

Dartford and Gravesham Local Strategic Partnership

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

MINUTES of the meeting of the Public Service Board held on Wednesday 29 November 2006 at Dartford Civic Centre at 7.30pm.

PRESENT:

Public Service Board

Cllr Jeremy Kite – Chairman, Dartford Borough Council

Cllr Tony Martin – Dartford Borough Council

Cllr John Burden - Gravesham Borough Council

Cllr Mrs Ann Allen – Dartford Borough Council and Kent County Council

Eddie Falvey – North West Kent Council for Voluntary Service

Dev Sharma – North West Kent Racial Equality Service

Meradin Peachey – Primary Care Trust

Officers

Graham Harris – Dartford Borough Council

Jim Wintour - Gravesham Borough Council

Adrian Gowan – Dartford Borough Council

Christopher Woodley - Gravesham Borough Council

Josie Gill – Dartford Borough Council

Susan Bourke – Dartford and Gravesham Borough Council

1.0 Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies received from Chief Supt. Gary Beautridge of North Kent Police and Cllr Mike Snelling, representing Kent County Council.

2.0 Minutes of the meeting held 28 September 2006

2.1 The minutes were approved.

3.0 Matters arising and announcements: Policy Co-ordinator's Report

3.1 The Chairman congratulated to Meradin Peachey on her appointment as Director of Public Health for the West Kent PCT.

3.2 With reference to point 3.1.1 in the Policy Co-ordinator's Report (LAA pump-priming grant), a response has still not been received from Richard Spoerry about the Partnership's unsuccessful bid.

Signed by Cllr Jeremy Kite:

Dartford and Gravesham

Local Strategic Partnership

- 3.3 Cllr Burden reminded the Board of the need to pursue a financial contribution from KCC, based on the level of funding provided by the Borough Councils.
- 3.2.1 **Action:** Adrian Gowan to investigate why there has been no response from Richard Sperry, by 8 January 2007.
- 3.2.2 **Action:** Christopher Woodley to seek clarification from Robert Hardy of KCC's policy on financial support to District and Borough LSPs, by 8 January 2007.
- 3.3 With reference to point 3.1.2 in the Policy Co-ordinator's Report (Obesity Strategy Steering Group (OSSG)): the Board considered that the projects put forward by the Group were generally disappointing. The Board would like to see ideas that could provide real 'quick wins' – based on local solutions from local professionals. However, the Board agreed to support the project to win more funding for the 'Don't Sit, Get Fit' initiative.
- 3.3.1 It was suggested that the OSSG could itself take a lead in raising awareness of the need to promote healthy living, through the personal example of its members. This could take the form of a feature in the local press highlighting the work of the Group to the wider community.
- 3.3.1 **Action:** Meradin Peachey agreed to ask the OSSG to decide on two immediate, local projects. The projects need to be decided by 8 January 2007 to come to the PSB on 18 January 2007.
- 3.4 With reference to point 3.1.4 in the Policy Co-ordinator's Report (the Charlton Athletic Community Scheme): it was noted that the Scheme receives contributions from both Dartford and Gravesham. The Board agreed that it would be useful to know how those contributions were benefiting local communities.
- 3.4.1 **Action:** Susan Bourke to find out how the contributions to the Scheme are used locally and to invite Alan Dennington (the Scheme's co-ordinator) to the next Partnership Board meeting by 8 January 2007.
- 3.5 With reference to point 3.1.5 in the Policy Co-ordinator's Report (the rehabilitation of offenders initiative in Medway), it was noted that more information needed to be communicated locally.
- 3.5.1 **Action:** Susan Bourke to find out information about the local rehabilitation of offenders, by 8 January 2007.
- 3.6 With reference to point 5.0 in the Policy Co-ordinator's Report (Pandemic 'Flu'): Meradin Peachey gave a brief summary of the Operation Black Crocus exercise, which was to test the effectiveness of a local mass-inoculation centre. It was felt that useful lessons were gained from the exercise that would inform national policy-making.

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Dartford and Gravesham

Local Strategic Partnership

4.0 Draft Updated Community Strategy

4.1 Adrian Gowan introduced the latest version of the Draft. There was a discussion around how the updated Strategy will fit in with the strategies of the Borough Councils and voluntary sector partners. It was noted that the Strategy needs to be an amalgamation of targets, with none outside each agencies remit.

4.2 Concern was expressed that some of the targets might not be sufficiently challenging – whilst other may be too ambitious. However, there was general agreement that there had to be a mix of targets in the revised document.

4.1.1 **Action:** Christopher Woodley –

- ◆ to check Gravesham targets are correct, by 8 January.
- ◆ to undertake a review of progress against the targets included in the original document. An initial report to be provided for the Board's next meeting, with a fuller analysis for the meeting after that.

4.1.2 **Action:** Adrian Gowan –

- ◆ to amend the first health target as it is not achievable in the short term, by 8 January 2007.
- ◆ to amend the fourth health target, by 8 January 2007. The target will be 1900, not 1899.

5.0 Performance Management Framework

5.1 The Board considered a report from Adrian Gowan outlining a proposal for improving the performance management aspect of LSP governance. The proposal is based on the provision of a training session for Board Members, by an external contractor. The key issues to be addressed would be:

5.1.1 Producing a better understanding amongst partners about the dependencies they have with one another for the delivery of key agendas that cross organisational boundaries; and the difficulties and challenges which are faced by individual organisations.

5.1.2 Agreeing clearly understood roles, responsibilities and accountabilities, which enable the delivery of the partnerships vision and targets for the area.

5.1.3 Understanding the Government's approach to performance management in Local Strategic Partnerships, as set out in the Local Government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities," and in particular the role of Local Area Agreements.

5.1.4 How performance data, linked to jointly agreed targets and objectives, can be produced in a timely and regular fashion.

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Dartford and Gravesham

Local Strategic Partnership

5.2 The Board supported the proposal and it was agreed that a detailed programme, with costing, would be provided for the next meeting.

5.1.1 **Action:** Adrian Gowan to draft a paper for the Board's consideration, by 8 January 2007.

6.0 Communications Strategy

6.1 Susan Bourke presented a discussion paper, outlining ideas to improve the visibility of the LSP. The Board considered that it was more important for the Partnership to demonstrate its effectiveness as an agency facilitating improvements locally than trying to cultivate a high public profile. It was therefore not necessary to develop a 'brand' for the LSP.

6.2 The Chairman stressed the need for the Partnership to act as a 'sign-poster'. In this context, the LSP's website should focus on providing links to existing information, directing users to useful resources. There was a consensus that priority should be given to information on obesity, smoking cessation, alcohol and drug abuse and mental health.

6.1.1 **Action:** Susan Bourke to investigate the creation of an LSP website, to promote the LSP's priorities, by 8 January 2007.

7.0 Draft COMPACT

7.1 Eddie Falvey introduced the draft COMPACT, which had been scheduled to be discussed at the Community Assembly on 7 November 2006. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Assembly had to be postponed. It has been re-scheduled for March 2007.

7.2 It was noted that the COMPACT needs to be flexible enough to account for short term changes and new circumstances. Suggestions were made about information that could be added, to strengthen the document.

7.2.1 A reference to the ambitions of the local authorities, and to their community leadership role.

7.2.2 An overview of the activities of the sector, including turnover, performance and outcomes for local people.

7.2.3 A definition of the sector and an indicative list of the organisations that would be party to the COMPACT.

7.2.4 Clarification of the equalities statement, particularly to define the term 'traveller' – so that there could be a common understanding of which groups were covered in that designation.

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Dartford and Gravesham

Local Strategic Partnership

7.2.5 A section at the end of the document to identify the proposed performance indicators, which could be reported on and updated annually.

7.2.6 **Action:** Eddie Falvey to consider the suggestions for information that could be added and how the COMPACT could be improved and produce another draft by 8 January 2007, to be reported to the PSB on 18 January 2007.

8.0 Any Other Business

8.1 Meradin Peachey announced that new arrangements were being made for integrating public health provision across Kent. Support for the LSPs would be channelled through an Assistant Director of Public Health and a Public Health Specialist for each PCT area.

8.2 She also reported that the NHS was consulting on its *Fit for the Future* strategy. It was agreed that 'Fit for the Future' team have been invited to the Partnership Board on the 12 December 2006 to lead a discussion on the strategy.

9.0 Date of next meeting

9.1 The next meeting will take place on Thursday 18 January 2007 at 7.30pm at Dartford Borough Council Civic Centre.

Signed by Cllr Jeremy Kite: