

## PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY NETWORK

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 APRIL 2008

#### **Present:**

Nick Ralph	PDCSR (Acting Chair)
Jackie Buckley	Relate
Charles Burns	Central Southsea Neighbourhood Forum
Ady Clee	Salvation Army
Carole Damper	EC Roberts Centre
Jan Dod	PATCH
David Horne	Paulsgrove & Wymering Community Board
Taki Jaffer	Portsmouth Interfaith Forum
Marguerite Nudd	U3A
Ian Piper	PCCS

#### **In Attendance:**

Barbara O'Sullivan	PCCS
June Hancox	PCCS (Minutes)
Stephen Morgan	Portsmouth City Council
Matt Gummerson	Portsmouth City Council

1. **Apologies:** Charlie Adie, Tunde Bright-Davies, Ken Dobson, Katherine Marsden-Broad, Brian Miller, Tom Morton, Lynne Rigby
2. **Welcome:** In Tom Morton's absence, Nick Ralph (NR), Acting Chair, welcomed all to the meeting. He confirmed that, as Jackie Buckley (JB) is a representative on the CIPB, she is a full member of the Network and he was pleased to have her attend its meetings.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 February 2008**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2008 were agreed with the following amendment: on page 2, Taki's name was mis-spelled as 'Takki'.

#### 4. **Matters Arising from those Minutes**

BJOS went over her list of 'Actions'.

Ian Piper (IP) would officially take up the post of CX at PCCS on 1 May 2008. Other PCCS appointments were confirmed: Mik Norman had been appointed as Deputy CX and would start on 7 May – he had, in the past, been CX at East Hants CVS. Claire Soal had started as Finance Officer that morning.

## 5. Updates

### 5.1 Partnership Meetings

BJOS said that it had been planned to produce a summary of feedback from Partnership Board meetings and circulate this to members. Unfortunately, due to problems with IT, only one report had been received and BJOS apologised if other members had sent theirs. The installation of new servers at PCCS would resolve the problem.

Health & Social Wellbeing: PCN representatives had been unable to attend the meeting but Ady Clee (AC) had heard through Matt Gummerson (MG) that the Smoking Strategy for the city had been finalised. An LAA monitoring sub-group had been formed and BJOS had invited members to join but, so far, there had been no uptake.

Economic Wellbeing: CB had attended last week's meeting at which there had been a presentation from the Manager of the Ocean Business Park who mentioned that they were talking to the Admiral Lord Nelson School about environmental issues. CB had suggested they also work with Jane Hurdley at PCC.

Housing: Jan Dod (JD) spoke of the Community Legal Advice Centre (CLAC) – delivered by SFT and part sub-contracted to CAB. It would enable local citizens to access free legal advice and effectively replaced legal aid for housing, welfare benefits, debt, employment and family law. Carole Dampier (CD) added that feedback from PCC tenants living in Havant and Cowplain found they would not be able to access the service but there was the possibility of an outreach worker being appointed to go to those areas to give advice. MG mentioned that Mandy Lindley had done a paper on this issue which may be of help. AC requested feedback on this and it was suggested it should be an agenda item for PCN and possibly LSP too.

**Action: BJOS to invite Jonathan Crutchfield at SFT to attend PCN meeting**

JD also said that discussion on the National Strategy for the Aging Population had covered life-time homes, and additional government money for the "Warm Front" programme for the next three years.

A stock condition survey of private sector housing had been commissioned and final figures had not yet been published.

CD spoke of the rise in homelessness due to a rise in the number of repossessions.

AC reported on the design problems at the newly opened Brunel Court in Lake Road and suggested action is taken to avoid similar problems at the new building for dementia sufferers at Milton.

Environment and Transport: The most recent meeting had been postponed by the Chair, Tim Goodhead.

Education and Lifelong Learning: The main points Geoff Phillpotts (GP) reported were that the Learning Skills Council had been abolished; the under-funding of community education had been raised; and that work is underway to make the agenda of this Board more strategic.

Safer Portsmouth: No meeting had been held.

Community Involvement: GP reported that the Play survey had been based on old figures and, so, needed updating. CD described the new Play Pathfinder for 8 – 13 year olds and members felt that play for older people should also be catered for. A bid for “My Space” would go in next week and, if successful could provide potential for great environmental space activity. JD hoped that PCC would be more generous in releasing land as Somerstown was desperate for public play space - current play space attached to housing was very territorial. NR added that the Cohesion draft plan had been produced; money was not ring-fenced so could not be guaranteed in years 2 and 3.

**Action: MG would raise the issue of land release with Chris Richards, PCC**

**Action: BJOS to contact Chris Richards to enquire if an older persons’ rep could sit on the panel**

**Action: BJOS to circulate draft Cohesion plan**

**5.2 Children and Young People’s Alliance**: BJOS reported:

- Charlie Adie was the new Chair
- CD and Julie Houghton-Thomas (Enable Ability) would be the representatives on the Play Pathfinder group
- There was £20k available for C&YPA training
- She was preparing the Alliance’s Business Plan
- Briefing on 20 May – a flyer to be sent out soon
- She had made links with Southampton and Winchester’s Alliances and was setting up meetings.

There was concern that Fiona White didn’t realise that C&YPA was a part of PCN and SM undertook to convey this information.

**Action: SM to speak to Fiona White**

**5.3 Compact Group and Providers’ Network**

IP explained that these sub-groups are interlinked and members of PCN, and had met in the last couple of months. Recently, just vcs members of the Compact had met and would meet again in two weeks to draw up a list of the organisational benefits of being Compact compliant and what involvement meant. This would be taken back to statutory organisations as a basis for dialogue. A full Compact meeting would take place on 12 May.

A similar meeting of Providers took place last week and formed an action plan for the next full meeting. It needed to think how best to use the group to influence the shaping of services and its delivery.

## 5.4 Local Area Agreement

NR referred to the list of indicators which had been distributed and there was discussion around NI7. NR felt that there was a need for a second representative from PCN.

## 6. Community Network Activities

### 6.1 Representation

BJOS passed round a report which highlighted some of PCN's activities. She went on to mention the possibility of forming an older people's network which would be similar to CYPA but would meet with Lisa Mundy, PCC, who worked with the Prevention Network, to ensure there was no duplication of effort – it may be that PCN could support what already existed instead.

Most of the representation questionnaires had been returned and BJOS distributed an update. It was suggested that potential representatives should attend PCN meetings before they began attending Boards and it was important that they actually had the capacity to be on a Board – it was the Network's responsibility to ensure people weren't put in positions where they couldn't cope. However, TJ said that he and Tunde Bright-Davies felt that representatives shouldn't have to come through PCN and NR said this would need to be investigated to check if that ruling was still valid. Representation training would begin in June; induction packs were not yet ready.

6.2 Conference/Review - Please see Minute No 8.

### 6.3 Budget and Business Plans

Funding for PCN was currently hard-wired by PCCS and BJOS was working with IP to establish independent funding.

## 7. Update: Vision for Portsmouth

MG confirmed that the latest version would be ready for circulation on Thursday.

## 8. Strategic Framework for Community Network

IP went through SM's two-page briefing which had been sent out with the minutes. The government's White Paper would put communities back in control and there was a need to know how best to respond to it. The city had some major questions to address and IP wanted the views of PCN. There was a need to think about its role in this context, it would be good if the Network were able to influence changes. Lengthy discussion followed and it was recognised that there was a need to look at the way the Network functioned. As a result it was decided to return to theme-based meetings beginning with the next meeting on 14 July 2008, the theme being 'Play'. This would be discussed during the first part of the meeting, followed by the business part which would be kept to a

minimum by circulating reports before the meeting. It was also agreed to form a Conference Working group to plan a Conference for later in the year. It might be possible to link this with the LSP or Third Sector Consortium Conferences. Finally, CD mentioned that there was a desperate need for training in procurement and it was suggested that David Pinton, PCC, be contacted.

9. **Any Other Business**

Reorganisation of Strategic Directors, PCC: SM distributed structure charts. NR was concerned that Directors didn't have portfolios and responsibility for children and young people appeared to be split. Reorganisation was carried out without vcs consultation and David Horne (DH) confirmed that Members also had no input. IP said he would raise the issue with David Williams later that afternoon and BJOS would draft a letter to be sent from Tom Morton.

**Action: IP to speak to David Williams**

**Action: BJOS to draft a letter to be sent from Tom Morton.**

10. **Date of Next Meeting – 14 July 2008**

11. There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.05 pm.