

BOARD MEETING OF THE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE
LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Held at Sharpe's Pottery and Visitor Centre, West Street, Swadlincote
on 15th January 2004 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:-

Local Authority Sector

District Councillor Barrie Whyman (**Vice-Chair**), County Councillor Geoff Carlile, Frank McArdle (Chief Executive, South Derbyshire District Council), Evadne Robbins (Derbyshire Association of Local Councils), District Councillor Heather Wheeler and District Councillor John Wilkins.

Other Public Sector

Chief Superintendent Tony Hurrell (Derbyshire Constabulary)(**Chair**), David Bond (Connexions Derbyshire), Nina Ennis (Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire Primary Care Trust) and Karen Jones (Trident Housing Association).

Private Sector

Susan Bell (National Forest Company), Karen Bradley (Toyota UK), Sharon Forton (Southern Derbyshire Chamber), John Oake (Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust) and George Tansley (Etete Ltd).

Voluntary/Community Sector

Julie Batten (People Express), Reverend Bob Hollings (Churches Together), Graeme Royall (South Derbyshire Citizens' Advice Bureau), Jo Smith (South Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Services) and Helena Stubbs (Derbyshire Rural Community Council).

Also in Attendance

South Derbyshire District Council

Ian Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), Mark Alflat (Director of Community Services), Stuart Batchelor (Community and Leisure Development Manager), Peter Woolrich (Policy Officer) and Neil Betteridge (Principal Democratic Services Officer).

Derbyshire County Council

Helen Woodhouse (Senior Best Value and Policy Officer)

Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire Primary Care Trust

Helen Baker.

Audit Commission

Brian Rowland (Inspection Team Leader for the District Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment).

LSP/11. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Jeff Dolby (Environment Agency), Paul McGregor (Derbyshire Learning Partnership), Graham Keddie (East Midlands International Airport), Glenys Williams (Old Post Regeneration Association) and Maria Hallam (Government Office for the East Midlands).

LSP/12. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 20th November 2003 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

LSP/13. **MATTERS ARISING**

Further to Minute LSP/4(a) of 20th November 2003, it was reported that arrangements had now been made for an informal gathering of Board Members at the East Midlands International Airport on 21st January 2004 at 5.30 p.m. The event would be facilitated by a Personnel Officer from the District Council and Board Members were requested to provide a brief pen-portrait prior to the event, including details of their respective organisation. If any Board Member was unable to attend on this date, substitutes or deputies could attend on their behalf.

LSP/14. **COMPACT FOR SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

Jo Smith of the South Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Services reported on progress made in relation to Compacts by the County Joint Working Party. Compacts were a central government initiative launched in 1998 and designed to promote good practice between statutory and voluntary agencies at both national and local levels. At a national level, the Compact was a memorandum concerning relations between the government and the voluntary and community sector. At a local level, other public bodies were expected to adopt and adapt the Compact to suit their relationship with the voluntary and community sector. All statutory agencies were required to have a Compact in place by 2004.

In addition to the Compact, the Home Office had also issued five accompanying codes of good practice relating to Community Groups, Funding, Black and Ethnic Minority Voluntary and Community Organisations, Volunteering and Consultation and Policy Appraisal. It was likely that these issues would be explored in the development of any local Compact.

At a local level, the County Council's Policy Unit had led on developing a county-wide Compact which was presented to and accepted by the Cabinet in February 2003. In order to progress the process for a joint Compact, the County Council, together with the Councils for Voluntary Service and Derbyshire Rural Community Council then determined to hold a workshop on 10th July, to which all statutory organisations requiring a Compact to be in place by 2004 were invited. Arising from this event, it was agreed to establish a Joint Working Group to develop and implement an action plan relating to the development of a joint Compact for the County. Although there were no clear resolutions, the consensus at the original event in July appeared to be that District-based Compacts would follow the Derbyshire model but reflect local needs.

At the LSP Shadow Board Meeting on 27th August 2003, it was agreed that Jo Smith (South Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Services) and Malcolm Roseburgh (the District Council's Partnership Officer), should attend the Joint Working Group as representatives of South Derbyshire. The first Meeting of the Group had been held on 26th November 2003 and was attended by officers of Derbyshire County Council, one representative from South Derbyshire District Council, two representatives from PCTs, two CVS representatives and the Rural Community Council. It was agreed that signing-up to a common core Compact was the way to progress, as originally agreed at the Winding Wheel Workshop,

along with the addition of locally generated action plans. In order to progress this issue, it was decided to consult the key statutory agencies again on the Compact document and use Joint Working Group members to contact their respective sector organisations and other related public bodies. Any feedback or suggested amendments from the consultation would be taken into account at the Compact's next Annual Review. It was also agreed that the joint working arrangement should become the 'Compact Steering Group', overseeing development and conducting the Annual Review. The Group would meet three times per annum.

The Working Group was keen that the process was meaningful in practical terms and avoided becoming a paper exercise to fulfil statutory guidelines. The Compact would need rolling out and implementing with all relevant staff informed of its existence for it to have a real impact on practice and working relationships between agencies. It had been agreed that the County Council's Policy Unit would arrange a launch date for the Compact, possibly at the Derbyshire Partnership Forum meeting in March. Following this, implementation would begin.

The Joint Compact Working Group was scheduled to meet in February to monitor progress and finalise arrangements for the launch and a further report would be submitted to a future Meeting.

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

LSP/15. **CONSULTATION ON THE PROJECT BRIEF FOR THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

Board Members were reminded that the Project Brief for the Community Strategy was approved for consultation purposes at the Annual General Meeting. The Project Brief discussed the arrangements for developing and agreeing the Community Strategy for the District, together with some key issues that would need to be investigated further. The consultations undertaken to date were outlined and the final date for receipt of responses was fixed at 1st December 2003. The information may provide useful background to the 'Visioning Event' to be held on 28th January 2004 and the various comments received had been circulated to Board Members.

RESOLVED:-

That the comments be considered in the preparation of the Community Strategy.

LSP/16. **COMMUNITY STRATEGY – THE NEXT STEPS AND 'VISIONING EVENT'**

A report was circulated on the next steps in the development of the South Derbyshire Community Strategy and the related issue of arrangements for the 'Visioning Event' on 28th January 2004.

Steve Rogers of INLOGOV had agreed to facilitate the 'Visioning Event' at the Bretby Business Park Conference Centre and Board Members considered a copy of the draft programme. By the end of the event, it was anticipated that the Board would have developed and agreed the main themes of the Community Strategy, identified the key partnerships and organisations that would progress

work on each key theme (along with any gaps in coverage), developed and agreed a draft Vision Statement for the Strategy and agreed a set of principles that would underpin the development and implementation of the Strategy.

The programme was intended to assist the Board with the practical arrangements that would need to be made to develop the Strategy. An important step would involve the production of a detailed project plan, covering the period up to the formal adoption of the Strategy.

Steve Rogers had suggested that partners may wish to take to the 'Visioning Event' any exhibition material they may have, information about customers/service users' views and expectations, and key themes/objectives/priorities in their own planning processes. In view of the likely heavy workload during the day, which was scheduled to close at 12.30 p.m., it was suggested that if possible, the programme should commence at 8.30 a.m. In this regard, enquiries as to the possibility of bringing forward the commencement time would be made accordingly.

A paper prepared by the Community/Voluntary Sector representatives was circulated relating to progressing the production of the Community Strategy. Whilst recognising the constraints on the time and financial resources available to advance the work, this suggested that with a small financial contribution from each sector represented on the Board, the work could be undertaken effectively and within the original timescale agreed. The paper outlined key tasks to be completed together with costs and a flow-chart relating to the proposed programme.

A detailed discussion ensued on the manner in which to progress the production of the Strategy and representatives of the Community/Voluntary Sector expressed various concerns relating to consultation and the identification in gaps in the process to date. The Vice-Chair of the Board considered that there was a need to move forward with a document and leave this open to expansion if necessary and in this regard, he considered that the County Council's Strategy was an excellent model to be used as a draft. It was recognised that there would be differing views across the various sectors represented on the Board and the District Council's Deputy Chief Executive advised that the plan developed with Steve Rogers had concerned the development of a Strategy at an early date with necessary revisions in due course. It was noted that the various comments made by Board Members would need to be raised in the debate at the 'Visioning Event' on 28th January 2004.

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

LSP/17. **CRIME AND DISORDER PARTNERSHIP – PROGRESS AND PLANS**

Stuart Batchelor, the District Council's Community and Leisure Development Manager made a presentation to Board Members on the Crime and Disorder Initiative. He outlined the background to the Partnership and advised that the 2002 - 2005 Strategy prioritised a mixture of Government, Public Service Agreement and local targets. The resources were detailed and it was noted that an initial budget of £2,000 in 1999/2000 had now increased to £500,000 in 2003/04.

Initiatives arising from the Crime and Disorder Partnership had included an Operation Night relating to undercover drugs activities, youth facilities in connection with a multi-games area and skate board park and the establishment of Local Crime Reduction Groups in Melbourne, Willington, Newhall/Midway and Hilton. Burglar alarms had been installed in many properties following a burglary, which had resulted in no repeat burglaries and there had also been CCTV installation in certain areas. Anti-Social Behaviour Orders had been obtained to reduce crime and disorder and free mini-alarms had been distributed to residents as part of a burglary pack. Public open space improvements had been made and a domestic abuse campaign had also been launched.

Figures relating to house burglary, auto crime and burglaries in Newhall for 2001/02 and 2002/03 were outlined, which revealed reductions of 13%, 2.5% and 60% respectively. It was also noted that there had also been increases of 27% and 3% in the first two categories throughout Derbyshire. The current and future workload was outlined, which included a Community Police Office in Newhall, a Mediation Service, community events for all ages, CCTV, Neighbourhood Watch/Local Crime Reduction Groups, disposal of abandoned vehicles, safer homes in South Derbyshire, an Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, a domestic abuse service and a youth needs survey/sports engagement project. It was noted that an Anti-Social Behaviour Officer would shortly be commencing employment with the District Council.

It was recognised that Derbyshire was one of the safest Authorities in the Country in which to live. A copy of the latest 'Teamwork' newsletter was circulated to Board Members.

LSP/18. **DERBYSHIRE DALES AND SOUTH DERBYSHIRE PCT – DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2002/03**

Vicki Price, the Acting Director of Public Health attended the Meeting and made a presentation to Board Members on the Annual Report 2002/03. The Report provided an understanding of health needs and variations in health across the population, established a base line to enable future monitoring with a focus on health inequalities, provided examples of some work being undertaken to address health needs and recommended areas for further health improvement across the PCT.

Despite improvements, the gap in health outcomes between those at the top and bottom ends of the social scale remained large and in some areas, continued to widen. In some parts of the Country, life expectancy remained the same as the national average in the 1950s and generally, the more affluent people were, the better their health was likely to be. There were also wide differences amongst social groups. Differences in opportunity, access to services, material resources and lifestyle choices all contributed to differences in health. Health inequalities could be passed on through generations.

The presentation dealt with determinants of health together with life expectancy from birth for males throughout the area and variations in life expectancy on a Ward basis. Variations in premature death by Ward were detailed and bar charts were provided indicating the proportions reporting fair/poor health, the proportions carrying out recreational physical activity, people who were overweight or obese and the proportion of current smokers, all within both the PCT and the 'communities in need' areas. Examples of current activity and recommendations relating to heart disease and stroke, mental health and self esteem and sexual health and teenage pregnancy were detailed and it was noted

that the PCT had responsibility for the health of two prisons, two authorised travellers sites, a relatively high farming population and other issues pertaining to rural deprivation.

A full copy of the Annual Report was circulated to all Board Members.

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

LSP/19. **NEWS FROM PARTNERS**

The District Council's Deputy Chief Executive advised that all Board Members had been invited to attend the forthcoming Meeting of the District Council's Finance and Management Committee on 26th January 2004 relating to consultation on the Council's budget.

LSP/20. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was noted that the following future Meetings had been arranged at 9.30 a.m.:-

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>
Board Meeting	18th March 2004
Board Meeting	20th May 2004
Forum Meeting	17th June 2004
Board Meeting	19th August 2004
Forum Annual General Meeting	21st October 2004

T. HURRELL

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 11.45 a.m.