

**MINUTES OF THE CAERPHILLY  
LOCAL SERVICE BOARD  
HELD ON  
TUESDAY 21ST JULY 2009 AT 9.15AM  
AT THE INNOVATION CENTRE, TREDOMEN**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor L.Whittle - CCBC  
Stuart Rosser – CCBC  
Richard Davies – WAG  
Chrissie Hayes - Caerphilly tLHB  
Mike Bridgman – GAVO  
Colin Palfrey – Caerphilly tLHB  
Superintendent Jon Burley – Gwent Police

Together with:

Colin Jones - CCBC  
Dorothy Phillips – CCBC

**LAST MEETING**

Richard announced that he would shortly be leaving the Welsh Assembly and that this would be his last Local Service Board meeting. The Chairman thanked him for all his assistance and valued contributions he had given to the Board.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Alison Palmer (GAVO) and Chief Superintendent Paul Symes (Gwent Police).

**1.MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2009 were agreed.

**Matters Arising**

**Reporting to Local Service Board (minute3, page 3)**

CH reported that the Health Social Care and Well Being group had asked her to convey their unease about the additional burden that some members feel the new performance and reporting system places on their partnership groups. The concern was that although a significant amount of information is submitted, very little of this finds its way into the reports appearing at the LSB. CH explained to the HSCWB partnership that in order to demonstrate **impact** on service user outcomes the partnership needs to report the appropriate data sets, regardless of what is passed to the LSB- which predominantly sees exception reports only. This enables the partnership to identify areas which require further work **and** the LSB to receive assurance of partnership strategic performance.

CJ reported that Lianne Rees had been temporarily seconded as the Health Social Care and Well Being Co-ordinator and that her experience from the Performance Management Section may ease this concern and/or could lead to an authoritative assessment of the proposed monitoring framework.

## September Meeting

It was agreed that the Special meeting with the Chairs and Vice Chairs would now be held in October and not September as originally planned.

### **2. REGENERATION FRAMEWORK REVIEW**

Councillor Ron Davies (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Countryside) and Jane Roberts-Waite (Regeneration Co-ordinator) were attending the meeting for this item.

Jane explained that although the original intention was to 'refresh' the Smart Alternative it was decided to challenge more and commission outside consultants to develop a new Regeneration Framework for the county borough. Navigant Consultants were appointed to encompass a broad spectrum and develop a holistic view of regeneration in the county borough.

The consultants have conducted a large consultation exercise and the final document will be available by the end of September. The document will contain an Action Plan which will be progressed with other agencies.

Councillor Davies stated that the consultants report had outlined fundamental challenges and raised serious questions on joint working. He raised concern regarding the capacity of the existing Regeneration Partnership to take forward the agenda and also on any meaningful input from outside agencies and the other Partnerships.

The Chairman referred to the section on Strengthening Town Centre which stated that they should be vibrant and prosperous and expressed disappointment that the Top of Town development at Caerphilly was not progressing and that there had recently been demonstrations by the local Women's Institute on the condition and appearance of one of the prominent buildings in the town.

He also referred to a recent meeting with the Caerphilly Business Forum who had expressed an interest in being involved and consulted on new major developments in the county borough, especially the new hospital, to ensure that local businesses benefit as much as possible.

CH confirmed that she would pass the comments to the appropriate officer and suggest he discuss procurement issues for the hospital with the Forum. She also reported that her organisation had been involved with Navigant at every stage but with the recent reorganisation it had not been considered one of their priorities, although the possibility of future joint working was welcomed.

CH also stated that cross cutting work was now high profile and that in future statutory agencies will have dependencies on other partners and that a document on structures of the new Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board encompasses partnership locality working.

CP raised a concern that there was only a passing reference to Communities First within the document.

Councillor Davies then made reference to the Regeneration Partnership which he acknowledged was not functioning well because of a lack of commitment and appropriate staff level representation from a number of agencies. He referred to the absence, in particular, of key representation from Education. He also raised a concern over the lack of creditable input from senior officials at the Welsh Assembly Government.

MB referred to the recent Standing Conference where a number of delegates made comments regarding the good work in the borough and the need for the best mechanism to capture it. The Voluntary Sector Forum (with over 900 members) could have been a valuable means of consultation for the Framework Review.

In response to a question on direction and future priorities Councillor Davies considered that the Welsh Assembly Government should communicate all their decisions into the public domain. – they must decide on the extent to which they wish to co-operate with the Review and agree a meaningful partnership at a creditable level.

RD indicated that he would report the strength of feeling to the appropriate officer at the Assembly and would also make his successor aware of these concerns.

CP raised a question on the consultation process and if local residents views were obtained. Jane responded that not every resident would have been consulted although the five local Area Steering Groups (whose membership includes local residents) were consulted and that a recent Standing Conference was dedicated to Navigant Consultants. MB felt that Navigant had not consulted adequately with Voluntary sector groups.

It was noted that the draft document would be presented to a future Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and Council and that there was still an opportunity for comments.

It was agreed that the role of the LSB would be to challenge, support, influence and monitor the Framework although it may be prudent to select one or two issues and challenge on the delivery.

CH suggested that the Action Plan developed from the final Strategy should, where appropriate, identify prioritised actions, which hopefully would lead to a focussed approach by the Partnership and the LSB on a lesser number of key actions.

CJ agreed and suggested that an 'add on benefit' may be the ability to identify those agencies and people who would be best able to deliver those key actions. Such a focussed approach could serve to increase the interest from such agencies as the Business Forum.

RD felt this suggestion to be helpful.

Finally it was reported that the Action Plan would be reported back to the Board in due course and a decision made then on where to focus efforts.

### **3. EDUCATION FOR LIFE PARTNERSHIP**

Sandra Aspinall (Director of Education and Leisure) was attending the meeting for this item.

Sandra explained that she had for the last six months concentrated on the Children and Young People's Partnership Board - CYPPB (a Statutory Board). A plan illustrating the new reporting structure was circulated and it was explained that the previous 40 groups reporting to the Board have been radically reduced in number and that the Terms of Reference had been re-written and the roles of the Board Members clarified. The membership of the Board is based on guidance from the Welsh Assembly Government and includes the Voluntary Sector, Youth Offending Service, Health, Police and staff from the Youth Service and Education.

Clear lines of accountability to the Board on finance and outcomes are essential and reference was made to Cymorth funding which will be allocated to the Revenue Support Grant in 2011. Funding must be allocated in line with priorities and where greatest outcomes can be evidenced.

Sandra referred to the Education for Life Partnership which had not met for over a year and suggested that it may be seen as only having a monitoring role. The CYPPB now takes on a vast amount of work for 1-25 year olds and work may be duplicated if another Partnership is resurrected. A member suggested that the name could be changed to 'Lifelong Learning' which would take the focus from education and suggest learning at any age. There is a need to ensure that adult learning is not neglected and it was suggested that enquiries be made with other local council's on how they have balanced this issue.

A concern was raised that Community based learning may be in danger as it may not be seen as fundamental throughout the county borough although Sandra indicated that she was keen to continue the concept of community schooling as there is a need to ensure that young people want to learn and that adults return to learning as education is paramount to any regeneration.

JB indicated that community schooling would compliment the principles of Neighbourhood Management.

Sandra indicated that the next priority would be to make certain that links are made with other partners and that directorates ensure a 'joined up' approach. On questioning she recognised the important links Education has with Regeneration.

#### **4. COMMUNITY STRATEGY REVIEW CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

Colin Jones outlined the report which gave a progress update for members on the Community Strategy Review. An in-depth consultation was held which culminated in the draft report being presented to the Standing Conference in June. Although only a few comments had been received they were very useful and generally supportive.

#### **5. CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP**

The Action Plan of the Citizen Engagement Group had been circulated.

Colin Palfrey explained that one aim of the Group would be to ensure that there is no duplication of effort between agencies on citizen engagement and that each is aware of what the others are planning to do.

It is hoped that the Fire and Rescue service may join the group. The proposed name of the project was discussed (Caerphilly Asks, Caerphilly Listens) and it was suggested that this name might not be accepted by people living outside the town of Caerphilly.

The project will be launched in November at the Standing Conference and also at the Voluntary Sector One Beat event.

Colin indicated that he was pleased with the progress made by the Group and the work from Liz Sharma in the Policy Unit.

#### **6. WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE BOROUGH?**

The following future events/ updates were reported :-

- The Big Cheese will be held at Caerphilly this week-end (24th-26th July)

- NHS reorganisation – the Shadow Board is now fully approved and the designate Chief Executive and Chairman will put together a Structure Document which will then be subject to consultation.
- The Final Board meeting of the Caerphilly tLHB will be held on 7th September- lunch and meeting at 2pm - Opportunity to celebrate achievements over last six years.

**It was agreed that a formal invitation be sent to Dr Andrew Goodall to attend a meeting of the Local Service Board.**

- National Play Week (3-7th August) ; Launch of the Compact at the Voluntary Sector Sub Committee (17th September) and One Beat (7th November)

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

CJ raised an item from a recent discussion at a Co-ordinators' meeting when it was reported that 3 local authorities (Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr and Torfaen) were working together to address Economic Inactivity and the Regeneration Co-ordinator questioned if this collaborative working had been arranged through the Making the Connections Team.

**It was agreed that further enquiries be made on this matter.**

The meeting closed at 11.25 am