

Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership Board

26 July 2007

The Crossing, Worksop

9.30 am – 12.30 pm

MINUTES

Present:

Chair: Council	Cllr, Michael Quigley, Leader of Bassetlaw District
Vice-Chair: Penny Altham	Michael Newstead, Director, BCVS Head of Project Development, Nottinghamshire Rural Community, Council
Bernard Coleman	Managing Director, A1 Housing Bassetlaw Ltd
Richard Edwards	Neighbourhood Pathfinder Manager, Manton Community Alliance
Pauline Elliott	Executive Director of Regeneration, Bassetlaw District Council
Liz Jefferies	Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils
Paul Learoyd	Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Mary Mitchell	Hospitals Manager, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Louise Newcombe	Chief Executive, Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust
Andy Peacock	Nottinghamshire County Council, Community Cohesion Project Manager
Cllr Michael Storey	Deputy Leader, Nottinghamshire County Council
Bob Wallace	Strategic Partnership Services, Nottinghamshire County Council
Fran Walker	Consultant, North Nottinghamshire College
Derek Wilkinson	Churches Together
Robert Wilkinson	Economic Regeneration Team Leader, Bassetlaw District Council
Andy Wragg	Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team
Sarah Pearson	Head of Community Engagement and Performance, Bassetlaw District Council
Joanne Wilson	Policy Officer, Bassetlaw District Council
Gillian Blenkinsop	Principal Policy Officer, Bassetlaw District Council

Visiting Speakers

Alison Penn	Acting Director of the South Yorkshire Partnership
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Apologies:

John Berridge	Chair of the Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team
Nigel Clifton	Chief Executive, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
David Colbeck	Chief Superintendent, Nottinghamshire Police – B Division
John Connolly	Principal, North Nottinghamshire College
David Hunter	Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council
John Slater	Service Director, Learning and Achievement, Children and Young People’s Service, Nottinghamshire County Council
Tom Stockwell	District Manager, North Nottinghamshire Job Centre Plus
Lynn Tupling	Manager, Retford Action Centre

213. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Approved as a true record.

Fran confirmed that she had forwarded the contact details of the Retford Action Centre regarding assisting with the work experience project referred to at minute 205.

Andy Wragg would add to the Alcohol update later in the agenda.

Michael Newstead said that the Children's Fund will not be withdrawn and this means that projects in the District will continue to receive support for the next 3 years

214. Migrant Workers

Item 5 was taken first as Andy Peacock, the new Community Cohesion Co-ordinator, from Nottinghamshire County Council had to leave for another meeting.

Michael Newstead presented this item.

He explained that tackling diversity had been an ongoing work stream for the Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership for the last 2 years. It had started with a time limited task group that took over the role of the racial awareness forum that had been chaired by the BCVS.

This group had delivered an event called 'Real People, Real Lives'. Following on from this the issue of migrant workers was beginning to emerge as a concern locally.

A task group continued to meet, planned and delivered an information event in April 2007 and also produced an advice and guidance booklet in Polish and in English.

In parallel to this work had been going on led by Paul Buck, Headteacher at Portland School, to tackle cohesion issues within the schools and to try and access support services for migrant workers and their families.

Following a meeting between Michael Newstead, Paul Buck and Gillian Blenkinsop it was proposed to merge the existing diversity task group with the group led by the schools.

The proposal was to call the group The New Communities Forum. It could therefore expand its remit to cover migrant workers from areas other than Poland. Paul Buck's vision was to develop a model/framework that could be used to assist children and families from any EU country.

Michael praised the support from the District County and the County Council in this area of work. He explained that "we are all learning" in this new area of work and "no-one has all the answers".

Andy Peacock introduced himself to the group. He explained his task is to implement the action plan arising from the county Community Cohesion Strategy. He said there are many definitions of community cohesion but

essentially it is about “people getting on well together” and “feeling safe”. He explained that community cohesion will form part of external assessments in the future e.g. in the new Comprehensive Area Assessment which will go live from 2009.

Andy explained that there is a County Community Cohesion Board. It next meets in September and the BLSP will be invited to send a representative.

Andy confirmed that Bassetlaw was adopting a best practice approach to tackling diversity.

Bernard Coleman referred to the community cohesion strategy produced by the District Council and the action plans that covered District Council and A1 Housing Bassetlaw Ltd activities and said that it might be worth sharing this with the New Communities Forum. This could be reported to the next meeting of this group which is due to meet in September 2007 (19 September 2007 at the Town Hall, Worksop).

Comments

Andy Wragg explained that there was a lack of understanding of legislation affecting drinking and driving amongst migrant workers. This issue had been picked up by Mike Ward in the study he had recently completed on behalf of the DAAT. He posed the question to Derek Wilkinson about whether the catholic churches would be a good link with Polish communities. Derek said that the church going community were not the community that were involved in heavy drinking.

Fran Walker thought that Richard Edwards could provide some advice in this area of community engagement – based on the experience of the Manton Social Capital project/Community Conversation work.

Richard said that there is a need to change the attitudes of established communities in the area towards new communities. We should focus on “celebrating difference”.

Robert Wilkinson said that they had made good links with major employers of migrant workers e.g. Greencore during their recent business survey and these links could be utilised.

Michael Newstead explained that good links had been made with employers but that that this link via Robert was helpful.

215. Sheffield City Regions

Alison Penn, Acting Director of the South Yorkshire Partnership gave the presentation that had been circulated with the Board papers.

Alison explained that she and her team could be contacted regarding the City Region agenda – but that they did have limited capacity with only 3 in the team (including herself).

The purpose of the presentation was to increase understanding of the vision for the Sheffield City Region, the structures and governance arrangements that support this and how Bassetlaw fits into this agenda. She also referred

to linkages with the Northern Way – which pre-dated the City Region agenda, still had a policy team in place and was set up with a vision to reduce the economic gap between the North and the rest of the UK.

Key points

- Bassetlaw is part of the travel to work area for the Sheffield City Region – so we are strongly linked to the region
- Each day over 2,000 people travel from Bassetlaw to Doncaster for work
- Each day over 2,000 people travel from Bassetlaw to Sheffield for work
- Equally people travel to these places to access schools, colleges, shopping, leisure and health services
- If the City regions can prove they have robust governance arrangements in place they will be allowed greater freedoms and flexibilities
- The agenda is similar to Local Area Agreements – only on a larger scale. The concept is to work collaboratively where that will have benefits
- The scale of the Sheffield City Region gives it greater strength to lobby Government on behalf of the area
- The Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership were being encouraged to look beyond the Bassetlaw area to make sure that any benefits that can be derived from being part of the Sheffield City Region are achieved
- A new independent chair had been appointed to lead the Sheffield City Region – this is Mr Martin Havenhand that some people may know as the former Chief Executive of Yorkshire Forward and the previous Chief Executive of Bassetlaw District Council. The Board may wish to invite Martin to a future meeting of the Board

Comments

- Michael Newstead wondered how the community and voluntary sector could be involved in the Sheffield City Region. Alison said it may not be appropriate for all agencies to work at this level and that the community and voluntary sectors strengths may be in working in smaller localities. However Alison said the voluntary and community sectors could be on the Sheffield City Region Forum as an observer
- Pauline Elliott explained that she represented the District Council on the Sheffield City Region Forum along with Robert Wilkinson who attended a number of the Joint Issue Boards. She said it was important to be selective in how the District engaged with the Sheffield City Region. We need to select areas that are meaningful and useful to us. For example the Joint Issue Board entitled 'Destination – including Tourism' was one that we should continue to play an active part in with its links in promoting the benefits of the Robin Hood Airport.
- Pauline also mentioned the Joint Issue Board looking at the 'Residential offer'. She explained that good progress had been made in Bassetlaw with the Local Development Framework but that this was

now being held up. She said that if Bassetlaw wanted to create jobs in the District then we needed housing. Clearly this was tied up with the allocations in the Regional Spatial Strategy. She also referred to the Housing Green Paper announced that week and the Planning White Paper which signal that local authorities and Arms Length Housing Management Organisations may be able to invest in house building. Pauline re-iterated the points made by Alison in that where people live and invest are not tied to the boundaries imposed by local authorities. Pauline welcomed the opportunity to be involved in anything that would benefit the District and its residents

- Fran Walker said that the Sheffield City Region could help promote a unique identity and image for the Region. She said as well as the economic agenda they should be promoting the cultural heritage of the region. She said where positive branding already exists which is successful in promoting this image then we should not seek to re-invent but should collaborate with it.
- Bernard Coleman believed that expenditure and income was focussed in the south of the county and this is the challenge of the Sheffield City Region to address this north/south divide
- Alison explained they have the added challenge of working with 2 Regional Development Agencies (currently 2 Regional Assemblies) and 2 Government Offices. She said that there was good collaboration between the Sheffield City Region and the two Government Offices. She referred to the recent announcement to abolish Regional Assemblies but stated that the Regional Development Agencies would have an enhanced role – taking on responsibility for housing, transport and spatial strategies.
- Richard Edwards wondered how neighbourhoods could benefit from this agenda. Alison said that in reality most of the interface with neighbourhoods would come through the local authority, the LSP and the individual partner agencies. However clearly the knock on effects of economic growth would provide opportunities for local people – both in Bassetlaw and within the region.

216. Update on the 3 Board Priority Areas

Alcohol Misuse – presented by Louise Newcombe

- Louise said that this local work sat under the umbrella of the county-wide Alcohol Board that had been set up for 2 years as an offshoot of the main Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team Board. This group had an action plan in place which covered a range of work streams
- This recognised the growing concerns across the county about the affects of alcohol misuse
- Louise praised the DAAT – John Taylor and Andy Wragg in particular for their support for work in Bassetlaw to tackle the alcohol issue
- A local multi-agency group was in place in Bassetlaw covering the issue of Access to Services and Enforcement
- The PCT recognise that tackling alcohol misuse requires significant additional resources
- The PCT is leading on the Access to Services strand of work and is working towards developing “inclusive models of care”

- A prioritised and costed proposal is due to come to the local Alcohol Steering group in September. From this decisions can be made about recruitment, targeting resources etc
- To move forward the issue of enforcement a meeting has been set up with a newly appointed Chief Inspector for the area. Recommendations and actions from this meeting would be presented back to the September meeting for decision on how to progress. One action that has already been identified is the need for training for staff working in pubs and clubs regarding the under-age sale of alcohol. This can be progressed in collaboration with the DAAT who employ an officer that can provide this training

Comments

- Andy Wragg referred to the findings of the Mike Ward report and confirmed that there is a particular problem with alcohol misuse in Bassetlaw. He said that nationally there are more deaths each year from alcohol related illnesses than from illicit drugs. He specifically highlighted the important role of parents in tackling alcohol misuse amongst young people. He also said that we need to find ways to communicate messages about safe drinking to migrant workers. Andy referred to the Strategy Safe, Sensible and Strong which contained powerful data on patterns of drinking in the UK.
- Derek Wilkinson thought that the workplace was the most sensible place to get these messages across. He said from his experience the larger Polish community identified with one another and socialised in Polish clubs but he had greater concerns about smaller groups of Romanians who had no identity.

Well-being and success of children and young people

- Fran referred members to the update on page 54.
- The event planned for 6 December 2007 was on track. It would be based at the Valley School/sports centre.
- The event would be innovative and interactive and target year 9s.
- Connexions, Social Services, Children's Centres, North Nottinghamshire College, schools and many other agencies were already signed up to support the event
- Fran mentioned the work that was taking place at a county-wide level to tackle worklessness. She said that this issue was closely linked to skills and this in turn was linked to jobs and economic regeneration
- From this Fran felt that the Learning and Skills Sub-Group and the Economic Regeneration Sub-Group of the BLSP could potentially merge and that certainly the two project groups dealing with the Board priorities of Well-being and Success of Children and Young people and Skills and Worklessness could be merged. There were no objections to this suggestion
- Fran mentioned the recent changes to the structure of Government departments which had split the DfeS into a number of different departments. The full implications of this are not yet known
- On 9 October 2007 a specific event targeting employers was being held at Tuxford School. Bassetlaw District Council and many other key local employers had been invited. The aim is to help young

people prepare for the world of work and for employers to influence how young people are prepared for the job market

Comments

- Andy Wragg said it was a quantum leap from worklessness into work. He said that very positive steps could be made with the Third sector to promote volunteering. He said that the Olympic Games presented a fantastic opportunity. To run the Olympic Games would take thousands of volunteers.

ACTION – The BCVS will be asked to find out how we can promote this opportunity in Bassetlaw and report back to the Board

- Fran Walker mentioned the links with the Sports Academy project being promoted via the Princes Foundation Trust
- Michael Newstead referred the Board to the announcement that morning of a Government Young People's 10 year Strategy
- Richard Edwards referred to a recent MORI poll in Manton where facilities for young people came out as a top concern
- Mike Quigley said that we should promote the use of schools in the holidays and said that he had encouraged a summer school to be run in the local primary school in Clarborough where he used to live

Skills and Worklessness

- Robert explained the frustrations of dealing with worklessness – where the benefits system seemed to work against resolving these challenges
- Open days at the aviation academy were planned for September – which would highlight opportunities in the aviation industry
- This opportunity would be promoted with schools as well as older age groups using a variety of methods
- Robert referred to the worklessness event organised by County. What Robert took away from this was that where initiatives have been successful they have been very resource intensive and have often involved 1 – 1 contact.
- The Coalfield Regeneration Trust had funded an initiative called the Family Employability Initiative which was regarded as good practice – but this was limited in its geographical coverage
- Another initiative called Making the Connection was launched at Kelham Hall with over 100 delegates a few weeks earlier. This was based on putting unemployed people in touch with local employers
- Focus groups with businesses were planned following on from the Business Survey – again to gain a clearer understanding of what skills are lacking in the area to support local businesses/promote growth of the local economy

Comments

- Fran said that training opportunities had been provided by the Aviation Academy (through the Family Employability Initiative) for parents linked to Children's Centres

ACTION – Bernard Coleman asked that specific efforts are made to ensure that the most socially excluded and financially vulnerable were given the opportunity to take part in the Aviation Academy taster sessions. Robert Wilkinson will be asked to take specific action to achieve their attendance and report back to the next meeting of the Board

- Michael Newstead said that Job Centre Plus needed to be actively involved in the effort to tackle worklessness. Robert reported that he had met with Job Centre Plus and that they were part of the county-wide event
- Michael Storey said that Job Centre Plus practices could make life difficult for job seekers e.g. if someone finds a job and has a start date a number of weeks in the future they must still continue to seek work and present themselves for interview even though they have a job. Similarly people seeking work and living in Retford could be asked to attend courses in Newark – which with public transport can be very difficult if not impossible.
- Fran said that Directions Finningley as a private company had greater freedom in recruitment and in promoting job opportunities with the unemployed

217. Creating the Executive Group

Mike Quigley referred members to the draft Sustainable Community Strategy which in its structure diagram suggested the creation of an Executive Group. It would need to be made up of the Chairs of the Sub-Groups, plus the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board. The group would need commissioning experience to assist with the preparation to manage funding that may be routed through the LSPs via the Nottinghamshire LAA. The proposal was for the group to meet 6 times per year and for their meeting to precede the Board meetings. This was agreed. Although the first meeting was timetabled for August this may be postponed to September to cover for holiday periods.

ACTION – Agreed by the Board. With the option to co-opt people on to the group if specific skills are required. Notes of these meetings to be circulated promptly to all Board members

218. LAA Update

Gillian Blenkinsop updated the Board on this item – covering the progress of the current LAA and proposals for the future

Current LAA

- x 3 year agreement from 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2009
- Steady progress made over the first year
- 6 monthly reviews of the partnership and the LAA were ranked at Amber (Green – being the highest rating and Red being the lowest) by Government Office for the East Midlands
- This rating was given due to concerns regarding an absence of baseline data, absence of targets and the robustness of the governance arrangements

- Since then improvements have been made and the year end assessment outcome is expected shortly. The Government Office for the East Midlands met with the Nottinghamshire Partnership on 5 July and informally the feedback has been positive. Areas for action include the recommendation that the Police lead the Stronger element of the Safer Stronger block and that the targets and outcomes are strengthened in the Stronger part of this block
- Over the summer 3 task groups are meeting to
 - review the partnership structures and governance arrangements that support the delivery of the LAA. This group will be led by David Kirkham, Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council
 - review how funding will be managed as part of a new LAA – led by Alan Mellor from Ashfield District Council
 - review how projects will be delivered – county, district, or neighbourhood – led by Ruth Marlowe, Managing Director, Mansfield District Council

A new style LAA

- Proposals for a new style LAA were contained within the Local Government White Paper – October 2006
- Further discussion papers have followed but we await the royal assent of the Bill expected autumn 2007
- Proposal is to replace ringfenced funding streams with a single Area Based Grant
- Expectation that mainstream funding will be aligned to LAA priorities
- The Comprehensive Spending Review – expected to be announced in the autumn 2007 will contain a suite of 200 indicators from which areas can choose a maximum of 35 for their area to be included within the LAA.
- The LAA will also need to include 18 mandatory children and early years targets
- Current timetable states that we will need to have a new LAA in place by June 2008
- Consultation has been taking place led by the County to answer the questions “What do we want Nottinghamshire to be famous for?” and “What are the most critical issues we need to tackle in Nottinghamshire?” This has been blue sky thinking without the constraints of thinking about the thematic areas within the LAA
- The new style LAA has seen the addition of the issues of transport, culture and housing added to the Economic and Enterprise block of the LAA

How does the current LAA and the new style LAA fit together?

- Although the County are pressing ahead with preparations for a new LAA the indications are from local government advisory organisations e.g. Local Government Information Unit that only the areas whose LAAs conclude in 2008 will be under pressure to negotiate a new LAA by the June 2008 deadline.

- However – this is not definitive – and we will need to keep abreast of developments over the coming months – particularly after the announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review
- What we do know is that the 12 stretch targets in the current LAA will roll forward to the new LAA

Financial incentives – the reward grant

- Gillian talked members through the arrangements to distribute the reward grant (please see the attached sheet)
- If the targets are achieved Bassetlaw LSP could receive £357,000 capital and £714,000 revenue split equally over the financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11

Comments

- Louise Newcombe said that she felt the distribution should not be equal across the LSPs but be based on need
- Mike Quigley said that the majority of the reward grant was being retained at a County level to be distributed on a needs basis but that every LSP was being guaranteed a percentage of the reward grant
- Louise said that in terms of the structures and representation on the LAA Management Group the health sector may need to review its representation
- Gillian said that she would feedback concerns regarding the distribution of the reward grant but confirmed that this should also be done through the health representatives on the LAA Management Group
- Andy Wragg said that we should remain focussed on achieving the targets in the LAA or we would not receive the reward grant
- He also said we should ensure that the performance management arrangements within the Nottinghamshire Partnership are strong enough to be able to challenge if it is felt that the outcomes being achieved through the LAA are not commensurate with the investment

219. Feedback from the Sub-Groups

Noted.

Joanne Wilson added a couple of stop press items to the report.

The **Transport to Health** initiative was being launched on 27 July 2007. This was an advice line that is being piloted in Bassetlaw. People can contact the number and find out how they can access a health appointment, chemist etc. They can find out about public transport, car sharing schemes, community transport etc. This is a signposting service not a booking service at present. The scheme will hopefully be rolled out county-wide and become a fully integrated booking and information service.

Transport and Accessibility Group – Retford Hospital

The group has been working to support the transport links to the new LIFT project on North Road, Retford. It was also hoped that improved public transport and other transport links to this site could also link with the Idle

Valley project. A small amount of funding was available through the Alliance SSP for the scheme.

Wildlife Trail – Robert Wilkinson confirmed that the Economic Regeneration Sub-Group would be working with the Environment Group to produce a leaflet promoting a wildlife trail. This adds another tourism attraction to the District

Comments

- Louise Newcombe confirmed that the PCT had been active in ensuring that there was easy access to the LIFT facility on North Road Retford. The PCT had pledged to fund transport links if this proved impossible through existing public transport providers. She was also looking at links with the Bassetlaw Doncaster District General Hospital.
- Bernard Coleman said that it was important for each of the groups to understand what percentage of the targets they were responsible for. It was confirmed that this level of district detail had not been provided by the block partnerships and this was still an area for development

220. Update from the Alliance SSP

Noted.

221. Any other business

Liz Jefferies mentioned an Older People's Conference that was being held at the Crossing in October. Gillian Blenkinsop said this was something that the District Council are contributing funding towards through a Service Level Agreement with the Retford Action Centre. The County Council are also funding/organising. From this event it is hoped to generate interest in the creation of Older Peoples Forum(s) for the District. They would be supported by the Retford Action Centre.

Derek Wilkinson said that he had only recently heard of the First Contact Scheme being run through the Retford Action Centre. The issue of the need for wider promotion would be fed back to the project co-ordinator based at the Retford Action Centre.

Richard Edwards referred to a recent MORI poll taken in Manton which showed growing levels of satisfaction with A1 Housing Bassetlaw Ltd. Similar improvements had been seen in satisfaction with pre-school provision. In this area satisfaction levels were higher than any other pathfinder area in the country.

222. Date of next meeting

15 November 2007, Fluid Power, Carlton Road, Worksop.