

LSP Board
27 April 2007
Fluid Power Centre, Worksop
9.30 am – 12.30 pm
MINUTES

Present:

Chair:	Michael Quigley, Leader, Bassetlaw District Council
Vice-Chair	Michael Newstead, Director, BCVS
Richard Edwards	Neighbourhood Pathfinder Manager, Manton Community Alliance
Nick Finlay	Partnerships Superintendent, Nottinghamshire Police
David Hunter	Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council
Liz Jefferies	National Association of Local Councils
Mary Mitchell	Hospitals Manager, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
Lynn Tupling	Manager, Retford Action Centre and Chair of the Environment Sub-Group
Bob Wallace	Strategic Partnership Services, Nottinghamshire County Council (County LSP Co-ordinator for the Bassetlaw area)
Fran Walker	Consultant, North Nottinghamshire College
Maureen Whittaker	Consultant in Public Health
Robert Wilkinson	Bassetlaw District Council
Gillian Blenkinsop	Bassetlaw District Council
Jo Wilson	Bassetlaw District Council

Guest Speakers:	David Marriott, Nottinghamshire County Council
	Sally Penn, Sure Start Co-ordinator, North Nottinghamshire College of Further Education

Apologies:

Penny Altham	Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council
John Berridge	Chair of the Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team
Bernard Coleman	Managing Director of A1 Housing Bassetlaw Ltd
David Colebeck	Chief Superintendent, Nottinghamshire Police
Nigel Clifton	Chief Executive, Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Hospitals Foundation Trust
John Connolly	Deputy Chief Executive, North Nottinghamshire College
Pauline Elliott	Chair of Social and Community Development Sub-Group, Bassetlaw District Council
Paul Learoyd	Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Louise Newcombe	Chief Executive, Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust
Andy Pearson	Group Manager, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
Tom Stockwell	North Nottinghamshire Job Centre Plus
John Slater	Nottinghamshire County Council
Sharon Stoltz	Deputy Director of Public Health, Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust
Mick Storey	Deputy Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council

202. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Approved as a true record.

Bernard Coleman was in attendance at the last meeting.

Transport group referred to in the minutes had met.

203. Children's Services – an update from David Marriott

David Marriott, Access to Services Director, attended the Board to help members to understand the changes to the way Children and Young People's services are managed, the legislation that is guiding the delivery of these services and the plan and structures that are in place to meet this agenda.

On 6 April 2006 the County Council approved a new structure for the Council. The re-organised Council has four service departments. The Children and Young People's Department is one of the four departments and focuses on the well-being of children and young people from birth – age 19 years. For looked after children this extends to 24 years in some cases.

One of the reasons behind the change in structure was the requirement to appoint a Director of Children's Services in accordance with the Children Act 2004.

This new department brings together the previous Education, Children's Social Services and parts of Culture and Community departments which went live on 1 October 2006. The department is led by a Strategic Director, Robert Garnett .

The aim of the department is to enable the Council to provide more preventative and integrated services and thereby improve the opportunities and outcomes for the children and young people of Nottinghamshire. Their work is centred around the attainment of the five outcomes in the Every Child Matters green paper which are to: -

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

Within the Children and Young People's department there are five service blocks with a service director responsible for each one. The directors are: -

Access to Services	David Marriott
Inclusion and engagement	Anthony May
Learning and achievement	John Slater
Social care and health	Helen Ryan
Strategic services	Marcie Taylor

The structure was expected to be fully operational by June 2007.

Clearly the County Council cannot address this change for children and young people's agenda without strong partnership working with health, schools, district councils, Connexions, Police, Probation Service, Voluntary and Community sector and parents and carers.

A diagram showing how the county-wide structure and the district structures link to address the needs of children and young people is attached at Appendix 1.

David talked members through the attached table which showed how activity flowed from the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Plan 2007 – 2009. This is attached at Appendix 2.

The plan has been developed by all the providers of children and young people's services in Nottinghamshire to respond to local needs and improve outcomes for all children and young people and their families. These providers work through the Children and Young People's Executive Group of the county-wide Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

Not all of the activity that supports improved outcomes for children and young people is included in the plan, instead the plan focuses on those priority areas that the partnership has identified as specific areas of need. Similarly at a local level the Bassetlaw LSP's Children and Young People's Sub-Group has prioritised the issues that require a partnership approach and are the most critical for the area.

The Plan will be the subject of an annual review.

Joint Area Review – a major inspection is planned in Nottinghamshire in the summer of 2008. The major focus will be on the themes of Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children. The review will look at the most vulnerable parts of our society as well as universal support.

Its role is to review progress that is being made in the county to address the five priority Every Child Matters outcomes, the achievement of the targets in the Children and Young People's Plan, and the extent to which the lives of children and young people have been improved by the plan's delivery and other work sitting outside the plan.

The JAR will be a rigorous assessment .

The County Council must also reflect what is happening in each District.

Inspectors will be "free to roam" and gather evidence from a variety of sources.

The test is to see if the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Plan is working in practice.

Local Delivery – David anticipated that it would take between 6 – 12 months to achieve local delivery of Children's Services. The County would be keen to learn from locality work that is successful e.g. the work taking place in Manton.

There was some pilot work going on in Kirkby to integrate children's services and again lessons learnt from this work would be built upon.

Richard Edwards highlighted the key roles that schools play which David agreed. However it was felt that some schools had historically seen their role as narrow and “ending at the school gates” but that this was re-inforced by league tables and a narrow inspection regime.

Liz Jefferies warned that although the extended services (schools) agenda was positive that the needs of rural children needed to be considered.

For example with transport difficulties it is not always possible to be part of out of school activities.

Careful consideration needs to be given to the locality of services, for example to meet the needs of children going to school in one area but who live in another locality.

Cambridgeshire was presented as an area developing good practice in this field – with the mobile provision of some services.

Vocational training – uncertainty over the future of funding for vocational services for 14 – 19 year olds was raised.

Support v provision – David explained the challenge of linking the planning and provision of Children’s Centres, Extended Services, Youth services and other district services for children and young people.

Historically they have been disconnected and the challenge was to make these services more cohesive.

Demise of the Children’s Fund – the loss of funding from the Children’s Fund was raised. David hoped that schemes that had been successfully delivered through this funding would be able to be picked up through the Nottinghamshire LAA and the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People’s Plan.

Funding for Play – the opportunity of funding through the Big Lottery was raised.

David ended by saying that to be successful we need to “plan together”.

204. Sally Penn, Sure Start Children’s Centres Co-ordinator, North Nottinghamshire College

Nottinghamshire has the largest capital programme outside of London for the development of Children’s Centres with a budget of £8 m including money from the then Department for Education and Skills, Sure Start Unit, Sure Start Local Programmes and Nottinghamshire County Council. The programme delivered 21 projects in round 1.

In Bassetlaw it is expected that 11 Children’s Centres will be established.

In Bassetlaw Round 1 of the project saw Children’s Centres established in: -

- Langold (Carlton and Blyth)
- Kilton
- North Leverton (including Rampton)

- Hallcroft
- Manton

In Round 2 Children's Centres the following locations have so far been identified: -

- Retford Central (Ordsall and Thrumpton)
- Prospect
- Rhodesia, Haggonfields and Sandy Lane
- Gateford
- Harworth and Bircotes
- Welbeck (Worksop South and East)

Sally explained that she had a strategic role and policy development role.

What is a Children's Centre?

A Children's Centre is about multi-agency working to achieve improved outcomes for children. They are based on the very successful Sure Start model. A Children's Centre can be a building – but this is not necessarily the case. The concept is that services are easily accessible to meet parents and children's needs. This can be delivered through a "virtual" hub rather than a physical building.

The Children's Centre can be regarded as a hub from which a range of other services can be accessed.

Children's Centre Team in Bassetlaw

The core team is employed by North Nottinghamshire College. Sally is the Children's Centre Co-ordinator and has a Co-ordinator attached to each Children's Centre.

Links with other service providers and agendas

Sally and her team work closely with Social Services, Health Visitors, Midwifery Services, speech therapists, Job Centre Plus, or any other agency that can provide direct support to either parents or children. They work on multiple issues that can help parents and children achieve their potential.

Sally and her team also link with other relevant initiatives e.g. the schools extended services agenda.

The aspiration is that activities and initiatives promoted and instigated through Children's Centres can be sustained and mainstreamed over time.

Sure Start Children's Centre Outcomes and Performance Monitoring

Sally took members of the Board through the outcomes and performance monitoring standards that direct her work and the work of her team.

They are attached at Appendix 3.

Comments

Alan Rhodes freely admitted that he had been cynical about the benefits of Children's Centres but now recognised that they had real merit and did make a difference to people's lives.

Nick Finlay wanted to know how we get resources into chaotic problem families. He said that you could only engage with people that wanted to be engaged.

Sally said that you had to be creative in the way that you make contact with families and start to build those important relationships.

Often by running "fun" events you can make contact with families that would not normally link with agencies.

Mike Quigley said he did recognise the value of Children's Centres but was concerned that they targeted known deprived communities. He said deprivation can be hidden if only occurring within a few streets in an area.

Sally said that in fact a number of areas that have been identified are in affluent areas e.g. Gateford and that the primary focus for Children's Centres was to improve access to services.

Fran Walker said that the aspiration is that by 2010 that all key services will be linked and that what is being offered through the current and planned Children's Centres will be universal for all children and families. She said that there is no stigma attached to attending a Children's Centre and that they attracted people from both ends of the social spectrum. She said that children can be deprived of experiences not just wealth. The future vision is that any parent can attend a Children's Centre – whether it is in their area or not.

205. Update on the 3 Board Priority Areas

Well-being and success of children and young people

Fran Walker updated the Board as follows: -

- The first roadshow event will take place in December 2007
- It will target year 9 pupils and parents
- Good links had been made with all secondary schools
- The aim of the event(s) will be inspire people and demonstrate what can be achieved
- The event(s) will involve a wide range of agencies
- Opportunities will be available to participate in activities and taster sessions
- Reference was made to the social capital work taking place in Manton
- Funding may be needed to encourage people to be involved and to make the event(s) as attractive and interesting as possible
- The group has strong links with the Skills and Worklessness Group

Alcohol Misuse

Gillian Blenkinsop updated on this issue in the absence of Louise Newcombe

- Three priority areas had been identified by the Alcohol Steering Group for local action. They were improvements to care pathways, enforcement and education. It was agreed that education would best be dealt with through the DAAT County-wide Alcohol Board but that actions to address the other two priority issues would be identified.
- PCT advisor confirmed the need to prioritise young people but it was noted that this should not be to the detriment of other groups.
- The evidence base for the group's work was the Mike Ward report commissioned by the DAAT that showed high levels of alcohol misuse in Bassetlaw – the details of which have already been reported to the Board.

Skills and Worklessness

Robert Wilkinson updated on this priority issue as follows: -

- Robert referred to the data that had been collated to support the need for this priority.
- He explained we have many of the challenges of a deprived area but that we miss out on funding that other areas received e.g. LEGI
- He spoke about the barriers to employment (low educational attainment, skills, motivation, disruption to benefits by taking part-time or casual employment etc).
- Robert had drawn up a ladder of employment and said that we had to encourage people to take the first steps on this ladder.
- They plan to run 1 or 2 small-scale projects to help people on to this employment ladder.
- The first of these will be to run **airport “taster” sessions** at Harworth. Harworth has close geographical links with the airport and can now take advantage of a new bus service running to the airport.
- The second project is linked to the **Food Cluster in Worksop**. The plan is to **run National Food Hygiene courses** so that people can gain this industry standard qualification.
- The group also planned to **increase their engagement with employers** and to encourage them to consider employing people that had been out of the job market for some time.
- The group plan to **produce a leaflet that will highlight the pathways into work** and highlight where people can get support to get back in to work. They will not re-invent the wheel and will utilise existing sources of information.

Alan Rhodes said that we are a post industrial community where people have low aspirations and may in some cases lack a work ethic/culture. He said that the existence of the “black” economy does not encourage people back in to mainstream work. He said that skills are important and that personal and presentation skills are key to any chances of employment. He said that 2nd and 3rd generations of worklessness are a major challenge.

Robert Wilkinson confirmed the value of good interpersonal and presentation skills as this point had featured strongly in the results of a recent business consultation exercise.

NEBA request – Fran Walker raised a request from NEBA – the Nottinghamshire Business Alliance. 6 adults that are CRB checked are needed to support pupils through a 20 week x 1 day a week project.

Mike Quigley volunteered and Lynn Tupling explained that she had over 40 volunteers linked to the Retford Action Centre that are CRB checked.

General Comments

Alan Rhodes said that we need to get employers involved. Robert Wilkinson said that he would be holding a specific event for businesses once he had analysed the results of the business survey.

206. Feedback on the consultation on the new Sustainable Community Strategy

Gillian presented the headline results from the consultation regarding the priorities for the new Sustainable Community Strategy.

The feedback is attached at Appendix 5.

207. Draft Sustainable Community Strategy

Was circulated for comment and feedback.

208. Market Towns Regeneration Alliance Programme

Members noted the update from Robert and agreed that he should be delegated to lead this initiative through the Economic Regeneration Sub-Group. All members agreed that we needed to promote this scheme and make sure that the investment was secured for the District.

209. Migrant Workers Event – 14 April 2007

Michael Newstead explained that an information event for Polish people had been held at the Crossing in Worksop and that an Information Booklet identifying key services had been produced in both Polish and English.

People from the Board that had attended agreed.

Bob Wallace from the County Council asked that the Board consider the wider issues related to migrant workers e.g. issues of community cohesion, anti-social behaviour, etc.

Mike Quigley said that issues of this nature should initially be considered by the Community Safety Partnership who had an Anti-Social Behaviour Group, a Hate Crime Forum and a Strategic Group.

Michael Newstead stated that the task group that had been preparing for the migrant workers event had also made a commitment to run a number of focus groups in a variety of settings – a school setting, college and employment

setting. This would provide a fuller picture about the life of migrant workers in the District – both positive and negative.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

210. Sheffield City Region

This was noted.

211. Health and Regeneration Strategy for Manton, Worksop and beyond

The sixth paragraph of the letter was altered to read 'The Board are supportive of the proposals at A and B subject to the appropriate business planning and feasibility studies being completed'.

This was done after comments from a number of Board members i.e. Richard Edwards, Fran Walker and Alan Rhodes.

212. Date and time of next meeting

26 July 2007 at 9.30 am at the Crossing, Newcastle Avenue, Worksop.