



# Prevention Partnership Board Lifetime Communities Group **Minutes** Wednesday 13 June 2012

<b>Members in attendance:</b>	
Linda Barnes	The Alzheimer's Society
Josie Bishton	Bromford Support
Peter Bruford	Riverside
Luisa Fletcher	Bromford Support
Dominic Games	Paradigm Housing
Steve Goldensmith	BCC
Giulia Johnson	Age Concern
Paul Nanji	Chiltern District Council
Lee Scrafton	BCC
Lynn Trigwell	South Bucks District Council
Susie Yapp	BCC



No	Item
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Becci Seaborne, Anna Gordon, Rob Michael-Phillips, Sally Morris and Jane Taptiklis.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Background to the formation of the Group</b></p> <p>Steve Goldensmith welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a short overview of the Prevention Partnership Board (previously known as the Prevention and Wellbeing Partnership Board). He explained that the Board had decided to establish three sub-groups to consider the</p>

themes of Lifetime Housing, Lifetime Communities and Lifetime Health and Wellbeing with a view to identifying priorities in each of the three key areas. The Lifetime Communities Group would be considering community issues including; Access including Transport, services available, built/natural environment, community safety and community capacity.

**3 What are the immediate issues/concerns to prioritise for 2012-13?**

Steve Goldensmith reminded the group that whilst the other partnership boards were focussed on clients who receive services from ASC, the Prevention Partnership Board is primarily concerned with those vulnerable individuals who are ineligible for ASC services, but may still benefit from support from within their communities to maintain their independence.

Are existing community services functioning well? What additional services would be helpful in supporting community capacity? What difficulties did specific client groups face in accessing these services?

There was a round table discussion on these points and the following main points were noted:

- Paul Nanji, Principal Leisure & Community Officer, Chiltern District Council, explained that his role was to link in with existing community groups to help support their activities and he was pleased to report that in Chiltern there were many thriving groups offering physical and social activities. A recent Building Community Capacity project, which was aimed at reducing the social isolation of older people had worked very well. For example, in a rural area of Chesham the community had set up their own volunteer transport scheme and a luncheon club.
- Lynn Trigwell of South Bucks District Council agreed that social isolation was a key issue to address and the district councils were well placed to help deliver some of the Prevention agenda.
- For the elderly, social isolation and dementia were key concerns and Age UK believed that both were likely to increase in future. Age UK focus on helping individuals rather than running community projects, however they would be keen to signpost individuals to services that are available in the community and they were disappointed that they had not heard about the initiatives mentioned in the Chiltern DC area. This highlighted the importance of the need for different agencies to work more closely together.

- Susie Yapp, BCC Community Safety highlighted that often a fear of crime, which was disproportionate to the true levels of crime in the area, led to social isolation. Community Safety undertake a lot of work in trying to provide reassurance. Susie Yapp reported that Karen Adamson, BCC Prevention Community Development Worker, had set up a valuable network across the county, whereby Police Community Safety Officers were linked up with vulnerable people, identified by Adult Social Care. To date 6,000 people had been engaged through this initiative.
- Susie Yapp would like to introduce a Neighbourhood Watch Plus model, to encourage communities to look out for vulnerable neighbours, as well as crime issues.
- The Drug Action Team provide reactive services to specific areas where issues of drug use or dealing arise, but in addition they were trying to be proactive in developing connections with people in the community, especially those in hard to reach groups. If they could educate individuals in the community this would help to support the work of the team.
- It was noted that there were no representatives from Community Impact Bucks or the Localities team at the meeting – this might be useful as Parish Councils were on the frontline, often providing very local services.
- Representatives from Housing providers and Housing support providers reported that whilst they look at community development, often properties are quite dispersed and it was felt that a significant minority of customers may be overlooked with regards to access to services and having a voice.
- It was important to raise awareness of all existing services. Once there was an increased take up of existing services it would be easier to identify any significant gaps. There was a need to consider how people access information – cannot have a one size fits all model and certainly shouldn't rely solely on the internet. Very vulnerable people may need support to take tentative steps to reach out for information.
- Steve Goldensmith outlined the purpose of the Prevention Matters initiative. Health have devolved funding to BCC to deliver an effective prevention model. The project board were working on a model which would link organisations, build community capacity and link communities together to ensure sharing of best practice across the county. They were also looking at how to

identify vulnerable people.

- BCC would be introducing Community Link Officers and Community Prevention Workers as part of this model. Part of their role would be to work with individuals and provide 'a hand to hold' during difficult transition periods. The workers would be based geographically around 7 GP cluster groups – 3 in Aylesbury Vale and 4 in Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks.
- District Council representatives requested that the Community based workers should work closely with them to prevent duplication. It was also suggested that workers should perhaps be based in places where vulnerable people have to attend e.g. doctor's surgeries or chemists.
- Prevention Matters has its own project board but they would also feedback on their progress to the Prevention Partnership Board.

In summing up Steve Goldensmith identified the following issues as priorities for the group:

- Increase support and links between different agencies and organisations
- Need to build on successes of existing groups
- Create 'Community Champions' by empowering individuals who can play a key role in their communities
- Increase community capacity
- Tackle Social Isolation

There was a consensus that Social Isolation was the key priority, whether this was due to; transport difficulties, mental health, learning or physical disabilities, dementia, fear of crime, ex-offenders struggling to be accepted in the community or other groups who felt socially excluded due to language or cultural issues, such as travellers or single parents.

It was suggested that another issue to consider was a lack of community cohesion and how an increased community spirit could be fostered. Angie Sarchet, BCC Cohesion and Equalities Manager could perhaps be invited to a future meeting. Paul Nanji also offered to give a presentation on the Building Community Capacity project he had been involved with at Chiltern.

**4 What areas should be prioritised for the longer term?**

The Group were asked to think of any longer term priorities that the

	<p>Prevention Partnership Board could work towards. Dementia Friendly Communities were suggested and Susie Yapp suggested that whilst this was a really worthwhile aspiration it should be broader than this, looking at how to sustain communities in general over the longer term. There is a Sustainable Community Strategy in place which takes Bucks through to 2026 – it was suggested that it should be ensured that the needs of vulnerable clients groups had been identified and included in the Sustainable Community Strategy.</p> <p>Steve Goldensmith thanked everyone for attending and contributing to the discussions. The priorities of the group would be presented to the Prevention Partnership Board meeting in July with a view to agreeing a number of priorities to present to the Executive Partnership Board.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Dates of future meetings</b></p> <p>Lifetime Health &amp; Wellbeing Group Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm in Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall</p> <p>Prevention &amp; Wellbeing Partnership Board full meeting Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm in Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall</p>

**Chairman**