

DRAFT

Minutes of Portsmouth Community Network meeting 17 July 2007 2:00 – 4:00pm

Present: Jennifer Kelsey, Charlie Adie, Jackie Buckley, Charles Burns, Adrian Clee, Ken Dobson, Jan Dod, Graham Heaney (Chair), Tony McCarthy, Brian Miller, Marquerite Nudd, Geoff Phillpotts, Nick Ralph, Barbara O’Sullivan (minutes), Fiona White, Laura Caton.

Apologies: Taki Jaffer, David Horne, Carole Damper, Katherine Marsden-Broad, Stephen Morgan

1. Welcome and apologies

GH welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were given. In response to a question from FW, GH explained that he has tendered his resignation as Chief Executive of PCCS and has a notice period of three months. FW said that she finds this very sad and thanks him for all he has done to move the organisation forward.

2. Minutes of 16 May 2007

FW queried the wording of item 3 (Community Network – Moving Forwards) particularly in relation to “attempts” to work with CIED team and in relation to views purporting to be her own. She explained that she felt she had encouraged the Community Network to fully exploit the opportunities available through restructuring but that despite this, the Community Network had wanted to move in a more evolutionary way. The minutes of the meeting of 16 May 2007 were then agreed.

Matters Arising:

Re: Item 3 from 19 March. GH has written to Andrew Mason and has received a verbal response, indicating that the Bill Sargeant Trust is not looking specifically at homelessness issues related to asylum seekers. JD and GP explained that the Homelessness Sub-Group of the Housing Strategic Partnership will be looking at indicators to identify issues of homelessness which fall outside the statutory remit (e.g. failed asylum seekers, migrant workers). TM described the plight of asylum seekers under Section 4 provisions, by which government policy is designed to force people into destitution. This led to further discussions regarding ESOL provision.

Actions:

- i) The issue of hidden homelessness will continue to be championed by VCS reps at the Homelessness Sub-Group.**
- ii) NR to ensure that two people from the Community Involvement Partnership Board be invited to the Education & Lifelong Learning Meeting in November when the issue of ESOL is to be discussed.**

Re: Item 5 from 19 March: The issue of VCS representation on the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will be discussed at a meeting with Lynda Fisher on 17 September at 3:00pm.

Action: CA, NR and GH to attend.

3. Community Network

3.1 Recruitment of Chair

JK gave a briefing on the initial meeting between herself, GK and Tom Morton, who has expressed an interest in chairing the Community Network. The general consensus arising from this meeting and from the input of those present who know him was that he would make a suitable chair and his candidacy should be pursued.

Agreed: GH will organise a formal interview with a broad representation from the Community Network selected from amongst the following volunteers – Ken Dobson, Jan Dod, Ady Clee, Tony McCarthy, Charlie Adie and Marguerite Nudd.

3.2 Future Involvement of Previous Representatives

BJOS explained that the process of moving to the new Community Network structure was still ongoing. Representatives who are no longer directly involved were contacted by Mary Wishart, who thanked them for their contribution and suggested ways in which they could continue to be involved.

Action: BJOS and JK to follow up with these reps on an individual basis.

There followed a discussion of the need for more interest/issue based groups feeding into the Community Network structure. AC & TM encouraged the Network not to just be driven by the LSP framework but to look at the needs of the VCS which may fall outside the LSP's remit. NR used the example of strengthening links with the Interfaith Forum as a desirable development.

Action: This item to be discussed as part of the developing work programme of the Community Network. BJOS to bring forward.

3.3 Voluntary Sector Conference & Partnership Board Representatives Away Day

JK proposed a Voluntary Sector conference linked to capacity building. FW queried why this was necessary when the LSP conference is already planned for the autumn. JD responded that the LSP conference which was originally envisaged to be held twice yearly had been proposed as a way for the LSP to meet the requirement for accountability to the citizens of Portsmouth. A Voluntary Sector conference would be targeted at a specific sector. JB noted that small groups can only afford to come to an event if they know it will be a

good use of their time. Further consideration should be given to smaller, interest-based briefing sessions.

BJOS suggested that with the newly-reconfigured Community Network, and a new Chair, it would be useful to have a representatives away day. There was a general agreement to this proposal.

Action: BJOS and JK to take these suggestions forward with the new Chair and to consult with Community Network members at a future meeting.

4. Sustainable Community Strategy Consultation Event

Members had received copies of the promotional flyer and the programme for the day. BJOS reported that there were 50 places booked and that more people would likely attend.

Action: BJOS to give feedback from the event to LSP Reps, with a brief report to the next Community Network meeting.

5. Updates

5.1 Partnership meeting feedback:

a) Safer Portsmouth Partnership recently held an Away Day to look at Accountability. It was agreed to hold open meetings from December. David Williams was elected chair after a secret ballot. The crime rate is running higher than the base figures.

b) Economic Well-Being has been considering the SCS. The City College will open in October, with the start of the Highbury expansion to follow. SouthCoast Moneyline has also expanded and Portsmouth Savers Credit Union has both extended its bond and started to offer bank accounts. A new Money & Legal Advice Centre accredited by the legal services commission is to open and will cost £350k to run. This service will be delivered by the voluntary sector.

c) Education & Lifelong Learning postponed its discussion on ESOL provision. There are a great number of languages spoken by children in Portsmouth schools, making support more challenging.

d) Health is reviewing the need for mystery shoppers to ascertain the accessibility to NHS dental care in Portsmouth. The Board has been reviewing the vision for the community Strategy to ensure that health is captured as a key point. SE England Health Strategy is available on the web and comments should be sent directly to GOSE. Paul Edmonson-Jones is looking at how the PCT can ensure that consultation with the community takes place in venues more accessible to the wider community.

JD informed colleagues of the dental facility in Ravelin Park which is linked with King's College. KD noted that they need high numbers of users to justify the cost of running the service.

e) Housing – the new chair is Hazel Warwick from PHA. Issues around homelessness were discussed at Item 2 above. Progress on statutory housing indicators is reasonably good. B&B times are low, and although affordable housing is still not meeting needs it is improving. The city council and housing associations are keeping up repair schedules. However, there are still concerns about the private sector and in particular the number of multi-occupancy landlords who have failed to apply for a license under new regulations.

In further discussions about homelessness, JB asked where the issue of domestic violence is being covered. She was told (by whom??) that it is part of the remit of the Safer Portsmouth Partnership. NR noted that there is also a Domestic Violence Forum (DVF), but JB was concerned that while this was geared towards operational issues, the DVF needs to feed into a Partnership at a strategic level.

Action: Community Network Representatives on the Safer Portsmouth Partnership will ensure that domestic violence issues are on the agenda for the Partnership and that they are highlighted as being of importance.

f) Community Improvement Partnership Board (CIPB) – At its recent meeting, Peter Mellor gave a presentation on the hospital's Foundation bid, which unfortunately has not been successful. Gerald Vernon-Jackson led discussions on the Strategic Community Strategy (now entitled "A Vision for Portsmouth").

FW told the meeting of the city's recent application for Beacon status partnership application for citizenship. This includes the Community Boards, the CIPB and Community Network. The shortlist will be announced on 9 October.

A small group will meet to decide how the money for the Community Cohesion element will be spent.

g) Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership - Progress against the 13 key targets is good. The market place event on 4 July was well-attended, but CA feels it would be good to have a broader audience, including young people and parents, at future events. The Joint Commissioning Group (JCG) has reviewed its terms of reference. CA reported the disappointing news that the Connexions service is to be taken in-house by Portsmouth City Council. CA did present a deputation to the full ~PCC Council meeting on 9 July, but by this time Hants had already decided to take Connexions in-house, and subsequently Portsmouth followed suit. CA does feel that the VCS has signalled its intention to compete for these services in future. NR asked why PCC didn't go for a tendering process on this occasion and what we can learn from this. CA gave further explanations about the resources allocated for the

transition process by the DfES which were weighted towards bringing the service in-house, and the pressures on the Council for making internal cost savings.

KD mentioned the problems with extended schools using the VCS to help deliver their agenda while also charging them a market rent to use what are, effectively, public buildings. FW suggested taking this issue up with Lynda Fisher and offered to provide support if the Community Network could provide her with evidence.

Action: GH to write to Lynda Fisher asking to add this item to the agenda of their September meeting. KD to provide GH with further information on this issue.

5.2 LSP Feedback

The appointment of a new LSP chair has been postponed as the successful candidate asked for payment and this was not part of the original terms. John Campbell has agreed to continue as chair until April. He will meet the local requirements but the LSP will be missing the ambassadorial role within the region which it also needs to fulfil.

The main issue for the LSP at present is the Sustainable Community Strategy (A Vision for Portsmouth) An extraordinary LSP meeting is to be held on 26 July to consider the results of consultations on this document. KD asked if the LIDP would be included and LC indicated that they would be. NR said that over and above the planned VCS Consultation event on 18 July, Network representatives needed to ensure that they are consulting with their organisations on the Vision for Portsmouth.

5.3 Alliance Feedback

The briefing on CIPS (Community Improvement Partnerships) on 5 June was well-attended and resulted in an initial map of VCS services within the city. The next briefing will take place on 19 September, when it is hoped that Siobhan burns will give a presentation on Safeguarding Children.

The Alliance is collating a list of VCS representation on CYP Strategic Partnership and the lead sub-groups. The Alliance is also developing terms of Reference for Representation. The Steering Group is developing a process to ensure the group is democratically elected.

6. AOB

6.1 AC thanked Laura Caton on behalf of the Community Network for all she has done to support the Network and the LSP, and wished her well in her new job.

6.2 CB and BM reported on a trip they made to Bologna on behalf of the Environment & Transport Group to help support the implementation of community consultation in the development of Brownfield sites.

6.3 GH reported on progress to recruit a new Community Network Co-ordinator. The interview date would be 19 July.

7. Date of next meeting: It was decided to continue with the meetings and times previously published and agreed.. The next meeting will take place on 10 September 2007 at PCCS from 12:30 – 2:30pm