

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held in Room 1, East Devon District Council on Wednesday 20th January 2010

Present:	Councillor Jill Elson (Communities Portfolio holder)	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Bob Buxton	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Brenda Taylor	Devon County Council
	Councillor Peter Bowden	Devon County Council
	Peter Jeffs (Culture)	East Devon District Council
	Karime Hassan	East Devon District Council
	John Golding (Housing)	East Devon District Council
	Matt Dickins (Planning)	East Devon District Council
	Ali Eastland	Devon County Council
	Inspector Tony Comerford	Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
	Elli Pang	AGILE, Ottery Later Life Forum, & Ottery Health and Care Team
	Rev. Peter Brain	United Reformed
	Helen Harman	East Devon VSA
	Caroline Lee	East Devon VSA
	Lisa Rutter	Devon Youth Service
	Lucy O'Loughlin	NHS Devon
	Cllr Chris Gibbings	Community Safety Champion
	Cllr Ray Bloxham	Chairman Overview & Scrutiny Committee
	Gerry Moore	Community Safety Officer
	Sue Parkinson	Secretariat

The meeting started at 9.30 a.m. and ended at 11.15 a.m.

***21 Welcome and Introductions**

Cllr Jill Elson welcomed all present and then asked for introductions.

***22 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held on the 21st October 2009 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

*23 **Matters arising from the Minutes**

Minute 17 **‘Survey of Faith Communities’** - Rev. Peter Brain said the survey was now completed and would form part of the agenda of the next meeting of the Officer Group (Thursday 28th January 2010).

*24 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Simon Wood

Liz Wood

Superintendent Phil Kennedy

East Devon Chamber of Commerce

Learning Disabilities Health &

Social Care Partnership

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

*25 **LINK update**

Caroline Lee, East Devon VSA, was asked to attend to give a brief update on LINK Devon. She explained that LINK Devon is a network of groups and individuals who want to make sure that health and social care services are planned and delivered to meet the needs of the people in Devon that use them. It was set up and funded by the Department of Health in 2008.

Caroline said that work and assistance is being carried out in East Devon and referred to the ‘Honiton bungalow’ issue and how the mental health services for Honiton were being reviewed. The ‘Honiton bungalow’ provides in-patient care for older people with dementia but admissions were suspended due to roof repairs being carried out. Work was completed in July 2009 and since that time the Devon Partnership Trust (DPS) has undertaken a wider review of its mental health services with the review process still continuing. Caroline said that the DPS are tied to whatever their budget is, underfunded by 20% and funded similarly to other trusts across the country that provide the same services.

Cllr Bob Buxton referred to the Honiton bungalow issue and said that the husbands and wives of the patients who are resident in the bungalow were concerned about their spouses being sent home. Caroline offered to give Bob her details so they could communicate.

Prompted by a question on funding, Helen Harman said that LINK was funded by the Department of Health and was separate to the money they received from other organisations (e.g. EDDC). EDVSA accounts are on the web site for all to view.

Cllr Miss Elson thanked Caroline for her informative talk.

*26 **Presentation on ‘Single Conversation’**

Karime Hassan, Corporate Director, said his presentation covered 4 components:

- 1) Strategy – our vision, aims, strategies for housing, jobs, people, affordability of housing, regeneration, skills, place shaping, sustainability, design etc.
- 2) Investment required, infrastructure forecast, budgets
- 3) Capacity to deliver
- 4) Delivery plans

Karime said that some of the HCA’s funding will disappear next year and affordable housing funding will also not continue in the same format.

The scope of the HCA's work includes affordable housing, renewable housing stock, regeneration, initiatives in climate change and £10m for growth work in the Exeter area.

The process will be 11 single conversations for the South West area. Devon will be involved in four single conversations:

- 1) Exeter, East Devon and Teignbridge
- 2) The rest of Devon
- 3) Plymouth
- 4) Torbay

Karime then briefly ran through the 4 components of his presentation:

1) 'Strategy' - was about setting out our visions, what investment was required, capacity delivery and delivery plans. He said it was the view of the HCA that unless proposals are identified, and agreed in advance, funding will not be forthcoming. Other regional bodies have become more interested with the Rural Development Agency (RDA) and the Government of the South West (GOSW) also wanting to become involved. Karime emphasised that focus must not just be on housing issues but the need to focus on addressing sustainable economic growth and (environmental) sustainability issues as well as health and education issues.

2) Investment – need to capture how much public and private sector funding is needed for our own area. Investment might not be so sufficient as we would have liked.

3) Capacity to deliver – challenging area, some lack of skills within the development area. Need to identify capacity issues and funding for them.

4) Delivery – this is where the real benefits are – we all have aspirations but we need hard negotiations to achieve delivery.

Karime said the scope of the plan will not only be to cover potential investment, spatial priorities for strategic growth sites, etc but also less obvious matters like gypsy and travellers' issues.

Karime said the end product was the 'local investment plan' which is likely to contain forecasts over a 3 year period (e.g. the life of an LAA) and indications for a longer period (2 years). Ideally this will run as a high level plan for up to 15 years, signed off by the 3 authorities but will be subject to review. Need to get HCA to agree funding.

Karime said that to do this the HCA presented to the Exeter & East Devon New Growth Point Steering Board last September. Two plans had to be produced in the South West before Christmas 2009 (Plymouth and the West of England). The governance structure for the work will be the Exeter and East Devon New Growth Point Steering Board and Karime said an officers meeting would be held this week. This meeting this week would be to look at how the consultation will be undertaken, and then look for, and approach, organisations' lead contacts, following by a workshop exercise.

Peter Jeffs asked how this links in with the LDF process and what would Karime like members of the LSP to take back to their agencies. Karime said that single conversation is about delivery. Whilst the LDF looks at the future plans it does not have a method for delivery e.g. if you have an affordable housing identified, then that is then subject to the LDF but the HCA would want to know if it was going to be delivered before they would set aside funds for it..

John Golding said that to emphasise the single conversation process for the LSP it is important that we get it right – its about resource and capacity issues. If your project investment requirements are not in the plan then it will not get funded. A whole series of projects could be collected and be subject to a prioritisation exercise, so it is critical that we are representing East Devon, as funding could otherwise go to other areas.

Following a useful discussion the Chairman thanked Karime for his presentation.

NB If any Member of the LSP would like a copy of Karime's presentation, please contact Sue.

*27 **Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)**

Peter Jeffs explained that he had produced a paper on ASB together with accompanying appendices and he had also been in receipt of a rather concerned letter from Chief Superintendent Jo Tennant of the Devon & Cornwall Police about national targets around people's perceptions about crime and ASB. Peter said that following a public confidence survey the public were asked, if they believed that the "Police and Council in this area are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime that matter". The national target was 84%. The result for Devon was 77.2%, and remains an issue of some concern. Of all the local policing areas in Devon and Cornwall, East and Mid Devon were the second lowest.

Peter then asked for comments from members present on ASB:

Inspector Tony Comerford

ASB is quite a cumbersome subject and it is quite clear that no single agency tackles the problem. When looking at the legal obligations we end up with a 40 page document which lists the type of intervention that can be done and who the agencies are. Multiple agencies are involved. Lots of work going on through the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and there are processes in plan around ASB. We are now applying for ASB orders. Previously issues concerning the Police not notifying people about ASB issues they had raised. Now feedback included, and the Police do follow on visits. People need to know what the agencies are doing. At a local level the PACT LAG all look to ASB as a theme and raise their issues through panels – (e.g. Section 13 at Littleham, Exmouth that had a huge impact on dispersing ASB).

Rose Tyrell
Senior Housing
Officer (EDDC)

Good liaison between our Council estate tenants, the CSP and the Police – joint visits carried out – huge amount of work carried out prior to a case becoming quite serious and legal. Because of good working relationship able to obtain dispersal order on Littleham, Exmouth. This made a huge difference. People see that agencies cannot be played off against each other. From January 2010 all new Council tenants will be asked to sign an "Introductory Tenancy" which runs for 1 year. If during that period tenancy rules are broken the Council is able to take action sooner rather than later. Satisfaction surveys are carried out and following the format that 'Housemark' recommended so that our performance activities can be benchmarked with other Councils. Surveys only been introduced since last May. Results of the surveys show that people find it easier to report complaints to us and overall we have had an 87% tenant satisfaction level.

Lisa Rutter
Devon Youth Service

Need places for children and young people to go to, and be supported through the CSP. The Youth Service is now being faced with a staff freeze situation and is of great concern to the DYS especially when dealing with the 13 – 19 year olds. Apart from Honiton, all junior provision has had to be closed.

The street based teams however still go out on foot, or with a small mobile unit. Staffing freeze has impacted on all and have had to cut younger cover. The voluntary sector has managed to work with the 9-11 year olds but struggling to cope with the older group without support. The DYS is still trying to work and support them e.g. at Littleham, Exmouth.

Lisa added that the Government wrote a report on resourcing youth services. DYS came low on the list because Youth Services are a preventative service, and are not considered at front line of stopping problems.

DCC has to make savings, everyone is aware of that, but, would welcome support about the status of youth work, recognition of supporting voluntary work, and the need to train up local people.

Lisa concluded by saying that any help the LSP could give in helping to address this issue would be welcomed.

Gerry Moore
(CSP)

Gerry wanted to endorse what Lisa had said but added that engagement with young people was essential. Gerry then referred to Page 18 of the agenda papers (Appendix E) and highlighted the targets shown of those logs was probably the best way of measuring ASB, although far from perfect as a measure. He said that in terms of the log for East Devon, that had fallen. ASB not high – all agencies collectively pulling together and now seeing a result especially in East Devon. Gerry mentioned the 'Trident Theatre Group' which performs a hard hitting production on the dangers of alcohol. The act has been trialed to schools in Dorset and now to be shown at 4 schools in East Devon at a cost of £1,000 per production.

Cllr Chris Gibbings
Community Safety Champion

Cllr Gibbings said that it was the perception of ASB that was key and this issue had to be put into its right place. Agreement reached with hospitals that when people with alcohol related injuries are administered, the hospital to provide the CSP with details of where the alcohol was purchased. This will show the premises that need to be targeted.

Cllr Peter Bowden

Cllr Bowden felt that the problem was with the intention of the new ASB initiatives and asked what was wrong with the last one. He was concerned that front line staff of the DYS were being lost and it was those front line staff who made it possible for the volunteers to carry out their work.

Cllr Bob Buxton

Cllr Buxton explained that he was the Chairman of the Honiton CSP and felt that a lot of the good work done by the DYS would be lost because of the cuts.

Rev. Peter Brain

Rev. Peter referred to Appendix H (Place Survey) and indicated how in the last 3 years fear of crime has dropped. He said that was an encouraging sign. However he felt it was difficult to measure prevention but strongly support the need for the youth workers who are liaising with the voluntary bodies.

Cllr Ray Bloxham
Chairman of Overview &
Scrutiny Co-ordinating
Committee

Cllr Bloxham said that rather than each Council etc to 'scrutinise' each crime and disorder activity, the Government has asked them to look at a joint partnership so a new system is in place.

Peter Jeffs thanked all for their comments and took the opportunity to remind them of the role of the LSP was not to repeat or reinvent what the CSP is doing. The LSP was there to streamline/scrutinise what had been done. He said there were certain fundamental questions including:

- 1) how can we be sure ASB is being addressed?
- 2) how can we be sure ASB is taken seriously?
- 3) how do we jointly publicise the work that is going on to help to change perception
- 4) how do we start to address this perceptions?, and
- 5) how we do as a group influence other agencies?

The Chairman proposed, and seconded by Elli Pang:

that a letter be sent to Mrs. Anne Whiteley, Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services endorsing the work of the DYS and asking what steps the County Council are taking to address this issue.

(NB Since writing these notes Ali Eastland, Community Strategy Officer, Devon County Council, notified the Secretariat to say that the 'East Devon County Committee' have backed the ED Youth Service request for front line staff posts to be retained).

The Chairman proposed, and seconded by Cllr Brenda Taylor:

that the LSP writes to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee to support a Cumulative Impact Zone applied in the centre of Exmouth as the LSP is concerned about the disorder effects resulting from a concentration of premises licensed for alcohol sales. Councillor Mrs. Brenda Taylor seconded the proposal.

(A declaration of interest was declared by Councillor Chris Gibbings)

*28 **Active East Devon and Plan**

Peter Jeffs referred to his report on Active East Devon and to the Action Plan. He said that there was a group which met to try to come up with some strategies and promote more physical activity in East Devon. He said the Action Plan did not contain many new initiatives proposals but there was work going on from the schools.

Peter said that he, as the leading EDDC officer for Active East Devon and Kevin Moran from The Kings School, Ottery St. Mary, were working jointly on this. Peter added that they were liaising with the East Devon Voluntary Support Agency (EDVSA) to try to find a volunteer to assist. Helen Harman, EDVSA Chief Executive was still trying to find a suitable volunteer.

Peter asked the Chairman for endorsement of the plan and to recognise “Active East Devon” as a sub group of the LSP.

The Chairman and all present agreed that Active East Devon would become a sub group of the LSP and that the plan was supported.

*29 **Any other business**

i) **Supporting People**

John Golding explained that ‘Supporting People’ was a programme of housing related support for Devon and is jointly administered by the District and County Councils. He said there was tension at present whereby the Portfolio Holder for Devon County Council wants to remove the joint commissioning arrangements that have been in place for the past 6 years. This Council is not happy with this proposal. The supporting people money actually funds the Council’s sheltered housing wardens, MSOs, support to homeless people and other supported housing accommodation. John said that the Councils have written to Cllr Stuart Barker on this matter setting out the Council’s concerns in relation to a move away from joint commissioning.

The Chairman said that this could be an issue for the LSP as the money could disappear, she agreed that John should send a briefing paper on this to Cllr Peter Bowden.

ii) **Home Safeguard – Sheltered Housing Presentation** – Elli said that at a meeting of the Ottery St. Mary Health Care Team Jill Johnson (Housing Business Manager) did a very useful and informative presentation on ‘Home Safeguard and Sheltered Housing’ including developments on Telecare Ellie suggested that this would be a useful presentation for the LSP and suggested it was arranged for the LSP’s next meeting in April.

The Chairman asked Sue to arrange for Jill Johnson to give a presentation to the LSP at its next meeting in April.

iii) **Senior Council for Devon (SCfD)** – The Chairman reported that a useful meeting had been held with members from the Senior Council for Devon and Officers and herself from EDDC. It was agreed at that meeting that a member from the SCfD would sit on the LSP at future meetings. Elli replied that she was in contact with the SCfD and either she will also represent them or they will nominate one of their members to attend.

The Chairman asked Elli to let Sue know who would be representing the SCfD on the LSP.

*30 **Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership would be held on Wednesday 7th April 2010, 9.15 a.m. for 9.30 a.m. start in the Committee Room, Council Offices, Knowle, Sidmouth.

Signed

Date

Chairman LSP – Councillor Miss Jill Elson