

DEVON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP DSP Partnership Board

8 October 2008

Present:-

Mrs Sally Foxhall (Independent Chair), Councillor Adrian Fullam (Exeter City Council), Councillor John Tucker (South Hams District Council), Councillor Brian Greenslade (Devon County Council), Mr John Bunting (Devon Consortium) Councillor James McInnes (West Devon Borough Council), Councillor Peter Hare-Scott (Mid Devon District Council), Chief Superintendent Jo Tennant (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary), Dr E Moffatt (Faith Sector), Mr Tim Jones (Devon Economic Partnership), Mr David Radford (Devon PCT), Mr Paul Gompertz (Environment Devon), Mr Trevor Smale (Dartmoor National Park Authority), Mrs Sara Cretney (LAA Development Officer) Mrs Caroline Rae (DSP Development Officer)

1 **Apologies**

Ian Thompson (SWRDA)
Peter Cloke (GOSW)
Karen O'Donnell (GOSW)
Cllr Anne Fry (Devon Fire and Rescue Authority)

2 **Welcome from the Chair**

The Chair welcomed delegates back after the summer break.

Delegates were advised of two current consultation documents;

- 1) The Comprehensive Area Assessment – the deadline for responses was 20th October. Whilst all organisations were able to make their own responses, the County Council was collating a joint response between itself and the District Council.
- 2) Statutory Guidance on Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities – the Chair added that whilst the Partnership Board was meeting almost all of the requirements, there was a need for further focus on the 'duty to involve', which became legislative from April 2009.

Finally, delegates asked that their thanks to Roland Pyle, for all his hard work (especially for the negotiations around the LAA), be placed on record.

3 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2008 be signed as a correct record, subject to a minor amendment on page 4 (West Devon Borough Council).

4 **Strategic Review of Health and Social Care**

Jayne Carroll (Director of Strategic Commissioning) gave a verbal update on the Strategic Review of Health and Social Care and how to take forward the findings of 'The Way Ahead' (Joint Strategic Framework for Health and Social Care in Devon 2008-11)

The review was strategically linked to the 'Direction of Travel' and had six core aims to take forward in delivery.

There had been positive responses to the consultation on the strategy, but a revised version had been produced to take account of comments received particularly in relation to Carers and Disabilities and also to reflect new targets from the Strategic Health Authority.

The next stage was detailed Delivery Plans for each service area containing clear measures and an assessment of the impact on the services.

Questions / Discussion:

- There were concerns over how the new process might be communicated to smaller voluntary sector groups to enable their better involvement;
- That there needed to be further work done around the issue of 'a healthy workforce' given the number of days lost (particularly public sector figures) through ill health;
- The importance of continual communication and education – particularly when the manner in which services were delivered had changed (e.g. use of community hospitals);
- To note the current consultation on the role of pharmacies and the importance of surgery based pharmacy services in rural areas.

RESOLVED

(a) that Ms Carroll be thanked for attending the meeting; and

(b) that the Joint Commissioning Group be asked to review 3rd sector involvement, from a strategic perspective, giving particular attention to structures and governance.

5

Joint Declaration of Equality

The Board considered a report on the Joint Declaration of Equality which had been developed in close collaboration with equality officers and other partners across Devon through the Equality Strategy and Scrutiny Group (ESSG). This was in light of equality being adopted as one of the cross-cutting themes for both the Sustainable Community Strategy and LAA.

The declaration took account of the new equality duties that related to the statutory sector but also reflected the context and contribution of other partners. Whilst it was not intended to replace the equality schemes of partners to the DSP, it had been designed to make a clear statement of intent on the part of the DSP.

The declaration contained a definition of an equal society, a vision of equality and fairness for Devon and a commitment statement.

Questions / Discussion:

- That the ESSG now had a clear sense of purpose and the next step was for the group to become more strategically involved;
- That most public sector organisations performed Equality Impact Needs Assessments (although there was no requirement for Voluntary Sector organisations to do likewise) and the Joint Declaration was in the spirit of these.
- The need to be aware of the timings (democratic) within different organisations for accepting the declaration before 'sign up' could take place; it was hoped that many partners could sign up at the Conference in November;
- Replace the wording 'loud minority voice' with 'minority voices are better heard';
- Inclusion of a stronger reference to the business community; and
- That further feedback was welcomed and comments should be forwarded to the Development Officers.

RESOLVED;

- (a) that the Joint Declaration of Equality be adopted by the Devon Strategic Partnership (subject to the minor amendments as described above);
- (b) that the Board invites all participants, at the next DSP Conference, to sign up to the Joint Declaration;
- (c) that the Board asks all of those leading work on behalf of the DSP to sign up to the Joint Declaration; and
- (d) that the progress of the ESSG be noted.

6 Update on Work with Migrant Workers

Delegates received a verbal update from Ian Hobbs (Community Strategy Officer) on progress with the migrant workers project. An example of the welcome pack for migrant workers was circulated to delegates. There had been approximately 1000 issued so far.

He advised that the website had been updated with the welcome pack. This gave advice and guidance about a wide range of issues, including welcome to Devon, driving, housing, emergency services, money, working, education, health, transport and community life. The site also provided information about what is expected of migrants as members of local communities on issues such as customs.

Furthermore, a report was circulated which contained the latest statistical information on migrant workers. The data appeared to show that there had been a slight decline in numbers and highlighted national and regional activities around this particular subject. For example, the impact of the new points based system, language issues, the work of the Regional Assembly in co-ordinating actions, the interest of local employers and the work of the North Devon Migrant Workers Forum.

Delegates raised concerns that there should be no duplication in this area of work and also provided further evidence to support the notion that numbers of migrant workers had indeed reached a plateau (e.g. police use of interpreters).

RESOLVED;

- (a) to note the update on migrant workers;
- (b) that delegates receive an electronic copy of the data report; and
- (c) that the **revised** migrant workers task group action plan be brought back to a future meeting of the Partnership Board.

7 Update on the Work of the Devon Consortium

Delegates received a verbal update from John Bunting (DACVS) on the work of the Devon Consortium.

He circulated a copy of the 'Devon Consortium Newsletter' which explained how the Consortium had been established in line with Government requirements. It also highlighted the management structure (Board, Consortium, VCS Assembly and communities of interest) as well as what had been achieved and what coming up in the near future.

Mr Bunting added that the Consortium had obtained funding which had been used for collaboration, partnership and representation work. Further funding bids had been submitted relating to Services to Grassroots and Volunteering but the outcome of these would not be known until approximately December 2008.

Discussions took place on;

- How capacity would be provided to carry the planned work through to completion;
- The ability of communities to provide more resources – in terms of people available;
- That there needs to be a clearer definition of the word sustainable;
- That the DSP had an important role to play in terms of determining which aspects of the LAA the 3rd sector could reasonably assist with delivering;
- That the Health and Wellbeing Partnership was key – and was required to be operating in order to work with the 3rd sector.

RESOLVED to note the update.

8 Update from other Partnership Tables

Delegates were updated on the work of other partnership tables.

DSP Delivery Board – The minutes of the meetings held on 24 July 2008 and 4 September 2008 had been circulated with the agenda. Chief Superintendent Tennant had recently taken over as Chair of the Delivery Board and invited Sara Cretney to update the Board on the Performance Management work that had been undertaken (see item 10). It was noted that the performance data was shortly moving to the SparNet system, which was web-based and could be locally accessed.

An annual review was due to take place in November / December and there would be an opportunity to refresh (make minor changes) to the LAA in March 2009, but this would require Government sign off.

Devon Futures – a verbal update was received on the most recent Futures meeting (7 October 2008). This was a fresh start for the group and a positive meeting had taken place looking at issues such as the impact of climate change, changing demographics, energy and the pressures of migration.

Conference – The SCS Development Officer reminded delegates that the date of the Conference was 7 November 2008 and, to date, 125 positive responses had been received. Matters for debate included the scope and results to date of the LAA, action and delivery (as opposed to process and structure), involvement of people (including young people), impact of the cross cutting themes, challenge and listening / feedback.

District Local Strategic Partnerships – District Council Leaders were given the opportunity to update from their own LSP's. Issues raised included the importance of these forums not becoming a 'talking shop' and raising skills levels via joined up working with the local college (SHDC), how to better assist businesses and unitary structures (MDBC) and how a local issue in Princetown was successfully resolved with the input and involvement of all partners (WDDC).

RESOLVED to note the update from the Partnership Tables.

9 Self Assessment of the Devon Strategic Partnership

Delegates received a report on the Self Assessment of the Devon Strategic Partnership.

The self assessment had been completed by the Chair of the Devon Strategic Partnership and a group drawn from across the DSP Delivery Board. The appraisal highlighted areas where further work is needed, and a programme of work to address it had been drawn up.

Members were reminded that the Devon Strategic Partnership had been operating for approximately 21 months under its new structure and during that time it had developed a new vision, Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement for Devon. Whilst many aspects had been successful, other elements needed further development. The opportunity to complete a self assessment (for the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Programme (RIEP) had been welcomed.

Delegates were given the opportunity to comment on anything they felt was inaccurate or not a true representation.

RESOLVED;

(a) that the DSP Partnership Board receive the self assessment and note the comments that accompany the scores given;

(b) that the DSP Partnership Board add their comments to assist the work planned to strengthen the partnership over the next year;

(c) that a report and discussion on the 'duty to involve' be brought to the next meeting; and

(d) that the 3rd sector representation on the Delivery Board be organised as soon as practicable.

10 Local Area Agreement Performance Management

Delegates received a report on performance management and the LAA. Members noted that effective performance management was essential to drive delivery of the priorities and outcomes in the Local Area Agreement (LAA). Performance management responsibilities of the Devon LAA had been delegated to the DSP Delivery Board by the Partnership Board.

The report detailed the arrangements for managing performance and summarised the current position with regard to LAA performance management information. The Development Officer also updated on related work areas, including the pilot work on 'turning the curve' as a new and innovative method of working.

The Chair highlighted that the Delivery Board would be responsible for monitoring performance, but that any 'red' areas would be brought before the Partnership Board for consideration and review.

RESOLVED;

(a) to note the arrangements for managing performance of the Devon Local Area Agreement 2008-2011; and

(b) note the most recent performance update summary as detailed at Appendix A of the report.

11 AOB

No items

12 Date of Next Meeting

Future dates were agreed as;

Thursday 15 January 2009 (venue TBC)

Thursday 16 April 2009 (venue TBC)

Thursday 16 July 2009 (venue TBC)

Thursday 15 October 2009 (venue TBC)

All meetings to start at 9.30 am and offers of hospitality welcomed.

The meeting started at 10.00am and finished at 12.15pm