

Dartford and Gravesham Local Strategic Partnership

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

MINUTES of the meeting of the Public Service Board held on Thursday 17 January 2008 at Gravesham Civic Centre at 7.30pm.

PRESENT:

Public Service Board

Cllr Mike Snelling – Chairman, Gravesham Borough Council and Kent County Council

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

Robert Hardy – Kent County Council

Jess Mookherjee - West Kent Primary Care Trust

Dev Sharma – North West Kent Racial Equality Service

Officers

Graham Harris – Dartford Borough Council

Glyn Thomson - Gravesham Borough Council

Adrian Gowan – Dartford Borough Council

Christopher Woodley - Gravesham Borough Council

1.0 Apologies for absence

- 1.1 Apologies received from Councillor Jeremy Kite of Dartford Borough Council and Chief Supt. Beautridge of North West Kent Police.

2.0 Minutes of the meeting held 13 September 2008

- 2.1 The minutes were approved.

3.0 Matters arising and announcements

- 3.1 The Board considered the issue of the quorum for its meetings. It was agreed that the quorum would be three.

- 3.1.1 It was noted that the level of investment in teenage pregnancy services in Dartford had been raised at the last meeting and Jess Mookherjee stated that there had been additional investment in the area through the Choosing Health initiative and investment in sexual health clinics. She stated that the West Kent PCT was looking at the possibility of creating an additional post to deal with the issue of health inequality. It was also agreed that Jess Mookherjee would circulate figures for the level of spend per head on teenage pregnancy in Dartford.

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- 3.1.2 It was agreed that Graham Harris and Glyn Thomson would meet to discuss the future of the LSP in the light of developments such as Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).
- 3.1.3 It was noted that Jim Wintour, Managing Director of Gravesham Borough Council, had now left the Council to take up a position with the London Borough of Greenwich. The Board expressed its appreciation to Mr Wintour for his contribution to the work of the Local Strategic Partnership.
- 3.1.4 The Board was informed that Miss Susan Bourke, the LSP Administrator had now taken up the post of Policy Officer with Dartford Borough Council. The Board expressed its thanks to Miss Bourke for her work on behalf of the partnership.
- 3.1.5 Christopher Woodley informed the Board that the Government Office for the South East had written to him stating that they would no longer be attending District level LSP meetings and would instead be concentrating their resources at County level.

4.0 Sustainable Community Strategy

- 4.1 Christopher Woodley introduced a report setting out possible approaches to the new Sustainable Community Strategy, linked to the emerging Kent Local Area Agreement and corporate priorities in both Dartford and Gravesham.
- 4.1.1 It was agreed that the new strategy would play a key role in the development of both Boroughs Local Development Frameworks. It was therefore suggested that versions of the strategy should be produced by both Dartford and Gravesham, setting out individual priorities and identifying the main cross cutting issues that should be addressed by the LSP. **Action:** Christopher Woodley and Adrian Gowan to devise a format and produce a draft document.
- 4.1.2 Glyn Thomson stated that it was important that any strategy took account of the emerging Local Area Agreement and was firmly linked to partners' plans and strategies. Jess Mookherjee stated that the West Kent PCT was actively seeking to become more involved with the regeneration agenda in Dartford and Gravesham. Discussions had been held with the Kent Thameside Delivery Board and the PCT was looking to identify its role with partners. It was suggested that key Board members from West Kent PCT should meet with representatives from Dartford Borough Council, Gravesham Borough Council and Kent County Council to discuss this further. **Action:** Jess Mookherjee to identify relevant PCT Board members so that a meeting can be arranged with Council officers.

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4.1.3 Robert Hardy presented ward based information on GCSE results and young people not in employment, education or training. It was suggested that this information and other data could be plotted onto a GIS system. **Action:** Adrian Gowan to look at how data could be presented through GIS.

5.0 Kent Agreement 2 Development

5.1 Adrian Gowan introduced a report updating the Board on progress with the new Local Area Agreement. Draft outcomes and indicators had been agreed by the Kent Partnership and Government Office for the South East and the process of identifying targets was now in hand. The Board noted the report.

6.0 Performance Management

6.1 The Board received an update on performance against a basket of targets agreed by the LSP. It was noted that there were some gaps in the information provided and Adrian Gowan stated that in part this was due to some of the targets lacking precision, which in turn meant it was difficult to obtain performance information. It would be important to ensure that in the new Sustainable Community Strategy all the agreed targets were measureable and linked to outcomes.

7.0 Any Other Business

7.1 Dev Sharma expressed concern that the Police were not in attendance at the meeting. It was suggested that partners may not attend meetings which they feel do not lead to action. There was agreement that the LSP needed to become more action orientated, using techniques such as task and finish groups to look at particular issues.

7.2 Robert Hardy informed the meeting that he would be standing down as the Kent County Council officer representative on the LSP. He would continue to attend meetings until his successor had been appointed.

8.0 Date of next meeting

8.1 The next meeting will take place on Thursday 13 March 2008 at 7.30pm at Dartford Borough Council Civic Centre.

The meeting finished at 8.30 pm.

Signed by Cllr Mike Snelling:

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