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| ESSP new without graphic | **Meeting Notes**  **Monday 30 April 2018**  **Town Hall, Bexhill on Sea** |

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| **IN ATTENDANCE** |

**ESSP Members present:**

Charlie Edwards National Probation Service

Cllr Keith Glazier East Sussex County Council

Jeremy Leggett Action in Rural Sussex

Ashley Scarff High Weald Lewes and Havens CCG

Steve Manwaring (Chair) SpeakUp Representative

Cllr Carl Maynard Rother District Council

Nick May Sussex Police

Graham Peters SELEP

Keith Stevens Sussex Associations of Local Councils

Michael Turner Environment Agency

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

Andy Arnold (speaker) East Sussex County Council

Sarah Feather East Sussex County Council

Jo Harper Eastbourne and Lewes Councils

Kevin Richmond (speaker) Sussex Community Foundation

James Roberts (speaker) East Sussex County Council

Michael Roy (speaker) Inspiring Governance

Alison Spring Rother District Council

Jon Wheeler (speaker) East Sussex County Council

**Apologies for absence**:

Cllr Bill Bentley East Sussex County Council

Gill Cameron-Waller Wealden District Council

Carole Dixon Speak Up

Andrea Saunders National Probation Service

Becky Shaw East Sussex County Council

Dawn Whittaker East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Cllr Elayne Merry Lewes District Council

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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. Steve informed the Partnership of Jeremy Leggett’s impending retirement and thanked him for his contribution to the ESSP as a member and also as four years as a Chair.

1. **Urgent items of business**

There were no urgent items of business.

**3) Notes of the meeting held on 8 February 2018 and Matters Arising**

The minutes, were agreed as an accurate record and an update on actions from the meeting was received.

**4) Children and Young People’s Trust Annual Update**

Steve explained that unfortunately due to a last minute change Children’s Services were not able to attend and present this item. As it has been circulated in advance Steve asked for any queries as these could be raised with Children’s Services after the meeting. The update was noted and no further questions were asked.

**5) Changing face of philanthropy in East Sussex – Kevin Richmond, Sussex Community Foundation.**

Steve introduced Kevin Richmond and reminded everyone that Kevin last came to speak to the Partnership in 2014. Kevin reminded the Group that Sussex Community Fund raises funds for and makes grants to local charities and community groups across East and West Sussex and Brighton & Hove. A total of £27 million has been given to support Sussex communities since 2006 and over £4 million specifically to projects in East Sussex. SCF is flexible and responsive and has made applying for finding as easy as possible.

Kevin explained that philanthropic giving can take many forms, whether leaving a legacy or giving in a person’s own lifetime. A donor can set up a fund in their own name so can give their own money in their own way.

Kevin spoke about the challenges of philanthropic giving in East Sussex, donors are not keen to plug the gaps in service provision for public services but are happy to fund innovative ideas to meet community needs.

Michael Turner (Environment Agency) asked if community groups are not willing to work with large organisations because of the legal requirements that are often required when applying for funding. Kevin explained that it varies but smaller groups are often put off by complicated bureaucratic processes.

Steve asked what could a forward thinking strategic partnership do to build philanthropy in an area and Kevin responded that match funding often provides an incentive but sharing information about what’s happening and what’s available in the County is also important.

**ACTIONS: Sarah Feather to invite Sussex Community Foundation to return to the ESSP in within the next 18 to 24 months.**

**6 School Governors – Michael Roy, Inspiring Governance and James Roberts, ESCC**

Steve welcomed Michael and James to the meeting and James informed the group about the specific work of East Sussex County Council in encouraging organisations to promote the School Governor service which provides a wide range of support, training, advice and guidance to school governors. One area of this is to raise awareness of volunteering to be a school governor with a key aspect being community engagement with the general public but also crucially engaging with employers to encourage staff to be released to complete school governance and demonstrating the benefits back to the employer in terms of training and professional development that can be taken into the workplace, as well as the aspect of “giving something back”- to help improve outcomes in schools so pupils are better placed to support local business.

Michael then spoke about the Inspiring Governance website (which is supported and funded by the Department for Education) which connects skilled volunteers interested in serving as governors and trustees with schools in England. Michael It is in the second year of a four year programme and Michael explained that the hardest thing was to raise awareness of the website and how simple it is to use. Michael told the Partnership that Inspiring Governance also provides free, expert support for volunteers and governing bodies, as well as for employers wanting to run programmes for their staff serving as governors.

The service aims to:

* Increase the number of volunteers, especially those with business-related skills and with diverse backgrounds, serving as governors and trustees in schools;
* Support governors matched through the service with training and resources, helping them be effective members of governing boards.

Partnership members asked how who had experience of being School Governors explained that their experiences had left them feeling unmotivated and asked how this was being addressed. Michael and James explained that by volunteers sharing their skills and interests this allowed them to be matched more appropriately to the local vacancies. Michael explained that a full independent advertising campaign in Essex had received no applications but looking on the Inspiring Governance website had shown there were a number of volunteers interested in becoming Governors in their area.

Michael Turner, said that the Environment Agency offered staff 18 days leave to volunteer for public duties such as school governing. James said this worked well for larger organisations and highlighting the website and volunteering opportunities to employees was paramount. Smaller organisations in East Sussex needed to be sold on the benefits to them as employers that school governor development could bring.

Steve asked if it was possible to see a difference between academy chains and local authority maintained schools. James explained this was a challenging picture and his work focussed on local authority maintained schools. Steve said that ESSP would be happy to promote the information for the Inspiring Governance website through its channels. Keith Stevens said it was something he could promote with the Parish councils.

**ACTION: Sarah Feather to speak to James Roberts about promotion of the Inspiring Governance website and share with ESSP members.**

**7) Annual Updates**

7a Transport Update – Jon Wheeler, ESCC

Steve introduced Jon Wheeler to give the presentation. Jon provided an update on a range of strategic and local transport projects.

Jon emphasised the link between transport and delivering the County Council’s key priority, driving sustainable economic growth and then provided an update on the following topics:

* + Strategic Road Network and Major Road Network
  + Rail
  + Aviation
  + Transport for the South East - Sub National Transport Body
  + Local Transport
    - Newhaven Port Access Road
    - Eastbourne Town Centre improvement scheme
    - Local Transport improvements
    - New Road Infrastructure
  + Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan and Active Access for Growth programme
  + Pipeline Projects

Steve thanked Jon for the update and invited Jon back to update the Partnership at a future meeting.

**ACTION: Sarah Feather to include a future transport update on the forward plan.**

7b Environment Strategy update – Michael Turner, Environment Agency and Andy Arnold, ESCC

Steve then invited Michael Turner to provide an update on the environment strategy. Michael then outlined the proposed changes to the Strategy and explained that it will now be reviewed and updated during 2018, to reflect recent changes in national policy & strategies, notably the 25 Year Environment Plan, the Industrial Strategy Green Paper and the Clean Growth Strategy. Michael explained that this will ensure that the Strategy is up-to-date and increases the likelihood that changes in national policy become embedded into relevant local policies and strategies.

Michael reminded the Group that a key challenge in achieving sustainable development is the perception that the environment is a constraint on economic development and that economic development has an impact on the environment. Whilst this is sometimes the case it does highlight that growth cannot be at any cost, as future economic growth will be undermined if environmental assets become less productive (e.g. degraded soil quality will produce less food; poorer air quality will increase the number of deaths brought forward and work days lost through illness). Therefore, to ensure that the economic development and environmental agendas are brought together in East Sussex more effectively it is proposed that an Environment sub-board of the East Sussex Local Enterprise Partnership (Team East Sussex) is set up to oversee the progress of the Environment Strategy. This will also assist in accessing Local Enterprise Partnership funding streams to help deliver improvements in local environmental assets, in support of sustainable development. It is proposed that this change in governance is implemented in 2018, alongside the review and update of the Environment Strategy proposed.

Michael recommended that the East Sussex Strategic Partnership:

* review the progress made during 2017-18 in implementing the Environment Strategy;
* endorse the recommended update to the Environment Strategy and change to the governance process.

All agreed to endorse the recommendations and Sarah Feather gave a positive endorsement from Wealden DC who were unable to attend at the last minute. Wealden felt it was important to continue to receive updates and this was agreed.

**ACTION: Sarah Feather to include a future environment update on the forward plan.**

**8) East Sussex Assembly**

Steve reminded the Partnership that the programme for the Assembly is in development around the theme of ‘Furthest first’, which is based on the suggestion from last year’s Assembly to have a topic of Equality and Diversity.

A copy of the draft programme was circulated in advance of the meeting. The theme will look at ‘furthest first’ from three angles:

1. A specific protected characteristic
2. A person’s circumstances
3. A person’s location

Two presentations have been confirmed:

1. Paul Richards – from Stay up Late will be coming to talk about the work of Gig Buddies and
2. Joe Powell – from Hastings Borough Council will talk about the work of the Street Community Partnership

The final presentation is yet to be confirmed. Steve reminded the Partnership that if there were other people in their respective organisations that would benefit from attending the assembly then they would be welcome to attend.

**ACTION: All to extend an invite to the Annual Assembly to relevant people in their organisations.**

**9) Any other business**

Steve spoke about the changes to Data Protection and put forward a suggestion of having an

Item looking at the impact of this at a future ESSP meeting, the extent to which the new rights were being used by the public and any impact this was having on the sharing of information between partners etc. All agreed this could be a useful future item.  
  
Steve reminded the Partnership that the Forward Plan for meetings was always open and if anyone wished to include anything then they should contact Sarah or Steve.

**ACTION: Sarah Feather to add impact of GDPR onto the forward plan and all to contact Sarah with any other ideas for the forward plan**

**10) Future Meetings:**

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** |
| 5 | **Sarah Feather to invite Sussex Community Foundation to return to the ESSP in within the next 18 to 24 months.** |
| 6 | **Sarah Feather to speak to James Roberts about promotion of the Inspiring Governance website and share with ESSP members.** |
| 7a | **Sarah Feather to include a future transport update on the forward plan.** |
| 7b | **Sarah Feather to include a future environment update on the forward plan** |
| 8 | **All to extend an invite to the Annual Assembly to relevant people in their organisations.** |
| 9 | **Sarah Feather to add impact of GDPR onto the forward plan and all to contact Sarah 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)).