THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Local Strategic Partnership Board** held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Wednesday 02 March 2016 from 10am to 11.38 am.

Present: Steven Halls (Chairman) Three Rivers District Council

Councillor Ann Shaw OBE Three Rivers District Council

Deirdre Dent (DD) Herts Constabulary

County Councillor Teresa Heritage Public Health & Localism, Harpenden South West Division

Sarah Hill Herts Valley Clinical Commissioning Group

Jon Horastead Herts Fire and Rescue Service

Marion Ingram Herts County Council

Marie-Anne Essam Herts Valley Clinical Commissioning Group   
Tim Parkin Resolving Chaos

Marion Seneschall Citizen Advice Bureau

In attendance:

Cllr Roger Seabourne Three Rivers District Council

Karl Stonebank (KS) Three Rivers District Council

Andy Stovold (AST) Three Rivers District Council

Mike Simpson Three Rivers District Council

Also in attendance was Shivani Dave ( Three Rivers District Council)

Apologies for absence were received from Tina Barnard, Watford Community Housing Trust

**LSP19/15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2015 were agreed by the Board and signed by the Chairman. An error in item sequencing was noted.

**LSP20/15 MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA**

There were no matters arising.

**LSP21/15 YOUR CARE YOUR FUTURE**

The Board received a presentation from Dr Marie-Ann Essam of the Herts Valley Clinical Commissioning Group.

It was explained that the success of the multi-function Health and Social Care Hub concept ‘resonated’ in terms of delivering medical care to people living in deprived areas. Dr Essam said that the scheme ‘hit the bull’s eye of medical equality’ by way of use of technology combined with co-operation from outside partners and agencies, and the involvement of different groups and the medical profession. The Group’s vision was to change the emphasis of medical provision to those most in need and support their empowerment towards better health, and to provide early and robust intervention by creating a more integrated culture.

In response to a Member’s question regarding how the funding for the project in South Oxhey was going, Dr Essam said that Hertfordshire County Council was working with NHS England to secure both capital and revenue streams, and that assurances had been given.

A Member asked whether the proposed South Oxhey hub was included in the Planning application for the redevelopment of the area. Dr Essam said that the planning aspect was not her area of expertise, and County Councillor Teresa Heritage read the contents of an email from Ian MacBeath, Director of Health and Community Services at Herts County Council, which stated:

”*The hub is not part of the main regeneration plans - it was 'decoupled' to give us more time to get partners’ commitment. I have commissioned a viability study into whether the scheme stacks up financially - this will report at the end of March. I have committed to 3RDC officers that we'll have a definitive answer by the summer in order to take proposals back to their members.”*  
  
A Member of the group asked whether, in view of the severe cuts being applied to local government services, money would continue to be provided for the scheme, to which Dr Essam replied that South Oxhey was widely considered a priority area and if local funding proved to be a problem, those behind the project would look for funding at a national level.

CI Deirdre Dent stated that the project would potentially make a huge difference to the police as cuts in mental health budgets had an adverse effect on the force.

RESOLVED:-

The contents of the presentation were noted.

**LSP22/15 ADULTS WITH COMPLEX NEEDS**

The Board received a presentation from Tim Parkin of Resolving Chaos on the You Can pilot project. The pilot schemes are based at Hertsmere Borough Council offices and at the *Step Up* building in South Oxhey, and the aim was to work with 60 individuals over an 18-month period up until July 2017. The project would provide an intensive keyworker to support participants in the community co-ordinating input from partner agencies including Local Authorities, Housing providers, voluntary groups and the NHS.

In reply to a question from a Board Member about recruitment, Tim Parkin said that he did not envisage difficulties employing staff as each worker had a limited casework of up to 10 participants, and flexible working methods applied. A major obstacle for the project, however, was the shortage of suitable available housing.

Tim Parkin added that there was no rush to take on the scheme’s targeted 60 participants as doing so would not result in attracting those most in need of its services.

A Member expressed concern that, after 18 months of engagement, participants faced the prospect of being back on the street. Tim Parkin accepted that You Can would have to work hard on an exit strategy for participants and the provision of ongoing care.

Dr Marie-Ann Essam said that it was essential to prioritise housing for participants of the You Can programme, as otherwise the previous 18 months’ care would be at risk of being wasted.

A Member questioned how, in view of the housing shortage in Three Rivers, the prioritising of programme participants could be justified ahead of those in need of accommodation who have not misbehaved.

The Chairman of the meeting told the Board that District Authorities had agreed to look at specific funding to support probation services house people released from custody.

AST added that, although scheme participants could not be prioritised for housing, keyworkers were able to support them by ensuring that their housing needs had been appropriately assessed against the Council’s Housing Policy, by supporting them to sustain tenancies and avoid eviction, and by seeking alternative accommodation in the private sector. For those facing potential eviction action by a social landlord, the engagement in the programme was seen as a step to delay such action, as was the case in the Thriving Families programme.

RESOLVED:-

The contents of the presentation were noted.

**LSP23/15 INDICES OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION 2015**

This report comprised an analysis of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) within the Three Rivers district. The data were published in 2015, and were important to understand to assess changes in local needs and because they were often used nationally to prioritise the awarding of bids through different funding schemes.

It was emphasised that the IMD report was about the ranking of areas across the Country, and as such did not reflect absolute changes in the different domains.

Following the report’s presentation a Member asked whether there was an increase in migration to South Oxhey which might have explained the area’s poor ranking within the indices. In response, the Board was told that there was little available data available on this matter due to the number of residents in privately rented accommodation, but the most commonly-spoken foreign languages in the District after Gujarati, were Polish and Portuguese.

It was suggested that some of the figures within the report were a little misrepresentative due to boundary line anomalies. It was noted that further analysis of results had been undertaken looking at lower than average car ownership in relation to the sub-domain for access to services.

The figures for Indoor Living Environment had improved, and this was likely due to the work of Watford Community Housing Trust and Thrive Homes on the Decent Homes Standard. Conversely, areas where the residents’ right-to-buy had been exercised and where there were significant levels of older private accommodation had seen less improvement which may be due to a shortage of funds with which to refurbish and improve the properties.

AST stated that the Community Strategy 2012-2018 priorities required refreshing in 2018, but that they appeared fit for purpose until that time.

The Chairman said that while some areas within the District were improving indices, they were slipping in their rankings, showing that other LSOAs must be improving at a faster rate. This coincided with Herts’ economic performance, where its ranking was slipping generally.

The Board Member from Herts Constabulary said that one reason for this was the increasing number of deprived people that moved out of London into the District.

AST added that some areas of the IMD showed an improvement, for example employment, as determined by the reduction in number of people claiming benefit.

A Member said that another contributory factor to the figures as presented was the public’s longer life expectancy.

RESOLVED:-

The contents of the report were noted.

**LSP24/15 AOB**

KS stated that the Step Up programme in South Oxhey made a substantial difference to people living in the area, and provided opportunities to gain qualifications and a better quality of life. The effect of the programme would not have been captured in the IMD 2015 due to the age of the data reaching back to 2013 but that this impact should be reflected in the next set of IMD statistics.

**DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:**

8 June 2016 at 10am

12 October 2016 at 10am

8 March 2017 at 10am