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Devon Strategic Partnership Delivery Board Meeting 15th January 2009 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary HQ, Middlemoor, Exeter Minutes

Present: Phil Norrey, Devon County Council (Chair for this meeting)
Karen O'Donnell, GOSW
Steve Pitcher, North Devon District Council
Philip Bostock, Exeter City Council
Kevin Snee, Devon PCT
Neil Gibbins, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue
David Incoll, West Devon Borough and South Hams District Councils
Karen Chapman, Job Centre Plus
Robert Dinnis, Torridge District Council
Karen Kay, Plymouth City Council
Steve Douglas, Environment Agency
Alistair Macintosh, Devon Consortium (representing the VCS)
(Caroline Rae, DCC, Devon Strategic Partnership Development Officer)
(Sara Cretney, DCC, Local Area Agreement Development Officer)
(Rob Hetherington, DCC, Head of Economic Analysis and Strategy)

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from received from Jo Tennant, Devon and Cornwall Police (Chair); Elizabeth Raikes (Torbay Council); Chris France (DNPA); Nicola Bulbeck (Teignbridge District Council); Gerald Hirsch (Mid Devon District Council); John Peart, (LSC); Andrew Southall (SWRDA); Martin Green (Audit Commission); Mark Williams (East Devon District Council); (Sally Foxhall – Chair of Devon Strategic Partnership).

2) Minutes of last meeting and Action List. Minutes approved.

Action List/ Matters Arising:

- a) **Healthier and Stronger Communities Partnership.** Phil Norrey updated the group about the progress towards setting up this group. A planning meeting was held on Monday 12th January, involving David Johnstone, Virginia Pearson, Ian Tearle, Sue Craythorne and a representative of the Voluntary Sector Consortium, Karen Nolan. It was agreed that as phase one of developing the Partnership, a group of around 12 key players would be assembled for a first meeting of the new partnership to take place in early March. This group would include the two VCS representatives already nominated, together with senior officers from each of the key strategic statutory services. The remit of this executive group would be:

- To steer the development of a wider stakeholder group / partnership
- To oversee the work programmes of the 8 strategic planning groups which would report to it
- To oversee the implementation of The Way Ahead action plan
- To monitor performance against the key national indicators - particularly those designated within the LAA
- To prepare as necessary for the CAA
- To ensure that appropriate accountability arrangements are in place, including communication with the DSP Delivery Board and Partnership Board

The first meeting of the Partnership will be in early March, with invitations being sent out as soon as practicable. Alistair Macintosh noted a concern that there was no date yet set for the 1st meeting of the full partnership; Phil considered the group would aim to set up the full partnership early in the new financial year; if CAA fieldwork is happening in July, the partnership needs to be up and running by then.

- b) **Resource Hub.** Sara Cretney updated the group. Richard Scott, a senior strategic analyst in the Police is starting work on secondment as Strategic Intelligence Lead for the resource hub on 2nd February. His first task will be to undertake an audit of resources re strategic intelligence and a needs analysis. Money has now been received from the RIEP

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for the secondment of a project manager to plan the implementation of the resource hub. David Incoll reminded the group that South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council had someone in post supporting this work across the two districts very effectively and it would be good to link with the resource hub more closely as it develops.

- c) **Joint Declaration of Equality.** Organisations represented around the table not yet signed up were asked to consider doing so. Caroline to circulate the list of those already signed up with the minutes (attached to action list below).
- d) **Duty to Involve** - paper will be coming back to DSP Delivery Board probably at their Aril meeting
- e) **CAA** – David Incoll raised a concern about the possible inconsistency that could occur between CAA inspectors who can comment on the relevance of LAA priorities chosen and targets agreed, and Govt who may have strongly influenced the choice of indicators, and negotiated the targets. Partnerships must show they have listened to citizens and consulted widely, then thought carefully about how to develop priorities. They need to evidence why they have reached the decisions they have, recognising political and partnership influences. Further discussion revolved around the need to engage with vulnerable groups. It was felt to be important that auditors do not say that what was decided in the past is not good enough now – retrospectively applying standards of engagement.
- f) All other actions completed / ongoing.

3) Local Area Agreement

- a) **Performance.** The board noted that it was proposed that new RAG reports would be prepared every quarter, available to the DSP Delivery Board together with regular exception reports. At meetings not coinciding with new RAG reports, Local Area Agreement leads would notify Sara of changes to risks and to performance. With regard to the current report Sara was pleased that risks had been identified rather than ignored and were being managed well. Karen O'Donnell asked that the performance reports always named National Indicators as well as Local Area Agreement priorities, in order to maximise the uses to which the reports could be put.
- b) **Refresh.** Govt had planned that the forthcoming refresh of the Local Area Agreement contain only small modifications to add in targets where none had existed and to make small changes to wording. There was discussion as to whether such a small change was appropriate in the current circumstances, with a significant economic downturn. After a full discussion it was agreed that the DSP Delivery Board wished to be pragmatic but also not driven by Govt process. Therefore they agreed to:
 - i) Consult theme leads re the immediate impact of the economic downturn
 - ii) Commission work re the structural impact on the Local Area Agreement long term.
 - iii) That for this short term refresh we would ask for changes only where evidence was readily available
 - iv) That in the medium term, when the work had been done to decide if priorities needed to change or new things needed to be added, a conversation would be had with GOSW about revision of the Local Area Agreement; this would not necessarily be linked to the timing of next year's refresh.

As a result of these decisions, Karen O'Donnell said she would modify the review report that was going to CLG the following day. In order to effect sign off of the finished refresh within the deadlines, it was agreed that Phil Norrey and Jo Tennant could together act on behalf of the DSP Delivery Board.

- c) **Review of the Local Area Agreement.** A draft of the report that GOSW planned to send to CLG had been circulated. Karen O'Donnell confirmed that the style, format and even wording of the report had constraint set by gov't, with in a few set paragraphs being the only choice in several parts. Karen felt Devon was on the middle path – not failing in its Local Area Agreement and not yet excelling. In terms of overall progress there were some real areas of best practice, innovation and continuous improvement. Following discussion some specific changes to the report were agreed.
- d) **LPSA2 reward grant.** A position statement was circulated. This showed how much reward grant had been or was likely to have been earned, and whether the target was in or was relevant to any current LAA target. Work was underway by theme leads to develop


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business cases for each one where it was. Phil Norrey said that the DSP Delivery Board needed to take a view about how the money was spent using this info in conjunction with a finance report which will have a set of recommendations for using the money; this will come to the March meeting of the DSP Delivery Board. It was ultimately a Devon County Council political decision, but Phil would take the recommendations of the DSP Delivery Board and steer an open process that would help ensure the money helps the Local Area Agreement. Some decisions that are not controversial have had to be made or will be made shortly where jobs are depending on it.

- 4) **Sustainable Community Strategy champions.** The report was noted. Anyone else wishing to volunteer to be a champion should contact Caroline.
 - 5) **Economic Downturn.** The paper, supported by Rob Hetherington, Head of Economic Analysis at Devon County Council, was welcomed by the DSP Delivery Board. All partners are requested to contact Caroline/ Rob with further information, anecdotal or evidenced, about the economic downturn from their own organisations, so Rob can build up a fuller county wide picture of how the economic downturn is affecting Devon.
 - 6) **The Way Ahead.** The completed document was circulated to DSP Delivery Board. It was welcomed as a really good document, well received nationally, and as an example of best practice in joint working. Responding to a query about the relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector, Kevin Snee replied that this would become clearer during the operational planning that could now be undertaken.
- 7) **DONM**
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| 11 th March 2009 | 10.00 a.m.-12.00 p.m. West Devon Borough Council, Tavistock |
| 29 th April 2009 | 10.00 a.m.-12.00 p.m. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue, Exeter |
| 9 th July 2009 | 10.00 a.m.-12.00 p.m. JCP Exeter (tbc) |

Further meeting dates to be advised at the next meeting

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION	WHO	HOW REPORT?
2c	Organisations not yet signed up to the Joint Declaration for Equality to consider doing so	All	Email Sarah Mupinyuri  organisations signed up to Joint Declaratio
3a	Reporting to include NI numbers	Sara	Changes to reporting format
3b	i) Consult theme leads re the immediate impact of the economic downturn ii) Commission work re the structural impact on the Local Area Agreement long term. iii) That for this short term refresh we would ask for changes only where evidence was readily available	Sara Sara/ Rob Hetherington Sara	Report progress to next meeting

