

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Local Strategic Partnership Board** held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Tuesday 12 November 2019 from 2pm to 3.38pm

Present:	Cllr Sara Bedford (SB)	Leader of Three Rivers District Council
	Trevor Brown	District Commander, Herts Fire and Rescue
	Shivani Davé	Partnerships Manager, TRDC
	India Graham	Graduate Trainee, HPFT
	David Hill	Interim Chief Executive, TRDC
	Marion Ingram (MI)	Operations Director, Specialist Services HCC
	Ben Johnson	Watford Community Housing
	Concetta Kyriakou (CK)	DWP Job Centre Directorate
	Chief Inspector Nick Lillitou (NL)	Herts Constabulary
	Elsbeth Mackenzie (EM)	Chief Executive, Thrive Homes
	Sara Miles	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
	Mark Mills-Bishop	County Councillor, Hertfordshire County Council
	Roger Seabourne (RS)	District Councillor, TRDC
	Marion Seneschall (MS)	Citizens Advice Service in Three Rivers
	Andy Stovold	Head of Community Partnerships, TRDC
	Rebecca Young (RY)	Strategic Policy & Partnerships Manager, TRDC
	Mike Simpson	Three Rivers District Council

In attendance:

Elaine Johnson (EJ)	Community Arts Development Officer, TRDC
Andy Garlick (AG)	Watford Community Sports & Education Trust
Jo Welton	Committee Manager, TRDC

Apologies for absence were received from Tina Barnard, Aimie Birkhamshaw, Emma Doree and Emma Jones.

LSP 09/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

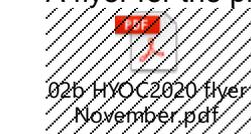
The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2019 were agreed by the Board and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

LSP 10/19 YEAR OF CULTURE

The Board received a presentation by Elaine Johnson, Community Arts Development Officer at Three Rivers District Council on the plans for the Year of Culture 2020. She explained to the Board the plans in place so far, how the project can be supported locally and what partners can do to support it. EJ said it was hoped that the project would not be for just the one year, but that it would result in a legacy for the future delivery of events.



A flyer for the project would be distributed to Board members shortly.



MI asked whether there was potential for the project to link in with the Herts County Council Fostering Service, and EJ said there was potential, but the question would be best referred to the project coordinator, Liz Gore (liz.gore@hertsmere.gov.uk)

The Chairman emphasised that the project was not targeting those who were skilled at something, but was intended to attract involvement across the community.

EJ said there was a promotional event for the project at Watersmeet on 26 November, and members of the Board would be welcome to attend.

RESOLVED:-

That the Board noted the presentation by the Community Arts Development Officer.

LSP 11/19 ACTIVE WATFORD AND THREE RIVERS

A presentation was made by Andrew Garlick, Head of Health and Wellbeing at Watford Community Sports & Education Trust, the charity arm of the eponymous football club, on the progress of Active Watford and Three Rivers to date.



03 WFC Trust
Health and Wellbeir

AG also showed a [video](#) featuring Alison Goodchild, Health and Wellbeing Specialist, who interviewed all customers referred to the programme and provided one-to-one support.

Following the presentation, the Chairman asked for clarification regarding the number of referrals to the programme by Vine House surgery in Abbots Langley as she was familiar with the practice. AG said initial referrals were slow but had increased considerably after the launch of the service in January. The levels of referrals from GPs were largely driven by the practice managers, and those that were supportive made more referrals.

RS asked whether the Trust received funding from GP practices, and AG said the only financial assistance it received was from the Herts Valleys Clinical Commission Group.

NL asked whether the Trust provided feedback to healthcare providers regarding those referred, and AG said it does not.

RESOLVED:-

That the Board noted the presentation by the Watford Community Sports & Education Trust.

LSP 12/19 HEALTHY HUB

Rebecca Young, Strategic Policy & Partnerships Manager at Three Rivers District Council, presented about the plans for Healthy Hubs in Three Rivers and what support local partners can provide.



04 Healthy Hub
Presentation LSP 121

RESOLVED:-

That the Board noted the presentation on Healthy Hubs.

LSP 13/19 UNIVERSAL CREDIT

The Board received a presentation from Concetta Kyriacou, Partnership Manager at DWP Job Centre Directorate, on the impact of universal credit in the District and current joint work to address the support needs of applicants.



05 DWP
Presentation.pdf

CK said in addition to the challenges resulting from Universal Credit, the content of the Job Centre's work had changed considerably in recent years due to the evolutionary nature of the benefits programme and different vulnerabilities.

MS thanked CK for arranging a recent visit by the Job Centre to the CAS which proved very interesting, and explained the interface between the two agencies. She said there were pros and cons with Universal Credit, and that some people can be better off on UC than previously. The wait to receive initial payment had been reduced from six weeks to five, and phone calls to the UC helpline were now free, and she acknowledged the contribution of the then South West Hertfordshire MP David Gauke for his help with those elements when Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

Disadvantages of UC were that claimants still had to wait five weeks before they received any payment, which often led to rent arrears. It was possible for customers to request an advance payment, but this was not a long-term solution as 20% of future payments were deducted at source.

Other cons were that IT access was very difficult, especially for the most vulnerable, and due to the likelihood of going into arrears the CAS helped customers with budgeting. Another negative aspect of outcome of UC was rent payments being made directly to social housing tenants instead of landlords.

MS said the holistic service provided by CAS involved defending Social Housing clients from being evicted. It also provided support for those experiencing consequent stress, ill-health and relationship breakdowns, and there had been a big increase in other areas of the agency's work.

CK emphasised that benefits under the old system were also paid in arrears. Advances of UC benefit could be discussed if customers wished, but this was not seen as a long term solution due to the effect of subsequent repayments on benefit income. If advances were not offered, however, clients would be more likely to approach unscrupulous payday lenders and therefore get into deeper debt.

She added that employers tended not to pay staff in advance so payment in arrears was not an unusual concept. CK said rent payments could be made directly landlords if they wish.

EM said there had been a big jump in arrears for UC customers as they tend not to understand the process. Arrears currently accounted for over 10% of Thrive's rent roll, which impacts the Housing Association's spending on other projects e.g. more homes for more people.

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The Chairman thanked MS for the work done by the CAS and said that was why Three Rivers provided more funding to the CAS than any other LA in Hertfordshire, and would continue to do so.

LSP 14/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i. PCC Briefing October
The PCC report had been circulated.
- ii. Better Choices Report
The report had been circulated
- iii. Three Rivers Draft Corporate Framework 2020-23
Not yet circulated but will be going to consultation in December.

RESOLVED:-
That the above be noted:

LSP 15/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RY said training sessions had been arranged for 22 November for engaging with perpetrators, and partners were welcome to attend.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

Tuesday 18 March 2020 at 10am
Tuesday 23 June 2020 at 12.30pm
Tuesday 22 September 2020 at 10am

CHAIRMAN