

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

of a joint meeting of the **Local Strategic Partnership Board** and **Community Safety Board** held on Wednesday 25 January 2023 at Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth, WD3 1RL from 10am to 11.56am.

Participants:

Cllr Sarah Nelmes (Chair)	Leader of Three Rivers District Council
Shivani Davé	Three Rivers District Council
Kate Brierly	Hertfordshire County Council
Shirish Chauhan	Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce
Freddy Chester	Three Rivers District Council
Peter Cogan	Watford Community Housing
Cllr Terry Douris	Hertfordshire County Council
Rebecca Griffith	OPCC
Keith Harland	Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Jo Hewitson	Three Rivers District Council
Saffron Johnson	Watford Chamber of Commerce
Bob Jones	Watford & Three Rivers Trust
Enoch Kanagaraj	One Vision
Chris Luff	Watford Chamber of Commerce
Elsbeth Mackenzie	Thrive Homes
Peta Mettam	CASTR
Stewart Moulding	Hertfordshire Police
Michael Nadasdy	CCSU, Herts County Council
Andrew Palfreyman	Hertfordshire Police
Priti Patel	CLP
Tiffany Richards	Ascend
Cllr Roger Seabourne	Member, Three Rivers District Council
Emma Sheridan	Three Rivers District Council
Caroline Smart	West Herts College
Debbie Stone	Intensive Family Support, HCC
Tamara Valmas	Home Group
Karen Watkin	Home Start Watford & Three Rivers
Michelle Wright	Three Rivers District Council
Mike Simpson	Three Rivers District Council

LSP 20/22 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES** **CSB 11/22**

Apologies for absence were received from Miranda Gittos, Specialist Services and Commissioning HCC, Joanna Marovitch (Herts Mind Network), Rebecca Bayley (Catch 22), Helen Flavell (HM Prison & Probation Service), Matt Mottram (OPCC) (sub Rebecca Griffith), Kips Green, Emma Doree (West Herts College) (Caroline Smart).

LSP 21/22 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** **CSB 12/22**

The Minutes of the meeting of the LSP Board held on 28 September 2022 were agreed to be an accurate account.

LSP 22/22 **COMMUNITY STRATEGY REVIEW** **CSB 13/22**

SD introduced the review of the existing strategy which was compiled in 2017 with input from LSP Board Members and ran from 2018-2023. A broader report would follow and would again include input from members of the Board.

A lot of unforeseen challenges had arisen during the past four years since the strategy was written, such as Covid and the impact of wars in Afghanistan and Ukraine. Staff had worked extremely hard to address the numerous issues.

The Chair said a lot of the work involved was statutory but much more was undertaken by the LSP as a matter of choice.

AP was enthused by the presentation, having recently been involved in other areas, and said the work undertaken by the No More Service and on ASB was particularly impressive.

ES advised members of the Board that it was not too late to provide feedback into the review.

EM said a huge amount of work had clearly been done over the past five years, and asked how the CSP would identify what was better now than in 2018. SD replied that comparing data was difficult because of changing needs, but an assessment will be compiled which will consider the socio-economic variations.



03 Community
Strategy Review.ppt

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the presentation be noted.

**LSP 23/22
CSB 14/22**

DATA REVIEW

FC presented the data review which comprised input from CSP partners and concluded with a breakdown of the prominent issues by ward.



04 Data Review
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It was deemed surprising that Carpenders Park featured as high as third place for debt advice, in view of the perceived affluence within the area, and was therefore something that required looking into further. It was also considered surprising that Maple Cross scored low on mental health referrals, this could be as there are fewer support facilities there.

The positives to be taken were that deprived areas were well supported with healthy hubs and were therefore in the right locations. It was likely that Chorleywood figures might have masked some of the issues in Maple Cross, and further development work and support may be needed. Similarly, Oxhey Hall was believed to be more affluent than Hayling, which may have skewed the results there too.

EM asked whether more demographically accurate data could be extracted from the data. ES would shortly address the question when summarising census results.

CL asked whether the CAB was the only agency providing employment support, to which TR replied that Ascend ran a Job Club but it was overwhelmed with demand and could not keep up. The current financial and societal pressures were having a big impact across the board, and no longer just affected the usual individuals. The Chair suggested that the low numbers in evidence were

perhaps more a result of an inability to meet demand rather than a lack of referrals.

RS questioned the reliability of stats based on grouping by ward, which was initially done for administrative purposes, and had little other demographic relevance.

PM said Mill End residents are strongly supported in matters such as rent arrears, but others were not going to the CAB offices because they don't travel. The Chair said it was clear that many of those who were previously just about managing are now not managing.

A question was asked regarding the issues surrounding people not getting work in South Oxhey. The Chair replied that a lack of public transport was an issue, and PM suggested low literacy levels was a key factor, as many individuals were not skilled to take up work and were therefore not offered any. TR said Ascend had launched a scheme recently to address the problem of low literacy.

PM said that a lot of individuals claimed not to be able to read or write, either due to a disability or having never learnt, and the latter was supported by the fact that many parents claimed they could not get their children to school.

EK said a lot of people were on long-term sickness support, as evidenced by data from GP surgeries. CL asked if there was sufficient support from local businesses to which TR replied that although Ascend was not working directly with businesses, there were indirect links as they helped people prepare for interviews through Job Centre Plus. CL said there could be options for the two agencies to work together.

LSP 24/22
CSB 15/22

CENSUS INFORMATION

Emma Sheridan, Head of Community Partnerships, introduced the results of the 2021 census. Due to a national shift because of Covid, refugees and the cost-of-living crisis that brought socio-economic changes the findings of the census were already significantly out of date but it was the only information of this nature that was available.



05 Census - ES.pptx

ES encouraged Board members to investigate further the findings of the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and take the opportunity to redraw boundaries to obtain reliable data.

In conclusion, it was said the population of Three Rivers was largely at odds with the national average in that there not a lot of younger working age people (20—30 years), and was populated by predominantly older working people with children, and retirees. The district was largely white, largely Christian and largely affluent, professional and employed. The challenge for the Community Partnership was that Three Rivers doesn't tick enough boxes for funding to aid problems caused by deprivation. There were pockets of hardship within the district and work would be done on how the CSP can secure funding, but low income residents in an affluent area were at a greater disadvantage than those in a poorer one as the social support was less likely to be in place, and where, by way of an example, the local supermarket was Waitrose not Aldi. The focus, therefore, would be on prevention.

LSP 25/22 **COMMUNITY STRATEGY WORKSHOP**
CSB 16/22

Attendees broke out into groups to discuss reasons for and solutions to several issues as identified by the CSP: Economic, Environmental, Belonging and Safe and Healthy Communities.



06
WORKSHOP.pptx

LSP 26/22 **FEEDBACK**
CSB 17/22

A member of each breakout group shared the outcome of one of the topics discussed, and all results would be collated and shared at a future point.

SD fed back on Economic. The group's conversations focussed on access and support for those not previously drawing on support, reading coaching, literacy support, public transport access in areas that were lacking it and encouraging parents to do more to share with their children information on working life.

AP delivered results on the conversation about Environment, placing an emphasis on climate change, recycling and prevention of waste – generally driving awareness.

ES spoke about Belonging, and said a sense of community was very important, and a feeling of belonging was key, and access needed to be available for older people. ES spoke of having a local identity, which might be in the form of a sports club and questioned if it mattered whether people felt they belonged to Watford, Mill End or Three Rivers etc.

SM fed back on Safe and Healthy Communities, and cited parents not working with children to interact, preferring to sit on their phones instead. Communities faced big challenges at present due to the cost-of-living crisis that affected many families, asylum seekers etc.

The Chair said the LSP would look wherever it could to bid for pots of funding and said some National Health work and funding for vaccination hubs were rare examples of the benefits of Covid.

LSP 27/22 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
CSB 18/22

KH said fire legislation had changed recently and encouraged housing providers – particularly of multi occupancy and high-rise buildings to take note.

ES confirmed the LSP would be receiving the shared prosperity funding it bid for, and conversations would now take place about how it would be spent. Details would be fed back to the LSP Board on a biannual basis.

The Chair asked if Board members could in future be provided with name badges at meetings.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

Wednesday 22 March 2023

CHAIR