

Wiltshire Co-ordinating Group (WCG)

Minutes of a meeting held at Divisional Police Headquarters, Hampton Park West, Melksham on Tuesday 3 March 2009

Present:

Jim Smith (Children & Young People's Trust Board)	George Bright ('Credit Crunch' Project Leader)
Peter Fanshawe, (C&YP Trust Board)	Gary Mantle (Environment Alliance),
Julian Kirby (Community Safety Partnership)	Ann Cornelius(Housing Partnership)
Tim Mason, (Community Safety Partnership)	Nicole Smith(Housing Partnership)
Nicola Cretney, (Health & Wellbeing PB)	Margaret West (Stronger, Resilient Communities)
Caroline Lewis (WSEP)	David Maynard (WCC)
Len Turner, (WFCAP)	Niki Lewis, (WCC)
John Wraw, (Observer)	Annie Child (WCC)
	Stella Milsom (GOSW)

Linda Watts (WCC) was present to take a note of the meeting.

Apologies were received from: Keith Robinson, (WCG Chairman), Sue Redmond (Community Safety Partnership/Health & Wellbeing PB), Sharon Britton, (WCC), Alan Feist (Environment Alliance/Transport Partnership), Laurie Bell (WCC), Philippa Read, (Infrastructure Consortium), Maggie Rae, (Health & Wellbeing PB), Steve Lawton (WFCAP).

Julian Kirby chaired this WCG meeting in the absence of Keith Robinson.

Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2009 were agreed.

Matters Arising

Tim Mason advised that he had met with Laurie Bell on 2 March to discuss branding for the Wiltshire family of partnerships and also the possible production of as DVD.

A discussion on the Axis of Influence document was deferred to the next WCG meeting.

LAA Refresh

Annie Child introduced the circulated report. Six of the LAA indicators are still subject to discussion – WCG was informed that this position is on a par with the situation in other areas. Annie Child advised that in relation to specific economic indicators, the final targets can be agreed next year. This flexibility reflects the current economic situation. Annie Child also outlined changes to the LPSA Reward arrangements.

Gary Mantle requested information about the future of the CO² reduction target. Stella Milsom advised that there will be opportunities to add to the indicator set, but that the work has not yet been completed on this target. The target will not be eligible for reward if it is included in an LAA next year. Gary Mantle expressed concern and frustration in relation to his perceptions about the lack of progress on this issue. Niki Lewis advised that this is a staffing growth area for the new Wiltshire Council.

The process for the review of targets in the context of the economic downturn was clarified by Annie Child and Stella Milsom. Stella requested that observations on related targets and trends are reported to the Government Office. It was clarified that the deadline of 2 March relates to the first draft of the LAA Refresh. Negotiations on the LAA refresh will not cease until 27 March.

ACTION: Annie Child and WCG members

Thematic Partnerships

Linda Watts restated the three questions that were to be addressed by Thematic Partnerships in time for this WCG meeting:

1. How will we explain our parts of the Local Agreement for Wiltshire in a way that will connect with local people?
2. How will we show hotspots/priorities that evidence has identified as a 'need' or 'problem' for particular community areas?
3. How do we engage with local people and make advice and support available?

Caroline Lewis reported that in relation to the Economic Partnership, there are a number of action plans that are being refreshed. The Partnership is looking to make action planning more user friendly - some written material may be made available for the Assembly.

With regard to "hotspots", some targets already identify priority areas. Discussions are taking place as to whether data can be made available at community area level. It will be clarified as to what information can be provided to the Area Boards. The Partnership is also examining how there can be a better dialogue with the Boards in the context where the role of the Chambers of Commerce is to be developed.

Nicola Cretney reported on behalf of the Health & Wellbeing Partnership. The Board has not yet met. Action plans are in place and opportunities will be taken such as the Health & Wellbeing Awards, to promote media messages. It is intended to strengthen local links and to work with voluntary sector representatives to take that communication forward.

Mini community area profiles are being developed and a list of the content of the profiles is currently being shaped - this should be ready by April. Community managers are attending local meetings.

Nicole Smith reported that the Housing Group have recently met for the first time. Action plans are being reviewed in order to make sure they are robust. There is a need to collect substantially more information and to ensure that the action plans are

focussed. There is a current review of information that can be produced at Area Board level such as information on Rough Sleepers.

With regard to the Children & Young People's Trust Board, Peter Fanshawe and Jim Smith made reference to the young people's version of the CYPP. A leaflet is being prepared for the Children's Workforce. Also, an article for the media is being prepared. Some information at a local level is available – such as information on hotspots. Local collaborative partnerships are proposed and consultation is currently taking place. There is a local strategic development grouping that is seeking to identify needs and 'gaps'. Young people's influence groups are being developed in community areas. WCG members proposed that the Children & Young People's Boards act as a conduit for all issues affecting young people. In relation to environmental issues, Gary Mantle will discuss this point with Peter Fanshawe and Jim Smith.

ACTION: Peter Fanshawe, Jim Smith and Gary Mantle

Julian Kirby outlined the position with regard to the Community Safety Partnership's structures. These structures will be formalised from 1 April. The focus of the work will be on defined hotspots.

Tim Mason referred to the community safety plan. There are current discussions as to how to target work on hotspots. A simply planned document will be available for the public. A strategic assessment has been completed. Linkage with other partnerships structures is being developed.

Gary Mantle reported that the Environmental Alliance has not yet considered the three points, as the first meeting of the Alliance has not yet taken place.

In relation to Resilient Communities, Niki Lewis reported that place survey results have just been received. The Resilient Communities action plan builds on local engagement. The last of the 12 pilot area boards is now taking place. New leaflets on area boards are now available.

A national survey of the Third Sector is being completed – interestingly, 690 returns were made from Wiltshire organisations. Niki reported that a voluntary sector support unit is to be established within the new Council.

Relationship between Partnerships and Area Boards

Annie Child commented that she has discussed the relationships between the Area Boards and the Thematic Partnerships with Steve Milton. Community area support staff are being briefed. Niki Lewis advised that we need to work further on how we articulate the relationship. One purpose of the Area Boards is that there is one place where "people do business".

Tim Mason requested that coordination of consultation with communities is put in place, as there is a danger that at community level, people are feeling overwhelmed. We all have a statutory duty to consult.

George Bright observed that area profiles are critical to successful debates at the Area Boards. He has attended some of the Boards and noted that factual information sparks a relevant quality of discussion.

Tim Mason raised the issue of effective working with “hard to reach” groups. Niki Lewis commented that a range of people in differing sectors have skills and contacts – they should be drawn upon as a resource in making contact with hard to reach groups. Also, a further series of workshops for frontline staff is to take place that will focus on support to service users and engagement with the Area Boards. John Wraw emphasised though, that consultation does not happen solely at the Area Boards or Partnerships – we need to be continually looking at new ways of engaging through varying “gateways”.

Margaret West suggested that a discussion is needed at the Wiltshire Infrastructure Consortium. People are more interested in what makes a difference to them ‘on the ground’. Len Turner suggested that a key issue is to consult selectively on a rolling plan, rather than on a fixed plan – rather than waiting for a whole plan refresh. We tend to focus on the “wants” of communities rather than the “needs” of communities. It is a challenge as to how we capture and recognise valuable work and experience, such as the work of the Churches in engaging with gypsies and travellers.

Julian Kirby advocated that elected Members on the Area Boards must be informed of these issues in order to counter potential hidden discrimination.

Niki Lewis reported that it is now envisaged that there will be eighteen area boards. The findings of the pilot boards will be available in six weeks’ time, and a Handbook is being produced. Short easy to read guides will be produced also.

Wiltshire Assembly

David Maynard outlined the arrangements for the Assembly. In addition to the focus on the economic downturn, the Sustainable Communities Act will be promoted. Branding of the family of partnerships should be ready to circulate at the Assembly. LPSA reward grant will also be discussed. Information on the LPSA reward grant process is to be re-circulated at the request of WCG.

George Bright made reference to his circulated progress update on the project that he has been taking forward. In the responses to a survey completed by 2088 people, it is apparent that a relatively larger proportion of people perceive Wiltshire as being in a less positive position in terms of responding to the recession. But the data analysis indicates that Wiltshire is in fact in a relatively strong position although the “commuter” areas are experiencing more impacts at this stage. The analysis and proposals need to be constructed in such a way as to enable easy communication.

Gary Mantle outlined issues that have been aired at the Environmental Alliance in relation to longer term macro issues including energy shortages. A proposal to increase resilience in this context will be provided by Gary to George Bright. Ann Cornelius expressed interest in taking forward a pilot proposal to be run on some of the estates managed by the Westlea Housing Association.

In the context of the economic downturn, Tim Mason raised the prospect of unemployment for young people rising this autumn. He emphasised the need to make preparation to anticipate this trend.

ACTION: David Maynard and George Bright

New Equalities Framework

Niki Lewis referred to the REGENwork consultancy that has been commissioned to carry out work in Wiltshire, with a focus on how we ensure an integrated approach to equalities work. The draft equalities framework has now been published. The framework is more holistic, with a focus on a human rights approach to equalities. It will be circulated to WCG when it is available.

ACTION: Niki Lewis

Area Profiles

Niki Lewis gave an overview of the development of area profiles. A possible structure for strategic assessments for Wiltshire was circulated. Julian Kirby advocated that a consistent model of assessment, coordinated and resourced efficiently, is vital. Gary Mantle requested advice on how to resource an environmental assessment.

A draft outcomes framework for resilient communities was also circulated. David Maynard emphasised that a more consistent understanding of resilient communities is essential, and that the outcomes framework will be an expression of this understanding. Generally, the framework was welcomed by WCG.

ACTION: Niki Lewis and David Maynard

Date of next meeting

WCG will next meet on 28 April 2009 at Kennet Room, Divisional Police HQ, Hampton Park West, Melksham, starting at 10.00 a.m.