

CHART LSP Forum Meeting
Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 10th September 2009 at 9.30am,
Stephenson Room, Coney Green Business Park, Clay Cross.

Present

Cllr Graham Baxter (Chair)	NEDDC
Cllr Ray Russell	CBC
Roger Flint	Derbyshire Constabulary
Huw Bowen	CBC
Peter Westland	SHU
Mike Goodwin	NEDDC
Cllr Pat Kerry	NEDDC
Su Gomer	Rykneld Homes Ltd
Cameron Philpot	Chesterfield & NE Derbyshire PAA
Cllr Tony Rogers	CBC
Becky Lomas	DCC
Cllr Sue Allsop	DCC
Carol Lawton	Links CVS
Terry Evans	GOEM
Andrew Jones	Chesterfield Royal Hospital
Dave Simmonds	Chesterfield College
Ed Green	DWT
Sue Bird	JCP
Tim Norton	Staveley Neighbourhood Management
Carl Griffiths (item 6 only)	NEDDC
Nick Chischniak	DNCC
Leonie Stewart	DCPCT
Steve Pintus	DCPCT/NEDDC
Steve Lee	CHART LSP
Sue Dixon	CHART LSP
Natalie Priestley	CHART LSP
John Croot (item 4 only)	Chesterfield Football Club
Paul DiMambro (item 5 only)	Financial Inclusion Champion

1. Introductions and Apologies

Introductions were made and apologies were received from: Cllr Mark Higginbottom (CBC), Jeanette Clayton (SNM), Judith McArthur (Chesterfield College), Cllr David Stone (CBC), Cllr Nigel Barker (NEDDC), Steve Helps (DFRS), Andy Waldie (DFRS), Cllr Peter Riggott (NEDDC), Sue Bainborough (JCP), Andy Marsh (Derbyshire LSC).

The Chair welcomed Cllr Sue Allsop, Peter Westland, Terry Evans and Dave Simmonds to the group.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 11th June 2009

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Presentations

4. Chesterfield Football Club

The Chair introduced John Croot from Chesterfield Football Club who gave a presentation on the new football stadium on Sheffield Road. This has been designed to cater for the community as well as the football club. The club is keen to foster links with hard to reach communities through football-related projects as this has been proven to be a very effective way to engage with such groups. The club is currently looking at local strategies and talking to local partners to find the best way forward.

Chesterfield Football Club Trust has been formed and is in the process of being registered with the Charity Commission. A share of the club's annual income from television will go into community projects. The Club currently holds the bronze status for community engagement and is working towards gaining silver and gold within the next two years.

The gym at the stadium will house the same type of 'key memory system' equipment as Staveley HLC and Queens Park SC which will mean that it could be used by GP referral clients.

There will be a heritage room to keep the club's links with the local community which will also be used for developing community projects. The building will also house a GP Surgery and Sports Injury Clinic and this may be used by the PCT for health promotion work.

Evidence from other football clubs shows that a move to new family friendly premises results in a 25% increase in attendee numbers. The club currently engages with 10,000 young people per annum and it is hoped to build on this by means of the sports hall and disabled facilities.

Discussion

Andrew Jones suggested that John contacts the children's wards at the Royal Hospital about working together on projects.

Su Gomer suggested exploring whether Rykneld Homes Ltd could work with CFC on youth diversionary projects.

Carol Lawton reported that Links is currently putting together a venue directory for community groups and asked if these groups would have to join CFC to be able to use the meeting room facilities at the stadium. John advised that community groups will not have to join the Club to be able to use its meeting rooms.

Carol also asked about parking arrangements. John advised that in line with national policy, 400-500 spaces will be provided at the ground. Local businesses with car parks may allow parking on their sites and there are public car parks in the vicinity. The club wants to offer this information on its website as it is keen to avoid upsetting local residents.

Roger Flint said that Chesterfield Police is keen to work with CFC to engage young people that haven't already been involved with other initiatives. Other clubs could be visited for ideas of the types of projects that could be used.

Becky Lomas offered to let John have some DCC officer contact details that may be useful to him.

Steve Lee said that CFC's unique selling point is that it could engage with people that haven't been previously engaged. The LSP Theme groups could also be asked for project ideas.

The Chair thanked John for an interesting presentation.

5. Financial Inclusion

The Chair introduced Paul DiMambro who gave a presentation about the work of the East and South Midlands Financial Inclusion Champions. Contracted by DWP, the FI Champions' agenda is to widen access to affordable credit, face to face debt advice, home contents insurance and savings.

The team of specialist champions works regionally and inter-regionally supporting and working with regional partnerships, forums, local councils and housing organisations.

DWP has contracted Experian to carry out a mapping exercise of the UK and establish a coding system to indicate the level of access to credit within areas. In the East Midlands, Lincoln, Bolsover and Chesterfield districts are coded red and North East Derbyshire district orange, indicating poor provision.

Nick Chischniak entered the meeting at 10.05am.

The East Midlands has a high number of people without a bank account and a high number with no current account. There is also likely to be an increase in the number of loan sharks operating in the area due to the current economic climate.

The main concern is for the social rented sector, therefore this is the target group for financial inclusion. It is also recognised that in rural areas, even access to mainstream services is poor. In response to this, a toolkit for rural areas has been launched and is available free to partners.

There is an established link between debt and mental health, and a link with crime and re-offending. Work has been undertaken with the Prison Service to reduce the risk of re-offending by setting offenders on a firmer financial footing before release.

Survey results show that housing organisations are offering financial advice to tenants, but not access to affordable credit. Other issues, such as take-up of the Child Trust Fund, which in Chesterfield is 76.9% and 79.2% in NE Derbyshire, also need addressing.

Some encouraging news is that mainstream providers will be offering a Savings Gateway next year. The ideal scenario is for local partners to have a joint strategy to encourage the uptake of these types of accounts which give an additional 50 pence of government money to the account holder for every £1 they put in the account. With regard to Home Contents Insurance, local authorities and ALMOs are being asked to promote these.

The FI Champions have worked with small credit unions and linked these to larger county-wide credit unions thus allowing access to more money.

The Common Bond legislation is being altered to allow cross-border working and an event for local authorities is to be held on 29th September in Nottingham to advise them about what practical steps they can take to help credit unions.

The Head of the FI Taskforce has met with Heads of Banks and Building Societies regarding and agreed protocol on access to accounts. The negotiations are nearly complete and it is hoped that two national banks in this region will be in a position to offer extended services soon.

The Financial Services Agency leads on the Education agenda for financial capability. The FSA funds programmes for young people in schools, colleges and universities, and for young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) to help them become more capable and confident in financial matters.

Further information about Financial Inclusion can be found at <http://www.fichampions.com/> and <http://www.nowletstalkmoney.com/>

Discussion

Su Gomer noted that implementing a financial inclusion strategy is harder than developing it. Rykneld Homes has arrangements with the Co-operative Bank for banking and insurance, but the main problem is ensuring clients make regular savings or loan repayments.

Paul agreed that it is not an easy process, but that this is a good time to get involved as there is lots of help available at the moment. He is currently piloting a project to train residents groups about insurance to see if word of mouth can help sell the idea to their friends, relatives and neighbours.

Cameron asked if the pilot was signposting people to an insurance company or acting as the underwriter. He also asked what happens about insurance when it is paid with rent if the tenant falls into arrears. Paul advised that the FI Champions act in a signposting role for insurance, and he was unable to comment about arrears. Su advised that Rykneld run this type of scheme and there is a clear distinction between rent and insurance. Additionally plenty of early advice about the stages of arrears and the implications on insurance is given so that tenants are clear about where they stand.

Carol Lawton declared an interest due to her work at Links. She feels it is unlikely that people in the target group will sign up to insurance or loans at the moment as they are in crisis and are not able to think about planning their future. In her opinion, the focus needs to be on debt advice. Paul explained that the Government has put a lot of money into advice and this has enabled many more people to access it than previously.

Becky Lomas was keen that any work that happens in the districts is linked to the countywide work. Paul advised that he is aware of the County's work.

The Chair thanked Paul for an interesting presentation.

6. Affordable Credit in the CHART LSP Area

Please refer to the attachments to agenda item 6.

Steve Lee introduced Carl Griffiths who is one of the leads on the Countywide Strategy, and briefly recapped on the Financial Inclusion Project proposal. The group was asked to comment on the proposal.

Discussion

Tim Norton felt that it would be sensible to consider a contingency if the outcome of Phase 1 was not to continue working with CCU.

Carol Lawton advised that the proposal is in three stages because of the concern that CCU may not perform. Other considerations are that the geography of Derbyshire makes accessing services difficult and that the relaxing of the common bond legislation may mean credit unions from outside the area move in.

The Chair said it would be interesting to hear the findings of Phase 1 in October.

The proposal was noted.

Core Items

7. Sustainable Community Strategy and Theme Action Plans

a) Focus: Economic Regeneration & Skills

Cllr Pat Kerry, Chair of the Economic Regeneration & Skills Theme Group gave a presentation.

The group sits under the Working and Learning Communities strategic priority in the Sustainable Community Strategy and its priorities are tackling worklessness, stimulating economic activity and tackling financial exclusion.

Various projects have been undertaken in the last year to address these priorities including the Jobs & Training Fair, Working Communities Programme, a bid to the Future Jobs Fund, Business Advice events and Training courses, successful LEADER funding bid, developing a bid for funding to support the local Markets, and commissioning a Financial Inclusion Project study.

The current economic climate has made this a challenging time for the group, but much has been achieved this year and partners continue to develop new initiatives to tackle local issues.

The Chair thanked Cllr Kerry for an interesting presentation.

Steve Lee updated on the LEADER Programme. The AGM and stakeholder event is to be held on 8th September and this will be used to determine priorities for the year ahead.

At a recent meeting with EMDA, Steve was advised that nationally, the RDPE is under-spending, therefore there is the opportunity for BNED to spend more

than the £2.4m it was allocated. In addition, some of the other criteria have been relaxed. The programme is looking for projects for January to March 2010 and partners are asked to contact Steve with suggestions.

Action: Steve to circulate LEADER Funding Criteria to the group.

b) Theme Group Updates

Natalie Priestley updated the group. Please refer to the attachment to item 7.

The report was noted.

c) Performance Management Website

Please refer to the attachment to item 7.

Natalie Priestley updated the group. The domain and server are set up and the application has been populated. Go live is expected soon and when this happens all Lead Officers will be trained to use the system and the responsibility for keeping it updated will pass to them. Work is being undertaken with the performance management officers to set proxy measures for the LSP to measure. It is hoped this will be completed for the next round of Theme Group meetings.

d) Derbyshire Partnership Forum

Steve Lee advised that he had recently attended the LSP Co-ordinators Group meeting, the purpose of which is to ensure that local LSP issues are fed up to the Derbyshire LSP. An issue the group has identified is communication. Representatives who go to meetings of the DPF or County Blocks need to be engaged in order to feed local LSP issues up and back.

The current focus at county level is on health, and Steve will be in touch with partners for evidence of issues and initiatives around this.

8. Information Sharing Protocol

Please refer to the attachment to agenda item 8

Steve Lee updated the group. Barry Pitt has written a protocol to cover performance management data provision for LSP partners. As only DFRS has contacted Steve about the document, he is assuming that all other partners are happy to accept it.

Carol Lawton advised that she is unable to commit to it for the sector she represents.

It was agreed to adopt the protocol.

9. LSP Finances & Staffing

Please refer to the attachment to agenda item 9.

Steve Lee recapped that the LSP is running at a deficit and that the Executive Group has decided that all partners should be involved in a discussion about the options. In addition, Steve and one of the Chief Executives from the local authorities will be meeting with all funding partners separately and Steve has started approaching possible new partners for the LSP.

The LSP has agreed to take on one of CBC's Future Jobs Fund/WNF apprentices to do basic office administration. He will be attending a meeting on 17th September to find out more details.

The LEADER Project Officer left in June and Steve has been supporting the Finance Officer to cover the post. An internal candidate will be interviewed as a replacement on Friday 11th September. If this exercise fails, the vacancy will go to open recruitment.

The office relocation is expected to take place in mid October. **[Subsequent to this meeting the moving date has been set for 12th October 2009]**

Additional funding of £16k has been confirmed for the Dancefit programme, and the LEADER programme will be charged for the time spent covering the Programme Officer vacancy by LSP staff.

Tim Norton told partners that without sufficient resources, the LSP will be unable to deliver the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The report was noted.

10. LSP Annual Conference

Steve confirmed that the CHART LSP Conference will be held on 5th November at the Winding Wheel. Theme Chairs will be required to make a presentation on the work of their Theme Group and it would be helpful if they could give this some early consideration. Also, suggestions for the agenda would be welcomed.

11. Any Other Business

Action Plan Officer - The Chair reported that Natalie Priestley is leaving the LSP to work at DCC. He thanked Natalie on behalf of partners for the work she has done over the last three years and wished her every success in the future.

Steve Lee also thanked Natalie for the support she has given colleagues and said that she will be sorely missed.

Staveley Neighbourhood Management -Tim Norton reported that SNM will close this month after seven years. The Chair thanked Tim for his support.

EQ=R - Cameron Philpot advised that CBC is hosting this event at the Winding Wheel from 10am to 3pm on 17th November 2009.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting

All meetings start at 9.30am unless otherwise notified

Date	Venue
Friday 4 December	Stephenson Room, Coney Green Business Centre, Clay Cross