

**KETTERING PARTNERSHIP**

**LSP EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Meeting held: 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

**Present:** Councillor Russell Roberts (Chair)  
Councillor Ian Jelley (Kettering Borough Council)  
Councillor Bill Parker (Northamptonshire County Council)  
Debbie Egan (Voluntary Sector – C.A.B.)  
Thomas Tansey (Northamptonshire County Council)  
Lea McKinnon (Northamptonshire County Council)  
Robert Emery (Tresham C.F.H.E.)

**Also Present:** Martin Hammond (Kettering Borough Council)  
Val Hitchman (Kettering Borough Council)  
Carole Stephenson (Kettering Borough Council)  
Rebecca Lees (Kettering Borough Council)  
David Pope (Committee Administrator)

**13.LSP.22 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Terry Freer (KBC), Julie Trahern (KBC), Chief Inspector Max Williams (Northants Police) and Inspector Dick Tall (Northants Police).

**13.LSP.23 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**13.LSP.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**13.LSP.25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

**13.LSP.26 VOLUNTEERING SUPPORT CONTRACT IN KETTERING**

Thomas Tansey, Strategic Third Sector Development Manager at Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) attended the meeting to provide an update on the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Support Contract.

Nationally four key themes were noted as being vitally important for the VCS:-

- Closer organisational integration
- Improved collaboration with statutory and private sectors
- Development of new funding generation methods
- A need for VCS to demonstrate impact more effectively

Within Northamptonshire there had been an acknowledgement of a reduction in resources, with the VCS aware of the requirement to seek alternative funding sources away from the public purse. It was noted that the VCS was a key partner with NCC and its ability to deliver the Prevention and Demand strategy.

A review of the needs and requirements of the VCS had taken place during summer 2013, with the new approach shaped by the views of voluntary and community groups obtained during NCC interviews and workshop discussions in all districts and boroughs, together with an online survey. Approximately 200 of an estimated 2000 organisations had responded in total.

Whilst focusing on the many positives of the existing service, there were clear messages about future needs as detailed below:-

- Improved reach, both online and offline
- Consistency of service quality across the county
- Clearer communication
- Less complex, more streamlined and accountable model
- Eradicate duplication of service
- Greater collaboration within VCS and with partners
- Better use of resources in service delivery
- Strong local delivery with countywide management

The meeting was advised that unless the contract was delivered locally to an extremely high standard then it would fail. This had been made abundantly clear in the specification that went out through the procurement process.

It was noted that the commissioning process had begun approximately a year previously, with a contract award offer being made to Northampton Volunteering Centre (NVC). The

contract itself would be drafted imminently and was scheduled to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014.

The meeting heard that the organisation would maintain offices in each district, in some cases with existing providers, and would be the first point of contact for any organisation wanting support. An online portal would be in place and face-to-face access would remain for those without internet access.

The Chair raised the idea of a community hub, with strong involvement from KBC. In reply it was noted that the best way to deliver services was to make them as local as possible and NVC would be working closely with community hubs and may also consider basing some services within hubs.

It was noted that the chief executive of NVC, Jane Carr would be formally invited to a future meeting of the LSP Executive to ensure there was a clear understanding of the aims of the organisation and the pathways required to achieve those aims.

### **13.LSP.27 SOCIAL FUND UPDATE**

Lea McKinnon attended from NCC to provide an update on the Social Fund administered by the county council.

The meeting noted that crisis loans and community care grants had been abolished to be replaced by the Social Fund; a two-year scheme comprising non-ringfenced funding of £1.4m per annum. The scheme had commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 and would cease on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

Details of investments made by NCC in countywide provisions were detailed to the meeting. Details specifically for Kettering during 2013 were provided to the meeting as listed below:

- St Jude's were the foodbank provider for Kettering and the surrounding areas;
- Phoenix Furniture and Wellingborough Domestic provided essential items;
- 54 applications to the SIL were made;
- 15 fuel top ups had been received;
- 51 customers had been assisted with case work from Community Law for energy advice;
- Several briefing sessions about the scheme with agents, sessions included a scheme overview, how to apply for SIL items, energy top ups, about the provisions available via the Social Fund Scheme and advice and signposting about others services available.

The meeting were then provided with an outline of Social Fund countywide investments for 2014/15 which included foodbanks, energy provisions, local furniture turnarounds as well as investment in the Charity Link, Northamptonshire Community Foundation and Northamptonshire Credit Union organisations.

Accredited Debt and Money Management training would also be provided by the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB), initially to 220 library staff commencing on 28<sup>th</sup> April, with plans for 3,000 frontline volunteers to be trained.

The meeting heard that for Kettering during 2014/15, the intention was to continue with existing works as listed above, with the foodbank provider changing to Kettering Centre for the Unemployed and additional infrastructure investment for Phoenix Furniture turnaround.

The Chair thanked Lea for her presentation and noted that as library opening hours included Sunday mornings, they were very useful centres for people to go for advice.

### **13.LSP.28 KETTERING HEALTH & WELLBEING FORUM**

Dr Raf Poggi attended the meeting to provide an update on the Kettering Health and Wellbeing Forum.

The meeting were advised that at the last meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Forum on 13 March, the newly appointed Director of Public Health, Dr Akeem Ali had agreed to fund a co-ordinator for communication between district and borough authorities and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Aside from partner organisation updates, the board had discussed the overseeing of the Better Care fund and the Health in Northamptonshire strategy. The Better Care fund was set at £11m for the current year rising to £37m for 2015 with the intention to include all community health and social services within the fund, which could eventually increase to £200m.

The Chair noted that KBC should have involvement in this area to better understand what was happening within the sector.

### **13.LSP.29 COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY**

Martin Hammond presented an update on the Community Safety strategy. The meeting was advised that the strategy was a rolling three year document, refreshed on an annual basis. The strategy had remained broadly the same as the previous year, although ASB targets would be revisited to ensure they were fit for purpose.

The meeting further noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) had rearranged his funding structure, with KBC being awarded £59k. Proposals were being finalised for presentation to the PCC regarding how the funds would be spent.

The general picture on crime was improving, with a reduction in violent crime especially in Kettering town centre. An increase in acquisitive crime had been noted, with areas of the Avondale Grange and All Saints wards becoming priority areas where police presence could be concentrated. The meeting heard that there would be a continued focus on tackling the issue of domestic violence with the more instances identified the better.

### **13.LSP.30 PURPLE FLAG BRIEFING**

Rebecca Lees provided the meeting with a presentation outlining the work undertaken by KBC in order to obtain Purple Flag status.

The meeting was advised that the principle aim was to ensure Kettering delivered a vibrant and varied night-time economy, bringing financial benefits to existing businesses as well as resulting in a safer and cleaner town centre.

The heart of the scheme was the Core Agenda which provided the standards required to attain Purple Flag status. The meeting heard that 31 centres across the UK had already achieved the required standard and were eligible to fly a Purple Flag in their town centre.

A partnership approach had been taken, with KBC working in tandem with the emergency services, Street Pastors, Pub Watch and local businesses. A list of core members of the taskforce was provided to the meeting.

An overnight self-assessment audit would take place on 31<sup>st</sup> May to evaluate Kettering town centre, before a report based on these findings was submitted to the Association of Town Centre

Management. Two auditors would be sent to assess Kettering, with their findings fed back to the association board for a final decision on whether Kettering should be accredited.

The Chair commended the work that had been undertaken to attain Purple Flag status.

**13.LSP.31 VOLUNTARY SECTOR UPDATE**

Debbie Egan of the Citizen's Advice Bureau informed the meeting of the Supporting Service contract featuring Anti-Social Behaviour as one of three strands of support.

**13.LSP.20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair paid tribute to Val Hitchman, Head of Community Services who was retiring from service with Kettering Borough Council. He thanked her for all her hard work undertaken during that time to try and make Kettering the best place in which to live.

**13.LSP.21 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014 (Annual Conference)  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015

*(The meeting started at 8:52am and ended at 10.35am)*

Signed .....  
Chair

DJP