

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Local Strategic Partnership Board** held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Wednesday 13 March 2019 from 10am to 11.14am.

Present:	Cllr Sara Bedford (SB)	Leader of Three Rivers District Council
	Laura Carleton	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
	Sean Comerford	Herts Fire and Rescue
	Katie Dawtry	Hertfordshire County Council
	Shivani Davé (SD)	Three Rivers District Council
	Emma Doree (ED)	West Herts College
	Karen Dorney	Herts County Council
	Fiona Gaskell (FG)	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
	Steven Halls	Chief Executive, Three Rivers District Council
	Gareth Lewis (GL)	Watford Community Housing Trust
	Chief Inspector Nick Lillitou (NL)	Herts Constabulary
	Elsbeth Mackenzie (EM)	Thrive Homes
	Adam Mitchell (AM)	Hertfordshire County Council
	Julie Nicholson	Herts Mind Network
	Cllr Roger Seabourne (RS)	Three Rivers District Council
	Marion Seneschall (MS)	Citizens Advice Service in Three Rivers
	Andy Stovold (AS)	Head of Community Partnerships, TRDC
	Dr Marianne Essam	TBA

In attendance:	Ruth Dombey	Peer Review Team
	Peter Fleming	Peer Review Team
	Cllr Joanna Clemens	Three Rivers District Council
	Cllr Paula Hiscocks	Three Rivers District Council
	Mike Simpson	Three Rivers District Council

Apologies for absence were received from Tina Barnard (Gareth Lewis substituted) and Marion Ingram.

LSP 10/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2018 were agreed by the Board and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

LSP 11/18 SERIOUS VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

i. HERTFORDSHIRE SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT, STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

AS made an on-screen presentation of the Hertfordshire Serious Violence Strategy, which illustrated a sharp rise in knife and gun crime. Perpetrators and victims were younger than previously, and statistics showed drugs to be a common factor. Domestic Abuse was shown to contribute to 20% of incidents of violent crime.

The strategy was based on partner agency co-operation and data-sharing, and the action plan to be led by 6 County Wide Boards. The national strategy was based on early intervention and prevention, tackling county lines and misuse of drugs, supporting communities and partnerships and effective law enforcement.

Nationally, knife crime had reached a seven year high, and Hertfordshire had the largest proportional increase, 44%, during the last three years.

The majority of knife crime in Hertfordshire was not considered to be gang-related, and most offences were committed by individuals aged 18-29.

Key findings centred on a large number of secondary school students that carried something for protection. AS clarified that in some cases this was a mobile phone. It was concluded that a therapy-based health approach was an effective method of addressing the problem.

AS said there was limited data available regarding the number of knife-related A&E admissions due to data-sharing issues, and as hospital admissions did not include victims that self-treated injuries it was difficult to obtain accurate statistics.

AS said there was interest from schools regarding knife crime awareness presentations by the CSP but so far this has not been offered as the CSP wanted to wait for an evidence based model to be available, rather than scare tactics that measure no long term outcomes.

The Chairman said the problem of knife crime was less simplistic than it was often perceived, and cited a recent example of a victim in Abbots Langley who posted an image of his severed hand on social media by way of glamorising the crime.

AM asked whether schools would be invited to engage with the strategy. AS replied the CSP currently worked with Watford and Hertsmere Borough Councils on the setting up of a new crime panel, and was working closely with Chessbrook School to convey the anti-knife crime message. Local schools have been consulted on the project. Best-practice schools would be used as examples when providing training on Youth Violence to educators.

ii. **THREE RIVERS SERIOUS VIOLENCE PUBLIC HEALTH FRAMEWORK**

It was stated that a public health approach to the problem was used in Scotland and now London, although there was less reported knife crime in Hertfordshire. It was also said that in some struggling households, dealing in drugs - a root cause of knife crime – was viewed as an acceptable or only option for helping to pay bills.

AS said that in London, agencies were continually firefighting without being able to get the problem under control, but in Hertfordshire the aim was to identify those in most need of help early.

A member of the Board asked whether the strategy included working with parents, as in her experience it was easier to engage with children when mothers bought in to the programme. AS replied that parents as well as children would be offered support through the Panel, and said the number of families in Three Rivers supported by the CSP was proportionately higher than other districts within the county.

AS said that interventions focused on the individual's recovery as opposed to criminalising them, and key worker feedback to date was very encouraging.

iii. **THREE RIVERS SERIOUS VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS**

AS introduced the Action Plans as set out in the report, which focused on addressing violence and ASB and improving wellbeing within the Three Rivers Community Safety Partnership, the Watford and Three Rivers Families First Partnership, aimed at vulnerable individuals with children, the Adults with Complex Needs Group and the 11-

19 Strategy Group, which provided support for those in the transition phase between adolescence and adulthood.

AS said big funding challenges existed, and emphasised the requirement for data-sharing between partnership members, as such information could be used to provide support to areas in most need.

GL said suicides and attempted suicides were now a big issue, which may be related to the problems associated with Universal Credit. He spoke of the Community Hub, owned by WCH, which staff could use for outreach.

NL expressed concern that at a national level child perpetrators of crime were bracketed in the 9-10 years age group, and questioned whether intervention should be considered at an earlier age. AS said the Panel would support young people up to the age of 25. Currently intervention measures for those aged between 11 and 19 were in place, and those of primary school age were directed towards Families First. M?

ME asked whether processes were in place for the parents of 9-10 year olds and AS said such instances would be considered by Early Help and Safeguarding. The CSP would have ASB powers at its disposal that could force parental engagement into a programme. If criminality was involved, referral to a magistrate was an option. AS said enforcement and obligatory engagement was not the best route to take, and various agencies were available to provide remedial intervention.

FG said the good work undertaken by AS and SD could not be underestimated, and expressed her thanks to them. The Chairman said the Board was aware of their hard work, and praised their approach of early intervention over waiting for situations to develop. The Chairman thanked FG for her comments.

RESOLVED:-

That the Board agreed:

- i. To adopt the public health framework for serious violence
- ii. To adopt the strategy and action plans for the:
 - Three Rivers Community Safety Partnership
 - Watford and Three Rivers Families First Partnership
 - Adults with Complex Needs Group
 - 11-19 Strategy Group

LSP 12/18 FUNDING STRATEGY FOR THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

AS presented the funding strategy, during which he highlighted the benefits of establishing a Community Interest Company (CIC) to secure non-statutory funding to support the delivery of the Three Rivers Community Strategy 2018-2023.

Applications for funding by the Big Lottery would become a viable option and some support had been forthcoming, especially in the Leavesden Heritage project, and the CSP had some hard to do in order to submit a bid to the Big Lottery for £500,000 over four years.

AS said he would expect partner agencies within the LSP to collaborate in a CIC arrangement and share its policies.

EM said she was supportive of the funding initiative, and JN was also supportive of the strategy said there existed many funding opportunities and the Lottery was keen to help such projects.

MS said that from a Citizens' Advice Service viewpoint the introduction of Universal Credit had resulted in acute financial ramifications, and praised Thrive Homes for their early referring of individuals to CAS. She said the funding initiative was very important.

RESOLVED:-

That the Board approved the establishment of a Three Rivers Community Interest Company.

That each Board partner would nominate a representative by contacting AS directly.

LSP 13/18 COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

AS presented the proposed Local Strategic Partnership Communication Strategy 2018-2023.

The strategy was created as it was considered that the LSP lacked its own identity and would benefit from greater public awareness of its work by way of branding, similar to the branding used by CSP's.

Different services within the LSP's remit had too little exposure, and branding, logos and straplines were required in order raise public awareness of available services e.g. Adults with Complex Needs Group and the 11-19 Strategy Group.

AS invited Group members to bring ideas back to the Board.

RESOLVED:-

- That the Board agreed the communication strategy for the Community Strategy 2018-2023 and;
- the proposal for yearly themes of partnership work

LSP 14/18 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

AS presented the items for information, which were noted by the Board.

RESOLVED:-

That the following items be noted:

- The planned event of the Watford and Three Rivers Families First Partnership for 'Resilience' on 3 April 2019
- The proposals for the development of a Three Rivers Health Hub
- The development of a continuum of need by the Adults With Complex Needs Group

LSP 15/18 WORKPLAN 2019-20

AS presented the LSP Workplan for 2019-20, and the Chairman invited comments from Board members.

RESOLVED:-

That the Workplan be agreed by the Board.

LSP 16/18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ME said she was doing a lot of work on Social Prescribing at present, and members of the Board were welcome to drop in to her surgeries. A big social media campaign promoted the event, and she reported that patients who had received such help were transformed.

RS asked members of the Board to note the changes of date of two future meetings of the LSP Board.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

25 June 2019 at 12.30pm (Formerly 26 June at 10am)

24 September 2019 at 10am (Formerly 25 September at 10am)

18 March 2020 at 10am

CHAIRMAN