourages all relevant staff in their constituent agencies to support the further assessment of MARAC processes and that the outcomes of this work are shared with key staff, the Community Safety Partnership and Families First Implementation Group.
- That the Board recommends to the Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board that the performance data related to MASH and Families First Triage is enhanced to demonstrate outcome of that processing.
- That the Board asks the Community Safety Partnership to review the effectiveness of the Three Rivers Domestic Abuse Group at the end of the year to establish if this is an effective use of resource.
- That the Board members promote the Domestic Abuse Champions Network within their own partner agencies and support staff to volunteer to be trained as Champions.

#### **LSP 04/18 WORKPLAN 2018-2019**

NL said that more time was needed to investigate the issue of Youth/Knife Crime before bringing back to the Board. He said Youth Crime was a subject that required looking at nationally, at County and at District level, and to bear in mind a sense of perspective, as a few teenagers gathered together did not necessarily constitute a potential crime scene. The Chairman reiterated that resilience amongst residents was to be encouraged, and not always pass responsibility for situations onto others.

The October meeting should be Social Prescribing, which gives more time to develop the Youth/Knife Crime (Contextual Safeguarding) one for March 2019.

**RESOLVED:-**

That the LSP workplan was agreed by the Board, and that NL and AS would further develop the workplan and return it to the Board later in the year.

**LSP 05/18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:**

10 October 2018 at 10am  
13 March 2019 at 10am

**CHAIRMAN**