



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY NETWORK  
14 NOVEMBER 2006**

**Present:**

Charlie Adie	Motiv8
Martin Affleck	Disability Access Adviser
John Auric	Portsmouth Friends of the Earth
Jackie Buckley	Relate
Charles Burns	Central Southsea Neighbourhood Forum
Brenda Cairns	Home-Start Portsmouth
Laura Caton	PCC
Kaye Checkley	Age Concern Portsmouth
Adrian Clee	Haven Community Project, Salvation Army
Ken Dobson	School Governors Forum and Citizens' Panel
Jan Dod	Patch Ltd
Graham Heaney	PCCS, Chair of PCN
David Horne	Paulsgrove & Wymering Community Action Board
Philip Hudson	Landport/Buckland/Central Board
Vincent Ibbs	Portsmouth District CAB
Taki Jaffer	Portsmouth Interfaith Forum
Tracey Jones	Portsmouth Friends of the Earth
Jennifer Kelsey	PCCS
Mandy Lindley	PCC
Tony McCarthy	Refugee Action
Stephen Morgan	PCC
Marguerite Nudd	U3A
Anna Potten	Dot to Dot
Geoff Phillpotts	Portsmouth Housing Association
Isabel Pine	Help in Bereavement
Nick Ralph	PDCSR
Lynne Rigby	Portsmouth Disability Forum
Mohammed Riyami	Zanzibar Community
Paula Walker	Patch Ltd

In attendance: June Hancox, PCCS (Minutes)  
Nona Earle, PCCS (observing)

**Apologies:** Jennie Brent, Tim Houghton, Brian Miller, Shelley Price, Alison Scarce.

## 1.0 Introduction and Welcome

Graham Heaney (GH) welcomed those present and commented on the good attendance which included a lot of new faces. Members introduced themselves and gave brief descriptions of their organisations and the part they played in them.

## 2.0 "Hot Topics" and Local Issues

### 2.1 LIDP Capacity Builders

Jennifer Kelsey (JK) reported that the LIDP group had held its first meeting since the LIDP was submitted. PCCS had recently received confirmation that part of its bid to Capacity Builders had been successful and the first installment would be released by Christmas. This would enable a TRACs Co-ordinator and administrative help to be appointed and increase the Funding Advisor's hours to full time.

GH added that, currently, membership of the LIDP group was made up from those who had formed its predecessor, the LIONs group, and new members would be welcomed.

### 2.2 White Paper

Copies of the White Paper briefing had been included in the agenda pack sent to members prior to the meeting and GH drew attention to the more specialised briefing sheets distributed at the meeting. GH highlighted the increased involvement of the voluntary sector, the structure of LSPs, standards for the Third Sector, neighbourhood management and responsibility for ownership of assets. Also, recipients of services would have more input.

Mandy Lindley (ML) commented that there would be a lot of conferences and briefings following the publication of the White Paper and she would feed back on any that she attended.

Because of the money which would be available to the voluntary sector, Ken Dobson (KD) felt that it would be advantageous to get involved in the conferences and suggested that workshops should be run to keep groups informed for maximum impact. Mohammed Riyami (MR) was concerned that BME groups might not be able to play a full part in the process; these groups had a need to know they had viable funding to

continue their existence. These sentiments were echoed by other members and it was suggested that a joint conference be held by PCCS and PCC. JK added that money from Capacity Builders would provide support to BME groups and emphasised the need for groups such as Communities United to raise awareness of any groups that had slipped through the net.

Martin Affleck (MA) added that the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 would be relevant to the White Paper and gave as examples the awareness of work colleagues to the needs of a disabled person, and the difficulties which faced disabled people when they negotiated the streets. There was a need to empower disabled people to enable them to make a meaningful impact on such issues. Jan Dod (JD) asked MA about the Drop in Coffee Mornings she had seen advertised on a poster. MA explained that they took place on the first Wednesday of every month excluding January.

Adrian Clee (AC) was concerned at the prospect of elected members taking charge of lead partnerships within LSP and asked ML how this would impact on funding. ML said that there was nothing new or surprising in the White Paper, just how to move it forward given the state of the Council's budget. However, full cost recovery may make a difference. While he understood AC's concern, GH considered that it would be hard to get elected members to attend but it could be advantageous if they do so. JD pointed out that chairs of partnership boards were entitled to a place on delivery groups and this could result in an elected members' structure. Laura Caton's (LC) interpretation was that elected members would be involved and not necessarily become chairs. The government had recognised that the decision should be taken locally as local knowledge would best determine what would work in their area.- Additional guidance was expected in February prior to the White Paper passing through Parliament.

Tony McCarthy (TM) asked if there was any prospect of a conference within the next few months. GH said that as funding would be crucial there was a need to wait for more information from Michael Lyons but it might be possible to hold a suitable event in the New Year. In the meantime, he hoped that information would be cascaded down by anyone who attended briefings and invited ideas for speakers to be submitted to Mary Wishart (MW) or JK. Charles Burns (CB) wondered if this could be the theme for the LSP conference in February but LC confirmed that a theme had already been decided. GH felt that this issue didn't warrant a conference but would continue to work on setting up a briefing event and would speak to ML about a suitable speaker from the government.

**Action: GH**

### 2.3 Community Involvement

JD wanted to share her ideas around geographical interests and flag them up beforehand as she was aware it could be a lengthy process to bring them to fruition. It would be useful if they could be piggy-backed onto an existing scheme. As far as she knew, there were some areas of the city which didn't have a neighbourhood structure and Neighbourhood Forums appeared to be fading away. JD suggested that they should be reignited.

*(Lynne Rigby joined the meeting at this point)*

JD wanted to get ahead of the game and felt it would be helpful to have an appraisal/update on Neighbourhood Forums in Buckland or Landport. AC reported that there had been heated discussion at the Community Board meeting he had attended the previous evening about "reinventing the wheel". He added that it was important not to lose the momentum already achieved.

Drawing on his own experience, Stephen Morgan (SM) felt that JD's point was very valid and hoped that the Best Value Review would address it. Isobel Pine (IP) commented that, although there were plenty of residents' associations, there was no over-arching organisation to feed into.

*(Geoff Phillpotts joined the meeting at this point)*

KD had attended the Planning Department's Core Strategy meeting the previous evening and went on to say that there would be an open meeting at the Dame Judith Professional Centre, Cosham, on Wednesday to harvest the views of residents on the provision of facilities such as dentists. This was due to a requirement for the Council to obtain the endorsement of the community and would be the first instance of so doing. The first phase had to be completed by 15 December 2006 and KD suggested that an extraordinary PCN meeting be called for discussion. CB felt that KD had a valid point and suggested that John Slater be invited to speak at the meeting. Discussion continued and the need to respond as a Network was recognised. LC said that the short timescale had been acknowledged and it would be acceptable for the Network to feed in its views after the deadline. All agreed that a meeting should be called and GH undertook to look into setting it up.

**Action: GH**

### 2.4 Issue Based Sub-Groups for CN

JK had met Charlie Adie (CA), new Chief Executive at Motiv8, the previous week and discussed the possibility of issue based sub groups in order to gather thoughts at different levels. JK handed over to CA who explained that Motiv8's interest was with 13 - 25 year olds. This was an ever changing agenda which moved at incredible pace and there was a need for a real and genuine appreciation of the topic. Being new to Portsmouth, CA was unclear whether there was a group within the voluntary and community sector that truly represented children and young people in the city through which information could be shared. Members differed on whether such a group should be set up but CA was not distracted from what he felt to be the correct way forward. From a funding point of view, it would also be beneficial if Motiv8 could show links to other groups and thought that a voluntary sector representative should be its conduit rather than ML who was employed by Portsmouth City Council. He would like the mechanism to access an address list of people who shared information and ML agreed that picking up on data was vital. JK said that PCCS' database was nearing completion and would be useful for identifying contacts.

TM said that although it was difficult to engage with all organisations it didn't mean that it shouldn't be attempted. He went on to say that a similar argument could be made for eg refugees, BME. Following further discussion, GH said that, although he was also new in post, he had observed the Network's flexibility in the way it worked and felt it was feasible to set up such a sub-group which would report back to the Network. GH suggested the Network support CA and asked him to consider how he'd like to proceed and report his progress to PCN in approximately three months' time. CA asked for his contact details to be included in these minutes and would appreciate any ideas. (TELEPHONE: 023 9283 4027)

**Action: CA**

*(COMFORT BREAK and Anna Potten left the meeting at this point)*

### 3.0 **LSP Update: Partnership Boards Update**

#### 3.1 Community Involvement

Nick Ralph (NR) reported there had been a presentation by Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust at the last meeting of this Board. The Trust was bidding for Foundation status and needed to have 10,000 members, from which a Council of Governors would be elected. Although 6 - 7,000 members would come from the Trust's staff there was a need to encourage voluntary groups and organisations to be involved. More information can be obtained from [www.porthosp.nhs.uk/foundation-trust](http://www.porthosp.nhs.uk/foundation-trust).

Speakers at the next meeting included Chief Inspector Carrie Pither and Nigel Selley or Rob Neale from Portsmouth City Council.

### 3.2 Patch Limited

JD explained that there was a two-tier membership of Patch Limited with no financial liability apart from a minimal amount by its directors.

### 3.3 Education and Lifelong Learning

TM reported that its sub-committee would be looking at the measurement of social cohesion. GP added that a consultation documentation on the strategy for Portsmouth would be out soon. He had asked that the voluntary and community sector be added as a hot topic; there was a need to gather information in to feedback on issues and achievements. GP went on to comment on the huge amount of building taking place at Highbury College and Portsmouth College. Feedback from Portsmouth College had shown that 75% of its pupils were the first in their respective families to go on to higher education.

### 3.4 AIF

KD reported that Portsmouth had submitted a football scheme at Bransbury Park for approval. Much of the available money would be going to Fareham and Gosport; changes in the allocation of money was due in 2008.

### 3.4 Health & Social Wellbeing

AC said that the University of Portsmouth was looking at dentistry. Smoke-free Portsmouth was looking to use the community to roll out its campaign.

### 3.5 Environment and Transport

CB reported that this Board wouldn't be meeting until later that day but the Brown Fields Sub-Group were looking at how sites could be used.

CB had attended a presentation by the monorail group but, unfortunately, the scheme was dropped by the Council two days later. CB felt it would be beneficial if Amersham, the company behind the monorail scheme, were to have an office in the city.

CB had found the Bus Conference interesting but not that well attended by the public which, he thought, was due to late advertising. There was, however, a good turnout of stakeholders and organisations. The conference looked at the best way to bend the money available to it rather than starting again from scratch. The models were there - it just needed the courage and heart to undertake the changes needed.

### 3.6 Economic and Social Wellbeing

CB reported that the sub group was looking at the possibility of such organisations as Credit Union linking in with schools to provide a model.

Vince Ibbs (VI) added that the Debt Working Group was looking at credit reference status and, along with the Probation Service, the problem of re-offending by those who were in debt. CB added that there were also people in debt because of their dependency on drugs.

### 3.7 Children and Young People

CA said that a two-year Adolescent Health pilot would commence this month. There were key strategic targets for the city which included achievements and volunteering amongst schoolchildren.

### 3.8 Housing Partnership

JD confirmed that this Board had not met since the last PCN meeting.

## 4.0 **Pre-LSP Briefing**

LC said that the next meeting would take place on 29 November and would focus on four main themes. LC went through the agenda which would be circulated next week. Agenda items included the new charring arrangements and the implications of the government's White Paper.

LAA - LC distributed a one page summary and said that many of those present had been involved but would go through it for those who weren't. The final draft would be submitted for approval at the LSP meeting on 29 November. The Local Action Plan would underpin the Agreement.

The last Project Board meeting had discussed five cost cutting issues. There had been discussion on flagship initiatives - "stolen from Hampshire" - and included violence, employability of young people and obesity.

A Statement of Voluntary and Community Sector Involvement had been included in the paperwork sent to PCN members prior to the meeting. It was intended that it should be discussed in depth by LSP representatives and fed back to LC. LC hoped that members could see how they had made an impact and in order to continue to harness ideas, welcomed any comments on voluntary and community sector involvement.

*(Lynne Rigby left the meeting at this point)*

## **5. Minutes of the Meeting dated 18 September 2006**

To keep the timing of the meeting on schedule, GH asked that members looked through the minutes for accuracy and for matters arising simultaneously.

The minutes were agreed with the following amendment:

### Page 9: Portsmouth Local Safeguarding Children Board

Isobel Pine (IP) said that this should read "A seminar was arranged for the Board on 13 September".

There were no matters arising from these minutes.

## **5. Future Agenda Items**

Items suggested for future agendas included:

14 - 19 year olds strategy

City North Plans - The only definite part of the plans so far was the John Lewis building, the remainder being still at the outline stage.

## **8. Any other business**

i) IP requested that a sub group of the Health & Social Wellbeing Partnership Board be formed to influence the diet of children in Portsmouth. She had been saddened at the apparent failure of Jamie Oliver's campaign to improve the eating habits of children while at school having seen on television mothers delivering chips to children through the school railings in Rawmarsh, near Rotherham. IP was conscious of

the number of knock-kneed children in Portsmouth which could be a sign of rickets and which could be rectified by drinking orange juice, taking cod liver oil, spending less time in front of a computer and getting out in the sun. Children were handicapped by their poor diets and the problem could be addressed by good nutrition being taught at school and the children taking this information home to their parents. The Osteoporosis Society had produced a book which would be suitable for junior school children. NR remarked that the LSP had promoted good eating in its early days and GH offered to include relevant information in PCCS mailouts.

**Action: GH**

ii) ML reminded members that the draft Compact and BME Compact Codes had been launched during Compact Week in early November and invited comments. JK added that the Compact group would welcome new members.

iii) GH asked members to think about the provision of lunch at PCN meetings now that the CEF no longer existed from whose funding the lunches were provided. GH asked them to consider bringing their own lunch or changing the time of the meeting so that it didn't include the lunchtime. Lunch would be provided at the next meeting when a decision would be made about the future.

9. **Dates of Future Meetings -**

**Portsmouth Community Network -**

Monday 22 January 2007, 12 noon - 2.30 pm, at PCCS

**Portsmouth Voluntary & Community Sector Providers' Group -**

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**Compact**

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**LIDP**

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There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.35 pm.