

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

of a virtual meeting of the **Local Strategic Partnership Board** held on Wednesday 17 March 2021 from 10am to 11.48am

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| Participants: | Sara Bedford (Chair) | Member, Three Rivers District Council |
| | Sarah Nelmes | Leader of Three Rivers District Council |
| | Rebecca Young | Acting Head of Community Partnerships |
| | Shivani Davé | Three Rivers District Council |
| | Chris Luff | Watford & West Herts Chamber of Commerce |
| | Sara Miles | Office of the PCC |
| | Roger Seabourne | Member, Three Rivers District Council |
| | Julie Nicholson | Herts MIND Network |
| | Gareth Lewis | Watford Community Housing |
| | Saffron Johnson | Watford Chamber of Commerce |
| | Ines Ferreira | Watford Chamber of Commerce |
| | Helen Brown | West Herts Hospitals NHS Trust |
| | Marion Ingram | Thrive Homes |
| | Emma Doree | West Herts College |
| | Danielle Levy | Herts Mind Network |
| | Cl Alex Warwick | Hertfordshire Police |
| | Hullait Amarpreet | DWP, Watford Job Centre |
| | Nicky Fawcett | Watford & Three Rivers Trust |
| | Peta Mettam | CASTR |
| | Paula Hiscocks | Member, Three Rivers District Council |
| | Freddy Chester | Three Rivers District Council |
| | Diana Barber | Batchworth Community Council |
| | Stuart Saunders | Hertfordshire Fire and rescue Service |
| | Keely Keogh | Three Rivers District Council |
| | Mike Simpson | Three Rivers District Council |

LSP 21/20 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Jo Wagstaffe, Mark Mills-Bishop and Jim Moran.

LSP 22/20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2020 were agreed to be an accurate account.

LSP 23/20 KICK START SCHEME

CL introduced the item and said some young people who had applied for over a hundred jobs had not received a reply, which was a shocking statistic that needed to change as soon as possible.

Ines Ferreira, an apprentice at the Watford Chamber of Commerce, said Kick Start was Government sponsored scheme aimed at people aged 16-24. She said how, in the year of Covid and consequent redundancies, she had been unsuccessful in obtaining a job after leaving university and was given an opportunity with Kick Start for six months in which she had learnt key business skills and networking opportunities.

As the apprentices' wages were paid by the government, the scheme was a good option for employers.

The Acting Head of Community Partnerships said she hoped businesses would be prepared to offer Kick Start apprentices a chance, and that the Council was in the process of taking on some apprentices via the scheme, and looked forward to working with them in the team. SJ said Kick Start was a great opportunity not just for apprentices but for businesses as well, and would benefit the economy and local employment. The scheme was due to end in December but it was hoped that the scheme would be extended,

The Partnerships Manager offered to include details of the Kick Start scheme in the Partnerships bulletin.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

LSP 24/20 HERTS MIND NETWORK – MENTAL HEALTH IN THREE RIVERS



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h2021.pptx

JN said mental health services had taken a bashing during the past year, and the team had worked flat-out countywide. The crisis services were being promoted and the crisis beds and cafes had reopened, with face-to-face engagement with clients now available.

DL explained the type of assistance available through the Community Support Service and Domestic Abuse Service, each of which were supported by Three Rivers District Council, and housing associations Thrive and Watford Community Housing.

Major issues amongst customers were debt and financial hardship, and the service had resumed face-to-face delivery which was a positive development as virtual delivery was not as effective.

Although numbers of referrals dipped during the first lockdown, Domestic Abuse and Mental Health referrals were expected to explode upon the easing of restrictions as victims were able to make contact more freely. DL said there were 279 Domestic Abuse referrals in Three Rivers in the past year, which was a very high figure. RY funding for the said Community Support Service had been gained from Public Health for a further eight months to support residents in Three Rivers, Watford and Hertsmere, and JN thanked the Council for its support and forward-thinking approach.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

LSP 25/20 COMMUNITY STRATEGY RECOVERY INTERIM UPDATE

SD introduced the update and said the CSP's priorities were Mental Health, Domestic Abuse, Poverty, Vulnerable Families and Digital Isolation. She said all partners had worked extremely hard during the past year to ensure services remained available.

Last July the Council commissioned YCH Services for Young People to develop a mental health wellbeing programme which in six months had delivered over 83 hours of support, with 75 hours budgeted for.

Healthy Hub funding provided a Mental Health worker at the Hive in Leavesden and Rickmansworth food bank to provide low level support to those in need. Watford and Three Rivers Trust developed a mental health steering group to feeds into Adults with Complex Needs group.

With Herts Mind Network the CSP has been able to provide support for victims and perpetrators of Domestic Abuse, with a web page set up for discreet support. The Council is to undertake a review of its J9 project, which provides safe spaces for victims of DA to access support, to ensure it is being used effectively, and bitesize training on referrals of perpetrators is to be made available to partners.

The summer programme of events for vulnerable families was very successful, and there were plans to provide a similar programme at Easter. Funding of £10k was received from the Winter Monies Grant, £8k of which went to school aged pupils for the buying of food and utilities, and the remaining £2k was made available for homeless individuals for the purchase of essential items of equipment as they moved into temporary accommodation.

The Council was working with Ascend and the South Oxhey Covid Support Group on the Step-in take-away facility, at which clients pay what they can afford, funding for which was provided by DEFRA. Remaining funding was been allocated to One Vision, a multi-faith group in Watford and Three Rivers and the foodbank in South Oxhey, for the provision of food related goods e.g., kitchen equipment and payment of utility bills.

The Council collaborated with Ascend, W3RT and Watford Community Housing to establish the Hillside Hub in School Mead, due to open in the summer. It will be along similar lines as Step Up, and will enable access to healthy hub, mental health support domestic abuse support and skill building as well as further onward signposting as necessary.

The Council was working with Ascend and Watford & Three Rivers Trust within the countywide scheme to address the problems caused by digital isolation. Volunteers were being recruited to help new users unfamiliar with the technology, and to assist with facilitating the disposal, collection and upcycling of tablets, laptops etc.

The past year led to a very good relationship between the Council and Watford & Three Rivers Trust, which was expected to continue. NF (W3RT) said the organisation received £100k from the National Lottery, £51,020 being used for causes in Three Rivers. The funding included support of Ascend, the job club, a Community Nurse in Croxley and the CAB. In addition, Signpost provided 120 hours to young people, and W3RT received additional £6,000 from the Council and £4,800 from a district Councillor's locality budget.

NF said she was very impressed by the level of support and innovation that resulted from Covid.

The Chair said it was good to see the funding being shared out among so many worthy causes which were sufficiently agile to ensure the funding went directly to where it was needed.

The Chair said during her years as a local Councillor she had often been asked for advice by victims of Domestic Abuse, and just before Christmas, for the first time ever, she was approached by a male victim who sought advice.

RESOLVED:
That the Board noted the presentation.

LSP 26/20 WEST HERTS HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Board received an update on the Hospital redevelopment from Helen Brown, Communications Director.



Your Care Your Views
presentation.pptx

An engagement programme was in place to receive the views of the local population, and the public was encouraged to give opinions by way of a survey, access to which is via a [link](#).

The presentation focused on the services to be provided in future at the three hospitals, Watford General, Hemel Hempstead and St Albans, rather than the buildings, and comprised:

- Watford - Emergency, specialist and complex care service
- St Albans – planned surgical care, planned cancer care and urgent care service
- Hemel Hempstead – urgent and planned medical care, long term conditions.

The plan was to have a more coordinated model for care provision, with a consolidated approach, especially in terms of outpatient and diagnostic treatment. It was also planned to upgrade the emergency facilities at Watford as it was clear from the past year that the buildings there were not conducive to optimum delivery of medical care.

The Covid pandemic had brought about an acceleration in the use of digital technology and Watford General provided the first virtual Covid facility which enabled treatment to be given at home using App based technology. An Electronic Patient Record (EPR) was currently in development, and it was expected to be in use by this time next year. It was expected that there would be much more digitally administered care in future, and in the near future the number of people attending the hospital would be cut by 50%.

SD invited any members of the Board who had questions on the presentation to raise them with her to forward to HB.

RESOLVED:
That the presentation by West Hertfordshire NHS Trust be noted

LSP 27/20 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER UPDATE

The Board received an update from Sara Miles who said that in the lead-up to the pre-election period the office was business as usual but with no decision-making.

The Criminal Justice Plan entailed to move to a more commissioning-based approach for providing funding, and several funding opportunities were currently open, including the Action fund, Road Safety fund and Fly Tipping, for which a big increase had been recorded over the past year. The Fly Tipping fund was open all year and had so far been used ten times so far, and preventative measures were looked at e.g. making land more secure.

A consultation was in place to review and improve strategy, and the OPCC was reviewing its response to victims of crime. The number of cases with Beacon had reduced, but the agency was still as busy due to the time taken for cases to go through the courts and reach a conclusion. It was predicted that crime would return to 2019 crime levels as lockdown restrictions eased, and the OPCC was looking at how it could bolster victim services.

The Chair referenced volunteers within the service and asked whether there was a more diverse range of people sitting on the Stop and Search Panel and in other voluntary roles. SM said the Stop & Search panel was much more diverse than before in terms of age and ethnicity but more still could be done.

RESOLVED:

That the Police and Crime Commissioner presentation be noted.

LSP 28/20 ADULTS WITH COMPLEX NEEDS – NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE

The new Terms of Reference for the Adults with Complex Needs Partnership (a sub-group of the LSP) were presented by Freddy Chester, Partnerships and Projects Officer.



06 Terms of
Reference AWCN.pdf

The aim of the service was to identify those in greatest need of support and address the issues accordingly. The group worked collaboratively, and met four times a year, the meetings being closed due to their confidential nature.

The Council provides administrative support for the meetings, and each agency is required to appoint one member to attend. Substitute members are required to attend if necessary.

RESOLVED:

That the new Terms of Reference for the Adults with Complex Needs Partnership be approved.

LSP 29/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

Tuesday 22 June 2021
Wednesday 20 October 2021
Wednesday 23 March 2022

CHAIRMAN