

## **Minutes of Management Group Meeting**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010

2pm, Hereford Room, Plough Lane, Hereford

### **Present**

Councillor Roger Phillips – Leader of Herefordshire Council (Chair)  
Supt. Charlie Hill - West Mercia Police  
Gabrielle Wright – West Mercia Police  
Natalia Silver – Economic Development Partnership  
Peter Brown – Stronger Communities  
Chris Baird – Children’s Trust  
Wendy Fabbro – Integrated Commissioning, Herefordshire Council  
Chris Bull – Herefordshire Council and NHS Herefordshire  
Lucy Phillips - Fire and Rescue Service  
Richard Gabb – Safer Communities (attending on behalf of Liz Smith)  
Jacqui Bremner – Health and Well-being Partnership  
Dean Taylor – Herefordshire Council and NHS Herefordshire  
Richard Quallington – Third Sector

### **In attendance**

Julie Gethin - Herefordshire Partnership Support Team  
Chris Bucknell – Herefordshire Partnership Support Team  
Philippa Lydford – Herefordshire Partnership Support Team  
Greg Evans – Financial Services, Herefordshire Council

### **Apologies**

Mark July – Environment Partnership  
Liz Smith – Safer Herefordshire  
Ian Edwards – Advantage West Midlands  
Susan Roberts – Government Office West Midlands  
Stuart Downing – Government Office West Midlands

#### **1. Introduction and Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked people to introduce themselves. Apologies were noted.

#### **2. Minutes of last meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2010**

The minutes were agreed for accuracy.

#### **3. Action sheet from last meeting and Matters Arising not on the agenda**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. Priorities and how we will work in the future – Julie Gethin**

There will be a facilitated discussion led by Oliver Goode at the October Board meeting around the future of the Herefordshire Partnership. Asking “if we didn’t have a Local Strategic Partnership, would we have one and what would it do?” Oliver will be meeting with some key contacts in advance and after the Board meeting. The results of these meetings will go to the December meeting of the Board, with proposals. Will look at place based budgets and start thinking about our commitment to localities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, the proposed

statutory Health and well being boards and the changed status of Children's Trusts. Need to look at added value, not structures.

The Chair said that we are in a new era and the partnership working we have in the future will be different to what is currently in place.

#### **5. Performance Report – Chris Bucknell**

Two papers were circulated before the meeting, the report and spreadsheet. Uncertainty about what will happen with National Indicators and how they will be measured, i.e. the local replacement for the Place Survey information. Two updates were provided giving an improving position on, NI 123 Stopping smoking, the performance outturn is 815 and NI 135 Carers receiving needs assessment is now 23%.

The Chair said that immediate neighbours have scrapped the Place Survey, following central government encouragement. At a time of significant announcements and changes, we need to consider if we should go ahead with the whole survey.

Chris Baird said it was similar with the 'tell us' survey, for which there is no current indication of replacement. It would be good to communicate with children and young people direct. Julie mentioned the Performance Network, which Chris Bucknell attends, who are looking at how we can demonstrate progress.

Dean said that following Government announcements, some LAA priorities may continue and we need to be clear how we measure them, but not send a survey at this time.

Charlie Hill said that for Anti-social behaviour, the figures are 14% down year to date. Partners have core data sets in existence, which can be shared with other partners. Charlie asked that the performance report be updated to say West Mercia Police, rather than constabulary in future.

#### **6. Area Based Grant, adjustments to cover grant cuts, using agreed methodology – Julie Gethin**

Julie Gethin circulated amended copies of the report, explaining the changes to figures in tables, which did not change the bottom line. The agreement at the last meeting was to criteria that protected the vulnerable, built capacity/sustainability and using evidence of tangible outcomes, linked to the difference made for local people.

A challenge session involving facilitators of the Policy and Delivery groups was held in September. The outcome of this session is shown on page 2 of the report. The Health and Well-being board met on the 1<sup>st</sup> October (after the challenge session) where it was agreed that the £318,000 unallocated funding be put on the table. As this decision came after the papers for this meeting had been circulated, the report does not include the areas of activity impacted upon under the Health group.

Looking at percentages offered back against allocations to the groups, the Safer and Economic groups are highest. The decisions on what should be offered back had been made within the Policy and Delivery groups. Julie highlighted that there were enough funds identified for release in the tables to meet the cut in grants.

Pages 3 and 4 show that there are some contracts for Supporting People, which extend and have a financial liability beyond March 2010. The Transition group meet again in November and will look at the scope and flexibility of contracts.

On page 5 are three options for the allocation of uncommitted resources. Julie ran through the recommendations 1 to 5 in the report.

Paragraph 13 details capital allocations and commitments. The capital funding was also put on hold. This is from the LPSA2 reward grant.

Charlie Hill said there is potential to release some capital allocated to Wilson House, if space was made available elsewhere, but this would need to be discussed and agreed.

Greg confirmed that he was not aware of any reason why both revenue and capital funding remaining in the account unallocated could not be put in reserve and carried into the next financial year.

The Chair said he appreciated the work done by the groups to achieve the reductions and thanked those who contributed.

Wendy Fabbro enquired how outcomes from service inspections would be taken account of in assessing impact. The Chair reminded the group that all funding should have been considered when seeking to meet the ABG reductions

It was noted that detail on activities to be reduced or stopped needed to be included in the report to give a complete picture. the impact under Health and well-being as we have with the others.

Chris Bull checked that the proposals for the Health and Well-being funding were agreed at their Board. Dean Taylor confirmed that Alan Curless (Chair of the Health and Well Being group) had spoken to him following the meeting and confirmed the outcome as reported.

Jackie Bremner explained that a lot of Area Based Grants have pump primed new initiatives in a lot of areas, but this was not necessarily the case for the Health and Well Being policy and delivery group as the majority was used to deliver front line services.

Chris Baird commented that other partnerships have also had to consider the impact on direct service delivery.

Chris Bull said that with regard to capital funding, this should only proceed on the basis that that there are no revenue consequence and avoid spending capital in an area likely to be subject to revenue cuts - need to ensure sustainability.

Charlie Hill checked how much direct consultancy had been done around the cuts with the Safer Roads Partnership. The Police do not have the capacity to do additional speed enforcement, to compensate for the reduction in road safety grant. Julie reported that the discussion at the Safer Herefordshire group meeting, confirmed that the Safer Roads Partnership, have re-profiled this year's budget to accommodate a reduction.

The group discussed various ways in which other partners are able to contribute to making the County's roads safer, for example the Fire Service's activities in working with young drivers, and safety campaigns in schools.

Chris Bull supported the pragmatic approach to taking decisions in year with allocation of remaining partnership funds being left until there is clarity on priorities and the future shape of partnership working. The Chair suggested that updated legislation could also support achievement of priorities.

The Chair ran through the recommendations in the report :

***The Herefordshire Partnership Management Group is recommended to:***

1. *Agree that the capital funding commitments detailed in paragraph 13 above should go ahead.*
2. *Agree the options as presented by the Policy and Delivery Groups to meet the reductions in ABG, subject to consideration of the recommendations to be put forward by the Health and Well Being Partnership.*
3. *Agree, dependant on recommendation 2 above, to utilise available partnership revenue funding to meet any deficit against the £1.157M target.*
4. *Agree that the Supporting People Transition Board should consider as a matter of urgency how the financial liabilities described in paragraph 12 will be met.*
5. *Agree to re-allocate residual partnership funding early in 2011, once the partnership has agreed its future priorities and the impact of the CSR is known.*

Recommendation 1 was agreed subject to confirmation of sustainability and non-recurring revenue costs.

Richard Quallington said that in the process of cutting it is important to ask the groups to look at evidence of who has been impacted on and be aware of this going forward, so that we can deliver. Charlie Hill said they have an impact assessment template that could be given to the groups for use. Julie explained that impacts formed the basis for discussion in groups in making their decisions.

**Action:**

- Areas of funding impacted on under health, to release £318,000 to be circulated to the group after the meeting, and added to the report for clarity and completeness.
- Greg Evans to look into capital schemes that might generate revenue.
- Charlie Hill to provide Impact assessment template for circulating to the Policy and Delivery groups.

**7. 2010/11 Community Strategy – Philippa Lydford**

Philippa updated the group on the evidence base being developed to inform the community strategy local priority setting. The sources of information come in two formats;

- What we know - data and statistics, based on those in the 2010 State of Herefordshire Report and other data held locally, plus
- What local people have said – using information collected from consultation and engagement events, such as Community Led Plans, PACT meetings, Hearts, The Quality of life survey and Local Development Framework consultations.

This information will reflect people and places, being analysed, and where possible, provided at a county, locality and parish level, to give a geographical, as well as subject, perspective.

The developed evidence base will be shared with the Partnership Board. Philippa asked partners, where possible, to share data and survey results held in their organisations, that may be included in the evidence base.

Richard Gabb suggested looking at case studies and the impact of the Supporting People Programme. Wendy suggested the JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) also be included. Dean asked that where possible, information be broken down by localities.

**8. Compact Update – Lynda Wilcox**

Lynda was not present at the meeting. Gabrielle, who attends the group, gave an update:

Awaiting to see impacts out of the CSR. The national Compact Strategy is out for consultation for 6 weeks, pending decisions by central government.

Richard Quallington said the Compact is positive, as the Government have endorsed the principle of the Compact. Richard said that the Third Sector Board will feed into the Government, and he would encourage local groups to do so. Gabrielle explained that Alex Fitzpatrick was pulling this together for the working group.

Charlie Hill said that on the 16 December the Police will know what funding is coming to them in Herefordshire. Lucy said that Fire and Rescue will know on the 8 December their allocation. It was mentioned that the Local Authority should know by the end of December.

#### **9. Any other business**

Natalia Silver mentioned and circulated copies of the Economic Development Strategy consultation paper, evidence base. Deadline for input is the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Philippa circulated copies of the h.Energy week events booklet, part of the New Leaf project and the work of the Environment Partnership

#### **Date of next meeting –**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm, Hereford Room, Plough Lane, Hereford.