

## **COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE: MINUTES**

**Date:** Thursday 7th March 2019

**Time:** 10:00am – 12:30pm

**Venue:** Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall, Cambridge

**Present:** Councillors S Criswell (Chairman), K Cuffley (Vice-Chairman), D Ambrose Smith, L Every, J French, I Manning, L Nieto, C Richards and T Sanderson

**Apologies:** Councillors A Costello and L Dupre

### **143. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies were received from Councillors A Costello (substituted by Cllr D Ambrose Smith) and L Dupre.

Councillor T Sanderson declared an interest in item 7 of the agenda, Innovate and Cultivate Fund – Endorsement of Recommendations, as local Member for Huntingdon Town Council.

### **144. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH JANUARY 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **145. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No petitions or public questions were received.

### **146. DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE – REVIEW OF DOMESTIC ABUSE RESOURCE AND OUTREACH PROVISION**

The Committee received a report that outlined the work underway to review the current configuration of dedicated domestic abuse services and it also provided an update on progress to sustain outreach provision. Attention was drawn to the draft set of key outcomes listed in section 2.1.2 of the report and it was noted that before seeing a decrease in numbers, there would likely be a temporary rise, due to increased awareness and more people becoming encouraged to report incidents. Members were informed that users of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service had been very positive about its effect on their lives. It was also noted that one of the lead officers would be going on secondment at the end of March and the savings from her post would fund a new research and evaluation position.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Considered how to develop the preventive work done by the service, as opposed to the reactive work, querying whether the causes of incidents of domestic violence could be collated in a way that would assist in determining the best forms of intervention in the community. Members were informed that prevention was hard to measure and that it was also difficult to assess the causes of domestic violence and sexual abuse, although it was noted that other organisations, such as White Ribbon, were more focused on the preventative aspects of the issue.

- Noted the importance of intervening as early as possible to avoid Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) from occurring and making future assistance more difficult, with a focus on keeping families together rather than allowing situations to deteriorate.
- Expressed concern over the possible closure of Whitworth House, noting that the only other provision for refuge in Cambridge specifically for women was Corona House, which was only able to provide six beds, all of which were currently full. Members were informed that although Whitworth House and Corona House were women only spaces, they were not intended as refuge provision and that the Council was looking at how to best commission the necessary support across the County in a separate strand of work. The Government was also concerned about the issue and attempts were being made to obtain assistance from the national funding stream in order to support bids being made to provide women only accommodation.
- Paid tribute to officers for obtaining 11% of the total available national funding for supporting children who have experienced domestic abuse.
- Emphasised the importance of the fourth intended outcome listed in section 2.1.2 of the report, noting that children who were removed from their natural family setting had often experienced domestic abuse and that simply removing a child from such a situation was not enough. Understanding the nature of healthy relationships was of great importance for the welfare of such children and in helping to repair damage and mitigate future problems. Members were informed that the IDVA working with young people in care on these issues was a matter of priority and it was also noted that the Council was looking at how to become more involved in the relationships and sex education that would become a statutory requirement from September 2020. The Assistant Director of Housing, Communities and Youth agreed to include the issue in a report on domestic abuse and sexual violence that was being presented to the Children and Young People Committee on 9th July 2019. **Action required**
- Queried how the issue of consent was being considered, expressing concern that young boys were being told that they were perpetrators before ever becoming so. It was acknowledged that consent was a complex issue and that different messages were being put to boys than to girls, while it was noted that the Government released guidance in February that considered how to tackle the problem.
- Acknowledged that men were also victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse and that it was important to ensure that support was also available to them.
- Considered how cultural differences existed over what was considered acceptable, noting that domestic abuse was more hidden within some communities. Members were informed that work was currently being undertaken in partnership with mosques in the Muslim community in Peterborough and the intention was to replicate this in Cambridgeshire.
- Acknowledged the challenges in working with perpetrators, specifically in affecting long-term changes in behaviour. It was noted that the Domestic Violence Perpetrator Panel worked with the police, victims, perpetrators and the agencies involved to try and establish how to make improvements.
- Queried the level of interaction with the NHS on domestic violence and sexual abuse, specifically over concerns that abusive partners often accompanied women to GP appointments. Officers acknowledged that the issue was being discussed by the Council with GPs and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

- Expressed concern that there were too many intended outcomes, suggesting that they could be targeted more efficiently if there were fewer. **Action required**
- Suggested that differences in the way that data was recorded by the police and other agencies, as well as different concepts of what was considered a success or failure, could lead to confusion and inaccuracies. Officers acknowledged the concern and noted that attempts were being made alongside partners to standardise across the board, while raising attention to the fact that reported levels of domestic abuse and sexual violence were not indicative of the real levels.
- The Chairman suggested that Think Communities was an ideal forum for partnership discussions on joint working taking place.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Comment on the future review with partners, including how the impact of joint work can be maximised to deliver improved outcomes for vulnerable clients
- b) Note progress in sustaining and developing the service offer to victims through securing external funding.

#### 147. **CAMBS 2020 – SPOKES WORKSTREAM**

The Committee received an update on progress towards achieving a successful outcome for the Spokes workstream of the Cambs 2020 programme, of which the Communities and Partnership Committee undertook to take a leadership role in December 2018. In the presentation of the report, Members were informed that the three areas of focus mentioned in the report – premises, service delivery and data/intelligence – would come together in May and that following on from this it would be possible to start providing staff with informed details of future working plans.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Emphasised the need for reliable and timely communication with staff to avoid confusion and concerns about the future.
- Queried if a long-term timescale that went beyond May could be provided. Members were informed that the deadline for the move was 31st December 2020, although leases would expire on other Council properties beforehand and that staff would begin to be moved to new locations progressively from May 2019. It was not possible to provide a detailed framework for such a process until May, when all the information could be assessed and a detailed plan established. Members expressed concern that they were not sufficiently informed on the structural changes and suggested that a workshop or Member Seminar session would be of benefit. The Service Director of Community and Safety committed to not undertake any changes until that level of discussion had been held. **Action required**
- Suggested that the Council should work alongside local districts and communities to discuss where the population was and where it would be most useful and strategic for staff to work from. It was noted that as a result of the Communities and Partnership Committee's consistent interaction with district councils, their relationship with the County Council was stronger than ever, which allowed for open and productive cooperation.

- Queried whether the information collected on all the Council's properties included data on the buildings' carbon footprints, air pollution or energy usage. It was noted that this information was not currently included, although it was confirmed that future versions of the list would be able to contain such information. The Service Director of Community and Safety agreed to raise the issue at the next Cambs 2020 Board meeting, as it should be our aim to ensure that we did not occupy buildings that were so outdated that they were economically and environmentally deficient. **Action required**
- Expressed concern that the "hub and spokes" terminology was misleading and confusing. While it was noted that such terms were used widely in other sectors, given the new emphasis on the community and moving staff to where they were most needed and would be most effective, it was agreed that more appropriate labels could be used. Members agreed that the buildings immersed in communities should be considered local community hubs, rather than spokes.
- Considered the process as an opportunity to help alleviate the difficulty faced by the public when trying to establish which tier of local government they needed to approach on different issues, with one Member pointing to Pathfinder House in Huntingdon as a model for the Council to follow. It was noted that part of the restructuring was ensuring that buildings would change from single-use occupancy to shared-use occupancy wherever possible to make it easier for members of the public to interact with the Council.
- Suggested that empty properties on town and village high streets could provide ideal venues for spokes to be located, although it was noted that there were concerns about occupying properties on high streets in place of businesses.
- Established that trade unions had been involved in discussions with the Cambs 2020 Board, although it was noted that their involvement would increase when detailed plans begin to emerge.
- Proposed that the data that had been collected on Council buildings, as well as the subsequent data on staff locations, could be produced on a map to assess impacts and needs.
- Noted that the list of Council properties and partner properties would need to be constantly updated, as partners, such as other local councils, would sell and buy properties over time. Officers assured the Committee that given the extensive work carried out to produce the list, there were strong incentives to ensure that it remained up-to-date.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Review and comment on the detail of the approach being taken to deliver the spokes workstream of the Cambs 2020 programme
- b) Consider the branding of our spokes buildings, to ensure they truly reflect the dynamic nature and potential they offer as part of our Think Communities approach.

## 148. THINK COMMUNITIES PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee received a report updating the Committee on progress towards implementing Think Communities in order to enable Members to guide the implementation plan and priorities for the next 12 months. Presenting the report, the Assistant Director of Housing, Communities and Youth noted that the Think Communities approach was a reorganisation through engagement with partners, as opposed to transferring work to other organisations. The approach had been endorsed by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough public services board and served as a vehicle for wider public sector reform by looking at innovative solutions being introduced across the country. It was noted that Think Communities may be rebranded in the future.

Attention was drawn to the need to use a single form of data across the system, including with partners, as it facilitated the whole process and affected the relationships with communities. It was noted that compiling all the data in one place would enable geographical mapping of the needs and services for targeted resourcing. Social workers would play a key role in allowing this to happen.

The Chairman invited Councillor Peter Downes to address the Committee. Councillor Downes emphasised the need to involve parish councils in Think Communities, noting their range, capacity and motivation, as well as their local knowledge. Members noted that relationships with parish councils were very strong and acknowledged the need to include them in the conversation throughout the process and although they had been involved, this had not been specifically mentioned in the report.

Councillor Downes also suggested that the formal language in the report could be made more accessible. The Chairman thanked Cllr Downes for addressing the Committee and agreed with his sentiments. However, he pointed out that the current work was to allow the current partnership to 'get its own house in order' and work better together, before fully engaging with local councils with one voice. In the meantime, it was intended that briefing papers and newsletters would inform more widely as things develop.

In discussing the report, Members:

- Considered the difficulty in linking different sets of data across organisations, noting that it was especially hard given that other organisations changed aspects of their own systems.
- Suggested that the public should be able to go to one place with any query, as opposed to having to find out where they should go within a complex structure, noting that as partners became more involved through Think Communities, this would become easier to achieve.
- Sought clarification over why areas with small populations were not included in the modelling process. Officers noted that this was the first time that we will have shared geographies across the public sector, and, although the focus was on population sizes of between 30k and 50k for organisational purposes, the approach would still allow for more intensive work to take place across far smaller communities where the need existed.
- Acknowledged the similarities with the previous report on the Council's hub and spokes, noting that the Cambs 2020 spokes workstream was in fact one of the eight workstreams described in the Think Communities model.

- Expressed concern over implicitly criticising partners through performance indicators, suggesting that regular reports would be helpful as opposed to using indicators. It was suggested that a lead member from each organisation should meet on a regular basis to ensure they were all working together, with involvement by the Committee on a quarterly or six-monthly basis.
- Queried whether budgets of the different partners would be pooled or aligned and officers confirmed that spending would be aligned wherever possible, although it was noted that it had still not been established how much was being spent in each individual community.
- Noted the importance of involving parish councillors throughout the process and collaborating with them, as opposed to simply telling them what would happen, and that rural areas often received less attention with regards to service provision. Officers confirmed that they were involved but acknowledged the need to strengthen relationships. It was suggested that a workshop with leaders of parish councils would assist in developing collaboration.
- Acknowledged the formal language of the reports and proposed circulating shortened briefings to partners on a regular basis, to which officers informed Members that this was already under consideration.
- Considered how the Council structure would be affected in terms of the relationships between service committees and how different levels of government were represented. It was noted that the approach facilitated Members' roles and allowed for greater communication and participation with the community.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Review and comment on the detail of the approach being taken to implement a Think Communities approach across the system, including the eight specific workstreams described in Section 2.12 of the report
- b) Review and comment on the specific actions relating to delivery over the next 12 months, also described in Section 2.12 of the report.
- c) Suggest key aspects of delivery that the Committee would like to see regular performance updates on.

## **149. INNOVATE AND CULTIVATE FUND – ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Chairman exercised his discretion under Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to allow discussion of the Innovate and Cultivate Fund (ICF) – Endorsement of Recommendations report, which was submitted late due to the ICF Recommendation Panel convening on 1st March, after the meeting agenda had been published. The report provided the Committee with details on the projects put forward by the Recommendation Panel to be considered for funding from the Innovate Fund.

Members were informed that the first three applications – Royal Mencap Society, The Prospects Trust and Thera East Anglia of Thera Trust – had a similar theme of helping vulnerable people find employment and they would work in three different geographical areas. A condition of the grant was that they work together to ensure that they complimented each other in order to achieve Countywide coverage.

The Committee was informed that the Innovate Fund had received an extra £1m for funding distribution at the General Purposes Committee meeting on 22nd January 2019. It was also noted that were the Communities and Partnership Committee to approve the recommendations put forward for funding, the total funding provided so far would be £885k.

In discussing the report, Members:

- Sought clarification on the quality control and monitoring of the bids once they had been approved. The Strengthening Communities Service Manager informed the Committee that each project had been assigned a service lead and were required to provide reports each quarter. This process had been established early on in the application process.
- Established that the bids were not competing against each other for funding, as they had already been approved prior to the final recommendation.

It was resolved to:

Consider the recommendations of the panel and confirm agreement to fund the following six applications through the Innovative funding stream:

- Royal Mencap Society
- The Prospects Trust
- Thera East Anglia of Thera Trust
- Lifecraft
- Huntingdon Town Council
- Pinpoint CIO

## **150. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT – JANUARY 2019**

The Committee received the Finance and Performance Report for People and Communities, with emphasis on the budgets for which the Committee held responsibility. Members' attention was drawn to the £116k underspend indicated in section 2.1 of the report. It was noted that savings were generated from staff turnover and that the People and Communities directorate target of £55k had been surpassed. There had been little change from the December position and the Committee was informed that it was expected to remain consistent until the end of the year.

While discussing the report, Members noted that one of the areas in which the Council was struggling was with the proportion of adults with disabilities in paid employment and that three of the projects that were approved in the previous item would help alleviate that concern.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Review and comment on the report.

## 151. COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS ORAL UPDATES

The Committee noted brief oral updates provided by the following Councillors:

- Councillor Every, who drew attention to developments that had been made on the East Cambridgeshire youth strategy that she was involved in, as well as social prescribing. A written update was also provided and is included as **Appendix A** to these minutes.
- Councillor French, who drew attention to an ABCD training session that she had attended in Wisbech, a new carers trust that had moved to March and an armed forces breakfast club in March.
- Councillor Richards, who drew attention to the Essentials initiative, the danger of there not being a children's centre in a new development due to budget reductions and the need to continue working on hate crime.

The Committee also received a written update from Councillor Costello, which is included as **Appendix B** to these minutes.

## 152. COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE – AGENDA PLAN, TRAINING PLAN AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND COUNCIL CHAMPIONS

The Committee received a report containing its Agenda Plan, Training Plan and the advice of the Chief Executive to appoint Councillor Ian Bates as the County Council's Member Apprentices Champion.

It was noted that changes would be made to the Agenda Plan to accommodate the large number of reports that were due to be presented at the Committee meeting on 30th May 2019, while it was suggested that the workshop on 25th April 2019 might be split into a Committee meeting followed by a workshop. The Chair of the Committee noted that there was a proposal to transfer libraries and other community and cultural services into the remit of this Committee. A report would be going to the Constitution & Ethics Committee, with a final decision at Council in May.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Review the Agenda Plan
- b) Note the Training Plan
- c) Approve Councillor Bates as the County Council's Member Apprentices Champion.
- d) Approve the cancellation of the 6th June 2019 Committee meeting, subject to there being no urgent business to manage.

Chairman  
25th April 2019



**Community Champion of Community Activity update**

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|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Community Champion:</b> | Lis Every  |
| <b>Place:</b>              | East Cambridgeshire  |
| <b>Date:</b>               | Update for Communities and Partnership Committee on 7th March 2019 |

**• UPDATE**

The following are still on going

- Working with County lead on Children’s Centres and District Hub Social workers to identify local needs and gaps in provision. Visits being undertaken with families to understand scope of work being done in Ely and Littleport initially; Soham to follow: Undertaken training with Ely Children’s Centre;
- Parenting Course in a Littleport primary school being delivered. Monitoring process in place. Spreading good practice; Working with Trumpington to facilitate their own bid.
- Bursaries obtained for Bishop Laney pupil premium students now in place resulting in increased numbers for the Sixth Form: allocated;
- ECDC Careers Event in Ely Cathedral - planning for next year – 5 November 2019
- Business Forum now formed to work with local sector; networking business lunches at Bishop Laney Sixth Form set up with sector representatives and focused Year 12 and 13 students: have held Media; Finance and Catering so far. Excellent networking events leading to work experience and understanding of the sector studied.
- Working with ECDC ‘Get moving’ campaign to develop a stakeholder group to support more activities, included a portfolio of different types of chair-based exercises, initially in Littleport and Ely; now collaborating on a new Sanctuary Bid to complement this agenda.
- First conference held at St George’s Surgery on Mental Health; next conference on Dementia. Helped set up Dementia exercise class in Littleport.
- Working with a programme to support Dementia groups through exercise and singing in order to share good practice;
- Harnessing information from Parishes who are interested in setting up their own Timebanks, eg Working with the Friends of the Soham Library;
- Launch of an ECDC Apprenticeship Hub which is an interface between business and school to demystify the process and promote vacancies being tested;
- Working on the Hate Project with CSP at ECDC – working on local walk in centres;
- Supporting and working with District Councillor for Soham on funding issues for 2 projects in Soham, ie a man shed and up-grading the youth football teams pavilion; Community Transport initiative for the purchase of the Tuc Tuc;
- Discussions with VCAEC to extend car share scheme and attract volunteers outside Ely. Putting in a bid

**• NEW CONTACTS, PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES**

**Major Projects.**

- Presentation on the ECDC Youth Strategy to the Strategic Community Safety Board. Excellent response from strategic partners. Agreed next step for endorsement to run through the CSB and the setting up of a Working Party to work out Terms of Reference and scope of the work. Asked to sit on Delivery Group of CSB as well as Strategic Board.
- Meeting with Wellbeing Service Manager, Peterborough Wellbeing Service regarding their bid regarding social prescribing and the intended impact on East Cambridgeshire. Additional meetings taken place with CareUK and discussions on a strategic plan for Littleport.

- Meeting with CCF to discuss a more successful approach to funding that meets the needs of our organisations and residents; looking to identify most appropriate funders that organisations can bid into, depending on need.
- Working on a pilot for the 'Local Offer' for our Looked After Children; this is likely to be in Cambridge City; working on behalf of the children in care and care leavers in ECDC specifically;
- Part of the multi-agency Mental Health Task Group for children in care.
- Working with City College, Peterborough to grow numbers on their courses in East Cambridgeshire for their Health and Care Sector Work Academy, initially in Ely. Have discussed the appropriate marketing strategy for accessing likely candidates in East Cambridgeshire. Invited onto their Steering Group

#### **COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICE**

- Initial research has been undertaken to identify the organisations in existence, what they currently offer; how these services could overlap and determining a network strategy;
- Working with parish and district councillors to create capacity and information base supporting their work in their Parishes/Wards as required;
- Building network of community providers and champions across the District.
- Improve communication with County, District and Parish Councillors, particularly embracing social media.

**Community Champion of Community Activity update**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Community Champion:</b> | Adela Costello   |
| <b>Place:</b>              | Huntingdonshire  |
| <b>Date:</b>               | Update for Communities and Partnership Committee on 7th March 2019 |

**UPDATE**

- **Essentials by Sue** was launched in Ramsey Library on 28<sup>th</sup> January. Sue Loaker attended and explained the reasoning behind the project. Donations of items was overwhelming. Youth workers and the local schools were all involved. Hunts Post wrote up an article. BBC Look East wants to become involved but would like young people to comment which is really difficult as this is such a discrete service.
- **Essentials by Sue** to be launched in Yaxley and Farcet following a meeting with local workers on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
- Monthly article in the local newspaper highlighting the work of the council plus the continued need to recruit foster carers and re-ablement workers in particular at this time of the year when the NHS struggles with bed blocking.
- Meeting with Ramsey Yarners to discuss possibilities of providing knitted/crocheted blankets, scarves, hats, mitts to be distributed via Food Banks and other organisations dealing with the elderly and homeless for next winter.
- Held a discussion about third party reporting in Huntingdonshire and suggested that an ideal venue could be Hinchingsbrooke Hospital or Pathfinder House.

**NEW CONTACTS, PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES**

- *A meeting to be arranged with the Portfolio Holder for Communities at the District Council to consider future initiatives plus the Member who has a responsibility for homeless people in the area.*
- *Reinstate a meeting for local parishes following a disappointing attendance in January.*
- *Meeting took place on 5<sup>th</sup> February with the Mayor of the CA to discuss local issues but in particular Rural Transport. The Mayor was very aware of the need for change in local transport throughout the area.*

**COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICE**

- *Joint working between Officers and Members of HDC and CCC including Library Staff and local community groups in establishing 'Essentials by Sue'. The project is now being rolled out in Ramsey and hopefully within the next few months to St. Ives and Yaxley and Farcet. Sawtry is next on the list.*
- *Supporting Time Bank co-ordinators in identifying new projects which will benefit local people such as gritting pavements in the winter months.*
- **Arranging meetings with local parish/town councillors and clerks to discuss issues in their areas.**