

# Dartford and Gravesham Local Strategic Partnership

## PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the Public Service Board held on Thursday 13 September 2007 at Gravesham Civic Centre at 7.30pm.

### PRESENT:

#### Public Service Board

Cllr Jeremy Kite – outgoing Chairman, Dartford Borough Council

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

Cllr Mike Snelling – incoming Gravesham Borough Council and Kent County Council

Jess Mookherjee - West Kent Primary Care Trust (arrived during Item 4)

Dev Sharma – North West Kent Racial Equality Service (arrived during Item 6)

#### Officers

Graham Harris – Dartford Borough Council

Jim Wintour - Gravesham Borough Council

Adrian Gowan – Dartford Borough Council

Christopher Woodley - Gravesham Borough Council

Susan Bourke – Dartford and Gravesham Borough Council

Teresa Ryszkowska – Dartford Borough Council

### 1.0 Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies received from Chief Supt. Gary Beautridge of North Kent Police, Robert Hardy of Kent County Council, and Kevin Wiles of the North West Kent Council for Voluntary Service.

### 2.0 Minutes of the meeting held 19 July 2007

2.1 The minutes were approved.

### 4.0 Chairman Report

4.1 The report that asked the Board to endorse the appointment of Cllr Mike Snelling as Chairman was approved. Cllr Mike Snelling became the Chairman for the rest of the meeting.

4.1.1 **Action:** Susan Bourke to confirm the quorum for the LSP Public Service Board.

4.1.2 Jess Mookherjee of the PCT entered the meeting at this point.

Signed by Cllr Mike Snelling:

# Dartford and Gravesham

## Local Strategic Partnership

### **3.0 Matters arising and announcements**

3.1 The Chairman thanked Cllr Jeremy Kite for his contribution to the LSP as outgoing Chairman.

3.1.1 The Chairman welcomed Jess Mookherjee, Locum Assistant Director for Public Health, as the PCT representative for the LSP.

3.1.2 The Chairman bid farewell to Josie Gill, Policy Officer of Dartford Borough Council who is pursuing a PHD at Cambridge.

### **6.0 Dartford Town Centre Area Action Plan**

6.1 Cllr Jeremy Kite introduced the Preferred Options Document for Consultation and explained that the Action Plan was part of the Local Development Framework. Teresa Ryszkowska explained that the planning department had tried to produce a plan that was realistic and demonstrated ways to improve Dartford town centre through ten opportunity sites available for redevelopment.

6.1.1 The Area Action Plan will go on six weeks formal consultation from 13 September until 25 October 2007. A public exhibition will take place in the Orchard on 26 and 27 September with evening sessions from 28 September to 1 October 2007. Any response or comments are to be returned to Teresa Ryszkowska. A final copy is available on the Dartford Borough Council website.

6.1.2 It was confirmed that there was still interest from Tesco's in the development at Lowfield Street but in plans for a lower scale, more befitting development for a market town and with no path or road through the park. Some criticism is expected regardless of the future development.

6.1.3 The Chairman congratulated the Dartford representatives on an ambitious plan and noted that four or five significant planning applications were due in order to implement the plan.

6.1.4 Dev Sharma of the Racial Equality Council entered the meeting at this point.

6.1.5 The Chairman was pleased to see congruence with Gravesham Borough Council's plans and it was explained that the core strategy will major on the Sustainable Community Strategy but there is less opportunity with the Area Action Plan. It was agreed that now is the time to look for more opportunities and that the strategy is driven by investment. A blueprint has been created for what private investors can become involved in.

Signed by Cllr Mike Snelling:

# Dartford and Gravesham

## Local Strategic Partnership

6.1.6 It was agreed that due to a demographic change, the town centre was moving away from the core delivery and to more exploratory work. It currently delivers to a certain set of people but needs to target those who it cannot reach.

6.1.7 The Area Action Plan was considered a vast improvement on previous plans with an effective approach and a huge chance of being successful with all partners in favour.

### 5.0 Reporting on the Interim Community Strategy

5.1 Adrian Gowan introduced this report and stated that the LSP has faced problems with accountability of partners in the past. Realistic targets have not been set and there has been no performance management system in place. The Covalent report seeks to rectify this with the regular reporting of figures and information supplied by partners.

5.1.1 The figures and information supplied were based on a new mix of strategic and service based targets. In developing the targets for Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011, the focus should be on wider issues and not the smaller ones, such as recycling.

5.1.2 It was agreed that the Board were very pleased with the limited actions and targets contained within the Covalent report. Previous Chairs of the Board had worked hard to ensure that this focused reporting emerged.

5.1.3 A disparity in teenage pregnancy figures was acknowledged between Dartford and Gravesham. It was confirmed that the data is very sensitive due to the small numbers involved and that a long term view was required due to three year rolling averages. Figures are collected at point of conception, not birth and pregnancies that lead to socio-economic problems are of interest.

5.1.4 It was raised by the REC that the PCT had not invested teenage pregnancy in Dartford but had in Gravesham at The Grand. **Action:** Jess Mookherjee to look into the investment in teenage pregnancy in Dartford.

### 7.0 A report from Gravesham Borough Council

7.1 Christopher Woodley introduced the report from Gravesham Borough Council on the future of a joint LSP for Dartford and Gravesham and stated that it could serve to initiate discussion around the effectiveness of the LSP during its four year lifetime, if there was an appetite for reviewing this.

7.1.1 The question emerged of whether more is achieved as a joint LSP or if more would be achieved separately, or if there is a different way altogether. The Board need to challenge whether the current arrangement is adding value.

Signed by Cllr Mike Snelling:

# Dartford and Gravesham

## Local Strategic Partnership

- 7.1.2 It was noted that the CDRP works very effectively as a partnership between the two authorities with any differences recognised through the establishment of two separate Public Safety Units. It was suggested that the LSP could use this structure.
- 7.1.3 It was agreed that duplication of the Kent Thameside Delivery Board's (KTDB) work must be avoided but there must also be an awareness of they are doing. It was questioned whether greater buy-in to the LSP was required from both boroughs.
- 7.1.4 Concern was raised that the membership of the LSP is not local enough for buy-in, for example there is no parish council buy-in and there needs to be greater elected member buy-in. In Gravesham, the Northfleet Area Forum is keen to become involved with the LSP.
- 7.1.5 Concerns were raised about the effect that two separate LSPs would have on regeneration and planning, although health could be dealt with more locally. Concerns were also raised in respect of inviting small, local groups onto the LSP when it is intended to be a strategic group. The REC and CVS currently provides a link to the wider community and the local groups.
- 7.1.6 The final point of the discussion was that the LSP will have a major role in the LAA process and that is was important to ensure it is working efficiently and effectively. The report had started a discussion about the future of the Dartford and Gravesham LSP. **Action:** Graham Harris and Jim Wintour to further discuss the issue of the value the LSP provides.

### **8.0 Any Other Business**

- 8.1 There was no other business to discuss.

### **9.0 Date of next meeting**

- 9.1 The next meeting will take place on Thursday 29 November 2007 at 7.30pm at Dartford Borough Council Civic Centre.

**The meeting finished at 8.37pm.**

Signed by Cllr Mike Snelling: