

Herefordshire Partnership
Executive group meeting held Tuesday 5th April 2011

Present:

Will Lindesay – Third Sector Board
Liz Smith – West Mercia Probation Service
Adam Thomas – West Mercia Police
Neil Kerr – Hereford Business Board
Lynda Wilcox – Herefordshire Association of Local Councils
Chris Bull – Herefordshire Council and NHS Herefordshire
Zahoor Ahmad – Hereford and Worcester Fire Service

In attendance:

Nina Bridges – Herefordshire Council
Laura Tyler – Herefordshire Council
Julie Gethin – Partnership Support
Philippa Lydford – Partnership support

Apologies:

Lucy Phillips – Hereford and Worcester Fire Service
Charles Hill - West Mercia Police
Wendy Coombey – Third Sector Board
Andy Watts – GP Consortium

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions –

All attending the meeting introduced themselves and their representation within the group. Chris Bull opened the meeting by describing the purpose of the group, including tighter representation and having a focus on problem solving.

2. Chairing of the group –

Chris Bull offered to chair this first meeting, until a chair and vice chair are nominated by the group.

Action – Nomination forms for Chair and Vice Chair will be circulated to members before the next meeting.

3. Community Safety –

3.a Responsibilities

This group will take on the statutory role previously undertaken through the Safer Herefordshire Strategy Group. An additional responsibility has just been announced around establishing domestic homicide reviews. The group agreed the need to have a policy in place and arrangements made to practically manage this work including possible links other areas and fit with the safeguarding boards.

Action – LT to review guidance and bring proposal back to Group in 2 months time for complying with domestic homicide review responsibilities

There may also be requirements placed on Community Safety Partnerships under new anti social behaviour proposals currently being consulted on, with likely implementation 2012/13.

Action – LT to advise group on requirements when available later this year

It should be recognised that Community Safety Partnership incorporates Drugs Action Team functions, however it is also clear that national drug strategy, gives a clear leadership role to the Director of Public Health for commissioning and oversight of drug and alcohol treatment services. The Group needs to ensure there are strong links between Public Health / Health

and Well being Board and Community Safety Partnership, at the same time as avoiding duplication.

It was clarified that West Mercia Police would also cover the responsible authority status for the Police Authority.

3.b Strategy update

The Community Safety Strategy covers the next 3 years. The priorities were set by the Safer Herefordshire Strategy group on the 10th March. There is a lead for each priority and each will have an action plan and a task and finish group. It was noted that there was no specific priority for drugs, but the Group felt that it was not appropriate to include it within the alcohol priority linked to night time economy. Drugs and alcohol treatment will be a Public Health priority, with the Integrated Offender Management priority picking up on many of the criminal aspects in respect of drug offences.

The Community Safety Strategy priorities are on the website.

Action - Draft of the Community Safety Strategy to be brought to the next meeting of this group (16th May)

4. Relationship with other groups/structures –

The purpose is to capture the role of this group and discuss its relationship with other local groups, informing the final terms of reference. Some organisations and individuals are represented on several groups and there is a need, in the changing climate, to avoid duplication and burden on people's time.

It was clarified that the GP Consortium was not a Board and as such should not be represented on the diagram attached to the paper.

The Group discussed the local partnership arrangements which had arisen from the previous thematic based approach. The Health and Well being Partnership has dissolved. There are a number of existing partnerships and bodies which have an economic focus, but which have different roles and functions, for instance the Business Board is leading edge, action orientated, looking at job creation and seeking to be the voice of business growth in Herefordshire; whilst the Local Enterprise Partnership is able to bid for growth funding.

Action - The roles of the various economic groups to be mapped, with consideration of complementary links and to be brought back to the next meeting for discussion through an invited economic representative

There followed a similar discussion regarding the partnerships and bodies which support the Communities theme. LW commented that the Herefordshire Community Development Partnership may have a role in supporting good practice across localities. The Group has also developed strong networks. The Executive Group agreed that if these supporting groups provide clarity on their role and has clear objectives, this will lead to a better understanding of their potential role within the wider Herefordshire Partnership.

Action – Ask Geoff Hughes to bring to the next meeting of the Executive Group how these groups will support the priorities of the Partnership and provide a link with localities.

The Children's Trust is moving towards advocacy and the statutory requirements around safeguarding, and how remaining groups might pick up the rest.

The Environment Partnership intends to keep meeting, but will not be resourced at the same level as before.

It was agreed that all partnership meetings that continue, need to have a clear purpose and benefit to achieving Herefordshire Partnership priorities.

5. Terms of Reference – A first draft has been circulated, looking at streamlined structures and a clear focus on Herefordshire as a place. The Community Safety statutory requirements have been included in brief, to provide clarity of the purpose of the Executive Group and therefore its membership. This builds on recent agreements during the Herefordshire Partnership review, through Board and Management Group meetings and events. The way the group operates through codes of conduct and declarations of interest have been included. The last page gives examples of who does what and how, to see what decisions lie where.

The Environment Partnership raised concern around the lack environmental representation and input on the Executive Group. It was recognised that the majority of those around the table had statutory responsibility, but that the role of parish councils and the third sector were of equal importance. In principle, it was agreed that anyone on the group, should have a significant role in the County be able to make a major contribution around key issues and problem solving as well as be able to steer resources. It has therefore been suggested that a representative of the 'DEFRA family of organisations' (The Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission and Natural England) join the group. It was particularly noted that they would be able to make a substantial contribution around key issues such as flood defences as well as the ability to bring resources into the County.

Action – Chris Bull to confirm to Rob Garner the decision that the DEFRA representation be sought to cover the environment.

Action – PL to ensure that terms of reference acknowledge the different contributions made through Statutory and other partners, in respect of Community Safety Statutory responsibilities

The Group agreed that to measure impact, it needed to understand what success would look like. The Group need to be able to demonstrate that its intervention in an issue has made a difference, through for instance, multi-agency action and combining of resources.

Action – Success factors to be developed and appended to the Terms of Reference. A start at success factors will be circulated by e-mail to the group for contributions

All members to contribute suggested success factors, what they hope to achieve by next year, as well as looking more long term, with a focus on improving quality of life, reducing risk and improving experiences. Examples might include:

- circumstances so that the economy prospers
- communities supporting themselves
- jobs and housing growth.
- resolved transport Issues

The Group will test itself against these and communicate them to other groups and the local community. The Group needs to be proactive, provide leadership and focus on achieving real outcomes, as well as being innovative in the face of challenge.

6. Partnership Support –

At the last meeting of the Herefordshire Partnership Board it considered how partnership arrangements would be supported. There is the opportunity to look at how the partnership groups are resourced, looking at common functions being brought together. There needs to be a shared understanding of what support is needed and how to pull this together, not just for the Executive Group, but also for instance the Local Enterprise Partnership, Business Board and Health and well-being Board. This will require work in the next few months, making the support more sustainable in the future, acknowledging that the input by partners will vary and may be reducing. It therefore makes sense for partners to consider how they could pool resources.

Action: PL to co-ordinate discussion with Statutory agencies on what support is available.

Action: Map information from the action above, including who is paying for what and bring a proposal back to the group.

7. Community Strategy –

Six priorities have been developed using an evidence base, which included information from the State of Herefordshire Report, other sources of data and what local people have said through for example, Parish and Town Plans and local consultations. Work to achieve these strategic priorities will provide focus for the Partnership and especially the agenda of the Executive Group. The revised wording of the priorities has been strengthened around the environment, with text additions underlined in the report.

The importance locally of the environment was recognised by the Group, but it was felt more appropriate to strengthen the Vision and Guiding Principles, rather than a reference in each

of the priorities. We need to describe our overall commitment to protect the environment with Herefordshire a place that respects the environment.

Action: PL to arrange revisit of the Vision and Guiding Principles, with text additions removed from the individual priorities. Chris Bull to explain the above approach to Rob Garner

8. Work plan –

A draft work plan for the group was tabled, providing a working document that looks ahead at the work of the group and key timings. The focus needs to be around outcomes, a programme that leads to success factors, rather than manage a process.

9. AOB -

NK proposed that the Business Board only be represented six months to brief the group on what it is doing. However, the Group stressed the importance of Economic Development as key to Herefordshire's success and wanted a more frequent, regular link with the Local Enterprise Partnership and Business Board in the partnership.

The agenda of future meetings will be based on success factors.

The Group gave its thanks to the Safer Herefordshire Strategic Group and other partnership groups for their support over the years.

PL to arrange letter of thanks

Julie Gethin is moving to co-ordinate the work of Children's Safeguarding. The Group thanked her for all her hard work supporting the Partnership, where she has made a real impact.

WL explained that The Volunteer Awards – 'Hidden Heroes' have just been launched and nomination forms were circulated to the group. There are e-mailable versions available.

10. Meeting Dates –

Group members have suggested days they would rather avoid for future meetings. These will be borne in mind when arranging future meeting dates.