

Social & Community Development Sub-Group
18th May 2005
2pm – 4pm
Kingston Close Community Centre, Manton
MINUTES

Attending:

Pauline Elliott (Chair)	Bassetlaw District Council
PC Bill Brown	Nottinghamshire Police
Jonathan Dawson	NRCC
Richard Edwards	Manton Neighbourhood Manager
Alison Gimingham	National Trust
Janice Hunt	Bassetlaw PCT
Jo Lindley	Bassetlaw District Council
Vicky Rawson	FOYPIB
Helen Richardson	NCC Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
Alister Shaw	Manton Community Alliance
Bob Wallace	NCC
Elizabeth Whittles	BDC

1. Introductions and Welcome

PE welcomed everyone to the meeting, and everybody introduced themselves for the benefit of Helen Richardson, Guest Presenter from NCC.

2. Apologies

Annie Fletcher, Centre Place; Sue Gill, Bassetlaw PCT; Kath Hobart, Tuxford MOI/ MTI; Cllr Liz Jeffries, NALC; Frank Raspin, NCC; Malcom Robson, BDC; Nicola Simpson, NCC; Kay Sutton, NN CLSP; Andrew Tatham, BCVS; Ann Vallance, NNC; Tony Wright, BDC.

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. Presentation on Childcare Availability in Bassetlaw – Helen Richardson, NCC Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP)

The EYDCP focussed on funded nursery education. The current entitlement is 12 and half hours free fro 3-4 yr olds. Under the new legislation that will change to a general free entitlement to childcare or early years education, at any time of the day.

HR noted that there was more of an issue around childcare in order to enable people to go back to work/ fulfil aspirations. EYDCP fund 33 private/ voluntary sector providers and 38 in the maintained sector. There are 10 Sure Start programmes covering the county with 1 in Bassetlaw – Sure Start West Bassetlaw. The principles of Sure Start will be incorporated in to the new Children’s Centres. Childminder numbers within the District are stable and private day care has increased significantly recently.

There will be 5 Children’s Centres within Bassetlaw by March 2006, however the Manton centre is still confirming elements of the capital funding to ensure tie in with other projects. Within the second wave of Centres there will be another 23 – a total of 55 between 2004-and 2008. The second wave will cover the 30% most disadvantaged areas (planning permission pending), based on the old ward boundaries of Census 1991. However, the Jupiter project (JIN) data is more up-to-date, and they also use Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2004. This does present problems when sites are allocated based on old data. For example Leverton will have a Centre within the first wave, put the Housing Estate which contributed to deprivation figures is now gone.

The Centres do not have targets attached to them as they have not got new daycare places incorporated, this releases capital/ revenue funding.

EW queried whether service provision was being rural proofed to ensure rural locations were being reached. HR confirmed this was happening.

Round 1, which is currently taking place, addresses the Top 20% most disadvantaged. Round 2 addresses the Top 30% most disadvantaged. HR did not however, that additional information on rural disadvantage would be useful.

There are approximately 100 childminders within the District. However, it is difficult to assess the impact of residents using childcare near their workplace (outside the District). In addition there is less voluntary sector provision than private which highlights an area for development. Within all of this EYDCP are constantly trying to ensure that there is no duplication of services, sustainability of the provision is key.

Action to be taken

It was agreed by members present that the following were potential areas for action/ assistance:

- (1) Identify current gaps in provision i.e. rural areas.
- (2) Encourage the local community to work with current providers
- (3) Engage more with local schools in light of sift towards extended schools to ensure that any additional provision by the school does not conflict with what may already be available in the area. For example after school clubs and nurseries should link with other private/ voluntary providers.
- (4) Media/ Marketing of availability via local employers, schools, health services, community projects, BISCUIT – how is this currently done and how can it be improved?
- (5) Look to Childminders as a key resource for the rural areas particularly East Bassetlaw (north and south)

- (6) CIS carry out countywide road-shows – ensure they are aware of any major local events i.e. community galas, information days, LSP events, Jobs/ Skills fairs.

Questions & Answers/ Comments

PE – How do you work with Private Sector to ensure Business know what is available for potential staff? For example, B&Q were going to have a crèche within their facilities.

HR – We can't stop new facilities opening but we try to make links and highlight current provision to limit duplication. Bassetlaw has a Childminder network which helps.

PE noted that she would like to get leaflets to go in recruitment packs for BDC and other local employers.

JD noted that the Parish Plans that have been produced have highlighted a number of issues including childcare. He will pass this on to HR.

RE commented that the Child Tax Credit was a good tool to calculate potential benefits. He also noted that Manton Community Initiative were holding a Jobs Fair on 15th June, and it would be useful to have CIS their to give advice. The Jobs and Skills Group of MCA are looking at how to engage people in to work.

HR noted that they could also provide information on childcare providers with staff vacancies, and would be very interested in attending events.

RE felt that the high proportion of lone parents needed to be addressed as they would have different service needs.

HR suggested that lone parents were ideal as childminders, and this was also could for nurses who have issues such as shift work to negotiate around.

Action: Helen Richardson's email address is Helen.Richardson@education.nottscc.gov.uk

JL to check with Steve Brown what information is available at BISCUIT/ Help Points. Information to be passed on to Economic Regeneration and Learning & Skills Sub-Group.

5. Follow-up from BLSP Conference

Following on from the Conference on 11 May and previous Sub-group meetings it was agreed to have 'themed' meetings from now on. These would be chaired for the majority of the meeting by a relevant organisation in that area.

It was also agreed that meetings needed to be more focussed with clear 'actions' from each meeting.

BB felt there needed to be more information flow, with access to minutes from other Sub-Groups.

RE also agreed that the group needed to be more strategic, taking the Pathfinder model looking at how we can improve well-being and service delivery.

VR suggested having a page in BCVS Quarterly Newsletter to get wider promotion of the BLSP and its achievements.

JL reminded members that in the past we have placed articles in the Guardian and Retford Times, however there have been issues on how these articles have been placed in relation to other articles.

BB noted that the Board needed to produce a Media/ Communications Strategy and a Marketing Strategy in order to fully address the issue.

PE queried what cross-over the group had with other Sub-Groups in terms of membership. JL was producing a list so Chairs and Sub-Groups could see existing links.

PE and BB agreed that there should be a standing item on the agenda to allow members present to do an information exchange of current projects.

AG suggested that the membership of the Sub-Group was re-addressed. This would also enable more focus at meetings as we could ensure the right people were invited.

Action: PE suggested that the first session should be on children and young people. – PE and JL to arrange agenda item on Children and Young People.

6. Items for next Board Meeting - June

There were no specific items to be raised, however PE agreed to give feedback on the Special Board meeting which was to discuss LAA's. All agreed it was also important to take account of how much has been achieved under the current BLSP Structure and that amending the Structure to suit the 4 LAA Strands may not be the best option.

7. A.O.B

JD had two items of AOB:

(1) Parish Plans

Mattersey had now produced it's Plan and the Action Plan fro Normanton-on-Trent had been circulated to Chairs. Ranskill was also now examining the possibility of doing a Plan.

(2) Rural Trends Report

JD's section of the Report involved assessing Licensing and the changes taking place due to the new legislation. The deadline to apply for a new license (24hr or to renew the current license) is August. All must apply even if a 24hr license is not required. Only 9 applications have been received in the District so far, and this has huge implications. The license has to be both for the person and the venue.

JD questioned how we can publicise the importance of applying early. He was aware that BDC Licensing had contacted all relevant businesses, will a poor response rate. It was suggested that we could hold an event to raise awareness. PE would check with the Licensing department.

8. Dates for 2005 meetings – venues TBC

Wednesday 20 July, 2pm-4pm

Wednesday 21 September, 2pm-4pm

Wednesday 23 November, 2pm-4pm