

IN ATTENDANCE

ESSP Members present:

Cllr Keith Glazier (Vice Chair)
Jeremy Leggett
Ian Chisnall
Gary Walsh
Kim Goodall (on behalf of Richard Vianello)
Adam Chugg (on behalf of Steve Manwaring)
Keith Stevens
Heather Keating (on behalf of Robin Smith)
Cllr Carl Maynard
Gill Cameron-Waller (on behalf of Cllr Bob Standley and Charles Lant)
Ian Fitzpatrick (on behalf of Cllr David Tutt)

Also in attendance (official observers):

Judy Perraton
Tom Wechsler
Becky Shaw
Sarah Feather
Bethan Hampson
Anna Mutter
Shabana Bayjou
Carol Studley

Observers:

Roger Blake
RailFuture

Apologies for absence:

Cynthia Lyons
Rob Cottrill
Cllr David Tutt
Chris Wick
Peter Archer
John Hodges
Cllr Jeremy Birch
Richard Vianello
Steve Hare
Steve Manwaring
Leighe Rogers
Robin Smith (Chair)
Cllr Bob Standley
Charles Lant
East Sussex County Council
Action in Rural Sussex
Churches Together in Sussex
East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
JobCentre Plus
SpeakUp Representative
Sussex Associations of Local Councils
Sussex Police
Rother District Council
Wealden District Council
Eastbourne Borough Council
Action in Rural Sussex
Department for Communities and Local Government
East Sussex County Council
East Sussex County Council
East Sussex County Council
East Sussex County Council
Hastings Borough Council
Rother District Council
East Sussex PCTs/ESCC
Eastbourne Borough Council
Eastbourne Borough Council
Environment Agency
Federation of Small Businesses
Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce
Hastings Borough Council
JobCentre Plus
SpeakUp Representative
SpeakUp Representative
Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust
Sussex Police
Wealden District Council
Wealden District Council

NOTES

1) Welcome and Apologies

The Vice-Chair, Councillor Glazier welcomed ESSP members, observers, guests and speakers. Apologies were given and those attending on behalf of others were identified. Councillor Glazier explained that he would chair the meeting in Robin Smith's absence.

2) Urgent items of business

No items notified.

3) Notes of the meeting held on 6 November 2012 and Matters Arising

Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and actions confirmed as completed.

Matters arising

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy was discussed as item 5 at the November ESSP meeting. The Strategy has now been agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Health theme of Pride of Place will now be updated in line with the Strategy. Both the Strategy documents will be uploaded to the ESSP website.

Becky Shaw informed ESSP about the East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board Assembly taking place on 26 February (1.30-4pm, the Gold Room, Winter Gardens, Eastbourne). Please contact Lisa Schrevel for more information - lisa.schrevel@eastsussex.gov.uk.

4) Welfare Reform presentation and discussion

Ian Fitzpatrick (Eastbourne Borough Council) delivered a presentation outlining the key changes of the welfare reforms and described their potential impact for East Sussex. Key areas covered:

- Employment Support;
- Local Housing Allowance;
- Housing Benefit;
- Tax Credits;
- Universal Credit;
- Person Independence Payment (PIP); and
- Local Council Tax Support.

Ian also introduced some of the activities taking place across East Sussex to mitigate the potential impacts. These activities are reported to the Financial Inclusion Steering Group to ensure that work is not being duplicated.

Councillor Glazier thanked Ian for the presentation and the group agreed that it was a very useful overview of the changes and impacts.

The item was then opened for discussion. The main questions/themes focused on were:

- Managing money – in particular the shift from weekly to monthly payments;
- Vulnerable people – those most at risk from financial abuse and 'toxic lending';
- Behavioural change – how can organisations engage with claimants to ensure preventative rather than reactive action;

- Housing – claimants will have the responsibility for paying their landlord rather than landlords receiving benefits directly, importance of working with landlords to avoid them becoming risk averse, potential housing shortage (inward migration or implications of ‘bedroom tax’);
- East Sussex economy – reduction in disposable income to be spent in the local economy;
- Employment – with the anticipated increase in numbers of people seeking employment, it is important for economic development initiatives to continue to provide opportunities;
- Advice sector – the important balance of the sector contributing to the ‘solution’ but also remaining an independent source of support; and
- Training front line staff – the importance of front line staff being aware of welfare change issues so that they are able to refer service users who they work with to relevant organisations. A training programme is being developed and is intended to be available to all agencies.

Action: Bethan Hampson to upload the presentation to the ESSP website.

Action: Ian Fitzpatrick to provide CLG with information on the impact of welfare reforms including any information about attitudes of landlords and any data showing numbers of people displaced into East Sussex through changes to Council Tax Benefits.

Action: Partners to encourage front line staff to attend the Supporting People Welfare Reform training when the programme has been developed.

5) Forward Plan 2013

Councillor Glazier informed the group of the items scheduled for the 2013 forward plan and asked for suggestions for additional items. It was agreed that the following topics would be useful:

- Priority updates (SPACES and Family Keywork) for information only;
- Economic Development – to include skills and business in East Sussex (suggested to be key topic for the East Sussex Assembly);
- Environment Strategy progress report;
- Broadband;
- Police and Crime Commissioner Draft Police and Crime Plan;
- Duty to Cooperate;
- Public Health/Health and Wellbeing; and
- Transport.

Action: Sarah Feather to schedule items on forward plan.

6) Nominations for Chairperson

Councillor Glazier invited nominations for the position of ESSP Chair. Elections will be held at the 18 April 2013 ESSP meeting; the new Chair will take up their post from the July 2013 ESSP meeting.

Anyone interested in the role was encouraged to get in touch with Councillor Glazier or previous ESSP Chairs to discuss if they have any questions.

Action: Nominees to submit their intention to stand or nominations can be made in writing via the ESSP inbox – essp@eastsussex.gov.uk

7) Information items

Update papers were circulated for information about the following items:

- a) SPACES
- b) Family Keywork

9) Any other Business

East Sussex Community Covenant

Anna Mutter invited the ESSP to sign up to the Community Covenant, a voluntary statement of mutual support and practical help between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces community.

ESSP **agreed** to sign up to the Covenant and agreed that any necessary information will be circulated virtually.

Membership of the ESSP – Police and Crime Commissioner

Becky Shaw put forward the request from Katy Bourne, East Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner to become a member of ESSP.

The group **agreed** that the Police and Crime Commissioner will sit as a member of the ESSP.

Communications priority update - ESSP e-news

Sarah Feather informed ESSP that a new e-news format has been developed as part of the ongoing commitment to improve communications. Subscribe here: www.essp.org.uk/E-news.

RailFuture

Roger Blake provided an update on the activities taking place.

9) Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will take place at the **Court Room, Eastbourne Town Hall on 18 April 2013, 10am – 12am.**

Future meetings in 2013:

- Thursday 18 July, 10am – Council Chamber, Hastings Town Hall
- Thursday 17 October, 10am – venue to be confirmed

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS – 23 January 2013	
Item	Action
4	Bethan Hampson to upload the presentation to the ESSP website.
4	Ian Fitzpatrick to provide CLG with information on the impact of welfare reforms including any information about attitudes of landlords and any data showing numbers of people displaced into East Sussex through changes to Council Tax Benefits.
4	Partners to encourage front line staff to attend the Supporting People Welfare Reform training when the programme has been developed.
5	Sarah Feather to schedule items on forward plan.
6	Nominees to submit their intention to stand or nominations can be made in writing via the ESSP inbox - essp@eastsussex.gov.uk