



Prevention Partnership Board

Minutes

Wednesday 12 September 2012

Members in attendance:	
Peter Bruford	Riverside
Dominic Games	Paradigm Housing
Steve Goldensmith	BCC
Chris Gregory	Bucks & Milton Keynes Sports Partnership
Stephanie Moffat	Aylesbury Vale District Council
Sally Morris	Thames Valley Probation
Tony Peak	South Bucks District Council
Lee Scrafton	BCC
Mark Thompson	ConnectionFS
Mike Veryard	Chiltern District Council



No	Item
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Steve Goldensmith welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Stephen Archibald, Josie Bishton, Liz Bubbear, Anna Gordon, Martyn Hale, Giulia Johnson, James Sainsbury and Susie Yapp.</p>
2	<p>Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2012 were agreed as a</p>

correct record. The Board was advised that the new structure chart was due to be approved shortly and would then be circulated. Steve Goldensmith reported that he had spoken with Lynn Trigwell regarding a mapping exercise of the various initiatives across the County and he would try and take that forward. Stephanie Moffatt of AVDC expressed concerns about duplication of effort and wondered if the Bucks Strategic Partnership (now called Bucks Network) had already carried out a similar mapping exercise. Steve Goldensmith agreed to check this.

Action: Steve Goldensmith

3 Priorities Update

Steve Goldensmith explained that he wanted the Board to be tightly focussed, undertaking pieces of work as well as monitoring the work of other groups in order to influence their outcomes too. Steve Goldensmith distributed the Priority and Actions template and the Board considered and discussed the Objectives – the following main points were noted:

- Outcome 1, Objective 1 was concerned with supporting and assisting clients with changes in the Benefit System. It was noted that Bucks Network had established a Task and Finish group to look into the welfare benefits changes. Steve Goldensmith and Dominic Games would be attending a meeting of this group the following day and would provide feedback to the Board at the November meeting.
- It was acknowledged that it was important for frontline staff to recognise the potential impact on clients and provide them with appropriate support. Luisa Fletcher from Bromford Support advised that they wanted to put a simple toolkit together for staff. They have compiled a simple flow chart for staff to show where clients can access more information and advice. Other members felt that it might be useful to prioritise the development of a generic toolkit which could then be shared by partner organisations.
- The longer term impact of the benefits changes also needed to be assessed. Concerns were raised about capacity in support organisations such as Probation, Citizens Advice Bureau and Bucks Floating Support. An increase in Homelessness was anticipated and Sally Morris from Probation indicated that two people had told her recently that they thought they would end up back in prison due to the lack of private accommodation.
- Outcome 3 and 5, Objective 1 was concerned with tackling social isolation and Steve Goldensmith advised members that a lot of the Prevention Matters agenda would contribute to this.
- Outcome 4 centred around Housing and Support. Objective 4

was concerned with keeping rough sleeping and single homelessness in Buckinghamshire at a minimal level. Mike Veryard of CDC reported that the Rough Sleeping project, which was across Bucks and Oxfordshire, with WDC as the lead authority, could contribute to this priority so it would be useful for the Board to gain feedback from their work. They have now appointed a Project Manager and should be agreeing their action plan by the end of September.

In summing up Steve Goldensmith asked all members of the Board to advise him of any comments or changes on the Priority and Actions template via email. He also suggested that the Board would need to prioritise the priorities and proposed that Welfare Benefits should be looked at immediately, followed by Supporting People and then Social Isolation/Prevention Matters.

Action: All Board members

4 Welfare Benefits Reform

Steve Goldensmith welcomed Elaine Norris, Partner Development Manager, Department for Work and Pensions to the meeting. Elaine Norris gave members a PowerPoint presentation on changes to Welfare Benefits. In response to members' questions and during the subsequent discussions, the following points were noted:

- The main principle driving the welfare reforms is that work should pay and all those who are capable should be working. The key changes are that Personal Independence Payments (PIP) will replace Disability Living Allowance and Universal Credit will simplify a complex system of benefits which currently includes Income related JSA, Income related ESA, Income Support, Working Tax Credits, Child Tax Credits and Housing Benefit.
- Elaine Norris was asked what constitutes working age – she explained that for DWP purposes it was 16-64.
- A member commented that people who currently receive DLA, who are reassessed and are not eligible for PIP, could be hit threefold as they could also lose support with Council Tax and might be caught out with under-occupancy rules.
- Elaine Norris explained that face to face assessments would be carried out and DWP had contracted this service out. Board members expressed concerns about capacity to process people quickly. Elaine Norris was asked how many DLA claimants there are in Bucks. It was agreed that Steve Goldensmith would find out this figure and report back to members.

Action: Steve Goldensmith

- A housing provider expressed concerns that if people were to lose all their benefits, would landlords have no choice but to evict

them.

- With regards to Universal Credit, the two major changes are that people would be encouraged to apply online and payments will be made on a monthly basis. Job Centres will have PCs available for people who do not have a computer at home. Concerns were expressed for clients with limited literacy or PC skills but Elaine Norris advised that support would be available in job centres.
- Monthly payments could be difficult for vulnerable people to manage and people with drug, alcohol or gambling problems might not want to receive a monthly payment. Elaine Norris explained that alternative payment schedules could be looked at in exceptional circumstances, but it was felt that the exception threshold was set very high. Luisa Fletcher reported that Bromford FS had been involved with a pilot in Shropshire and in July only 50% of claimants made their rent payments. In addition, Sally Morris of TVP Probation advised that often people coming out of prison have no identification, which makes it hard for them to open a bank account.
- It was noted that the local Social Fund Reform Budget had been delegated to the County Council. Steve Goldensmith agreed to investigate how the money is to be administered and who will be responsible for this.

Action: Steve Goldensmith

- It was agreed that Elaine Norris would send in her presentation and useful links to be circulated to Board members.

Action: Elaine Norris

Elaine advised that people should check the DWP website which was kept updated. It was noted that support workers might want to view claim forms in advance in order to help them to support clients in completing them.

5 Prevention Matters

Steve Goldensmith gave a presentation on Prevention Matters, a new joint public health initiative being delivered by BCC and the Primary Care Trust, aimed at helping vulnerable clients remain independent in their own home. Currently Adults and Family Wellbeing only provide care for those who have 'high or very high needs'. This project would target those with 'medium needs' and research undertaken with In Touch and Planning for Care has suggested there is a target group of 7,000 older people.

There are 5 principles underlying Prevention Matters – 1) Connecting people 2) Bridging 3) Intelligence 4) Maximising existing

resources 5) Motivating and Enabling. Bridging refers to building bridges between organisations and communities, particularly those who tend to be very self-supporting, for example, travellers, which can mean they are sometimes isolated from services.

There are four key components to the project. Community Link Officers and Community Prevention Workers will be recruited to work in the community. An Intelligence Hub and a Volunteer Hub will be established - the Intelligence Hub will aim to identify what works effectively to help to address needs on a strategic basis across the county. The Volunteer Hub will help with marketing, resources needed to set up a new service and training for volunteers.

It was envisaged that a GP may be the initial referrer. The Community Prevention Worker (CPW) would then conduct a mini assessment with the client and then help and support this person in accessing appropriate services. The Community Link Officer (CLO) will be tasked with building capacity in a specific geographical area, by networking and assisting with marketing and recruitment. There will be 7 CLOs – 3 in Aylesbury Vale, 2 in Wycombe, 1 in South Bucks and 1 in Chiltern and there will be 14 CPWs, whose area will correspond with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) – there are 2 CCGs, broken down into 7 areas in each one.

Prevention Matters is a £4.1m project to run over 3 years. This is one off funding from the Department of Health, so it is vital to monitor and evidence the results of the project. Steve Goldensmith envisaged that the Prevention Partnership Board could act as a critical friend to the Prevention Matters Project Board in future.

Members thanked Steve Goldensmith for his presentation. They were pleased to hear about this new project and looked forward to getting more detail at future meetings.

6 Date of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting date had been rearranged to Wednesday 21st November.

The following agenda items were suggested:

- Community Prevention Workers – More information on this role e.g. job description and how they might work with other agencies.
- Feedback from the Rough Sleeping/Homelessness project for Bucks/Oxon

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting People Update• Update on the Social Fund arrangements from April 2013• Update on Housing Benefit and Council Tax Changes – <i>Mike Veryard and Stephanie Moffatt were asked to liaise and suggest someone who could present on this issue.</i>• Service User and Carer Organisation (SUCO) to discuss recruiting Service Users on to the Board |
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Chairman