

East Sussex Strategic Partnership

Notes of the meeting of the East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board Thursday 27 November 2008, East Sussex County Council

IN ATTENDANCE

Executive Board Members present:

Jeremy Leggett (chair)	Action in Rural Sussex
Cllr Bob Tidy (vice chair)	East Sussex County Council
John Hodges	Hastings & Bexhill Economic Alliance
Ian Chisnall	Churches Together
Cllr David Young	Association of Local Councils (East Sussex)
Martin Ray	Eastbourne Borough Council
Steve Hare	SpeakUp (Age Concern East Sussex)
Andrea Saunders	Sussex Probation Service
Chris Wick	Environment Agency
Chris Piper	Learning & Skills Council
Charles Everett	Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust
Grenville Wilson	Sussex Police
Cllr Pam Doodes	Wealden District Council
Steve Manwaring	SpeakUp (Hastings Voluntary Action)
Gilly Bartrip	South East England Development Agency
Di Woolloff (for Eileen Macdonald)	Government Office for the South East
Cynthia Lyons (for John Barnes)	East Sussex Primary Care Trusts
Adrian Brown (for Chris Large)	East Sussex Fire & Rescue
Cllr Ian Jenkins (for Cllr Carl Maynard)	Rother District Council
John Crawford (for Cllr MacCleary)	Lewes District Council
Cllr Matthew Beaver (for Cllr Pragnell)	Hastings Borough Council

In attendance:

Becky Shaw	East Sussex County Council
Alison Horan	East Sussex County Council
Lisa Schrevel	East Sussex County Council
Paul Rideout	East Sussex County Council
Katherine Perrin	East Sussex County Council
Sue Middlehurst	Hastings College
Jane Hartnell	Hastings Borough Council
Sylvia Bennett	Hastings Local Strategic Partnership
Shabana Bayjou	Hastings Borough Council
Gill Cameron-Waller	Wealden District Council
Dominique Lewis	Eastbourne Borough Council
Angus Singleton	Hastings Borough Council
Debby Gill	Job Centre Plus
Lucy Dixon-Thompson	East Sussex County Council
Tom Smith	Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion

NOTES

1) Welcome and Apologies

- a) Welcome to acting Chief Superintendent Grenville Wilson, replacing Nick Wilkinson as the Sussex Police representative until a permanent Divisional Commander for East Sussex is appointed.
- b) Welcome to Dr Tom Smith from the Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion, attending for Item 5.
- c) Apologies were received from:

Chris Large	East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
John Barnes	East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT
Eileen Macdonald	Government Office for the South East
Cllr Peter Pragnell	Hastings Borough Council
Cllr James MacCleary	Lewes District Council
Cllr Carl Maynard	Rother District Council
- d) Apologies were not received from:

Ken Stevens	Federation of Small Businesses
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- e) Members were informed that John Appleyard recently passed away. John was a founder member and Chair of the East Sussex Seniors' Association, representing the association on the ESSP. Members held a minute's silence in his memory.

2) Notes of the meeting held on 18 September

- a) The notes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting with the following additions:
 - i) Steve Hare was in attendance.
 - ii) Omission in Item 11 of the agreed action for the ESSP to receive the annual review of the Compact and to make recommendations to improve the implementation and embedding of the Compact. This review is now on this meeting's agenda, Item 10.
- b) Other matters arising:
 - i) Following Item 7 on procurement, Lisa Schrevel is liaising with Paul Dean, ESCC Scrutiny Manager to promote the ESCC review on council procurement and SMEs. Members will be given the opportunity on 14 January 2009 to give evidence in this review.
 - ii) Following Item 8 on CAA consultation, only one response was received, which meant a partnership response could not be coordinated. The response by ESCC covered the issues raised at the previous Executive Board meeting about holding Government, as well as local agencies, to account through CAA and to minimise the associated costs.
 - iii) From AOB 3 on the Communities and Local Government consultation on deferred national indicators, no responses were received from partners so a partnership response could not be coordinated.
 - iv) From AOB 4 on the Rural Form for the South East, with the seat allocated to ESCC, Councillor Sylvia Tidy has now been appointed as representative. Members agreed to invite Cllr Sylvia Tidy to a future meeting to receive an update on the forum as appropriate.
 - v) Becky Shaw informed members that, following an annual appraisal by the Commission for Social Care Inspection, East Sussex County Council's Adult Social Care department has been awarded two stars. Becky highlighted the

progress made to achieve this result and how it is a testament to the hard work of key individuals and partners.

3) Declarations of Interest

a) None.

4) Urgent items of business

a) None.

5) Presentation: Deprivation levels and trends across East Sussex – Understanding the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007

- a) Members welcomed an interesting and informative presentation by Dr Tom Smith from Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI) on research commissioned by ESCC on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 index in East Sussex.
- b) The presentation was well received, highlighting the complex picture of deprivation across East Sussex, and in particular its relative increase in the level of deprivation. It also provided a critique of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation and their application to a particular locality.
- c) Members clarified a number of factual points and asked for the presentation to be circulated. Members were also keen to receive the full report as well as any available data sets from Action in Rural Sussex.
- d) Members commented that an interesting topic for further research would be to look at how deprivation across East Sussex aligns with resources available. Members felt that further work is needed to unpack complex data such as the Indices of Multiple Deprivation in order to utilise its potential, particularly in terms of basing future decisions on fast-changing data; and that a summary of the report, highlighting the changing demographic of East Sussex and the value of East Sussex in Figures, would be useful.
- e) Members also raised concerns over how the recession would affect local levels of deprivation, in particular rural deprivation, Wealden's London commuters, and Hastings' long-term vulnerability to current economic conditions.
- f) Becky Shaw informed members that the full report will soon be available on East Sussex in Figures (ESiF: www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk) and that it will be used by ESCC as one part of an evidence base feeding into many plans.

ESSP members agreed:

1. To circulate Dr. Tom Smith's presentation and details of an upcoming rural deprivation seminar.

FOR DECISION

6) Sustainable Community Strategy Action planning

- a) Lisa Schrevel introduced the report which highlighted emerging issues in the action planning process and commented that there is now a good understanding of existing countywide plans and what is already being delivered.
- b) Lisa commented that the ESSP Assembly meeting this afternoon will serve as the next stage in consultation on the draft action plan, but that there will be further opportunities for consultation and ongoing work is needed to keep the strategy alive through a review process.

- c) Members discussed and agreed that Job Centre Plus and the Highways Agency are key delivery partners for the LAA and should be invited to join the Executive Board, with the caveat that recommendations for membership were located within the wider review of ESSP governance, communications and engagement.

ESSP members agreed:

1. To consider inviting Job Centre Plus and the Highways Agency to join the Executive Board, as part of wider governance, communications and engagement proposals being put forward to ESSP board for approval in March 2009.

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

- a) Becky Shaw introduced this report on quarter 2 performance of LAA1 reward targets and LAA2.
- b) Members asked whether it was possible to include a direction of travel against targets. Given the diversity of targets and their measurement, it was agreed that a direction of travel summary for each indicator may be easier to assign at the end of the year.
- c) In response to a query, members were given clarification on LAA1 indicator 18.1.1 (the number of quality local councils). Members also commented that while Sussex Association of Local Councils has been identifying a fast track process, the accreditation process remains costly and time-intensive.
- d) GOSE commented that it was extremely positive to see such a high level of analysis in the LAA2 report when the LAA had only been agreed in July this year.

ESSP members agreed:

1. To approve the performance monitoring report
2. For the support team to investigate the feasibility of including a direction of travel for future LAA performance monitoring reports.

8) LAA 2 Review

- a) Alison Horan introduced this report, highlighting the opportunity to update data and targets not agreed by the original completion date for LAA2, including seven currently listed as 'placeholder' where Government had not clarified definitions or the baseline data was unavailable.
- b) The report also identified those national indicators that are to be reviewed, including the Government announcement to drop the Key Stage 3 targets; and those that will be reviewed in the light of the economic downturn.
- c) Members had been invited to challenge the LAA indicator delivery plans, developed by the indicator leads. Limited responses had been received on these delivery plans. The Rural Forum has looked at the plans from their perspective and the LAA project team will look at the risks associated with the economic downturn. GOSE confirmed that localities have been contacted to explore the impact of the recession at a local level.
- d) Alison informed members that Government guidance to Government Offices on negotiating LAA reviews is still being produced, delaying negotiations between indicator leads and their GOSE colleagues. The submission date for the review is 2 March 2009.
- e) GOSE commented that the review will also look at governance structures, how members challenge each other and how the work of the partnership is scrutinised.

- g) Members were informed that changing definitions for LAA2 have affected performance monitoring for both prolific and priority offenders and domestic violence cases.
- h) Members discussed the possibility of removing the domestic violence indicator from LAA2 and of including fuel poverty as a particularly relevant issue in rural areas.

9) LAA1 Reward Grant Allocation Model

- a) Becky Shaw introduced the paper, explaining that while East Sussex County Council is the accountable body for the LAA reward grant, they are committed to working out a joint solution and have put forward underlying principles, set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report.
- b) The ESSP has a role in influencing how partners allocate the money, but partners' would decide how to spend any monies allocated to them.
- c) Notwithstanding the principle that individual organisations would decide on how their own allocation would be spent, members were keen to see the reward money adding value, rather than being subsumed into core costs.

ESSP members agreed:

1. To the reward grant allocation model proposed by ESCC.
2. To advise all recipients of the Performance Reward Grant that they should, wherever possible, use the PRG to pursue the shared objectives set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy, and
3. To monitor through the ESSP the added value that is achieved by use of the PRG.

10) Compact Annual Review

- a) Steve Hare introduced the Compact Annual Review, informing members that the Compact Steering Group welcomes the ESSP scrutiny of its work and looks forward to its support in the coming years.
- b) The review has highlighted some notable achievements including a range of useful information and tools, the great work Compact Champions undertake, and national recognition through the Compact Awards for a second year running. Steve Hare requested feedback from partners on how useful the tools have been. Copies of the 'resolution of disagreements process guidance' note and 'code of practice checklist guidance' will be circulated to partners.
- c) However, more work is required to engage partners in the public health sector and other partners, including small to medium sized enterprises in the private sector, who have not yet signed up to the Compact. Members noted that it would be helpful if ESSP could endorse and support the Compact Steering Group's work in this area as it would help to further promote partnership working across all sectors.
- d) Where there have been breaches of the Compact, these have tended to be for reasons other than a lack of trust. The recent Relationships Poll confirmed that the voluntary and community sector is more positive about relationships with public sector partners, but this expectation needs to be delivered on. A member suggested that partners should be encouraged to embed their commitment to the Compact through, for example, their constitution or standing orders.
- e) Members were informed of a national debate on making the Compact statutory. There are differing views on this but the VCS view locally was that this would contradict the spirit of partnership working.
- f) Chris Large, the ESSP representative on the Compact Steering Group, was thanked for his work.

ESSP members agreed:

1. To endorse and support work by the Compact Steering Group to engage partners in the public health sector and other partners who have not yet signed up to the Compact.

FOR INFORMATION SECTION**11) Progress through Partnerships 2008/09 Programme**

- a) Lisa Schrevel introduced this paper which summarised the ESSP self-assessment and the activities put forward for PTP funding. Lisa confirmed that ESSP had been successful in its bid for £4,000 (£3,000 for ESSP activities, £1,000 toward joint activities with the district and borough LSPs in East Sussex). Confirmation was awaited on an additional sum of £1,975 requested for joint activities.

12) ESSP Communications and Engagement Plan – Annual Review

- a) Lisa Schrevel introduced this paper which summarised ESSP communications and engagement activities during the past year, and outlined a range of activities planned for the coming year.
- b) Members noted the importance of communications and engagement and proposed that the topic be discussed earlier in future meetings. Members requested that feedback and views on community empowerment should be sought and that the Communications and Engagement Plan should make explicit reference to business engagement.

Members were invited to email Lisa Schrevel with any comments on these proposals and future activities outlined in the paper.

13) Any Other Business

- a) The inaugural meeting of the East Sussex Business Board went well, focusing on the recession. It was noted that as the board had met just once it was not in a position to respond to the Regional Assembly Select Committee on SEEDA and Sub-Regional Working, however a number of individual partners had responded. The board will be meeting again, focusing on broadband provision in the county.
- b) Jeremy Leggett updated members on a visit to Lewisham LSP, where an elected Mayor with executive powers chairs the LSP, effectively enabling one person to hold non-elected organisations to account in a way that would be inconceivable in East Sussex. He commented that the visit confirmed that government guidance is primarily designed for unitary authorities. The coherence of Lewisham's story of place seemed stronger than in East Sussex, principally because they had a large transient population, and there appeared to be greater collaboration with agencies outside the borough – a necessity given the proximity and impact of surrounding areas such as Canary Wharf, but little collaboration with neighbouring LSPs. Lewisham LSP meetings appeared more focused on debating and identifying solutions to big cross-cutting issues such as community cohesion and the recession, an approach ESSP might look to adopt in the future.
- c) Members were informed that Andrea Saunders was leaving her current post to take on a Sussex-wide position and thanked Andrea for her highly valued contribution to the ESSP over the past few years.

14) Dates of future meetings

Members were asked to note the dates:

12 March 2009, 10am – Council Chamber, Hastings Town Hall

25 June 2009, 10am – Sussex Police Headquarters, Lewes

NB. 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 Rother District Council for hosting the meeting. There being no other business, the meeting closed at noon.

East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board
Thursday 27 November 2008

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS	
Item	Action
FOR DECISION SECTION	
2	<p>Notes of the meeting held on 18 September</p> <p>a) Update the minutes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Note that Steve Hare was in attendance. ii) Include the agreed action on Item 11 for the ESSP to receive the annual review of the Compact and to make recommendations to improve the implementation and embedding of the Compact. <p>b) To invite Cllr Sylvia Tidy to a future meeting to receive an update on the Rural Form for the South East.</p>
5	<p>Presentation: Deprivation levels and trends across East Sussex – Understanding the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007</p> <p>1. To circulate Dr. Tom Smith's presentation and details of rural deprivation seminar.</p>
6	<p>Sustainable Community Strategy Action planning</p> <p>1. To consider inviting Job Centre Plus and the Highways Agency to join the Executive Board, as part of wider governance, communications and engagement proposals being put forward to ESSP board for approval in March 2009.</p>
7	<p>Local Area Agreement (LAA) 1 and 2 Performance Monitoring</p> <p>1. To approve the performance monitoring report</p> <p>2. For the support team to investigate the feasibility of including a direction of travel for future LAA performance monitoring reports.</p>
8	<p>LAA 2 Review: None.</p>
9	<p>LAA1 Reward Grant Allocation Model</p> <p>1. To the reward grant allocation model proposed by ESCC</p> <p>2. To advise all recipients of the Performance Reward Grant that they should, wherever possible, use the PRG to pursue the shared objectives set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy, and</p> <p>3. To monitor through the ESSP the added value that is achieved by use of the PRG.</p>
10	<p>Compact Annual Review</p> <p>1. To endorse and support work by the Compact Steering Group to engage partners in the public health sector and other partners who have not yet signed up to the Compact.</p>
FOR INFORMATION SECTION	
11	<p>Progress through Partnerships 2008/09 Programme: None.</p>
12	<p>ESSP Communications and Engagement Plan – Annual Review</p> <p>1. Members were invited to email Lisa Schrevel with any views on planned activities set out in the paper and on the subject of community empowerment so that these could be fed back to partners, and</p> <p>2. That the Communications and Engagement Plan should make explicit reference to business engagement.</p>
13	<p>Any Other Business: None</p>
14	<p>Dates of future meetings</p> <p>Members were asked to note the dates of future meetings:</p> <p>12 March 2009 at 10am - Council Chamber, Hastings Town Hall</p> <p>17 July 2009 at 10am - Sussex Police Headquarters, Lewes</p>