

## MINUTES OF THE HEREFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

6<sup>th</sup> December 2010

2.00 pm Withington Village Hall

### Attendees:

Cllr Roger Phillips – Leader, Herefordshire Council (Chair)  
Chris Bull – Herefordshire Council & NHS Herefordshire  
Lucy Phillips – Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service  
Geoff Hughes – Stronger Communities Policy and Delivery Group  
Charles Hill – West Mercia Police  
Phil Weaver – Job Centre Plus  
Cllr Anna Toon - Herefordshire Association of Local Councils  
Will Lindesay – Voluntary Sector  
Joanna Newton – NHS Herefordshire  
Sarah Aitken – Health and Well Being Policy and Delivery Group  
Gary Woodman – Chamber of Commerce  
Cllr B Hunt – West Mercia police Authority  
Rob Garner – Environment Policy and Delivery Group

### Apologies:

Cllr Mrs June French - Cabinet Member  
Philip Talbot – Voluntary Sector  
Angela Smith – Economic Development and Enterprise Policy and Delivery Group  
Liz Smith – Safer Herefordshire Policy and Delivery Group  
Cllr Brig Peter Jones – Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority  
Cllr John Jarvis – Safer Herefordshire Policy and Delivery Group  
Chris Baird – Children and Young People Policy and Delivery Group  
Mike Ashton – Chamber of Commerce  
David Sanders – Children and Young People Policy and Delivery Group

### In attendance:

Julie Gethin - Head of Partnership Support  
Jane Jones - Herefordshire Partnership  
John Turner – (Agenda Item 4.)  
Charlotte Devereux – (Agenda Item 4.)  
Tracy Ricketts – (Agenda Item 8.)  
Alison Merry – (Agenda Item 9.)  
Oliver Goode – (Agenda Item 10.)

### 1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

Cllr Phillips welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010

These were agreed as an accurate record.

### Matters arising not on the agenda

### **3. PACT Review**

Julie Gethin explained the process which had been undertaken in respect of the review of the Partners and Communities Together (PACT) review. The outcome would be known in the New Year.

### **Items for Information:**

#### **4. The Census in Herefordshire**

John Turner, Census Area Manager and Charlotte Devereux, Herefordshire Council Researcher, gave a presentation on the 2011 census and its importance to Herefordshire. He requested that Partner organisations “spread the word” and promote and support the Census as widely as possible.

The Census assists:

Resource allocation

Planning investment and provision of public services

Supporting policy development and evaluation

Updating the statistical base across all sectors

Provision of nationally consistent insights for small areas and population groups

The Census will be available on-line and returns will be confidential.

The Chair reiterated the need for Partners to be aware that an accurate Census return has a direct impact on finances and therefore it is in everyone’s interest to ensure that as high a return as possible is achieved.

It was noted that some areas have traditionally low turn-out rates for voting, and that additional support may need to be targeted to ensure support is given to those who may be reluctant to complete their Census forms. It is compulsory to complete the forms and it is possible to be fined for non-completion.

#### **5. Economic Report**

Geoff Hughes presented the paper which had been previously circulated. The County welcomed the good news in respect of the Broadband pilot project, and the fact that business confidence locally remained buoyant. The proposed Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), submitted by the Leaders of Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils and the Chairs of the local county economic and business boards, had been one of only 22 to be approved in the country from the 56 which submitted a proposal.

#### **Jobcentre Plus Report**

Phil Weaver reported that the register had fallen every month since April (2832) to October (2368), a fall of 16.38%. Over the same period vacancies fluctuated from 704 in July to 1062 in May. In October a healthy 1025 vacancies were notified. Elementary occupations are the most sought after with 195 in October however Sales and customer service and Associate/professional vacancies were strong with 183 and 164 respectively.

New Claims (Nomis on flow) showed an increase from 538 in April to 827 in October, an increase of 53.7%. With the exception of September new claims have risen every month since June. Off flow is improving generally with April reporting 648 rising to 854 in September an increase of 31.7%

The 18 - 24 year olds register fell by 16.07% from April to October now standing at 705. Both on flow and off flow increased from April - October 91.8% and 44.7%. Over the operational year off-flow exceeded on-flow by 130.

Phil also gave details of the restructuring of Jobcentreplus Districts, and that Herefordshire & Worcestershire would be joining Coventry & Warwickshire to form a new District sometime in

the New Year, however Jobcentre locations in the two counties would be unaffected. The district office itself will move from Kidderminster to Coventry.

Details were also given on the Work Programme , the IB re-assessment , Work Clubs, Working Together with the voluntary sector & future digitalisation of services.

### **The following questions and comments were raised:**

If the Broadband proposals are targeted at the South of the County, won't there be a danger of Rotherwas' needs being omitted? It was explained that it would be important to ensure the whole County benefitted from the resources available. The need to include people with good IT skills was noted.

Had there been any measure regarding the impact of public sector cuts on the local economy? This was currently unknown, but the Local Enterprise Partnership would have an understanding of any impact.

It was noted there would be changes to Incapacity Benefit from February 2011. There would also be changes to Job Centre Plus in that the Herefords/Worcs area would in future come under the Kidderminster/Coventry. This would impact on JCP jobs, but not on the Job Centres themselves.

The NHS Apprenticeship Scheme is working well and providing good opportunities for young people.

The need for business support for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector was reiterated.

### **Items for Decision:**

#### **6. External Funding Strategy**

In the absence of Clare Wichbold, Alison Merry presented the External Funding Strategy. The importance of adopting a consistent County-wide approach and avoidance of duplication in respect of bidding for funds was noted.

Julie Gethin explained that whilst the existing process worked well internally, it was necessary to broaden the net to ensure that processes are adopted externally, and thus eliminate the concern over competitive bidding.

Chris Bull emphasised the need to ensure that Herefordshire has full access to any funds which may be available.

### **It was agreed to adopt the External Funding Strategy**

#### **7. Safer Herefordshire Report**

Charles Hill presented the above paper. It was important to note the likely impact of diminishing resources on service delivery. Three priority themes had been proposed for the next three years:

- Integrated Offender Management– led by Probation.
- Alcohol / Night-time economy – led by Police and Public Health
- Community resilience – led by Safer Herefordshire Partnership team.

Concern was expressed over those service areas which might receive less focus, with road safety and CCTV being identified as particular concerns locally. Discussion took place around how priority areas will be resourced, and therefore how those not agreed as priorities will be tackled. It was accepted that this will be a challenge for all public sector bodies in the

foreseeable future. The requirement for each Partner organisation to be clear about who is doing what towards meeting agreed priorities will be vital.

**It was agreed that the Board support Safer Herefordshire's development of appropriate action plans and de-commissioning of services in priority areas that will no longer be focused on. The Chair proposed that the Road Safety issues which were raising concern should be brought back for reconsideration by the Board.**

#### **8. Community Buildings Strategy**

Tracy Ricketts presented the above paper and explained the background to the strategy, who had been involved and the importance of social cohesion arising from the best use of community buildings.

**Additional comments should be forwarded to Tracy on 01432 260634  
e-mail [tar@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tar@herefordshire.gov.uk)**

**Subject to there being no significant changes, the document was agreed.**

#### **9. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

Dr Alison Merry presented the report, which sets out the changes made to the process of producing the 2010 Herefordshire JSNA, and the key findings and recommendations

**The recommendations as per the report covering sheet were agreed, namely:**

**The usefulness of the JSNA web-site and the summary document for the Herefordshire Partnership, as a dynamic resource that also draws upon the wide range of local information and analysis undertaken across Herefordshire;**

**The Key Points and Recommendations from the 2010 JSNA (Appendix 1).**

#### **10. Herefordshire Partnership review**

Oliver Goode gave a presentation on findings from his work with the Partnership, evaluation arising from events and interviews with key personnel.

The next steps were outlined as follows:

Jan 2011 Papers to Board

*Revised Structure and key outcomes  
Principles of Partnership Working*

Implement Partnership workstreams

by April 2011: Partnership Communications Protocol

Engagement Framework

by April 2012: Shared Intelligence function

Joint Commissioning structure

Integrated Preventative Programme

*Locality based targeted interventions*

Locality Working Arrangements

*Workforce Development and Training*

*Capacity Building*

*Participatory Budgeting programme*

**It was agreed that the timetable was realistic and that work should ensure following these principles.**

**Any Other Business**

Julie Gethin asked Board members to note the Connecting Communities and Women at No.14 project documentation which was available.

There being no other business, the Chair wished everyone a Happy Christmas and declared the meeting closed.

**Meetings for 2011:**

2.00pm	Wednesday, 9 February	Council Chamber, Brockington
2.30pm	Monday, 23 May	Council Chamber, Brockington
2.00pm	Wednesday, 7 September	Council Chamber, Brockington
2.00pm	Monday, 5 December	t b c