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| ESSP new without graphic | **Meeting Notes**  **Thursday 8 February 2018**  **County Hall, Lewes** |

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| **IN ATTENDANCE** |

**ESSP Members present:**

Mani Cook East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service

Mervin Dadd Police and Crime Commissioner Office

Cllr Keith Glazier East Sussex County Council

Jeremy Leggett Action in Rural Sussex

Hugo Luck High Weald Lewes and Havens CCG

Steve Manwaring (Chair) SpeakUp Representative

Cllr Martin Kenward Rother District Council

David Padwick Sussex Police

Debbie Piggott Kent, Surrey and Sussex CRC

Cllr Elayne Merry Lewes District Council

**Also in attendance (official observers):**

Sarah Feather East Sussex County Council

Jo Harper Eastbourne and Lewes Councils

Jane Hartnell Hastings Borough Council

Becky Shaw East Sussex County Council

Tom Warder (speaker) Action in Rural Sussex

**Apologies for absence**:

Cllr Bill Bentley East Sussex County Council

Katy Bourne Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner

Gill Cameron-Waller Wealden District Council

Carole Dixon Speak Up

Cllr Kim Forward Hastings Borough Council

Cllr Carl Maynard Rother District Council

Graham Peters SELEP

Andrea Saunders National Probation Service

Ashley Scarff High Weald Lewes & Havens CCG

Cllr Bob Standley Wealden District Council

Keith Stevens Sussex Associations of Local Councils

Chief Superintendent Jason Taylor Sussex Police

Dawn Whittaker East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

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| **NOTES** |

1. **Welcome, introductions and Apologies**

Steve Manwaring welcomed ESSP members, delegates, observers, guests and speakers to the meeting and apologies were given.

1. **Welcome, Apologies and Urgent items of business**

There were no urgent items of business.

**3) Notes of the meeting held on 6 June 2017 and Matters Arising**

The minutes, were agreed as an accurate record and an update on actions from the meeting was received. Cllr Kenward requested the slides from Claire Cordell’s Little Gate Farm presentation.

**ACTION – Sarah Feather to send link to Claire Cordell’s presentation to Cllr Kenward.**

**4) Community Led Housing Hub – Tom Warder and Graham Maunders, Action in Rural Sussex**

Steve introduced Tom Warder and Graham Maunders, Action in Rural Sussex, to deliver a presentation on the Sussex Community Led Housing Hub. Tom explained that community led housing is housing that is developed and managed by local people in order to maximise community benefits such as local affordability and good design. Community-led housing is a way for local communities to provide their own decent and affordable homes and is often designed to help certain groups – for example young people, older people, or those in need of affordable family homes. It’s often eco-friendly and sustainable.

Tom spoke about how the housing can be rented to local people at affordable rates which are kept low over the long-term, or sold to create income for the community.

Tom told the group that community-led housing currently represents about 1% of the UK’s housing stock – but the sector is growing fast and keen to be more involved in bigger projects.

Recent changes in the law have aimed to help support community-led housing. For example the Community Right to Build gives communities the opportunity to gain planning permission without needing to ask the local authority.

Cllr Glazier pointed out that the Housing Hub would not solve the housing crisis as the builds were currently on the smaller scale. Jeremy Leggett felt that the house building policy would needs reviewing to support projects with infrastructure issues.

Steve asked Tom what was one thing the Partnership could do that could help the Community Housing Hub and Tom asked that partners help raise awareness of the Community Housing Hub.

**ACTIONS: Sarah Feather to add link to the AiRS Community Housing Hub website to the minutes** [**https://www.ruralsussex.org.uk/what-we-do/sussex-community-housing-hub/**](https://www.ruralsussex.org.uk/what-we-do/sussex-community-housing-hub/)

**Sarah Feather to add Community Led Housing report to ESSP website** [**http://www.essp.org.uk/Meeting-papers-and-reports/ESSP/2018**](http://www.essp.org.uk/Meeting-papers-and-reports/ESSP/2018)

**All to raise awareness about the Sussex Community Housing Hub.**

**5) Spring Budget Discussion – All**

Steve introduced the discussion by saying that he understood that not everyone’s budget would be set but there was an opportunity to talk about the process and any issues or fixes found in the process. Steve introduced Cllr Keith Glazier, East Sussex County Council to begin the discussion on setting the budgets for 2018/19 across the County.

Cllr Glazier spoke about the challenge of ESCC having made savings of £112m between the beginning of this decade and the end of the 2017/18 financial year. The budget for 2018/19 would reduce ESCC’s annual spending by £17m. Cllr Glazier pointed out that this was less than the saving planned, and it allowed ESCC to put more money back into looking after vulnerable people. Even so it still meant proposing some painful reductions in much-valued services such as reducing the number of library buildings and household waste sites in the county; to reduce the frequency of grass cutting to once a year; to reduce the level and choice of support in adult social care and to reduce support for school improvements. Cllr Glazier explained that the proposals for the 2018/19 revenue budget take into account of changes in the financial picture since October, an increase in the Council Tax by 2.99% and an increase the Adult Social Care precept by 3% and ultimately ESCC will be spending more than £370m on services in East Sussex and that money needs to be spent wisely.

Cllr Glazier also told the Partnership that as agreed by ESCC previously the Capital Programme provides only essential budgets for school places and highways infrastructure.

Cllr Glazier went on to thank partners for the response to the Stand Up For East Sussex campaign and he highlighted how local MPs have worked hard on behalf of East Sussex. Becky Shaw, ESCC, continued by saying that ESCC were aware that reducing budgets meant shifting costs onto other partners both in the short and long term and encouraged the Partnership to continue to put effort into lobbying at every opportunity.

Mervin Dadd, Police and Crime Commissioners Office continued the discussion by explaining that the Police and Crime Commission would be increasing its precept on a Band D by £12 this year, the same in 2019 and an extra £5 for the years 2020-21 to try and help mitigate a £34m shortfall over four years. Mervin explained that the public did understand that more money was needed to provide services and currently they seemed happy to pay extra in this way but Mervin questioned whether this was sustainable. Mervin also pointed out that it was harder to deliver a message saying that savings needed to be made, that money would still go into reserves, that 200 police officers a year would be recruited replacing officers that were leaving; but that there would still be a shortfall in funding.

Hugo Luck, High Weald Lewes and Haves CCG, (HWLH CCG) agreed that patients understood about the shortfalls in funding but this did not translate into people using A&E less.

Jane Hartnell, Hastings Borough Council (HBC), explained how HBC had managed to close some of their funding gap through income generation. However, Jane pointed out that maintaining the organisation but motivating and keeping good staff was still a concern.

Cllr Elayne Merry, Lewes District Council (LDC), spoke about the joint transformation programme with Eastbourne Borough Council that has helped to save £17m and that working with another organisation had helped LDC to look at how they deliver services and how they can do things differently.

Steve closed the discussion by thanking everyone for their contributions.

**ACTIONS: Sarah Feather to share ESCC’s current lobbying work.**

**6 Update on the Police and Crime Plan – Mervin Dadd, Police and Crime Commission Office**

Steve introduced Mervin Dadd, Police and Crime Commission Office, to deliver a presentation on the progress of the Police and Crime Plan.

Mervin spoke about the progress made under the four priorities of the Police and Crime plan:

1. Strengthening Local Policing – local policing plan launch
   * Local Policing Plan

The new local policing model holds on to areas of policing which are valued and has changed others to address the changing nature of crime and evolution of new crime types and threats - for example Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and terrorism.

The Local Policing Model sees teams working closely together to provide a flexible and resilient service within the community:

1. Work with local communities to keep Sussex safe
   * Drive project

Drive challenges perpetrators of domestic abuse. It will develop, test and evaluate a new model to fundamentally change perpetrator behaviour to make victims and families safe. To reduce the number of victims, we must reduce the number of perpetrators.

We aim to change the public narrative from ‘why doesn’t she leave’ to ‘why doesn’t he stop?’

1. Protect the vulnerable and help victims recover from crime and abuse
   * Safe:Space

Provides an online directory of local specialist support services as well as information about different types of crime and what happens at each stage of the criminal justice system, helping to 'demystify' the process for people when they may be at their most vulnerable.

The site has been built in close consultation with local victims' services and follows extensive user testing with victims to ensure it meets their needs, whatever stage they have reached in their recovery. Some users may not have reported the crime to the police, some may not even identify that they have been a victim of crime. Regardless of the circumstances, Safe:Space Sussex provides a secure environment where, at the click of a button, people who may be feeling unsafe can find out what local help and support is available to them.

1. Improve access to justice for victims and witnesses
   * Video enabled justice

The Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner leads the Video Enabled Justice (VEJ) programme on behalf of criminal justice partners across Sussex, Surrey, London and Kent. A detailed business case has been developed to identify and realise efficiency savings through the adoption of an innovative scheduling and management service for courts using video technology. The PCC is working closely with partners to increase the availability of video technology in courts, prisons and police buildings across Sussex, in line with the national criminal justice reform agenda.

**7) Assembly Theme**

Steve reminded the Partnership that the East Sussex Annual Assembly would take place on the 9th July 2018 and then spoke about the 2017 Assembly report which showed that the Assembly met partners’ expectations and attendees agreed that the timing and duration of the event was appropriate. The Assembly report was provided.

Steve asked the Partnership about a theme for this year’s Assembly and who people would like to hear from. Steve read out the suggestions gathered from the feedback forms:

* Disruptive technologies – how will the future look
* Equality and diversity
* Health and Wellbeing
* Joint working strategies
* Maintaining community resilience
* Making best use of resources
* Partnership working to provide services that meet public expectations
* Third Sector Strategy
* What work has been done following the discussion of the top ten tips.

Steve said that Sarah Feather and he had discussed a topic that narrowed the umbrella of equality and diversity into the idea looking at the ‘furthest first’. This would focus on meeting the needs of people who were the furthest away from services or life opportunities. Steve explained that the “furthest first” principle was being used on a number of national programmes where pilots have been targeted towards those groups or areas encountering most difficulty accessing services. It was agreed that the furthest first principle could be both thematic and geographic and wold not necessarily be confined to specific communities. It would also be a way of profiling innovative practice in East Sussex and sharing the learning from this.

Other ideas for speakers include:

* Gig buddies and their work in enabling people with disabilities attend concerts etc.
* Supporting people into employment – since speaking the ESSP Little Gate Farm has secured many more employees willing to carve a job for people with learning disabilities.

Steve said that he would meet with Sarah to fill out a programme to share with the Partnership but that if anyone had any other ideas to let Sarah know.

**ACTIONS: All to contact Sarah Feather/ with ideas for topics, discussions and speakers for the Assembly programme.**

**Steve Manwaring/Sarah Feather to pull together a draft Assembly programme.**

**8) Any Other Business**

**8 Suggestions for the forward plan**

Steve explained that the forward plan had been shared and then asked the Partnership for any items that they would like included on the forward plan and ask agreement for the suggestions that fall outside the agreed updates from partners. The Partnership approved the current plan.

**ACTION: All to contact Sarah Feather with any other ideas for the forward plan**

**9) Future Meetings:**

Steve thanked Partners for providing the ESSP with venues throughout the year.

30 April 2018 – Bexhill Town Hall, Bexhill on Sea 10.00am-12.30pm

9 July 2018 – East Sussex Assembly - International Lawn Tennis Centre, Eastbourne

\*Please note the Assembly will run from 9.30am-12.30pm\*

12 November 2018 – Muriel Matters House, Hastings 10.00am-12.30pm

15 January 2019 -10.00am-12.30pm TBC

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| **SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS –** | |
| **Item** | **Action** |
| 3 | Sarah Feather to send link to Claire Cordell’s presentation to Cllr Kenward. |
| 4 | Sarah Feather to add link to the AiRS Community Housing Hub website to the minutes <https://www.ruralsussex.org.uk/what-we-do/sussex-community-housing-hub/> |
| 4 | Sarah Feather to add Community Led Housing report to ESSP website <http://www.essp.org.uk/Meeting-papers-and-reports/ESSP/2018> |
| 4 | All to raise awareness about the Sussex Community Housing Hub. |
| 5 | Sarah Feather to share ESCC’s current lobbying work. |
| 7 | All to contact Sarah Feather/ with ideas for topics, discussions and speakers for the Assembly programme. |
| 7 | Steve Manwaring/Sarah Feather to pull together a draft Assembly programme. |
| 8 | All to contact Sarah Feather with any other ideas for the forward plan |

A copy of all the presentations from the meeting can be found on the ESSP website ([http://www.essp.org.uk/Meeting-papers-and-reports](http://www.essp.org.uk/Meeting-papers-and-reports/ESSP/2016)).