

## THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Local Strategic Partnership Board** held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Tuesday 25 June 2019 from 12.30pm – 1.58pm.

Present:	Cllr Sara Bedford (SB)	Leader of Three Rivers District Council
	Gareth Bradbury (GB)	Herts Fire and Rescue
	Cllr Roger Seabourne (RS)	Three Rivers District Council
	Laura Carleton (LC)	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
	Shivani Davé (SD)	Three Rivers District Council
	Emma Doree	West Herts College
	Ben Johnson	Watford Community Housing Trust
	Chief Inspector Nick Lillitou (NL)	Herts Constabulary
	Marion Seneschall (MS)	Citizens Advice Service in Three Rivers
	Andy Stovold (AS)	Head of Community Partnerships, TRDC
	Mike Simpson	Three Rivers District Council

In attendance:

Louise Halfpenny (LH)	West Herts Hospitals Trust
Esther Moors (EM)	West Herts Hospitals Trust
Aimee Carson	Three Rivers District Council

Apologies for absence were received from India Graham, Marion Ingram, Elspeth Mackenzie and Cllr Mark Mills-Bishop.

### **LSP 01/19 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

Councillor Sara Bedford was nominated to be Chairman of the LSP Board for a further two years, duly seconded. Nick Lillitou was nominated as Vice-Chairman of the Board, duly seconded.

### **LSP 02/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2019 were agreed by the Board and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

### **LSP 03/19 HOSPITAL SERVISION PROVISION PLANS**

The Board received a presentation by West Herts Hospitals Trust/Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group, which set out future plans for patient care and delivery of medical treatment in West Herts in the future.



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It was accepted that a need existed for patient care to be more streamlined i.e. from the same site where possible, and not require patients to travel to numerous locations within the county. The plan was to retain an A&E presence at Watford General, and develop other hospitals for the delivery of planned care. It was accepted that current medical and maternity facilities required improving, and other areas such as building infrastructure and IT was also substandard. Ideally, provision would be made for a new hospital building but unfortunately such an option was not feasible on budgetary grounds. LH said £350 million was required for the project, with funding to be provided by a Public Dividend Charge, which meant the more money borrowed, the more interest would have to be repaid.

NL asked whether the Trust had worked with neighbouring counties, namely Essex. LH said Essex had not been consulted, but the HVCCG worked with hospitals in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire on the project.

SB said transportation provision for patients was extremely poor, and many simply could not make appointments at different locations on logistical grounds.

EM accepted transportation was a problem for patients, as was parking, and these issues would be considered within the scheme.

GB said he hoped wellbeing and healthcare would form a large part of the scheme's objectives within the transport target, and not just the local economy. SB said in response that the County Council would have plans in place for the provision of transport, and was sure the health authority would have its own plans too. It was a fact that patients were, by definition, not in the best of health and would require transport assistance, which at present tended to be by car.

RESOLVED:-

That the Board noted the presentation by the Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group.

#### **LSP 04/19 COMMUNITY STRATEGY UPDATE**

AS presented a brief update the progress on the priorities of the Community Strategy 2018-2023 and in which key outcomes were attached. He said this was simply an annual check on the current position, and welcomed further add-ons from partners.

The Chairman invited Board members to provide input from partners directly to AS.

RESOLVED:-

That the Board noted the Community Strategy update.

#### **LSP 05/19 COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY (CIC)**

AS said two nominations had so far been received from partners for Directors to join the proposed CIC, Herts Mind Network and Watford Community Housing. SB said other external partners would be welcome to join the new venture. AS said the OPCC declined the invitation as it felt there would be a conflict of interest associated with funding bids, and AS said the initial aim of the group would be to agree articles of association. MS said she had not nominated anyone as she believed there might be a conflict of interest, to which SB replied that the LSP was different from the SLA and if she was still interested, a conversation should be had with the Head of Community Partnerships. Ideally the CIC would comprise three members from outside partners, and two from within TRDC.

RESOLVED:-

That the Board noted the situation regarding nominations to the CIC.

## **LSP 06/19 BRANDING AND COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

- i. SD presented several designs to the Board for logos and straplines in relation to the separate branding of the Local Strategic Partnership ahead of the launch of the CIC, and said the designs would be tweaked and re-presented. One design was favoured by the majority of Board members, and a strapline was agreed. It was agreed that the colours used in the logo would have to be changed in order to differentiate from those of the LGBT marque.
- ii. AS spoke about the feedback received from the sub-partnership work on poverty which featured input from several partners including Adults with Complex Needs, Families First, Home Start, Housing Associations and the Job Centre.

A communication plan was required to promote the work of the partnership in tackling poverty, although other issues such as domestic abuse and neglect and mental health featured.

The take-up of foodbank vouchers provided a clear indication of the extent of poverty and hardship, and the processes and delays surrounding Universal Credit was a primary factor in people struggling to cope, as were zero hours working contracts.

AS said promoting a single message around poverty was too simplistic due to the myriad other issues involved. Further analysis of data would provide a better picture in terms of addressing the problems, and although county data was not broken down sufficiently, local Council Tax arrears data could be used.

SB said Three Rivers was one of very few councils that gave 100% Council Tax rebate to the poorest families, and failed to understand why others did not. It was stated that clients on Universal Credit were seven times more likely to be in arrears with a Housing provider, which she said was a shocking statistic.

AS said YC Hertfordshire looked at the problem of poverty from a different perspective, and focused on education as well as the teaching of cooking skills for young people. However, in addition to learning cookery, clients also used this as a means to access hot food. West Herts College had provided classes on budgeting assistance, and Home Start had created a buddy scheme aimed at those considered most vulnerable. Private funding would be sought to deliver the aims of the LSP and CIC.

GB said although the Fire and Rescue Service was not able to provide solutions to all issues mentioned, it could be of service in some situations and would use its limited resources where most needed.

MS said many CAB clients struggled with their finances and the agency would provide budgeting training on Monday 9 September 2019 from 10am-12noon in the Dickinson Room at Three Rivers House. This would include diverse areas such as credit, cooking economically and energy saving. SB said many people nowadays were not taught how to cook simple meals, and would buy ready meals and jars of cook-in sauces when a much cheaper alternative was available.

RESOLVED:-

That the Board noted the presentation of the proposed LSP logo and Communication Plan.

#### **LSP 07/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

AS presented the items for information for noting by the Board.

RESOLVED:-

That the following items be noted:

- i A written update from the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- ii The LSP 2019-20 Workplan

LC added that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner was conducting a review of policing in each district, to identify trends and problem-solving. The OPCC will share the resultant template for future discussions with the Board.

#### **LSP 08/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

GB announced his return to the area as District Commander of Herts Fire and Rescue.

#### **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:**

24 September 2019 at 10am  
18 March 2020 at 10am

**CHAIRMAN**