

PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY NETWORK

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2008

Present:

Tom Morton	Chair
Charlie Adie	Motiv8
Tunde Bright-Davies	PRENO
Jackie Buckley	Relate
Charles Burns	Central Southsea Neighbourhood Forum
Ady Clee	Salvation Army
Jan Dod	PATCH
Katherine Marsden-Broad	PUEF
Mik Norman	PCCS
Marguerite Nudd	U3A
Geoff Phillpotts	PHA Group
Nick Ralph	Diocese of Portsmouth

In Attendance:

Barbara O'Sullivan	PCCS
June Hancox	PCCS (Minutes)
Louise Hoyle	PCCS (Trident Scheme)

1. **Apologies:** Ken Dobson, Brian Miller, Ian Piper, Carole Damper, Ian Piper, Stephen Morgan
2. **Welcome:** Tom Morton (TM) had been unable to chair the previous meeting and thanked Nick Ralph (NR) for doing so in his absence. PCN members introduced themselves.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 April 2008**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2008 were agreed with the following amendment: Geoff Phillpotts' name should be included in the list of attendees.

4. Matters Arising from those Minutes

Page 2, Minute 5.1, fourth paragraph: Barbara O'Sullivan (BJOS) had not yet written to Jonathan Crutchfield but planned to invite him to the PCN meeting in September or to a briefing event on advice. It was agreed that the latter suggestion would be most appropriate.

ACTION: BIOS to arrange a briefing event on advice

Page 3, Minute 5.1, third paragraph: The Play Pathfinders Panel is aimed specifically at provision for 8 -13 year olds and therefore it was not appropriate to include an older

persons' representative . However, Chris Richards had attended the 'The Way We Play' briefing earlier that day and was aware of the views of those participating.

Page 4, Minute 6.1: BJOS reported that following discussion with Mik Norman (MNo) further work would be done to develop a mechanism for strengthening the voice of Older People and Older People's VCS organisations.

Page 4, Minute 6.1, second paragraph: MN asked about representation by those who weren't members of PCN. Tunde Bright-Davies (TBD) explained that PRENO was the only BME organisation to have paid staff and their capacity to represent was stretched. She felt this could be perceived as institutionalised racism and was concerned that BME needs might get lost in the Network; the balance of equality needed to be addressed. It was important to be a member of the Network but this shouldn't be a stipulation of representation. TM assured TBD that there was no intention of institutionalised racialism and assured her that her points had been noted and duly minuted. All present expressed their concern and desire to address the problem. TM would contact TB-D to arrange a visit to PRENO. MNo suggested setting up a working party on this the issue of representation and would take the lead in gleaning ideas before setting up a sub-group. TBD agreed that she was happy with the proposed actions to be taken.

ACTION: TM to visit PRENO

ACTION: MNo to look at setting up sub-group

Page 5, Minute 9: Ian Piper (IP) had spoken to David Williams (DW) but had taken the view that PCC wasn't required to consult with the voluntary sector with regard to its restructure. IP advised that the sending of any letter should be delayed until restructuring was complete and then, if the PCN had specific concerns these could be raised in writing.

5. Updates

5.1 Partnership Meetings

CIPB: Postponed until after today's meeting.

Safer Portsmouth: CB attended the meeting on 22 May and reported the following points:

- Signed up to LAA targets
- Performance Framework to replace Scorecard system
- Domestic abuse – cases reported along with the number of arrests
- £105k available for Preventing Violence Extremism.

Charlie Adie (CA) added that, following the spring elections, Cllr Jason Fazackerley was the Board's new Elected Member but Cllr Paula Riches would remain to look at communications and is the Board's police liaison representative. Cllr Fazackerley had not yet attended any meetings and TM suggested this should be brought to the notice of the Leader of the Council but it was thought that this had already happened.

Housing: Jan Dod (JD) said that BME was on the agenda for the next meeting and TBD would advise on issues she wanted to be discussed.

Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership: CA said that this group had met twice since the last PCN meeting but still needed to discuss commissioning arrangements. At the recent JAR, emerging issues included safeguarding and what arrangements agencies had with regard to volunteers. Front line staff who met the inspector needed to show a documented safeguarding policy, who to contact in an emergency and evidence of training. The results of the JAR should be available by September with preliminary feedback beforehand.

5.2 Children and Young People's Alliance: CA reported that it met monthly and would hold a briefing on 'CAF and Turning the Curve' on 30 September. Work was in progress to produce the Business Plan and Annual Report.

BJOS added that she was working with Siobhan Burns, PCC, to provide a series of 'Safeguarding' workshops. Also, the first meeting of the Children's Workforce Development Sub-group would take place the following day.

5.3 Compact Group and Providers' Network

MNo said that the next meeting of Compact would take place on 25 July at PCCS and the agenda would be circulated the following day. Nick Ralph (NR) mentioned that the government was consulting on making Compacts statutory and MNo said this would be looked at on 25 July along with exploring why the Compact works better in some areas than others.

The next meeting of the Providers' Network would take place on 21 August and MNo would chair.

6. Community Network Activities

BJOS circulated a note of recent activities and forthcoming events.

6.1 Briefings

BJOS reported that the Networking event 'The Ways we Play' which had taken place earlier in the day had been well attended by members of statutory agencies but she had been disappointed that only TM and JD had attended from the Network. She would produce and circulate a brief summary of the event and discussion followed as to whether to make different arrangements for future briefings. Members expressed various views and it was agreed that it was beneficial to brand the briefings as PCN. Future topics would include 'Green issues and sustainability' and 'Asset Transfer'.

6.2 Budget and Business Plans

As mentioned previously, BJOS had drafted the Business Plan and Annual Report for CYPA and would do the same for PCN along with looking at finance. She asked if it would be useful to do a SWOT analysis. Nick Ralph (NR) felt the Business Plan should be prepared in connection with a review of representation and TM asked TBD if there was anything PCN could do to assist PRENO. TBD said that PRENO was looking at issues of representation. PRENO had started working in Hampshire and IOW – this brought money into the organisation and kept staff in post but more staff were needed as this extra work meant a huge draw on PRENO's resources. TM said that he sensed TBD's frustration and PCN would try to find a path to help PRENO. NR felt there was great value in spreading issues outwards and making people aware of the situation so that issues could be taken forward. TM asked TBD and NR, as a member of PRENO's Board, to give the matter more thought and BJOS suggested this become a standing slot on future agendas. TBD agreed and would do bulleted headlines to enlarge upon. Action: TBD to bring issues to next PCN meeting.

6.3 Representation

As BJOS had received 2 nominations for the vacancy on the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Board there would be an election to decide representation.

Two CYPA representatives had taken up the opportunity of the free representation training available recently.

6.4 Local Area Agreement

NR said that a 3 year LAA was signed in June. There had been problems finalising targets and groups had been asked how they would deal with a ten per cent cut in funding or a ten per cent rise. Alongside the LAA is the Area-Based Grant which is unringfenced money. The timing of last year's advice and grant were late so 2008-9 is passported through, but the next two years would be better planned and there may be a need to top-slice the money. Vulnerable areas were identified as Community Cohesion, and Preventing Violent Extremism (not ring-fenced). The latter is principally targeted at Muslims and NR felt this to be wrong.

7. **Update Review of LSP Structure**

AC had attended the meeting three weeks previously. One possibility was that the LSP would become smaller. However, the voluntary sector wanted it to be enlarged to ensure better representation and Lynda Fisher had been very impressed by the paper from the sector. Suggested membership included:

- the Chief Executive of PCCS to be hard-wired into the process
- Potential representation from geographic communities: Neighbourhood Forums and Community Boards
- Faith and BME to be hard-wired in.

There had also been discussion around the potential for the Community Network to receive some support from the Area-Based Grant. An Information Officer from PCC would also be giving direct support to the LSP ensuring it proactively manages its media messages.

The Education and Lifelong Learning Partnership Board had also been discussed and there may be changes in the future.

NR suggested that in the future we might want to abolish the Community Involvement Partnership Board and amalgamate its work with that of the Community Network. This would result in fewer meetings and it was unanimously agreed to examine this path. BJOS said that a workshop planned for September around consultation on the LSP could also consult on this proposal at the same time.

8. **Any Other Business**

BJOS had received a copy of a briefing on the recent White Paper entitled '**Communities in control: real people, real power**' from Democratic Services and Community Engagement at PCC. Colleagues can obtain copies of the briefing from Stephen Morgan.

9. **Date of Next Meeting** – 15 September 2008, 12 noon – 2 pm, PCCS Conference Room.

10. There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.35 pm.