



## Minutes of the Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2010

### Present:

|                           |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cllr Carole Gandy (Chair) | Redditch Borough Council            |
| Cllr Mike Braley          | Redditch Borough Council            |
| Cllr Graham Vickery       | Redditch Borough Council            |
| Kevin Dicks               | Redditch Borough Council            |
| Sue Hanley                | Redditch Borough Council/Chair RCSP |
| Hugh Bennett              | Redditch Borough Council            |
| Angie Heighway            | Redditch Borough Council            |
| Helen Saunders            | Redditch Borough Council            |
| Liz Williams              | Redditch Borough Council            |
| John Gallagher            | NEW College                         |
| Des Sutton                | Federation of Small Businesses      |
| Peter Fryer               | Worcestershire Health Authority     |
| Cllr Barry Gandy          | Worcestershire County Council       |
| Hazel Robinson            | Worcestershire County Council       |
| Beth Gray                 | Kingfisher Centre                   |
| Gary Woodman              | Chamber of Commerce                 |

**In attendance:** Susan Tasker (minutes), Suzie James, Worcestershire County Council (item 1-4)

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Cllr Carole Gandy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies noted for Ann Sowton, Ian Joseph, Maggie Bryan, Peter Sugg, Mike Ashton, Jim Smith, Tim Rice, Angie Burnett, Bill Hartnett, Ruth Bamford, Patrick Birch, Keith Chance,

Noted there were a lot of apologies due to the holiday season. May need to take some decisions on agenda, subject to e-mail confirmation' to others absent.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Helen to chase Maggie Bryan – action from last meeting to circulate list of Governor vacancies in Redditch.

**ACTION: MAGGIE BRYAN/HELEN SAUNDERS**

### 3. UPDATE ON MENTORING AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL ISSUES.

Carole updated Board on fact finding visit to Warrington, to look at educational attainment and explained similarities to Redditch. They are net 'importer' of students in comparison to Redditch that is net 'exporter' outside of district. Despite being similar to Redditch in terms of deprivation etc Warrington's schools and students are far higher achievers in spite of that. How schools worked collaboratively to attain an overall improvement for the town. Carole said that a note had been produced detailing the findings. There is a meeting later in August to

look at male mentoring, working with the council, education, schools, police; after which there will be publicity to find male mentors.

In response to a question, Carole said the Jobs Fair education convention would be for 12 years old pupils and onwards although hoping to involve younger students also. Des said for business it is better for older for experience, although an introduction can be for younger ones. Kevin said getting the children early on is not just about work experience but increasing aspirations as early on as possible.

Graham suggested that all schools in a pyramid need to have shared responsibility. Also he asked who Warrington are compared against and whether it is possible to boost funding from the County Council. Barry said the new Head of Service, John Edwards, with responsibility for school improvement and attainment takes up post on 1<sup>st</sup> September. He sees focusing on locality important rather than having a team covering the whole of Worcestershire. Comparisons can be made with Warrington in terms of the percentage attainment. The perception of school performance in Redditch creating outflow out of Redditch area is not found in Warrington; so there are other factors. Graham asked if there will be someone specifically looking at Redditch – Barry and Carole said this is something that they will be pushing. Kevin added that he will be meeting with John Edwards and Gail Quinton and will be pushing for this and linking to John Gallagher. John stressed need to keep the agenda moving forward in a way we choose and not fragmented especially with academies and schools / parents opting out to have their own run school. Carole explained the background to see what could be done ‘outside of the 9-3.30’ to help assist schools and pupils. Kevin said this may need to be shunted up to the Worcestershire Partnership and any discussions about changes to education need to incorporate Redditch Partnership and NEW College views and participation in discussions.

Graham suggested a forum for Governors for all the schools within the Town be set up to discuss these issues. The Board agreed this is a very good idea that should be pursued.

**ACTION: RBC to co-ordinate**

#### **4. WORCESTERSHIRE COMPACT**

Suzie James attended RPB to discuss the compact. The Compact Steering Group wants to visit each LSP to increase awareness and reinvigorate interest. The compact is an agreement to increase work and relationships between the different sectors (voluntary, community and public sectors). In 2006 the Worcestershire Compact was drawn up and adopted by the Worcestershire Partnership (32 organisations signed up).

The principles around the compact is that there is a mutual need and one needs the other. The compact is not a piece of legislation. The compact commits public sector to recognise the voluntary sector in terms of funding and decision making. It is a two way framework, with the voluntary sector expected to have high standards of governance and standards and involving beneficiaries when developing services.

There are code of practices for volunteering, consultation/involvement/voice; and process for conciliation.

Suzie said in Worcestershire, for NI7, it is in the lowest quartile for having ‘a thriving community sector relationship’, saying they have a good relationship – with 14% for Redditch compared to 16% nationally saying they have a good relationship. Barry asked how factual this is and the difficulty when it comes to ‘perception’; and is there a feeling about how generous the authorities are and what their exception are. Suzie agreed that they are measured on perception and it is about how the voluntary sectors feel which is subjective and whilst not based on funding it does look at a range of issues in terms of consultation, taking on

board views on policy decisions etc. Unfortunately that is what we are measured against and is a benchmark to be used until such point it is changed. Peter agreed that approximately 15% having a good relationship is not good, although don't know whether that really means 80% does not. Suzie said the feedback from voluntary sector is that they do not feel they are consulted and involved or that public sector do anything as a result.

A letter had been sent to LA Chief Executives giving guidance, to remind them of the compact and how to apply it in this time of fiscal challenge which may impact on voluntary sector. Need to involve Voluntary Sector in guidance and minimum 12 week notice if funding is going to be changed or removed. Kevin asked if given the political / financial position of councils and public sector, thus meaning the third sector may have to meet the gap - is the Compact fit for purpose? Suzie said it is now and moving forward, however in 12-24 months it may need to be revised/refreshed for the new climate – the compact provides the framework and should be followed although the end vehicle may look differently.

Peter asked if the Redditch Partnership could be more proactive working with public and voluntary sectors. Looking at expectations and manage that whole process and what support can be given. Barry followed this point, where financial restraints only give one channel and whilst we can consult there is option available. So can consultation be real consultation? Need to manage expectations. Suzie said if it is not consultation it should be named as 'dialogue' which can also stimulate new ideas. Carole said it could be that a third sector organisation could deliver a public authority service cheaper on their behalf. Need to address what capacity there is to deliver.

Angie raised concern that public sector organisations fund the voluntary sector and a mapping exercise is needed to tie up what is coming from where. Suzie agreed and that some single pot funding may be a way ahead.

## **5. LSP BOARD AWAYDAY AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY**

Helen referred to the existing Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) which needs to be reviewed, especially in light of the CAA findings which came out since it was originally produced. Proposal is to have an awayday with the Partnership in October which would result in a new SCS. Helen said this is longer term plan and is conscious that there is nothing in meantime to look at priorities of education, health and economic development. Helen asked for views.

Carole felt an awayday would not add any value. The 'We are Redditch' event at the start of the year made it clear that education, health and jobs were the key areas. Carole felt on those, officers could produce a plan. Kevin said Lorna Shorn from IDEA is willing to work with LSP to put something together on health. Carole proposed that the next RPB meeting is a single item on Health with Lorna which would produce what is needed in that area.

Graham supported Carole's view and would value a detailed discussion on health. Kevin thanked Helen for the paper and Peter for his work in this area, and supported Carole's view and stressed the need to now focus all the Partnership's views on agreeing the actions around health.

Hugh felt that an awayday could be helpful and have a purpose. Kevin said no-one disagrees with that but we can still get to that point without having to wait until an awayday in October. It would be a half day at a future meeting on education (16<sup>th</sup> September).

Sue suggested that a statement is put out to the Partners. Peter said the Health and Wellbeing Group has produced an action plan but is missing the strategic objectives for the Partnership. The fault of the previous SCS is that there were too many objectives, in the future they need to be more focussed. Peter said the objectives should not be what individual partners are already doing but what Partners can do collectively. Peter said the H&W Group has looked at some strategic objectives, in that the way you can affect health in the deprived areas through community development.

They narrowed it to two objectives of

- a) Building self esteem and confidence and
- b) building communities

and then suggested four ways to deliver these

- a) utilising existing community groups ie coffee mornings, dealing with social isolation issues,
- b) social marketing looking at best way to deliver (Peter's team has someone who can assist with this),
- c) community consultation led by Nbh D officer to look at lifestyle choices; and
- d) looking for local champions working with the third sector and these particularly last two have links to Areas of Highest Need.

Peter said this is for the next 6 months and maybe this could produce the basis / starting point for a 3 year plan which can be developed at the next meeting (single item Health).

Des supported Carole's view, as did Sue who stressed need to have a frank and tough discussion around resources at the same time including commitments from all Partners. Kevin said Lorna from IDEA may be able to help challenge what is done collectively or individually.

Peter said this is about everyone having an input, not just the Health Service.

Agreed next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September will concentrate solely on Health.

## **6. CHANGES TO THE WORCESTERSHIRE PARTNERSHIP**

Carole referred to the written report and still had some reservations although there are some improvements.

Graham shared Carole's views and that the purpose was to corral the funding, it will streamline that exercise. There are only 2 council representatives and Graham felt all Chief Executive's should attend. Graham said this proposes that the Partnership should look at Worcestershire as one area and unity/commonality which falls down given earlier discussion about the distinct areas and needs. Kevin agreed with Graham, and that the Worcs Partnership would include all Leaders/Chief Executives, it is only the Public Sector Executive Group that would have two representatives. Carole said the smaller group is the delivery arm for the strategic group, which has full representation. Mike suggested increasing from 2 to 3 reps on PESG.

Kevin suggested if anyone has comments on this, they should forward them to Helen to collectively respond, signed off by Carole and Ann Sowton as Chair and former Vice Chair. Kevin also asked that the response stress the importance of local ie Redditch LSPs. The Board agreed it would not want to see Redditch Partnership Board/LSP abolished.

**ACTION: ALL/HELEN/CAROLE**

## **7. IMPLICATIONS OF THE EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE NHS WHITE PAPER**

Peter referred to the paper summarising the White paper. Most of the NHS budget will be devolved to an NHS Board and local GPs. Responsible for commissioning all secondary care services. There will be 3 or 4 consortia for the Worcs area (one for Redditch&Bromsgrove). These are early discussions/proposals. Acute Hospitals will become separate organisations. From April 2011 PCTs will no longer provide health care. The provider side of PCTs will transfer. Public Health & health improvement will move to the County Council, along with a ring fenced budget. There will be a national public health service for what is left of the Department of Health.

A national health commission will be created. This means councils will have a greater scrutiny role for its area.

There will be a review of social care undertaking during the next year.

This will have big implication for County Council and the Partnership. Public Health (Peter's role) will come under County Council in the future. Carole said that may help links between health and education if within same organisation.

## **8. LSP COMMUNICATIONS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.**

### **Communications**

Barry said a letter has been sent to Head Teachers offering to assist promotion of positive issues of school. Although it was near the end of school term, one response received to date, with positive feedback. Will need to chase schools when they start back. Barry is the first point of contact with support from RBC comms team.

Hugh suggested the Board have a communications/community engagement planner to look at what is coming up in the next six months and make links/synergies. Agreed, and Hugh would send out a template to start collating that. Carole thought that would be a good idea and then help to pick and choose what the LSP can collectively attend.

**ACTION: HUGH**

### **Consultation**

Carole mentioned the Morton Stanley Park Festival on 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> August, and proposed having a stall for the Partnership under 'We are Redditch' Banner and doing some consultation. RPB communications group to look at questions to be asked (asking all Partners) and format ie questionnaires/post its and then get on and do it on the day. Finding out from people what they think of Redditch, about services etc. An opportunity to engage with young people. Partners were happy to be involved.

Helen to send an e-mail to Partners to ask what questions they would like asked, then Barry and communications group will meet asap to plan and organise the format and stall.

**ACTION: HELEN**

## **7. AREAS OF HIGHEST NEEDS**

Liz Williams was introduced as the new Neighbourhood Development Manager who will be working on the 'Redditch Areas of Highest Need Project Implementation Plan', a copy of which was circulated. Liz has been in post for about a month. Liz explained progress so far. There will be a competition to decide a more snappy name for the project – all suggestions welcome. Angie will be working closely with Liz and bring a proposal of how there will be reported to the board.

## **8. THEME GROUP UPDATES**

### **Community Forum**

There will be an election to chair at the next meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> August).

### **Children & Young People**

Helen said this group had met and had discussed the action plan out of the half day session with schools earlier in the year. They focused on three key areas – improving literacy (children centres), raising awareness of opportunities (careers fair) and potential of academic potential. At its next meeting they have invited John Edwards, to give a view on how he sees education issues being tackled in Redditch, WCC Early years around future provision of Children Centres in Redditch and where children were going to outside of Redditch Schools (this work has been done by WCC and will be fed back to next meeting).

## **9. DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

10.00 am on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September.