

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

of a joint meeting of the **Local Strategic Partnership Board** held on Wednesday 22 March 2023 at Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth, WD3 1RL from 10am to 11.20am.

Participants:

Cllr Sarah Nelmes (Chair)	Leader of Three Rivers District Council
Shivani Davé (SD)	Three Rivers District Council
Tina Barnard (TB)	Watford Community Housing
Margaret Gallagher (MG)	Ascend
Matt Chatfield (MC)	HCC
Cllr Terry Douris (TD)	Hertfordshire County Council
Keith Harland (KH)	Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Bob Jones (BJ)	Watford & Three Rivers Trust
Stewart Moulding (SM)	Hertfordshire Police
Cllr Roger Seabourne (RS)	Member, Three Rivers District Council
Emma Sheridan (ES)	Three Rivers District Council
Caroline Smart (CS)	West Herts College
Louis Sandford (LS)	MHLDA Health & Care Partnership
Lorna Attwood	Three Rivers District Council

LSP 28/22 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Michael Nadasdy, Elspeth Mackenzie, Miranda Gittos, Peta Mettam and Saffron Johnson

LSP 29/22 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership/Community Safety Board held on 25 January 2023 were agreed to be an accurate account.

LSP 30/22 **HOT TOPICS**

A brief round-the-table update of any hot topics from each partner agency.

BJ advised there is a lot going on at W3RT and asked to provide an update at a future meeting as to what the organisation does.

Action SD to add future agenda item.

KH said HS2 was updating its plans and would like to do a multi-agency exercise with the local authority as it represents a big risk. Although HS2 oversees the whole project, Align is the company drilling the tunnel and KH said they were very professional and would welcome collaboration with TRDC. Some testing should be done.

Action ES to discuss with senior leadership to organise.

TB had just heard that the social housing decarbonisation fund bid has been successful. Work shared with LEP on skills agenda.

MC said the new HCC budget was approved for 23/24. The Leader of HCC had written to Mayor of London expressing concern about the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). The Chair said Three Rivers did too, and the good news is that there are areas of exclusion in the zone which will benefit some residents.

TD said Secondary transfer took place on 1 March, with continued interest list to run from 24-29 March. This year has been relatively peaceful, and a good number of children received a place at one of their four preferences. Good and outstanding OFSTED reports were at over 90%. There was concern over the distribution of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which was allocated to districts and boroughs. A big issue at present surrounds special educational needs, and there is a lot of work to do to provide places in the short, medium and longer term. Much of the problem is down to Covid and the resultant lockdowns, which have led to behavioural issues.

LSP 31/22

COMMUNITY STRATEGY

ES reviewed the feedback from the workshop that took place at the previous meeting, with the aim of agreeing the emerging vision, objectives, outcomes and priorities of the Community Strategy for 2023-26.



LSP Community
Strategy 2023.03.22.p

ES proposed that the goals be adopted as a partnership, with the aim of working with communities, not dictating to them.

The Strategy would be accompanied by an action plan.

TB asked whether there might be too many goals at the risk of nothing being done. The Chair suggested it may be worth selecting the top five points for action. BJ thought 'sustainable development goals' was too vague, and asked whether it referred to a reduction of inequalities or eradication of need, poverty and more specific issues. ES replied that health inequality emerged as a priority and is also something for which there is funding. The impact of the cost-of-living crisis was a clear concern.

The Chair said working as a partnership is very productive. TD referred to the imagery and said the page numbering suggested prioritising had been decided. ES replied that the numbers were already on the report but would amend to reflect local thinking. MG said that 'inequality' encompasses everything. ES hoped to bring the strategy back to the next LSP meeting. Organisations would be asked for input and an action plan put together and taken to a future meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership Board.

LSP 32/22

FOCUS THEME: HEALTH

SD presented to the Board on Place Based Health Inequalities, specifically relating to breast cancer.

Last year saw the re-establishing of the Three Rivers Health and Wellbeing Partnership. Following public and partner consultation, topics for focus were long term health conditions including mental health, healthy weight, frailty in older people and cancer, especially breast cancer and the screening therefor.

At the beginning of the financial year £30,000 was received to tackle health inequalities, and it was decided to focus on breast cancer as the rate of screening was well down on national and county levels. Low income and accessibility were the cause of a lack of take-up, and the Community

Partnerships Team are working with GPs towards contacting those who didn't engage with invitations for screening & providing transport for their appointments, and it was hoped this would increase the numbers being screened.

It was also intended to raise awareness of cancer through "time to check" sessions at the Healthy Hub in South Oxhey. The first would focus on lung Cancer with the emphasis on stopping smoking. NHS partners would be invited to become involved.

A mental health project, to be run by Watford FC CSE Trust, would take place at William Penn Leisure Centre, with the aim of encouraging men over 18 to build a social network by playing some football, and chatting with similarly-affected individuals over a cup of tea and a biscuit, and being introduced to local support services. There were also plans to organise cooking sessions for families in South Oxhey who were at risk from poor health and social isolation, working with the Watford Afro-Caribbean Association.

KH asked if there was a link between the lack of screening and an increase in breast cancer cases. The Chair said early detection was key, and KH surmised that early detection should reduce cases.

TD asked if the team works with the library in South Oxhey, to which SD replied that the Healthy Hub is based there. It was stated that a major issue is that public transport in South Oxhey is awful, so it's very difficult for people to get anywhere for screening.

POST MEETING NOTE

ES had to leave the meeting but prior to doing so provided a brief update on the UKSPF.

Money had been made available from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It was received 6 weeks ago, to was to be spent by the end of March, but as the time period was so short, it was carried over to the next financial year. Some projects had started, but the bulk would be after April. SN said a lot of time was spent putting bids together for submission, only for them to often be rejected by a civil servant somewhere. There must surely be a better and more efficient way of pitching for funding.

RS mentioned the need for lateral thinking in matters such as those mentioned, and asked who'd have thought a lack of buses was behind increased cancer cases.

Louis Sanford, Programme Manager at Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism Health and Care Partnership presented on the integrated models of primary and community mental health care that would support residents with severe mental illnesses.



Item 03b Primary
and Community Trar

Following the presentation, SN said Housing Associations and the police were often able to identify mental health issues first, and that ASB was frequently due to mental health. TB said LS could be provided with contacts to assist the agency's work. MG asked how the voluntary sector links in with the agency, and LS said there was a plan to move away from grants funding and towards partnership arrangements.

The Chair said BJ was the head of the CVS for Watford and Three Rivers and could help with assembling a joined-up network. BJ was also Chair of Herts Community Navigation Service, of which a primary aim was to establish effective mental health referral pathways, and Chair of the Herts Community Leaders Forum which was due to meet this week, at which LS would be welcome. Amongst subjects to be covered were how the voluntary sector can align data collection.

TD asked if BJ recalled the Connect Hertfordshire body from some years ago, and asked if it was now the Herts Community Leaders Board. BJ had been involved with many bodies over the years, and that perhaps a conversation should take place outside the meeting.

SD mentioned the strong link for mental health support that was available within Three Rivers, and collaboration with partners. LS said Hertfordshire didn't suffer from a lack of support services but the co-ordination is the issue.

LSP 33/22 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/THEMES

SD asked if anyone would like to present or hear about anything specific at future LSP meetings, in addition to Bob Jones. There were no responses.

LSP 34/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

Tuesday 20 June 2023
Wednesday 27 September 2023
Wednesday 13 December 2023
Wednesday 20 March 2024

CHAIR