

BUCKS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



promoting prosperity, tackling inequalities

Minutes

BUCKS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

MINUTES OF THE BUCKS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2010, IN THE LODGE, CHARTRIDGE CONFERENCE CENTRE, COMMENCING AT 2.30 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 4.36 PM.

Members Present

Ms L Blue	BALC
Mr J Booth	Chief Executive, Thames Valley Police Authority
Mr A Busby	Chairman of South Bucks LSP/Leader of SBDC
Mr J Cartwright	Leader of AVDC
Mrs L Clarke	Chairman of Wycombe LSP/Leader of WDC
Mr M Colston	Chairman of Healthy Communities Partnership
Ms J Hunt	Voluntary Impact
Mr M Hunt	Encompass
Ms S Knollys	Joint Director of Strategy & System Reform, Buckinghamshire Hospitals Trust
Mrs R Lally	Adult Commissioners
Mr C Munday	Children's Trust Thematic Partnership
Mr A Pratt OBE	Chair, Bucks Economic and Learning Partnership
Mr W Ralls	Area Director, SEEDA
Mr D Shakespeare OBE	Leader of BCC
Paul Tinnion	Chairman of the Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board
Mr J Wallis	Non executive Director, NHS Buckinghamshire
Mr J Warder	Leader of CDC / Chairman, Chiltern LSP
Mr W Whyte	Chair, Aylesbury Vale LSP

Observers

Ms T Aldworth, Observer - Assistant Chief Executive, Aylesbury Vale District Council
Mr C Furness, Observer - Chief Executive, SBDC
Mr A Goodrum, Observer - Chief Executive, CDC

Ms E Macdonald, Observer - Bucks Locality Manager, GOSE
Mr C Meakings, Observer - Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy Services, Wycombe District Council

Officers

Mrs S Ashmead, Head of Policy, Performance and Communications
Mrs J Fisk, Policy Officer (Local Area Agreement)
Ms H Wailing, Democratic Services Officer
Ms S Yapp, Safer Bucks Partnership Manager

Guests

Ms T Ironmonger, NHS Buckinghamshire
Mr E Lally, IDEA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Stuart George (NHS Buckinghamshire)
Andrew Grant (AVDC) – substituted by Tracey Aldworth
Sue Imbriano (Buckinghamshire Children's Trust) – substituted by Chris Munday
Patrick Martin (BALC) – substituted by Lesley Blue
Karen Satterford (WDC) – substituted by Charles Meakings
Chris Williams (BCC)

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23 September 2009 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4 BSP IMPLEMENTATION GROUP UPDATE REPORT

Jackie Fisk (Policy Officer, Local Area Agreement) gave members an update and said the following:

Minor amendments were currently being finalised to the Local Area Agreement (LAA). 2010/11 was the final year of the current LAA. There were indications that the LAA was unlikely to continue in its present form after the final year.

The Bucks Strategic Partnership Implementation Group (BSPIG) had agreed to review the Buckinghamshire Improvement plan for the CAA following a visit by Rob Hathaway from the Audit Commission. Rob Hathaway had told BSPIG that the Audit Commission intended to look at progress in relation to delivery of the growth agenda, rural issues (including rural housing), extra care housing, choice base lettings, and climate change (including the waste partnership).

Jackie Fisk told members that the CAA Improvement Plan was available on the website and had been circulated with the BSPIG papers. A member asked if the relative Voluntary and Community Organisation (VCO) would be involved in

discussions with the Audit Commission. Sarah Ashmead said that this was not yet in the improvement plan, but that the Audit Commission would want to talk to VCOs.

BSPIG had also agreed new allocations from the LAA Pooled Fund. The total fund was £1.5 million. The new allocations were £136k to the Integrated Offender Management Program (which linked directly to the CAA Improvement Plan) and £10k to a tackling disadvantage pilot in Aylesbury Vale.

Total commitments to date against the LAA Pooled Fund were £1.19 million, which left £310k unallocated for 2010/11. This unallocated money would be discussed under agenda item 7.

BSPIG had also agreed to develop a public sector workforce plan for Buckinghamshire.

Some funding had been received from the Homes and Communities Agency. Under the National Affordable Housing Program 2008/11 Buckinghamshire had received £49.7 million. Funding had also been received under the Community Infrastructure Fund and the Land Stabilisation Program. The Homes and Communities Agency was introducing a “single conversation” approach to working with local areas. It was possible that the BSP Board might have a role to play in shaping the Local Investment Agreement between Buckinghamshire and the Homes and Communities Agency.

The BSP Board:

Noted the report from the BSP Implementation Group.

Noted the BSP Implementation Group’s decisions on allocation of LAA Pooled Fund to date.

5 THEMATIC PARTNERSHIPS

Adult Commissioners Thematic Partnership – Rita Lally

Rita Lally gave a PowerPoint presentation and said the following:

- Rita Lally represented the Adult Commissioners Thematic Partnership.
- Residents in Buckinghamshire were starting to live longer, and the bulk of spending in Social Care was for people aged 80-85 plus. A fifth of social care clients were aged 90 plus.
- The government suggestion of free social care would not be possible with the current funding, and there were many self-funders in Buckinghamshire. The priority agreed by the Adult Commissioners was “we will help people live in their homes for as long as possible and enable them to get health and other support where necessary through their communities. For the avoidance of doubt this strategy will include a focus on ensuring that people are not delayed in hospital.”
- Keeping clients in their own homes was not necessarily a cheaper option. Clients at the ‘heavy end’ were very vulnerable and had to be supported in their own homes with up to six visits or more a day.

A member referred to the work being encouraged through communities and asked how the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) would be included in this. The member said that the VCS gave a lot of grants through the Compact and that the

Compact should be refreshed very regularly. Rita Lally said that under 'Building Community Capacity' very good progress was being made with the VCS, with small amounts of money going a long way.

A member referred to district involvement in housing issues and said that District Councils had a commissioning role. Rita Lally said that there was a Housing Officers Group, a Housing Members Group and Supporting People. More working together was needed regarding existing resources. There would be real merit in looking at putting pooled budgets together.

A member said that Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) could assist. Rita Lally said that she agreed with this and that processes needed to be as slick as possible. A member said that they were concerned to hear that there was already a backlog for adaptations and that people were being delayed in hospital. The member also referred to the reduction in respite beds in Buckingham hospital. Rita Lally said that the issues of adaptations was a collective issue and that work needed to be done together with the District Councils to make reduced resources to go as far as possible.

A member asked if the forthcoming Community Health Strategy would include these issues and Rita Lally said to the best of her knowledge that it would. A member suggested that this grant should be included in the Local Investment Plan.

Safer and Stronger Bucks Thematic Partnership – Paul Tinnion

Paul Tinnion gave a PowerPoint presentation and told members that crime was continually being reduced in Buckinghamshire and that this needed to be communicated to the public. The two priorities agreed by the Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board were NI 16 (Reducing serious acquisitive crime) and NI 21 (Improving public perception that the police and local authorities work together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour).

Major investment had been made in integrated offender management but further investment was needed from the BSP Board. Public perception was the most challenging area for the partnership.

A meeting had been held the previous day with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team, and a third priority had been requested. This priority was regarding the disparity of retaining BME drug users in treatment. Rita Lally said that she supported this priority.

Healthy Communities Thematic Partnership – Tracey Ironmonger

Tracey Ironmonger gave a PowerPoint presentation and told members that the Healthy Communities Partnership had identified NI 121 (mortality from circulatory disease in the under 75s) as their priority. The target for NI 121 had not been reached in the previous year. Circulatory diseases were responsible for 25% of deaths in people before the age of 75. Circulatory disease was much more prevalent in deprived parts of Buckinghamshire.

Tracey Ironmonger also told members the following:

- A mini stroke increased the risk of a full stroke by ten times and there was a need to encourage people to go to see their GP early on.

- Between 14% and 18% of Buckinghamshire residents smoked, and the Partnership wanted to encourage more people to stop smoking.
- 20% of coronary heart disease was due to adults not being physically active, and the Partnership wanted to encourage more people to be physically active.
- The Partnership wanted to utilise all the strands in the BSP Board. There was very good partnership working on smoking cessation, but this was going on in small teams. Each organisation had been asked to identify a front-facing service which could proactively encourage and inform members of the public on a one to one basis.

A member asked about arranged physical activity. Tracey Ironmonger referred to a project in Wycombe called The Walk Wycombe Project. The biggest benefit in encouraging physical activity was for a sedentary person to become moderately active. This brought about a larger benefit than for a moderately active person to become very active.

A member suggested that a pilot be carried out in a one stop shop.

Economy and Environment Thematic Partnership – Alex Pratt OBE

Alex Pratt gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Alex Pratt told members that there will have been an approximately 50% reduction in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) globally after sterling devaluation is factored in, and that the UK had the highest levels of private sector debt in the western hemisphere. Broadband was absolutely essential economically and would soon be critically essential in all areas. However there were many barriers to providing this and community service providers used a commercial model.

The proposed aim was 40 megabytes per second, fibre to Cabinet, for the whole of Buckinghamshire. If progress in this area was not made, Buckinghamshire would have a much less prosperous future.

A member said that they supported this aim and said that work should also be carried out with local radio as some areas of the County were not covered.

A member asked for an approximate cost of providing the whole of Buckinghamshire with this level of broadband. Alex Pratt said that he did not have the cost but he did have an analysis of where there was current coverage and the current speed etc. Investment in the infrastructure would come from providers, if they knew that there would be a revenue stream brought about quickly.

A member said that not achieving this aim risked people being isolated. The member said that in West Sussex, the local authority had taken a huge lead in providing broadband to all schools.

Children's Trust Thematic Partnership – Chris Munday

Chris Munday gave a PowerPoint presentation and told members that the priority of this Thematic Partnership was to address child poverty.

The impact of child poverty was not an obvious issue for Buckinghamshire, but existed across the whole County. The priority was about longer term outcomes and the impact on differentials in health, crime etc.

10% of children in the Aylesbury Vale lived in poverty. The data for England was heavily influenced by poverty in London and this needed to be dealt with to improve the figures for the whole country.

Jackie Fisk then asked members if they agreed with the priorities identified. A member said that they agreed with all the priorities identified but that milestones were needed which could be tracked. Another member said that a map of demand for broadband was necessary before an investment was made. It was also suggested that the priorities identified by the Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership and by the Healthy Communities Partnership could be joined.

The BSP Board agreed that at the next meeting, a firm proposal would be presented and that the priorities would also be discussed at the next BSPIG meeting.

6 LOCAL DELIVERY - FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOP IN NOVEMBER 2009

The Chairman welcomed Eamon Lally (IDEA) to the meeting.

Eamon Lally said that an event had been held on 11 November 2009 which had looked at customer service, working together and resident-led development. There had been a broad consensus of the principles that the BSP Board should work towards. It had also been agreed that a degree of flexibility should be ensured, that the process should be efficient, and that initiatives should be kept simple and focused on the customer.

Work would depend on a heightened trust between partners. There had been a real desire to move quickly to the pilot projects, and a long list of pilots had been suggested.

On 21 January 2010 the BSPIG had chosen two pilots to take forward. These were a single common assessment and the integration of welfare benefit systems. It was also necessary to look at pilots at a district level. Ideas for these included delivery of services to rural communities and developing stronger communities.

Page 26 of the papers listed the principle summary. This had been broadly accepted by all members.

A member said that they were pleased that the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) had been included in the workshops. The member said that they were concerned about narrowing to only two projects at this point in the process, and suggested that narrowing take place only after more scoping work had been carried out. The member suggested a good neighbour scheme.

Eamon Lally said that it was up to the Partnership to take this forward and that some work could be prepared for the March meeting of the BSPIG.

Another member said that there should be a focus on providing support to vulnerable people.

A member asked if there was an ability to deliver all the work discussed. Eamon Lally said how services were delivered needed to change, to make a small pool of money go further.

A big change would be needed but the idea was to start small, with a number of pilots.

A member asked if there was confusion between strategy and delivery. Eamon Lally said that the work was about the level of endorsement that the BSP Board could bring, to change how services were delivered.

A member noted that two large agendas had not yet been discussed. These were Pathfinder and Total Place.

The BSP Board agreed the following two priorities:

- **A single common assessment**
- **The integration of welfare benefit systems.**

The two priorities were agreed, but members requested that further information and solid proposals be brought to the next meeting. Each proposal should be pragmatic in terms of cost, due to the current financial circumstances, and contain an efficiency agenda.

7 LAA POOLED FUND - VERBAL ITEM

This item was deferred until the next meeting further to the outcome of agenda item 6.

8 TERMS OF REFERENCE

This item was also deferred to the next meeting. Sarah Ashmead (Corporate Manager, Policy, Performance and Communications) said that members might want to change the membership of the board once priorities had been agreed.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4 May 2010, 2:30pm – 4:30pm, Hedsor House, Hedsor Park, Taplow, SL6 0HX (please note change of venue)

CHAIRMAN