

East Sussex Strategic Partnership

Notes of the meeting of the East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board Thursday 12 March 2009, Hastings Town Hall

IN ATTENDANCE

Executive Board Members present:

Jeremy Leggett (chair)	Action in Rural Sussex
Becky Shaw (for Cllr Bob Tidy (vice chair))	East Sussex County Council
Cllr David Young	Association of Local Councils (East Sussex)
Martin Ray	Eastbourne Borough Council
Cllr Peter Pragnell	Hastings Borough Council
Cllr Ian Jenkins (for Cllr Carl Maynard)	Rother District Council
Cllr Pam Doodes	Wealden District Council
Ian Chisnall	Churches Together
John Barnes	East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT
Gary Walsh	East Sussex Fire & Rescue
Chris Wick	Environment Agency
Charles Everett	Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust
Chris Piper	Learning & Skills Council
Leighe Rogers	Sussex Probation Service
Robin Smith	Sussex Police
Steve Manwaring	SpeakUp (Hastings Voluntary Action)
John Hodges	Hastings & Bexhill Economic Alliance
Ken Stevens	Federation of Small Businesses
Eileen Macdonald	Government Office for the South East

In attendance:

Katy Thomas	Adult Learning and Skills Partnership Board
Sandra Prail	Audit Commission
Shân Allan	Audit Commission
Alison Jeffery	Children and Young People's Trust
Alison Horan	East Sussex County Council
Anna Czepil	East Sussex County Council
Lisa Schrevel	East Sussex County Council
Lucy Dixon-Thompson	East Sussex County Council
Ian Fitzpatrick	East Sussex Housing Officers Group
Diana Grice	East Sussex PCTs
Marcus Gomm	East Sussex Safer Communities Steering Group
Bob Granville	Eastbourne LSP Chair
Roy Mawford	Hastings Borough Council
Jane Hartnell	Hastings Borough Council/LSP Coordinator
Jenny Ling	Hastings Borough Council
Geraldine O'Shea	Older People's Partnership Board
Scott Lavocah	Rother District Council/LSP Coordinator
Gill Cameron-Waller	Wealden District Council/LSP Coordinator

NOTES

1) Welcome and Apologies

a) The Chair welcomed:

- i) Chief Superintendent Robin Smith, the new Divisional Commander for East Sussex, replacing Nick Wilkinson as the Sussex Police representative on ESSP board.
- ii) Assistant Chief Fire Officer Gary Walsh, replacing Chris Large as the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service representative on ESSP board.
- iii) Assistant Chief Officer Leighe Rogers, replacing Andrea Saunders as the National Probation Service (Sussex) representative on ESSP board.
- iv) District and Borough LSP Chairs and Coordinators, and representatives of countywide thematic partnerships attending for items 5, 6 and 7.
- v) Sandra Prail and Shân Allan, Audit Commission, attending for Item 5.

b) Apologies were received from:

Cllr Bob Tidy (Vice Chair)	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Carl Maynard	Rother District Council
Gilly Bartrip	South East England Development Agency

c) Apologies were not received from:

Steve Hare	SpeakUp (Age Concern East Sussex)
Cllr James MacCleary	Lewes District Council

2) Notes of the meeting held on 27 November 2008

a) The notes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and there were no matters arising.

b) Action points follow up:

- i) Item 5: Dr. Smith's presentation on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007, and details of an upcoming rural deprivation seminar, were circulated after the meeting. A copy of the full IMD report by Oxford Consultants is now available on the ESiF website (www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk).
- ii) Item 2b Matters Arising: Procurement - an interim report from ESCC is available. Please contact Lisa Schrevel if you would like a copy.
- iii) Item 6 Board membership: Covered under Item 10 on the agenda.
- iv) Item 7 LAA Performance Reports: Lisa Schrevel is consulting performance colleagues to see if direction of travel can be included in performance reports in any meaningful way.
- v) Item 10 Compact Annual Review: the Compact Steering Group has put together an action plan for 09/10 and will share it with the board when it is finalised by the Steering Group in April.
- vi) Item 12 Communications & Engagement: no comments on proposals received. It is therefore assumed that partners are happy with proposed activities.

3) **Declarations of Interest:** None.

4) **Urgent items of business:** Covered under Any Other Business.

5) **Presentation: Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) update**

- a) Sandra Prail, Comprehensive Area Assessment Lead (Sussex), Audit Commission gave a presentation on CAA, and sought to start a discussion with members on how it can best to work with ESSP to ensure CAA is directed by the needs of the area. The following key points were made:
- i) CAA aims to recognise and respond to complex and challenging local issues that need to be tackled in partnership. It will focus on local priorities, how public services work together and outcomes; and aim to reflect what matters to local people, continuous improvement and an independent assurance of value for money.
 - ii) For the first time, six different inspectorates will pool evidence - making use of existing information such as performance management information; views of local people, the voluntary and community sector and businesses that ESSP has captured or is readily available; and information from Government Office South East.
 - iii) Reporting will be via a website, other media, and in plain English so as to be accessible to local people. To aid accessibility, it is likely that CAA will be re-branded with another name. Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) will receive regular updates as reports develop.
 - iv) There are two aspects to CAA, an organisational assessment of key public service providers such as local authorities, Primary Care Trusts, Police, Fire Service and Probation Service; and an area assessment. CAA in three tier areas such as East Sussex is more complex. District and Borough level services will therefore feature in CAA.
 - v) The area assessment will be future focused and seek to identify how well local priorities address community needs and aspirations (i.e. the Sustainable Community Strategy); how well outcomes and improvements are being delivered (i.e. what's happening on the ground in terms of delivery); and what the prospects are for improvement (i.e. the level of confidence of continued improvement). There will not be a 'score', as in previous inspection regimes, but green flags will indicate where inspectorates have seen real innovation and red flags will indicate where inspectorates have concerns and feel different action is required.
 - vi) In a two tier area, the CAA regime focuses on the county level LSP. Where an issue arises in the Area Assessment, the inspectorate will assess the impact on local residents of partnership working, shared evidence bases and joined up responses across issues and sectors.
 - vii) CAA is based on ongoing dialogue not, as in previous regimes, a time-limited intensive inspection. The Audit Commission is committed to ensuring the relationship with ESSP is driven by openness and transparency and that assessment is proportionate to issues and capacity in the county. Emerging findings will be reported to the board in July, with the final CAA report in November. During this period, the Audit Commission were keen to maintain an ongoing informal dialogue with ESSP, perhaps through a sub-group established for that purpose.

b) Members commented that::

- i) They are pleased to hear that the starting point for CAA is the Sustainable Community Strategy; and keen that CAA recognises the cross-cutting issues being faced e.g. the impact of the recession on health inequalities; the impact of poor roads on premature deaths and serious injuries; the challenge of addressing rural transport.
 - ii) There needs to be a 'natural justice' rule whereby issues are raised with relevant organisations before they are brought to ESSP or any other partnership.
 - iii) It would be helpful to involve the Courts Service in some way.
 - iv) The Audit Commission was asked to recognise both the high degree of uncertainty and difficulty in delivery that the recession was creating, particularly with regards targets in the LAA.
 - v) There is an effective system of devolved partnership in East Sussex. Rather than establishing a sub-group of the ESSP board, a group made up of the Chair of ESSP and Chairs of other countywide thematic and other key partnerships would be a sensible mechanism for dialogue with the Audit Commission.
 - vi) Members also asked that a message be sent to Government that without investment, some partners especially in the voluntary and community sector will not have the capacity to engage in CAA; and that it is unhelpful and illogical to introduce CAA as a new regime and then change its name.
- c) Sandra Prail confirmed that: any issues identified through organisational assessments will be discussed with those organisations before being discussed with ESSP. The Audit Commission would consider the recession and look at how partners are maximising what they can do together. Sandra also agreed to take key messages back to Government.
- d) The Chair summed up the key points of exploring issues with partners first before ESSP; using information that already exists; ensuring a proportionate approach; and understanding partners' differing capacity to engage.

ESSP members agreed to:

1. Draw up and circulate 'principles for engagement' capturing the key points summarised by the Chair
2. Establish a small group comprising the ESSP Chair, Chairs of thematic partnerships, and any assessed organisations and others required to work with the Audit Commission, and
3. Receive a CAA progress report from the Audit Commission at the July board.

FOR DECISION

6) Sustainable Community Strategy Countywide Action Plan

- a) Lisa Schrevel introduced the Countywide Action Plan which had been developed with partners over many months, and sets out 15 highly strategic actions across the nine strategy themes.
- b) A paper was tabled summarising comments received prior to the board meeting. These fell broadly into 4 categories - clarifying associated plans; queries on some specific actions; queries on how the actions would be delivered; and how the plan would be reviewed. The paper will be made available on the ESSP website.

- c) In response to associated plans, Lisa circulated a 'work in progress' summary of all LAA targets and other countywide partnership plans that help deliver the Sustainable Community Strategy. This, once completed, would be available on the ESSP website.
- d) Although the vision is to 2026, members noted that some actions need to be implemented quickly, which is appropriate given the recession. This would also provide some 'quick wins' to evidence effective partnership working.
- e) Partners, as major employers in the county, should lead by example e.g. promoting workplace health.
- f) Partners should consider what is missing in terms of challenging issues that can only be tackled at a sub-regional level e.g. transport and communications networks or capital investment in roads.
- g) Every action within the plan should aim to address the three cross-cutting strategic priorities to narrow the gap/reduce inequalities, improve services and be sustainable. Referring to raising aspirations, there is considerable work to be done to develop delivery plans and some actions will not necessarily have 'smart' targets but milestones towards a broader, cross-cutting outcome.
- h) It would be useful to select, include and monitor some key targets from other plans e.g. tackling childhood obesity (Children and Young People's Plan); and evaluation, across sectors, was important to establish what has worked and what has not.

ESSP members agreed to:

1. Endorse the Countywide Action Plan as a work in progress
2. Involve wider partners and key stakeholders in its development and delivery, and
3. Receive an update of progress at the July board meeting.

7) Sustainable Community Strategy reviews

- a) Lisa Schrevel introduced the report summarising progress to date on reviewing the Sustainable Community Strategy. Community Safety, Older People and Children and Young People were already being reviewed by the relevant countywide thematic partnership. Lisa advised members that the Joint Commissioning Strategy for carers was being reviewed by the Carers Strategy Steering Group, not the Older People's Partnership Board and reported in October, not July. A schedule for reviews of other themes was being developed.
- b) Review reports would be presented to the board from July, and would include a high level summary of performance, issues and recommended strategy updates.
- c) The Chair commended the District and Borough LSPs commitment to working with ESSP to ensure connections were being made between different areas and their respective strategies.
- d) It was noted that local authorities have strong scrutiny structures and it would be helpful to ensure any information arising from these is fed into strategy reviews.

ESSP members noted progress to date and agreed to receive and approve updates to the countywide sections of the SCS at future meetings.

8) Local Area Agreement (LAA) 1 and 2 Performance Monitoring

- a) Becky Shaw introduced this report on quarter 3 performance of LAA1 reward targets and LAA2 noting that performance in largely on target.

- b) Partners noted that the LAA 1 target to reduce the number of repeat incidents of domestic violence was not on track to be met, and the target might not be met because the original baseline was flawed. This issue exists in other areas and Sussex Police is looking at what an appropriate baseline would have been.
- c) There have been some significant achievements in LAA 2 which are not included in the report, as this is an exception report focusing on targets that are not on track or will not be met this year. Some of these are included in the LAA refresh. The target to reduce the number of killed or seriously injured continues to be a major concern, and will not be met this year. A great deal of work is being done, including efforts to change drivers' behaviour, but more needs to be done to understand why there are so many killed and seriously injured, and to evidence that partners are doing all they can to reduce the numbers.
- d) Referring to Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and maths, partners noted the importance of having disaggregated data, as averaging up to county level can hide very different performance in different areas.

ESSP members approved the performance monitoring report.

9) LAA 2 Review

- a) Alison Horan introduced this report noting that the first annual review of LAA2 was almost complete despite a number of challenges including the timetable – the review started last autumn but real activity did not start until February. This was because GOSE's negotiating briefs came out late; reward guidance due in the autumn was not published until February, and the uncertainty caused by the recession.
- b) The review is mainly focused on filling the gaps, such as baselines and targets, which existed when LAA 2 was signed off last year. The LAA as presented sets out changes in grey boxes beneath each target being reviewed. Changes include baselines, targets and participating partners.
- c) Partners had considered whether to include action to tackle fuel poverty in the LAA, but had concluded that the National Indicator was not a good measure. Tackling fuel poverty continues to be a priority, but will not therefore be included in the LAA.
- d) Alison confirmed that agreement had been reached with GOSE that targets (NI 153, 154 and 155), which are affected by the recession, would not be 'locked down' for reward purposes until next year's review.
- e) Hastings Borough Council felt there had not been real negotiation on NI 1, and highlighted that the targets remained under dispute with GO-SE.
- f) Eileen MacDonald of GOSE agreed that there had been difficulties with the process, and thanked partners for taking a pragmatic approach. Eileen stated that Government had responded to discussions e.g. the request to remove NI 171 (new business registration rate) and expressed concern that Hastings felt GOSE had not negotiated with them on NI 1. GOSE intended to negotiate, but discussions needed to be concluded on this NI. Eileen noted that every other area in the South East had agreed targets for NI 1 within their LAA.

ESSP members agreed to:

1. Endorse the revised LAA, and
2. Delegate authority to the Chair to agree any final amendments in consultation with NI 1 stakeholders. Cllr Tidy will approve on behalf of ESCC as the Accountable Body for the LAA.

10) ESSP Governance, Communications and Engagement Review

- a) Lisa Schrevel introduced the paper, highlighting that governance arrangements were fundamentally sound but that the Constitution needed to be updated to reflect the actual and distinctive roles and responsibilities of the board and Assembly, and to reflect the new SCS and LAA. There should also be targeted recruitment to fill gaps in membership, including inviting Job Centre Plus and the Highways Agency onto the board as they were now key delivery partners for the LAA.
- b) Links with the District and Borough LSPs were strong and effective, but relations with countywide thematic partnerships were not well articulated or understood, and more should be done to broaden and deepen partners' engagement with ESSP. Just over £12,000 had been obtained this year from Progress through Partnerships towards a range of activities that would contribute to this.
- c) Lisa confirmed that Job Centre Plus and the Highways Agency had already been informally approached, and had expressed interest, in joining the board.
- d) Partners noted that whilst relationships with District and Borough LSPs were good, ESSP should continue to ensure they are included in the work of ESSP.
- e) Partners felt that to be effective, senior representatives from Job Centre Plus and the Highways Agency should sit on the board; and that ESSP should consider inviting the Homes and Communities Agency to join the board as an increasingly important contributor to delivering housing and community priorities.

ESSP members agreed:

1. To invite senior representatives from Job Centre Plus and the Highways Agency to join the board
2. Ask ESCC support staff to develop detailed governance, communications and engagement proposals and consult partners on them, and
3. Consider and approve any recommended changes at the July ESSP board.

11) Migration Research Group

- a) Ian Chisnall, a member of the Migration research Group, explained that when the group was established by ESSP its focus was on migrants from the A2 and A10 accession states. It has since become clear to the group that migration pattern and issues were shifting, and this needed to be reflected by expanding the scope of the group to include all new economic migrants who are legally entitled to work in the UK.
- b) Ian noted that the challenge for ESSP is sharing knowledge and information more effectively amongst partners.

ESSP members agreed:

1. To extend the scope of the project to all new economic migrants who are legally entitled to work here, and
2. To receive a presentation on migration issues at a future board meeting.

FOR INFORMATION SECTION

12) Coordinators Report

- a) Members noted this new report, which summarises the activities provided by staff at East Sussex County Council in support of the partnership, and thanked the team for their work.

13) Any Other Business

- a) Nominations for Chair: In Cllr Tidy's absence, Cllr Doodes explained that the two year tenure of the current Chair was coming to an end. Cllr Doodes stated that Jeremy Legget was available and willing to continue and put forward his nomination. In accordance with the Constitution, other nominations for the Chair of ESSP were invited. These should be submitted in writing to the Community Partnerships Team at East Sussex County Council. Election of the Chair will take place at the start of the board meeting in July.
- b) ESSP representation on Compact Steering Group. Chris Large, who has since retired, was the ESSP representative on the Compact Steering Group. Gary Walsh, who has replaced Chris Large on the ESSP board, is willing to take over Chris's role and for his named ESSP delegate, Adrian Brown, to substitute whenever Gary is unable to attend a steering group meeting.

<p>ESSP members approved Gary Walsh as the ESSP representative on the Compact Steering Group and Adrian Brown as his delegate.</p>

- c) Change of Locality Manager: The Chair informed members that Eileen MacDonald is taking up a new post in GOSE from 1 April and, once the current LAA refresh and other issues are concluded at the end of this month, will handover as GOSE's locality manager for East Sussex to Richard Emmens. On behalf of the board, the Chair thanked Eileen for her contributions and wished her well in her new job.

14) Dates of future meetings

Members were asked to note the next meeting on 17 July 2009, 10am – St Peter's Community Centre, Bexhill. The East Sussex Assembly annual meeting will follow at 12.30, starting with lunch, and run to 3.00pm.

Future meetings are being scheduled but are likely to be a few weeks later than in previous years to allow more time to collect and analyse performance monitoring data.

The Chair thanked Hastings Borough Council for hosting the meeting. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.15.

East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board
Thursday 12 March 2009

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS	
Item	Action
FOR DECISION SECTION	
5	<p>Presentation: Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) update</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draw up and circulate 'principles for engagement' capturing the key points summarised by the Chair 2. Establish a small group comprising the ESSP Chair, Chairs of thematic partnerships, and any assessed organisations and others required to work with the Audit Commission, and 3. Receive a CAA progress report from the Audit Commission at the July board.
6	<p>Sustainable Community Strategy Countywide Action Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To endorse the Countywide Action Plan as a work in progress 2. To involve wider partners and key stakeholders in its development and delivery, and 3. To receive an update of progress at the July board meeting.
7	<p>Sustainable Community Strategy Reviews</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To receive and approve updates to the countywide sections of the Sustainable Community Strategy at future meetings
8	<p>Local Area Agreement (LAA) 1 and 2 Performance Monitoring</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the performance monitoring report
9	<p>LAA 2 Review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To endorse the revised LAA, and 2. To delegate authority to the Chair to agree any final amendments in consultation with NI 1 stakeholders. Cllr Tidy will approve on behalf of ESCC as the Accountable Body for the LAA.
10	<p>ESSP Governance review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To invite senior representatives from Job Centre Plus and the Highways Agency to join the board 2. To ask ESCC support staff to develop detailed governance, communications and engagement proposals and consult partners on them, and 3. To consider and approve any recommended changes at the July ESSP board.
11	<p>Migration Research Group</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To extend the scope of the project to all new economic migrants who are legally entitled to work here, and 2. To receive a presentation on migration issues at a future board meeting.
FOR INFORMATION SECTION	
12	<p>Coordinators report</p> <p>None</p>
13	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To nominate Gary Walsh as the ESSP representative on the Compact Steering Group and Adrian Brown as his delegate.
14	<p>Dates of future meetings</p> <p>To note the date of the next meeting, 17 July 2009 at 10 am, St Peter's Community centre, Bexhill. The East Sussex Assembly annual meeting will follow at 12.30, starting with lunch, and run to 3.30pm.</p>