

## THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Local Strategic Partnership Board** held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Wednesday 10 October 2018 from 10am to 11.26am.

Present:	Cllr Sara Bedford (SB)	Leader of Three Rivers District Council
	Gareth Bradbury (GB)	Herts Fire and Rescue
	Jacky Brookfield (JB)	Hertfordshire Beacon
	Emma Doree (ED)	West Herts College
	Cllr Terry Douris (TD)	Hertfordshire County Council
	Steven Halls	Chief Executive, Three Rivers District Council
	Gareth Lewis	Watford Community Housing Trust
	Chief Inspector Nick Lillitou	Herts Constabulary
	Elsbeth Mackenzie	Thrive Homes
	Marion Seneschall (MS)	Citizens Advice Service in Three Rivers
	Ruth Simons	Bench CRC
	Karl Stonebank (KS)	Three Rivers District Council

In attendance:	Debbie Barker (DB)	Office of the PCC
	Shivani Davé (SD)	Three Rivers District Council
	Elaine Johnson (EJ)	Community Arts Development Officer, TRDC
	Paul O'Hare (PO)	Hertfordshire County Council
	Piers Simey (PS)	Hertfordshire County Council
	Mike Simpson	Three Rivers District Council

Apologies for absence were received from Sarah Hill, Marion Ingram, Concetta Kyriakou and Andy Stovold,

### **LSP 06/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2018 were agreed by the Board and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

### **LSP 07/18 SOCIAL PRESCRIBING IN HERTFORDSHIRE / THREE RIVERS**

There followed presentation on the following elements of Social Prescribing:

#### **SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION PLAN VIEW**

Piers Simey, Consultant in Public Health, Public Health Department, Hertfordshire County Council provided an overview of Social Prescribing, and explained it was the promotion of non-medical activities to those in need of physical and mental support, and the concept had existed for many years. He said the process entailed referrals by a healthcare professional via a link worker to a range of local voluntary, community and social enterprise groups. He said HertsHelp was a good first point of referral.

#### **HERTSHHELP / COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR SERVICES**

Paul O'Hare, Programme Manager, HertsHelp Hospital / Community Navigation Service said the referral process was very simple and that Social Prescribing enabled people to take control of their health and wellbeing through referral to non-medical 'link' workers based around 'Community Navigators'.

## **FAMILIES FIRST TRIAGE AND PORTAL**

Karl Stonebank, Community Partnerships Officer, made a short presentation on behalf of Jackie Clementson, Head of Early Help & Intensive Family Support, Hertfordshire County Council, who was unable to attend the meeting. He said Families First began in 2016 in Watford and Three Rivers and was a collaboration of several agencies which provided non-medical access to additional support for families that did not meet the threshold for social care.

The presentation also featured the Families First Portal, a website page from which access to several areas of need could be gained, as well as a referral page from which individuals could nominate other families in need of assistance. The presentation provided statistics relating to Families First Assessments and closures/outcomes, and featured a myth busting item which addressed possible misconceptions amongst the public with regard to the fact that Families First is an approach rather than a service as such.

## **LOCAL THREE RIVERS DELIVERY: ARTS ON PRESCRIPTION**

Elaine Johnson, Arts Development Officer, Three Rivers District Council presented examples of the specialised projects delivered to date, which aimed to provide non-medical support to the vulnerable and disadvantaged. She introduced the 'Beyond the Page', 'Making it' and 'Making it Mini' projects which aimed to help the wellbeing of people through the Arts, and assist in providing individuals with confidence and self-esteem.

The "Making It" pilot Arts on Prescription scheme launched in South Oxhey in October 2017, with support from a local GP practice and other partners. A referral structure was put in place where partners (Ascend, Herts Help/Community Navigator and Herts Mind Network) referred adults with stress, anxiety and other associated conditions, to the course.

The ten week course focused on photography- including going out on local walks and creative writing, both led by experienced facilitators. The participants worked towards an exhibition at South Oxhey Library and also produced a booklet displaying their work to give to family and friends.

'Making It' continues to be developed, with an extended 12 week course now taking place in South Oxhey and plans exist for another project to take place in 2019 elsewhere in the district.

The 'Making it Mini' project aimed to support vulnerable families, and encouraged bonding by playing together and making a mess!

The Chairman of the meeting suggested that all District Councillors should receive the presentations on Social Subscribing and perhaps even a session as part of the Leisure Committee.

KS said the Arts Officer's presentation featured just one example of the social prescriptions delivered by the Council's Leisure Development team and the Chairman said there was a case of expanding the reach of the Art projects further. A member of the Board asked how the projects were funded, to which it was stated that Arts on Prescription schemes were financed mostly by HCC Public Health Funding.

The Arts Development Officer said she'd like to share the projects more outwardly, and the Chairman said doing so would provide a good alternative for those unable to do more strenuous activities such as the Herts Healthwalks.

SB asked which groups Social Prescribing was not reaching. MS said the Citizens' Advice Service had seen an increase in people in need of support, many of whom had Mental Health issues and were on Universal Credit benefit, payment of which had not been forthcoming. In some cases individuals had been intercepted by CAS staff at one of the foodbanks in Three Rivers and encouraged to seek assistance. MS said new clients to CAS included more single people and childless couples, and that delays in paying Universal Credit were problematic. Welfare services were not being accessed by many individuals who deemed themselves not worthy due to low self-esteem.

KS reminded the Board that the Council hosts the jointly-funded Community Support Service Outreach Worker, for those with mild/moderate mental health issues. JB said Beacon acts as a single point of contact, and asked if there a way those agencies could go directly to HertsHelp, to which she was advised they can, or use Families First Portal/Herts Directory on the HCC website.

PO said HertsHelp was a reactive model which required professional input to be proactive and identify earlier those individuals in need of its services.

KS said a Multiagency-funded Community Support Service Outreach Worker Project was available to receive referrals for social Prescribing purposes. It was stated that passing customers on to other agencies could be a barrier for vulnerable individuals, who may give up on the whole process. PO said the Herts Directory was a good source of reference for relevant agencies.

GB said the term 'Social Prescription' was possibly misunderstood by many, and clarification should be made with regard to its precise meaning. He said the Fire Service's Safe and Well programme would provide help to the vulnerable, but that a rebranding may be necessary as the scheme might be wrongly interpreted as being about health walks and not providing food.

NL asked whether a HertsHelp App was available to enable access to the service for referral purposes, to which PO replied that the website had a mobile friendly version with an online form and this can be turned into a desktop link that acts as an App.

TD said Herts Community Foundation had a funding scheme focusing on loneliness, which will close on 9 November, and he would provide further details.

The Chairman said the problem faced was not just a shortage of funding, but a shortage of capacity too.

KS suggested an awareness session be held for frontline staff with regard to referrals to Adults with Complex Needs.

The Chairman repeated the view that communities needed to be more resilient and where possible take greater responsibility for their own situations. She said that Three Rivers decided to no longer distribute small pots of grant funding, and would instead maintain one big fund for health and wellbeing needs.

**RESOLVED:-**

That the Board noted the contents of the report and presentations.

**LSP 08/18 WORKPLAN 2018-2019**

The workplan for 2018-19 was presented to the Board and comments and suggestions for other items to be included were invited. NL said that 'Vulnerable People Exploited By Crime' warranted inclusion.

PS said following 2018 being designated the Year of Volunteering, 2020 would be the Year of Culture, which presented many opportunities for partnerships. EJ said she was developing ideas of new projects relating to Health and Wellbeing.

The Chairman asked what theme had been allocated to 2019, to which TD said that only alternate years were designated in order not to weaken the impact.

RESOLVED:-

That NL would work with the Head of Community Partnerships and the Community Partnerships Officer on agreeing future local priorities. With this amendment, the Workplan was agreed by the Board.

**LSP 09/18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business,

**DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:**

13 March 2019 at 10am

**CHAIRMAN**