

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership Board held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Thursday, 18 July 2024 from 10.00 am – 11.42 am.

Present: Councillors

Sarah Nelmes (Chair)
Andrew Scarth
Andrea Fraser
Rue Grewal

Officers in Attendance:

Shivani Dave, Partnerships Manager
Michelle Wright, Community Safety & Safeguarding Manager
Kimberley Grout, Associate Director – Corporate, Customer & Community
Antonia Mori, Health Engagement Officer
Anita Hibbs, Committee Officer

External in Attendance:

Paraic McKenna, Hertfordshire County Council
Priyanka Gandhi, One Vision
Susannah Brunert, One Vision
Karen Stephanou, Watford FC Community, Sports and Education Trust
Peta Mettam, Citizens Advice Service
Katharine Southin, (work experience)
Brad Hughes, Parmiter's School, (representing SW Herts Secondary Schools)
Peter Cogan, Watford Community Housing
Rebecca Stone, North Watford Primary Care Network
Elspeth Mackenzie, Thrive Homes
Mickaela Foster Osborne, Home Start, Watford & Three Rivers
Rosalind Nerio, South West Herts Health & Care Partnership
Maria Kyriacou, Integrated Care Board
Jim Moran, Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
Andrew Palfreyman, Hertfordshire Constabulary
Danielle Levy, Herts MIND Network
Amanda Williams, Watford & Three Rivers Trust
Shirish Chauhan, Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce
Kips Green, Services for Young People
Caroline Smart, West Herts College

LSP1/24 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves individually.

LSP2/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Miranda Gittos, Enoch Kanagaraj, Keith Harland, Tamara Valmas, Bob Jones, Margaret Gallagher

Councillor Sarah Nelmes substituting for Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

LSP3/24 MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING, NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

The minutes of the Local Strategic Partnership Board meeting, held on 20 March 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

LSP4/24 ELECTION

Councillor Sarah Nelmes proposed that Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst be appointed as Chair of the Local Strategic Partnerships Board, and Bob Jones be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Local Strategic Partnerships Board for the municipal year 2024/25.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst be appointed as Chair of the Local Strategic Partnerships Board, and Bob Jones be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Local Strategic Partnerships Board for the municipal year 2024/25.

LSP5/24 HOT TOPICS

Councillor Andrew Scarth reported that during a recent event at the Chorleywood Village Day, the neighbourhood watch initiative promoted 'Herts Connect' to local residents in an effort to boost membership. The previous programme, Owl, had successfully engaged 180,000 households across the county, and the transition to 'Herts Connected' aims to continue that success.

Councillor Scarth encouraged signs ups at the event, highlighting the importance of community involvement in the ongoing process.

The Susannah Brunert, from One Vision spoke about the newly launched Cancer Champions Program, a partnership between One Vision and Macmillan Cancer Support, aimed at enhancing cancer support services in Watford and Three Rivers. The program emphasizes the recruitment of local volunteers to raise awareness about cancer symptoms, promote early screening, and gather community experiences to identify necessary changes in cancer care. Focus will be given to underserved communities, particularly Asian, African, and Caribbean populations, who face poorer cancer outcomes. The initiative seeks collaboration with diverse community members to maximize its impact.

Paraic McKenna provided key updates regarding the leadership and various services of Hertfordshire County Council, (HCC). He announced the appointment of Angie Ridgewell as the new Chief Executive, who will officially start at the end of September but has begun working part-time. He also highlighted positive outcomes from a recent CQC review of Adult Care Services, which received a 'good' rating, and mentioned the annual priorities of Children's Services with a focus on supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Additionally, he spoke about the signing of the Care Leaver covenant and the rebranding of the local enterprise partnership to Hertfordshire Futures, which has launched the Invest Hertfordshire portal to attract commercial investment. Lastly, he spoke about the initiation of an organisational resource review at the council, emphasizing the sensitivity of staff during this process.

Councillor Sarah Nelmes reported the recent meeting of Herts Growth Board, highlighting the transition of chairmanship to Jeremy Newmark, the Leader of Hertsmere; a proactive leader focused on delivering results.

Elsbeth Mackenzie advised of the ongoing initiatives in Hertfordshire aimed at supporting economic and community development. Elspeth highlighted the establishment of working groups that include representatives from housing associations, local authorities, and

healthcare sectors. Its focus is on addressing housing issues through the 'right home, right place' initiative, indicating a collaborative approach to tackle housing challenges.

Chief Inspector Andrew Palfreyman of Hertfordshire Constabulary provided key updates on the ongoing strategies focused on crime prevention and harm reduction. He highlighted recent trends in domestic abuse, crime reporting, and various types of offences, including residential burglary and shoplifting. He noted an increase in reported domestic abuse cases and emphasised the importance of accurate crime recording. The Constabulary's outcome rates are commendable, particularly in shoplifting and residential burglary. He also addresses challenges such as theft of motor vehicles and keyless car thefts, while outlining proactive measures being implemented, including collaboration with local businesses and community engagement initiatives.

LSP6/24 HEALTH

Health and Care Partnership

Rosalind Nerio and Maria Kyriacou provided an update on the South and West Hertfordshire Health and Care Partnership (SWH HCP), which is a collaboration of various health and care organisations aimed at improving health services in the region.



4 HCP update to
LSP.pptx

Shivani Dave, Partnerships Manager spoke about a local partnership focused on tackling childhood obesity. Shivani offered to facilitate an invitation to the meeting for SWH HCP and ICB highlighting the potential interest of schools in the initiative.

Karen Stephanou from Watford FC Community, Sport and Education (CSE) Trust highlighted the importance of trust and collaboration in delivering programs aimed at children and young people. She spoke about existing initiatives such as 'Joy of Moving,' which is funded through the FL and implemented in schools. She emphasised the need for a conversation about utilising available services in the southwest, including programs from Watford Football Club and Community Trust. A strategy, launched in January 2024 focuses on improving physical activity and mental health services across various age groups, including children, young adults, and seniors. Additionally, specific programs like dementia care, falls prevention were also mentioned, and the potential for connecting with other ongoing initiatives to provide better support.

Peta Mettam highlighted the efforts of Citizens Advice in Three Rivers (CASTR) in addressing social determinants of health, particularly in relation to disability benefits. She explained that a significant number of inquiries could be handled by advice agencies instead of GPs, emphasising the importance of financial resources for maintaining health at home. She also spoke about CASTR's responses to government papers on Employment Support Allowance and Personal Independence Payment (PIP), expressing concerns about potential reductions in benefits and the impact on individuals' health and access to essential services. The representatives from CASTR and One Vision discussed the need for collaboration with other agencies to support an upcoming paper due on the 22nd of the month. One participant expressed the importance of connecting with other relevant agencies to gather necessary input for the paper, indicating a proactive approach to ensure comprehensive contributions.

Paraic McKenna mentioned a new initiative called 'Data Inspired Living' at HCC that utilises technology and artificial intelligence to assist residents in remaining in their homes. The program focuses on analysing movement patterns and living habits to enhance family connections and customise care plans, reducing the need for more invasive care options. This

initiative has also been recognised with an award at the recent local government awards, highlighting its significance and potential impact in the field of elderly care.

Andrew Palfreyman explained the strategic approach of departments at headquarters focused on investigating offenses against vulnerable adults, highlighting the potential for utilising existing data to support overarching objectives. He also emphasised the role of local neighbourhood policing teams in responding to various calls and expressed a willingness to engage in further discussions to improve referral processes. He noted a challenge where local officers may forget to follow up on available resources, suggesting the need for more sustainable solutions to ensure consistent support for vulnerable individuals.

Jim Moran, from Herts Fire & Rescue Services explained that one of the roles of the fire service is delivering safe and well visits, also known as home fire safety visits, which encompass not only fire safety advice but also health and wellbeing support. He highlighted the collaborative efforts with public health and adult care services from HCC to identify individuals in need of these visits. He expressed a desire for more up-to-date information to prioritise those at higher risk and mentioned a specific incident involving a mental health crisis that underscores the importance of their work in preventing emergencies.

Elsbeth Makenzie from Thrive Homes stressed the importance of regular contact with residents, particularly those who may not actively reach out for assistance. She highlighted the challenges faced when identifying residents with potential issues, noting that many do not meet the threshold for intervention despite needing help. She suggested that linking residents to voluntary services could provide the necessary support early on, potentially preventing more significant problems in the future.

Danielle Levy from Herts MIND Network discussed the significance of voluntary sector services in providing support to individuals who may not qualify for statutory services due to various reasons, such as not meeting certain thresholds or having dual diagnoses. She highlighted the success of their 'Bounce back' service, which assists with hospital discharges. She spoke about a compelling example of a patient who frequently visited Lister Hospital, attending 253 times in one year, but was able to stop these visits after receiving support from the voluntary sector. She emphasised the need for effective pathways and referrals to ensure that vulnerable individuals receive the necessary care.

Shivani Dave, Partnerships Manager acknowledged a valuable point made by the previous speaker regarding the importance of connecting the third sector locally and logged an action on this suggestion and mentioned that she has compiled a list of introductions based on the discussions held.

Shivani Dave, Partnerships Manager requested to swap the order of **Place Based Health Inequalities** item with the **Healthy Hub** update.

Healthy Hub

Antonia Mori, Health Engagement Officer outlined the role and impact of Healthy Hubs in the Three Rivers area, where she explained their initiatives and services.



6 Three Rivers
Healthy Hub.pptx

Shivani Dave, Partnerships Manager highlighted the significant improvements in the Healthy Hub service over recent years, particularly after bringing the service back in-house in 2022, which has led to a more uniform approach across the district. Engagement numbers have quadrupled, indicating a substantial increase in outreach efforts. However, there has been a notable decline in referrals from partner organisations. The officer suggested exploring new

referral processes, particularly with housing associations, to enhance support for residents with health needs, potentially strengthening connections with third-sector organisations.

Elsbeth Mackenzie from Thrive Homes stressed the importance of signposting individuals towards support services while highlighting the inherent challenges. She emphasised that while signposting can guide people, the ultimate responsibility lies with the individual to take the first step, which often serves as a significant barrier. The speaker noted the limitations in providing direct support services due to financial constraints and lack of expertise, indicating that they cannot offer personal assistance to help individuals access the help they need. Despite these challenges, they maintain a comprehensive signposting program aimed at directing individuals to available resources.

Shivani Dave, Partnerships Manager talked about a series of community health initiatives aimed at increasing awareness and accessibility to health services through various events held at healthy hubs. Key activities included; awareness days for Black History Month, cancer awareness, Carers Week, and National Obesity Week. The officer highlighted successful strategies such as pop-up events in low-engagement areas and collaboration with GP surgeries during flu clinics to raise awareness and referrals. Looking ahead, the establishment of a new healthy hub in Abbots Langley is a priority, along with improving partnerships and increasing outreach in isolated communities.

Priyanka Gandhi from One Vision requested the potential for collaboration between partners, specifically suggesting that One Vision could participate in monthly drop-in sessions. The speaker emphasised the mutual benefits of this collaboration, highlighting various services offered by One Vision, such as the food hub, carers services, and cancer programs. The aim is to explore ways to work together effectively after the current meeting.

Councillor Andrew Scarth highlighted the alarming increase in vaping among young people, particularly in schools, where students use flavoured vapes under the guise of going to the restroom. He expressed concern over the health risks associated with vaping, noting its toxicity and potential to harm brain development. He also emphasised the need for stronger regulations, including a potential ban on single use vapes, to combat this growing issue, even as smoking rates decline.

Place Based Health Inequalities

Shivani Dave, Partnerships Manager talked about a 2023-24 project funded by HCC aimed at addressing health inequalities in South Oxhey, particularly focusing on financial deprivation as a significant factor affecting health outcomes and inequalities.



5 PBHI update.pptx

Amanda Williams from Watford & Three Rivers Trust spoke about a recent partnership with Ascend.. She highlighted various clubs and facilities available, including the Dig Deep Garden, which are currently underutilised. The speaker emphasised the importance of addressing social isolation and promoting activities such as volunteering and exercising. She expressed a commitment to increasing awareness of these resources and encourage sharing information to boost participation in local initiatives funded by HCC's Adult Daycare Services.

LSP7/24 CONNECTING THREE RIVERS

LSP structure

Kimberley Grout, Associate Director – Corporate, Customer & Community presented a proposed restructuring of the Local Support Partnerships (LSP) to enhance collaboration and reduce redundancy among existing subgroups.



7 LSP Structure.pptx

Amanda Williams spoke about the various community engagement initiatives undertaken by Watford and Three Rivers Trust (W3RT). Key activities include organising 'getting together' clubs for elderly individuals, conducting anti-frailty workshops, and providing digital training to enhance the use of the NHS app among patients. W3RT is also collaborating with local businesses and health services to foster safer and healthier communities. The speaker expressed a desire to contribute their skills and expertise to ongoing community projects and initiatives.

The discussion then focused on prioritising care leavers and SEND young people regarding employment opportunities. Kips Green from Services for Young People emphasised the importance of this issue and expressed willingness to address it within the Youth Strategy Group. The conversation also highlighted the need for collaboration with other partners, including the chamber of commerce, to effectively support these initiatives.

Connecting Three Rivers

Shivani Dave, Partnerships Manager talked about the launch of a community grant initiative called 'Connecting Three Rivers', which has raised £659 through a community raffle and will be supplemented by the UK Share Prosperity Fund, totalling £4,659. This grant pot will be managed by Watford and Three Rivers Trust, allowing local partners to bid for funding. The board is tasked with prioritising areas of the community strategy for these projects and forming an advisory group to evaluate the bids. The grant application process is expected to open in September, with funds allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, aiming for completion by the end of January 2025. The officer encouraged interested members to participate in the advisory group.

Action – the areas to grant fund are to be emailed out to the LSP Board for prioritisation. LSP Board members will need to nominate members for the Advisory Group.

LSP8/24 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/THEMES

LSP workplan

Thriving Environment

Terms of Reference

LSP9/24 DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

26 September 2024

12 December 2024

19 March 2025

CHAIRMAN