

**MEETING OF WORTHING TOGETHER LSP ON
WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY
IN THE GORDON ROOM, WORTHING TOWN HALL**

1. Attendance, apologies and introductions

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| WORTHING TOGETHER CHAIR | √ | Jane Claxton (for Farhang Tahzib) |
| PARTNERSHIPS | | |
| Voluntary Sector Forum | √ | Julia Carrette |
| Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership | √ | Andy Tonks |
| Worthing First | A | VACANT |
| Health and Wellbeing Partnership | √ | Tracey Light for Martin Sherred |
| Learning Network | A | Anne Parkinson |
| Community Arts Council | A | Stefan Sykes |
| Children & Young People Forum | √* | Julia Carrette for Maralyn Smith |
| Transport & Environment Partnership | A | VACANT |
| Churches Together in Worthing | √ | Mike Tyler |
| Worthing Community Partnership | √* | Jane Claxton |
| LOCAL AUTHORITIES | | |
| Worthing Borough Council | √ | Cllr Joan Bradley for Cllr John Rogers |
| | √ | Cllr Bob Smytherman |
| | √ | Tim Everett (non-voting) |
| West Sussex County Council | √ | Cllr Colin O'Neill |
| | √ | Sue Couchman (non-voting) |
| OTHER MAJOR ORGANISATIONS | | |
| West Sussex PCT | √ | Dr Peter Hayward |
| Environment Agency | A | Carina Strutt |
| West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service | √* | Andy Tonks |
| Sussex Police | √ | Chief Insp Howard Hodges |
| SUPPORTING OFFICERS | | |
| WBC | √ | Andrew Gardiner |
| WBC | √ | James Appleton |
| WBC | √ | Anne Jones |
| WBC | √ | Norma Ndoping (notes) |
| ADC | √ | Gill Frost |

* Previously recorded on the record of attendance, i.e. member represents more than one partnership/organisation

2. Declarations of interest: None.

3. Local Area Agreement Update

(Andrew Gardiner, Strategic Director, Adur & Worthing Councils)

As part of the LAA1 review process, data on outcomes and spending has been updated, and projects that need mainstreaming have been identified.

LAA2 was signed May 08. As yet, little data is available for use in performance management. LSPs will be used for delivery. Districts need to access county indicators.

The Refresh process of LAA2 involves setting local indicators to lead on from Outcome 22 work. However, it was not possible to set targets on 19 January, as expected, owing to insufficiency of baseline data. The LNIA Network is to provide a local indicator on parenting (based on Family Learning / wider Family Learning – extract from a paper on this to go

before the WT LAA D&D Group of 29 January). There will be sub-indicators on breast feeding and post natal depression. Other indicators following on from LAA1 relate to education and years of life lost. There will not be indicators for the other four priorities.

Much work needs to be done in a short period: proposals are to be submitted to PSBE on 09 February, for the Refresh to be ready 16 March.

In discussion, the importance of gathering complete and meaningful data was agreed. Anne referred the Group to information about Outcome 22 projects on the Worthing Together website: <http://www.worthingtogether.org/together/Projectsinpriorityareas/>

In answer to questions from Julia and Jane on reward money, Andrew said this is expected to reach £8m—10m, and that £1.3m remains from LAA1. £1.2m is being allocated on a formula basis by which each district receives £50,000. It is suggested that this money will be managed by the LSPs. If AiP and WT were to combine they would receive the allocation for the two districts, namely £100,000.

In answer to a question from Bob on scrutiny arrangements, it was established that responsibility for this rested ultimately at County level.

4. Feedback from the joint LSP workshop held 10 December 2008

Julia summarised feedback from the workshop, highlighting agreement on the need for a joint Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) which should include neighbourhood action plans. Concerns raised about joint theme groups centred on the possibility of losing existing networking and sharing opportunities. Community Sounding Boards were viewed unfavourably. Scrutiny issues were raised, with the Voluntary Sector wanting to know how it would be involved. Julia was of the opinion that much detail needed to be worked out before a merger of the two LSPs could take place effectively. Julia believed that Adur and Worthing differed considerably at community level.

James confirmed that a consultant has been working in Adur; this resulting from the slide in Adur's position in the indices of multiple deprivation. Many issues of deprivation in Adur are mirrored in Worthing, and a bid for over £200,000 has been put to Sussex Improvement Partnership for neighbourhood level community-led actions in Adur and Worthing. The outcome of the bid might be known by March.

On the issue of consultation with the general public, and the role of the the County Local Committees (CLCs) relative to the Police Neighbourhood Panels, Colin said that the issue of how CLCs communicated with districts was under discussion, as was their possible de-centralisation. Sue said that LSPs could link with the CLCs through her. Bob regretted that there was no elected representative of Worthing in the WSCC cabinet. Tim explained that merger of CDRPs required Home Office approval; the likelihood of this being given would be increased if a merger of the two LSPs were agreed.

5. Proposal for a joint Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)

James pointed out that in the context of a merged officer structure for Adur and Worthing Councils, a joint SCS would facilitate effective use of staff. Tim suggested that if two separate strategies were drawn up it was likely that 80% of the content would be the same. He also thought it likely that if the two LSPs collaborated on a joint SCS, fears of domination of either one of the LSPs by the other would be allayed. Successful joint working on an SCS might be followed by a clearer understanding on how the two LSPs could merge.

Mike expressed the hope that all efforts would be made to avoid an already overly complex process becoming even more so, and thus even more obscure to the general public than it is currently.

Whilst acknowledging Colin's point that use of words could lead to apparent differences between Adur and Worthing where these did not exist, Tim said that deprivation issues in Worthing were weighted towards health issues, those in Adur tended to be more related to skills issues.

In answer to a call to be briefed on the views of AiP, Andy said that fears had been expressed and that there had been lively discussion. The outcome had been agreement on a joint SCS but that a decision on a joint LSP had been deferred.

Bob put forward a proposal for a joint SCS.

It was agreed:

WT would work jointly with AiP towards a joint Sustainable Community Strategy.

6. Proposal for LSP Merger and Joint Executive Team. Next steps

James summarised the view that emerged from the meeting of the AiP Board on 14 January: the idea of a merger had merit but there were concerns about disenfranchisement. It was felt that further discussion was needed on LSP membership and that more thought needed to be given to the question of theme groups. A smaller joint team was needed to feed into a joint SCS. This was urgent to address matters relating to the LAA and LDF. A joint event would examine membership.

There was an expression of general agreement with this.

In answer to questions from Jane, James clarified that the composition of the Joint Executive Team (JET) would be determined by the need to deliver the SCS. Though the size of its membership had not been discussed, it must not be so great as to be unwieldy: it would have a strategic function.

Joan said officers needed to provide a diagram to show how a JET would work, showing the groups underneath it. Jane suggested that this needed to be considered alongside a similar diagram representing the current situation.

Tim and James advanced the view that a joint SCS addressing deprivation issues was a first priority and that this might influence the composition of the theme groups.

James believed that PtP funding might be used to facilitate a workshop into how the LSP could best engage with the community.

Bob indicated that the SE Scrutiny Network might provide funding opportunities.

There was agreement with Andy that we needed to learn from the experience of other LSPs that had merged, and also with Mike's point that flexibility was called for in the current uncertain economic situation. Julia suggested that the voluntary sector could achieve the flexibility required most easily, and she made reference to a paper she had sent to the former Community Planning Manager on the involvement of the VCS.

It was agreed:

A Joint Executive Team (JET) be set up following agreement being reached in a joint workshop with AiP

A decision on the merger of AiP and WT be deferred till after the production of a joint SCS

7. Other business

a. Workshop on a Community Conference

Mike and Julia gave notice of a Community Conference to be held on Saturday 18 April in West Durrington. This would take the form of a public meeting to identify needs at grass roots level and explore how to tackle these collaboratively. It would serve as a venue for consultation and as a market place to show what is already happening. The CLC would be welcome to have a stand there. In answer to an enquiry from Bob, it was confirmed that the Northbrook Project was involved.

Some funding would be needed, and Jane agreed that it would be appropriate to make an application for this to the Community Chest.

James was hopeful that the Conference could provide a starting point for a neighbourhood action plan.

b. Participatory Budgeting

Mike said that a group would be coming down from the Midlands for the Community Conference to provide a briefing on participatory budgeting. James accepted Mike's offer of trying to arrange a session for the Steering Group if this is able to meet on a date either side of the Conference.

c. Sustainable Communities Act

James outlined the provisions of the Act, whose aims and objectives WBC Cabinet supported. Any proposals put to Government would need to meet a July 2009 deadline and would have to be based on prior consultation with communities. Proposals could include transfer of functions from central to local government. There is no new money.

Mike advocated using churches as effective channels of communication.

Julia undertook to email Norma the agenda of the VCS Forum to be held on 19 February, which would look at the LSP and the credit crunch.

Bob held up Tarring Neighbourhood Panel as a good model of consultation.

8. Date of next meeting

To be announced.

James said this would be after a note had been sent to both LSPs on agreement about a joint SCS, some thought had been put into the matter of a JET, and funding had been acquired to take matters further.

Joan suggested a press release on the agreement for a joint SCS, and James said this could go together with a formal signing ceremony, which had been suggested by the AiP Board.

WBC/PRW/CP/NEN 29/01/09