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## **Minutes of Portsmouth Community Network meeting 19 March 2007 12.00pm – 2.30pmh**

**Present:** Jennifer Kelsey, Carole Damper, Adrian Clee, Taki Jaffer, Catherine Smith, Charlie Adie, Kristina Hvidberg, Julie Coffin, Fiona White, Stephen Morgan, David Horne, Laura Caton, Jan Dod, Nick Ralph, Ken Dobson, Geoff Phillpotts, Graham Heaney (Chair), Charles Burns, Katherine Marsden-Broad, Mary Wishart (minutes)

**Apologies:** Mohammed Riyami, Charles, Philip Hudson, Jackie Buckley, Jennie Brent, Marguerite Nudd, Martin Affleck, Anna Potten, Lynne Rigby, Brenda Cairns, Susan Chivers

### **1. Welcome and introduction**

It was agreed to rearrange the agenda to make item 3 the first item for discussion due to FW having to leave the meeting early and wishing to be present for this.

### **2. Community Network – Moving Forwards**

The paper produced on behalf of the working group made up of mainly LSP representatives and endorsed by them and the Chair of CN was the subject of discussion. It was agreed to take each of the recommendations in turn and reach a consensus at today's meeting.

#### **2.1 Proposed structure**

It was agreed that the voting procedure needs to be strengthened. Succession planning is key. It was suggested that one way to achieve this would be to have deputies on the lead partnerships – so 2 main reps and 2 deputies who would take over and keep continuity going. It was acknowledged that a clear job description would also help this.

The view from PCC was that the proposals didn't go far enough and didn't take the public service delivery agenda into account sufficiently. It was felt that the Providers Network would not be attracted to getting involved with CN on the basis of this. There was some debate around this and it was pointed out that the proposals did factor the Providers Network and others in, but due to the fact the structure and remit of the PN is being discussed still, the links would need to be reviewed. One point of view was that the Providers Network actually wasn't needed, and that this model could in time cover the remit of that group.

Concern was expressed that the management committee structure was problematic as some providers in particular would not want to be held accountable to the CN. It was pointed out that reps from the Providers Group would be part of the MC, not accountable to it.

It was acknowledged that CN is not representative at present; however the proposals are attempting to address this with a view to becoming much more

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representative as the CN develops. The sub-groups are a key way to achieving this and the success of the Children & Young Peoples Alliance demonstrates how this has attracted approximately 40 new organisations to get involved with CN in this way. Briefing sessions are also a way to get people involved.

It was suggested that there needs to be a re-evaluation of how the VCS operates in the city and that the unique, complementary role of CN needs exploring. It was suggested that the focus of the proposals is too narrow and focussed on the LSP and lead partnerships; the CN should be more than just this function.

The VCS should begin to leading the agenda and needs to really start influencing how the city works. Partnership boards were identified as one area where work is really happening and a good place for VCS influence to happen.

There was much debate around the lobbying and campaigning role of the CN and the general agreement was that this should be a big part of its work. It was pointed out this function has been made clear in the draft Terms of Reference, but could be made more of to make the CN distinctive.

It was reiterated that the proposals are a starting point for the CN to move on from and the vision is to grow and develop from this. By getting the small detail right, we can move onto to embrace the 'bigger picture' issues.

**Action: The proposed structure was agreed, with more discussion with partners (key organisations from Providers Network and PCC) to take place to help shape structure.**

## **2.2 LSP reps**

**Action: It was agreed that the existing LSP reps remain in post until 2008.**

## **2.3 Lead partnership reps**

It was acknowledged that electing all lead partnership reps at the same time is unlikely to result in a completely new set of reps as it is very likely existing reps will stand again. It was agreed to go with the proposed elections of all lead partnership reps and monitor the process. The election process needs strengthening and there was concern about an independent body carrying out the elections.

**Action: All lead partnership reps to go through election process in March/April 2007. Using the University to help with this is to be investigated. Dates are subject to slippage given this investigation and others involvement.**

## **2.4 Rebranding**

**Action: It was agreed that this exercise would be undertaken. Some more research to be carried out by MW.**

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## 2.5 Work Plan

**Action: It was agreed that a work plan should be put into place for CN. This will be a working document.**

## 3. Updates

Lead partnership representatives gave the following updates:

**Housing:** To be held later today.

### **Homelessness Focus Group (subgroup of housing)**

- Presentation by Judge Cawood around repossessions, 90% of which are housing benefit related. The bureaucracy surrounding housing benefit is considerable. A £20K Constable Trust funded project, matched by PCC has achieved considerable success in securing 62 weeks of claims since January 2007. Funded til December 2007.
- Central Point – 10,000 free cards to frontline organisations have been issued.
- Refugees and asylum seekers facing homelessness is a big issue which needs to be raised at Housing Partnership.

### **Environment:**

- New chair – Tim Goodhead who is Dean of Faculty Chartered Surveying
- Presentation from Groundworks outlining proposed partnerships and potential opportunities
- Innovative small business recycling scheme with £50K funding secured from WRAP which will go to the social enterprise DOVE for an 8 month project targeting 200 offices based SMEs to do recycling.
- Presentation about PCC's sustainability strategy –  
**Action: copy to be circulated with minutes.**

### **Education**

- A document showing partnership working with children, families and learning agenda across the city was shared.
- Adult Learning Strategy and VCS input was discussed.
- Progress report on City Learning Centre which opens October 2007 given. There is consultation to encourage local communities to enrol.
- ESOL is being taken forward in joint discussion with CIPB. Guidance from government to be produced soon.
- Portsmouth Community Learning Development Group – opportunity for VCS to get involved. There was some discussion about sustainability and that investing funding through training etc. was one way of achieving this.

### **Community Involvement**

- Work programme agreed
- 3 outcomes
- Groundworks presentation
- SSCF money allocation - £65K available, only other lead partnership to put a bid in was Neighbourhood Element Steering Group which wasn't approved. Funding allocated as follows:

<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Summary of outcomes</b>
Community Network Co-ordinator (£11,809)	A more representative and effective Community Network, helping to empower local voluntary & community organisations to influence key decisions
Portsmouth Race Equality Network Organisation (£24,571) – part fund PRENO Manager and part fund training programmes	Black and minority ethnic communities will be empowered, develop new skills and get their voices heard More diverse representation on the city’s boards and forums, better reflecting the local population Increased and more effective consultation of black and minority ethnic communities Strengthened community cohesion
Community Cohesion Co-ordinator (£20,000)	Interim outcomes are as follows and will enable us to take forward actions that will impact on the ground: Audit and assess the LSP’s current approach to community cohesion, consult with partners on what the key cohesion issues are, identify gaps in current provision and where our approach needs to be strengthened, work with partners to develop a costed multi-agency community cohesion strategy
Better co-ordination and promotion of community involvement opportunities (£4,000) – a high quality publication	More of our residents will be better informed about the many ways they can get involved with their communities, shape decisions affecting them and influence service delivery
Inter-Faith Network Co-ordinator (£4,620)	At least 1 interfaith meeting in the three month period and an open event for people from all faith communities and none, respond to the increasing number of requests for advice on faith related issues and allow slightly longer to achieve sustainability

- Next meeting looking at Best Value Review and Neighbourhood Policing

**Safer Portsmouth**

- Performance indicators featured heavily, city is on red and amber in the main
- Chair currently John Campbell, discussion around changing this.
- Community Tasking & Co-ordinating Groups – 4 groups across the city which are the strategic arm of neighbourhood policing. Scope for VCS involvement
- Violent crime as LAA theme
- Street Pastors Programme – entering into training phase which is going live in June 2007

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- Pedal cycle crime has increased 70%. Discussion around how this is being addressed. There is a sustainable transport officer at PCC.

### Health

- Health trainers – pilot project with probation service and schools looking at preventative work. Links in with LAA. £250K investment over next 3 years. Looking to recruit local people in their communities, with training and direction being led by NHS. VCS involvement being sought.

### CYPSP

- Meeting on 26 March
- Consultation about future of Connexions on 21 March. From April 2008, funding for delivering services transfers to local authority, bringing in excess of £4million into the city. Mike Fowler has offered an extra presentation to VCS groups who cannot attend this event. More details as available.

### Economic Wellbeing

- Brownfields Strategy – Co-funded with PCC and English Partnerships, looking to bring disused industrial sites back into use. 12 sites in Portsmouth identified and have had planning applications submitted. Event on 29 March at Royal Marines Museum (invite already circulated to CN). More information at <http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/8862.html>
- Evening & late night economy – concerns about Guildhall Walk with the opening of the new nightclubs in April 2007. Looking at taxi ranks and marshalling. Night bus is running commercially but funding of the conductor is to end shortly.
- City Growth Transport – Confirmation that the City received all of its Transport Plan money and is able to spend it. The preference is to spend this money on sustainable issues rather than road schemes.
- Alternative Giving Schemes – discourage giving to homelessness on the streets and instead encourage people to donate to the businesses where begging occurs. Centre Point is running this scheme.

### 3.2 LSP briefing

- Sustainable Community strategy refresh is to happen a year early. Opportunity to link in with consultation process for the Core Strategy, the City's Local Development Framework. CN to have role in influencing the new SCS. This will have an impact on the LSP and lead partnership work programme. Discussion around who has ownership of SCS – PCC has statutory duty to produce it but still sees it very much a partnership with LSP.
- Charing - LC researching HR issues as to recruiting an unpaid independent chair for LSP. Meeting to be set up in early April with small working group from LSP, including CN LSP reps.
- Regional funding £6K available for LSP learning and development. Opportunity for CN to influence how money spent.

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- LAA – Project Board meeting on 7 March signed it off locally, official ministerial event on 29 March. A number of action planning sessions have taken place; these action plans will underpin LAA. Notes from CN session already circulated. There is clear evidence emerging from the pilot areas that the LAA does add value.
- Next LSP 25 April – looking at timetable for SCS refresh.
- LAA roadshow – attended by LC and MW – briefing to be delivered to LAA Project Board, and will be circulated to CN also.

### **3.3 Alliance feedback**

- Approximately 40 organisations on mailing list at present and growing
- Publicity leaflet produced
- Mapping exercise underway to identify where orgs feel they fit
- Alliance invited to respond to Draft Parenting Strategy – response to be submitted by 23 March
- First briefing session to be held in June 2007, with suggestions of mapping service provision, or workforce development so far.

## **4. Minutes of meeting 22 January 2007 and matters arising**

Minutes agreed as accurate record, all matters arising covered in today's meeting.

## **5 AOB**

- **Northern Quarter** – Centros Miller are holding a series of public exhibition and consultation events, invite to be circulated to CN. It was noted that the City Centre Steering Group, made up of businesses, local residents etc. has representation from Jan Dod. Portsea and Buckland residents are needed to represent their communities.

It was noted that some members of CN had submitted an objection to the planning notice about the pedestrianisation of Commercial and Edinburgh Road to GOSE. This has now been passed to the relevant department at PCC to deal with.

- National Brownfield Event – Everyone was reminded about the event to be held on 29 March at the Royal Marines Museum. Information has been circulated to CN about this and there are 5 places available for CN members. This does not include LSP reps who have been invited separately.
- National We Can! Magazine Spring 2007 edition has been published, copies available from CIED team, also from PCCS.
- Cuts from PCC's budget has affected the CIED team as they have to find £62K worth of savings from their budget. This has affected 6

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organisations it makes grants to. There is also a review of the corporate policy teams underway by PCC's Chief executive.

- Hampshire County Foundation has asked CD to join board which she has accepted. The Foundation is looking to attract a £5 million investment.
- CD also announced that Portsmouth University has presented her with an honorary doctorate. The meeting congratulated CD on this achievement.

**Date of next meeting**

This is scheduled for 14 May 2007; however it is likely to be rescheduled as are all the meetings for 2007 due to the changing structure of CN as agreed today. Further details tbc.