

Herefordshire Partnership
Executive group meeting held Monday 16th May 2011

Present:

Richard Quallington – Third Sector Board
Liz Smith – West Mercia Probation Service
Charles Hill - West Mercia Police
Lynda Wilcox – Herefordshire Association of Local Councils
Chris Bull – Herefordshire Council and NHS Herefordshire
Zahoor Ahmad – Hereford and Worcester Fire Service
David Throup – DEFRA group

In attendance:

Nina Bridges – Herefordshire Council
Laura Tyler – Herefordshire Council (Item 5)
Philippa Lydford – Partnership support
Jenny Lewis – AD People, Policy and Partnerships (from 4th July), Herefordshire Council
Dean Taylor - Herefordshire Council
Angela Smith – Federation of Small Businesses (Item 7)
Jane Jones – Partnership support
Natalia Silver - Herefordshire Council (Item 7 and 8)
Geoff Hughes – Herefordshire Council (Item 8)

Apologies:

Lucy Phillips – Hereford and Worcester Fire Service
Wendy Coombey and Will Lindesay – Third Sector Board
Andy Watts – GP Consortium
Neil Kerr and Gary Woodman – Hereford Business Board

1. Welcome and introductions –

All attending the meeting introduced them selves.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising, April meeting –

Philippa described progress on actions, not on the agenda. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair –

Three nominations had been received for Chair, all nominating Chris Bull. Chris agreed to chair the group. No nominations were received for Vice- Chair and nominations from the group were invited.

Action – PL to arrange re-circulation of Nomination forms for Vice Chair to members of the group and nominations for Vice-Chair to be received before the next meeting.

4. Updated Terms of Reference and membership –

Philippa ran through the changes made as a result of input at the April meeting and highlighted in bold in the document. The following additional suggestions were made: With Safer Herefordshire having statutory responsibility for co-ordinating Domestic Homicide reviews, CH offered to facilitate discussions on how this is taken forward. There are also clearly opportunities to align with Safeguarding policy and procedures. It was felt that there was a need to articulate a countywide approach and the strategic nature of the group. This needs to be stated at the very beginning of the document.

The document also needs to draw out where the roles of Health and Well Being Board (HWBB) and Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group (HPEG) complemented each other such as the approach to alcohol misuse. i.e. HWBB cover the development of an alcohol strategy and HPEG is responsible for addressing crime and disorder, such as the night time economy.

It was also agreed that there was a need for partners to discuss together how to best align resources available across partners to meet greatest need and key priorities. This to be discussed at a future meeting.

The Chair reiterated the need for an overarching purpose of the Group and how Partners best work together in directing resource allocation.

Action – PL to amend Terms of Reference, reflecting the comments made.

5. Safer Herefordshire Community safety Strategy –

Laura Tyler presented the draft three year Safer Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy, to which comments were welcomed. The document sets out what Safer Herefordshire has achieved, highlighted through a number of key successful projects. Laura explained the changing national agenda, how this impacts on local service delivery and that HPEG now fulfils the statutory function for a community safety partnership in Herefordshire. She also explained how the priorities (i.e. Integrated Offender Management (IOM); Alcohol and the night time economy; Empowered Localities; and Road Safety) had been chosen, and how action against them will be delivered and measured. The following comments were made:

CH raised a question of whether the Fire and Rescue Service may wish to take the lead in respect of actions relating to improved Road Safety, and the possible need for a Task and Finish Group. It was noted that Lucy Phillips might wish to undertake this, and it was agreed, in her absence, to pursue the discussion outside of the meeting.

AS queried whether this would be an appropriate document to include business crime issues. In response, LT stated that this had not been highlighted as a priority for 2011/12 in itself. Certain crime against business would be addressed in identified priorities such as the Night time Economy and Empowered Localities.

DT queried whether there were other measurements which could be identified for the Empowered Localities to demonstrate impact on communities. LT commented that this had been looked at, but it was difficult to find others which could be standardised and measured accurately.

RQ raised a question about the contribution of the Third Sector and LT reported on the value of the Third Sector in successful delivery of key projects and initiatives. LS also commented that there was good involvement from the Third Sector in the Task and Finish Groups and this would continue. There was acknowledgement that the Third Sector needed to be involved in the planning stage as well as in delivery.

LW queried the level of involvement of Town and Parish Councils, and Laura reported that whilst there is happening, it is certainly an area which can be developed.

Action – LT to check option for Fire and Rescue to lead on Road Safety.

As per the Recommendation, the Executive Group agreed the content of the Community Safety Strategy 2011-2014.

6. Herefordshire Compact –

Nina Bridges explained that the document articulates the working relationship between sectors, particularly the public and voluntary sectors, towards better outcomes for local people. There is a national policy for a Compact to be in place, and this version takes into account emerging policies and the refreshed national document published in December 2010. A set of working Codes are included in this version. Should the Executive approve the

draft document, it is proposed to go out for 12 week consultation starting at the end of May. Feedback from the consultation will be considered by the Herefordshire Compact Group, prior to the Compact document being brought back to Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group for approval.

The following comments were made:

RQ reported that the interim Third Sector Board endorsed the draft document, will be happy to complete a response on behalf of the Third Sector and are keen to engage with their constituents to ensure a meaningful consultation process.

LW reported that the Town and Parish Councils were supportive.

The need to be able to measure whether the Compact was being implemented to reflect a positive relationship between the two sectors was raised. There is a need to ensure the document is fit for purpose in respect of the changing financial climate and is used in the context of the locality agenda, as there will be a keener interest in local delivery.

Other comments were made on the need to encourage volunteering, particularly in the areas in which they are currently underestimated and the implications of the Equalities Code for the Group.

A discussion took place on Equality Impact Assessments and the option for the group to sign up to the Herefordshire Equalities and Human Rights Charter.

Action: PL to investigate option for the group to sign up to the Equalities and Human Rights Charter.

Action: A request that the group, during the consultation process, use the opportunity to raise the profile of Compact.

The Chair asked the Executive Group to agree the draft Compact document for consultation, to support the consultation process through its own organisations and key stakeholders, and to receive the finalised Herefordshire Compact for approval in autumn 2011. This was agreed.

7. Roles of the Business Board and Economic Development Group –

Natalia Silver and Angela Smith explained the role of the Business Board which had developed from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The LEP had been created as a sub-regional response to support economic development, following the abolition of the regional development agencies. The natural synergy between Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin, has therefore led to a natural linking between these areas.

The Chair of the Business Board sits on the LEP and has a key role in promoting the interests of the private sector in Herefordshire. It has been agreed that the Chair of the Business Board will attend the Executive Group quarterly, with representation from the Chamber of Commerce at monthly meetings.

Angela explained the role of the Economic Partnership Development Group (EPDG) which had been in existence for some while and has a mix of private/public/third sector membership. Links between the EPDG and Business Board are through business representative organisations.

A discussion took place around the relationship between the two groups, and it was explained that the EPDG has a broader public voice. There is no Town/Parish council

representation on the Business Board as it comprises only businesses, or business representatives. However it could be relevant for them to be represented on the EPDG.

The Chair commented on the overall need to simplify partnerships, and the need to have one discussion in one place. It was agreed that as the two groups have differing remits and membership, it was appropriate for both to proceed.

On the understanding that the focus of the two partnerships remains purposeful, and their relationship is developed, it was agreed that they both continue to be linked to the Partnership.

8. How Community Groups will support the priorities of the Partnership and link with localities –

Geoff Hughes explained the paper, which was tabled. It set out which groups had previously been in existence under previous structure of the Stronger Communities Policy and Delivery Group, and where appropriate, which groups will still continue.

The following comments were made:

The Chair suggested that of a description of the current local resilience position be brought to a future meeting, and Charles Hill cited the need for a Partnership Risk Assessment.

A question was raised in respect of the future of the South Wye Regeneration Partnership. It was agreed that this would be routed through the Hereford Locality.

It was agreed that a focussed Locality Task and Finish Group, drawing on key partners, would be set up to oversee the development and implementation of locality engagement, including locality partnerships.

Action: PL to arrange a description of the current Local Resilience position to be brought to a future meeting of the group.

Action: It was agreed that Geoff Hughes would submit a paper to the July meeting of the Executive Group in respect of the locality partnerships and their membership.

9. Any Other Business -

Pride of Herefordshire 2011 awards – PL explained the launch would be, as through previous years, in the Hereford Journal on 18th May, and encouraged Executive group members to promote the scheme and consider suitable nominations through their organisations. The Herefordshire Partnership website will have a link to the Journal website from that date with full category details and nomination forms.

Third Sector Board – RQ updated the Group on the position in the respect of the current process of recruiting members and electing a Chair of the Third Sector Board, which will hopefully be in place by the end of July.

Three Counties Show - Angela Smith mentioned the FSB presence at the forthcoming Show and the additional capacity available.

**10. Date of next meeting –
Friday 10th June, 10am, Room 18A Brockington**