

MEETING OF THE BOARD
Tuesday 17 May 14:00 – 16:00
Civic Offices, Epping

MINUTES

Present

Councillor Di Collins (DC)	Chairman
Keith Brown (KB)	Federation of Small Businesses
Sean Dolton (SD)	Essex County Fire & Rescue
Jacqui Foile	VAEF
Pam Hall (PH)	NHS West Essex
John Houston (JH)	LSP Manager
Derek Macnab (DM)	Acting Chief Executive, EFDC
Geoff Mangan (GM)	EFCP
Darren Martin (DM)	Essex County Fire & Rescue
Councillor Penny Smith (PS)	Chairman Safer Communities Partnership
Colin Thompson (CT)	Representing Town and Parish Councils
Brian Surtees (BS)	Representing Town and Parish Councils
Yvette Wetton (YW)	ECC
Simon Wilkinson (SWk)	Lee Valley Park Authority
Simon Williams (SWI)	Essex Police
Jeannie Wright (JW)	Epping Forest College
Sheila Jackman (SJ)	Ongar Town Council

Supporting Officers

Colin Rowell (CR)	LSP Administrator
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Apologies

Julie Chandler	Chairman Children's Partnership
Councillor Anne Grigg	Chairman of Sustainable Communities TG
Councillor Valerie Metcalfe	Essex County Council
Paul Thomson	City of London Corporation
Sue Wainwright	Jobcentre plus

1.0 Welcome/ New Members/Apologies

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and read out the list of apologies. It was noted that Cllr Valerie Metcalfe had also sent her apologies. Darren Martin, Sean Dolton, Stephen Wilkinson and Geoff Mangan were welcomed to their first meeting.

2.0 Minutes of the Last Meeting (15/02/2011)/Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters arising :

Item BO-11/22 -03. A meeting between NWES and the LSP is being setup. ECC has provided funding of £15,000 to support the work of the WEP T&F group looking at drawing up proposals for the future of partnership working. A Big Society T&F group, chaired by Jacqui Foile, has also been established and has held it's first meeting. Jacqui Foile was thanked for her efforts in chairing the group.

Item BO-11/22 -04. The Primary Prize will go ahead this year. Last years prize included 16 schools in Epping and over 40 across west Essex.

3.0 Appointment of Vice Chairman

Simon Williams was proposed as the new Vice Chairman of the Board by Cllr Collins. This was agreed by the meeting. Simon Williams is elected as Vice Chairman of the One Epping Forest Board.

4.0 Reorganisation of Health Services – presentation by Dr Pam Hall

Dr Pam Hall gave a presentation on the current status of the radical proposals to reshape the NHS and updated members on progress in west Essex and current NHS Planning. After the presentation members were asked for comments or questions

4.1 Concern was raised over the quality of service delivery under the new arrangements and what the role of local groups would be in this area.

PH agreed that this is important and that the LSP is a good vehicle for flagging local issues. She also agreed to provide details to the LSP of a mechanism for feeding comments into the process.

Action 01 - PH

4.2 Concerns were raised over procurement under the new arrangements. There was particular concern about how local companies would be able to bid for and secure contracts. This was a key element of the Business Charter that the LSP is developing and which key partners would be asked to sign. It was noted that work undertaken by the FSB with Balfour Beatty has shown that national suppliers can be undercut by using local companies to provide local services. How can commissioning be influenced to help local companies gain contracts?

PH agreed that this was important and agreed to provide contacts in the area of commissioning

Action 02 - PH

4.3 It was pointed out that GP bodies in other parts of Essex were already in the process of commissioning services through their LSP's and that this could form a significant role in west Essex. These new opportunities are starting to emerge as the new structure develops. PH will speak with the Chair of the west GP Commissioning Board to see how this might be progressed locally.

Action 03 - PH

4.4 Members asked where does the Voluntary Sector fit in to the new structure?

The Voluntary Sector is part of future thinking and will be used to provide quality local services. Work is currently underway in the PCT which could result in future funding being identified. PH will pass VAEF contact details on to the Prevention Group.

Action 04 - PH

4.5 Members also wanted to know what understanding is there of best value in commissioning? Best value is not always financial. It was noted that a (unnamed) charity feels it is being forced out of its current added value role and into main line care replacing core NHS provision.

PH agreed that best value does not necessarily mean cheapest and that it was unreasonable for charities to be pushed in a direction that was not appropriate to the role they wanted to perform. Agreements must be satisfactory to both parties.

4.6 The presentation had made clear that GP roles and responsibilities will be very different in future. Members asked who will be responsible for inspecting the quality of delivery to the patient?

This will be the responsibility of the GP consortia with input from Health Watch and local government overview & scrutiny.

PH noted that the process of 'who watches GPs' is yet to be fully developed.

4.7 There was concern that the 'postcode lottery' situation could be made worse under the proposed structures. A lot of work is being done in this area. PH was asked if an organization chart was available for the new structure. There is not at the moment but one would hopefully be available soon. JH noted that partnership working structures across

Essex needs to be made as straightforward as possible. It was agreed that this message was true across many aspects of change.

4.8 The problem was raised of how to improve services while reducing budgets, and the issue of mental health services was raised as a particular concern. PH did not have an example in the area of mental health but did give an example in A&E – placing a GP in A&E – which did improve the service and save money.

PH agreed to provide a contact for the Mental Health Programme Board to the LSP
Action 05 – PH

5.0 Report from WEP Task and Finish Panel – presentation by John Houston

John Houston gave a presentation on emerging proposals for future partnership working in West Essex which were being developed by the T&F group in response to budget cuts and changing structures across Essex. After the presentation members were asked for comments or questions

5.1 KB referred to the organization chart from the presentation and asked whether the WEP Board was the key decision maker.

The WEP Board is the key decision maker for the wider partnership. It will be similar in makeup to the LSP Board, with a wide range of partner organizations and will have a wider remit than the current West Essex Partnership. However issues around commissioning services involving public money would have to be taken inline with standing orders etc.

5.2 KB noted that where this type of restructuring is underway in other areas, it is resulting in purely public sector membership with little or no private sector representation. This is a concern. JH felt that this would be a real step back, the proposals are designed to keep the partnership inclusive of all interests in west but still enable it to take real decisions and make a difference.

5.3 BS asked how many people would sit on this Board. If it was too large, it could become ineffective. It was suggested that Board subgroups could be setup. JH agreed that a balance had to be struck that would work in reality.

5.4 SWI noted that co-located partnerships would have a bigger voice, but that care should be taken not to build in levels of bureaucracy. There is a danger that a partnership that is successful could become a victim of its own success by being allocated less funding.

5.5 Schools have recently been through a similar process of reorganization and found difficulty balancing local vs. wider needs in such a reorganization.

5.6 JH stated that OEF cannot continue as it is, although it was agreed that it was a successful partnership delivering real benefit locally. No change was not an option as ECC structures, PCT, Police etc were all being changed and the local partnership must adapt to reflect this. The WEP T&F group is looking for the best partnership structure for west, which would expand partnership influence over the provision of mainstream services locally. JH asked for ideas/suggestions from the Board on the draft proposals in the paper. SWI suggested that slides be circulated and comments sought. This was agreed.

Action 06 - CR

5.7 SWI asked if it was possible for the partnership to borrow from the Big Society bank. Loans can only be made to voluntary sector organisations.

5.8 PS stated that the Safer Communities Partnership would be willing to discuss the WEP proposal at the next SCP Strategy Panel. This item will be added to the meeting agenda.

Action 07 - CR

6. Presentation from the Essex Partnership

Yvette Wetton gave a presentation on the proposals for restructuring partnership working across Essex. After the presentation members were asked for comments or questions

6.1 JH has drafted an LSP response to these proposals. This has been reviewed by the LSP Steering Group. JH agreed to send the response proposal to the LSP Board for comment.

Action 08 - JH

- 6.2 YW noted that the reorganization does seem to recognize that there must be a commitment to flexibility and localism and this was important.
- 6.3 Concern was raised that the role of local LSPs in the new structure would be limited to just reviewing the Community Strategy. There needed to be real localism reflected in the structure so that local communities influence is increased
- 6.4 The restructuring consultation period end date has been extended from 13 May to 13 June.
- 6.5 KB asked who the consultation had gone to. As far as he was aware it had not gone to the business community, which was a major concern.
- 6.6 SWI was concerned that the proposed structure diagram on slide 6 seemed to indicate that 'sub county commissioning partnerships' have a direct link to 'delivery vehicles', bypassing 'LSP clusters/mergers'. It was noted that there were 'small but mighty' links between 'LSP clusters/mergers' and 'delivery vehicles'. The function of these links was yet to be fully defined.
- 6.7 It was pointed out that the current proposal is silent on resourcing, how would the structure be funded and resourced and by whom, these were very important considerations that needed to be addressed. Members felt that it appears that the proposal works at a County level whereas the WEP proposal works more for the locality, and that there may be common ground for them to 'meet in the middle'.
- 6.8 The Chairman thanked everyone for their presentations and very useful discussion.

7. LSP Managers Update

- 7.1 The Future Jobs Fund is nearing its end. Currently 93 young people are in employment. Latest available figures show 60% of the FJF intake have come off the unemployment register following the end of their placement. 20 employers have taken part and all have given positive feedback about the scheme and the young people employed. Opportunities to provide a similar scheme in the district are being investigated with partners. A meeting is to be organized with local economic development officers, FSB, the college, Jobcentre Plus etc to look at this whole area to see if we can anticipate and respond better.
- 7.2 The Stakeholder Conference report has been completed and is available on the LSP website.
- 7.3 The Partnership Briefing is produced quarterly. The latest edition was circulated at the meeting and is also available on the website. Partners were invited to submit any information for inclusion in the next partnership briefing.

8. Oral report from Theme Groups

- 8.1 *Geoff Mangan on behalf of Julie Chandler – Epping Forest Children's Partnership.*
GM gave an overview on current issues and priorities. There have been many changes in services provided to vulnerable young people. NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) figures in the district compare favorably with the Essex average as follows

Epping	Mar 2009	2.2%
	Mar 2010	2.9%
	Mar 2011	1.8%
Essex average		6 – 7%

There are many reasons for local success, e.g. schools collaboration, locality to London, alternate provision (The Box, EF College), work done on attendance – which has resulted in no persistent absence in schools in the district.

A recent curriculum audit showed that 16-18 year olds are most likely to fall out of the education system. This can be exacerbated by the transition from schools with 11-16 year olds to schools with 16-18 year olds. There are currently 4 of the former and 2 of the latter types of school in the district.

There is currently a bid in with the Area Planning Group (APG) to secure some infill funding.

The Box and The Grace Academy are under threat from funding cuts, but these organizations provide a valuable education alternative to vulnerable young people.

Work experience schemes are being cut. Next year the scheme will be targeted rather than available for all pupils. GM asked members for help with placing young people and help with possible apprenticeship placements. KB suggested GM contact him for further discussion. JF also asked that GM contact VAEF re possible opportunities.

Action 09 - GM

A 1 year contract with Hertfordshire career service to provide careers advice to young people has not delivered to expectation and has been terminated.

Local Delivery Group (LDG) funding was held centrally. Funding is now largely devolved to schools but some (£3 million) is still held centrally. This will be the case until March 2012.

Areas that will continue to be funded are

- Primary schools counseling service
- Young peoples services provided by churches
- Transport
- Special schools
- Reality Roadshow
- Crucial Crew

The Connections Scheme will be discontinued from Oct 2011. The Box and Grace Academy have 1 year left.

The number of academies is increasing. There are currently 3 in the district, and although they hold their own funding, the signs are that collaboration is likely to improve. Some schools and EF College may form a 'soft' collaboration.

8.2 Penny Smith – Safer Communities Partnership

The most recent quarterly crime figures do not show any cause for alarm.

2011 crime targets have been set. The aim is for a 1% reduction in overall crime levels. Domestic homicide (domestic violence resulting in a death) reviews are now a statutory requirement. The local procedure for DH reviews is currently being developed. A new team has been set up to look at crime prevention initiatives and is looking at placing CCTV to help prevent cashpoint burglary.

The SCP working group at the Stakeholder conference identified the need to communicate more closely with Town and Parish councils. This has been progressed and has resulted in positive outcomes, for example in a recent public hostility situation in Nazeing.

Crucial Crew is taking place this year at Gilwell Park during the fortnight beginning 13th June. SCP Partnership membership is currently under review.

8.3 JohnHouston – for the Sustainable Communities Theme Group

The Business Charter and Volunteer Charter are both out for final consultation. A Hail and Ride bus scheme is in the process of being developed and a report is being drafted with ECC support to go to EFDC Cabinet. The Big Society T&F group is meeting, with a wide range of local partners taking a role, and drawing up a work programme. It will be reporting in the near future with proposals to support the initiative locally. Currently it is reviewing funding opportunities to make sure the district does not lose out. Work to build closer links with the North London Strategic Alliance is ongoing.

8.4 Pam Hall – Healthier Communities Theme Group

The focus of the theme group is to be reviewed at the next meeting, with a view to deciding whether the group should focus on operational or strategic issues.

9. AOB / Open Forum

9.1 It was agreed that the Police Authority should present on the new structure at the next Board meeting.

SWI noted that changes are looking at best management of assets and resources. Local police boundaries are likely to change and emergency response will be centrally governed. A draft proposal is currently work in progress.

9.2 SWk reported that the Canoe Centre was now open. A paper will be presented in the next week outlining the legacy of the centre. The Lee Valley White Water Centre website has had 20,000 visits since going online.

9.3 Di Collins reported that Colin Thompson is standing down from the Board. He was thanked for his valuable contribution to the group by everyone at the meeting.

9.4 Di Collins also announced her resignation from Board with effect from 24th May 2011. KB thanked her for the contribution she has made to the LSP and her excellent chairmanship of the Board meetings. This was echoed by everyone at the meeting.

Date of Future Meetings

Date	Time	Room	Building
6 September	14:00 -16:00	Committee Room 1	Civic Offices, Epping
13 December	14:00 -16:00	Committee Room 1	Civic Offices, Epping