

Wiltshire Public Service Board - 7th July 2011

AGENDA

St John's Parish Centre, Trowbridge

This event is to consider the purpose the Board should have in the changing context for the public sector. At the end of the event we should be clear about:

- The revised purpose of WPSB, and key parts of its terms of reference such as its relationship with other partnerships and bodies
- The membership that WPSB needs to enable it to fulfil its purpose
- The likely impact on the Family of Partnerships and the process for consultation.

9:00 – 9:30 Arrival and tea/coffee

9:30 Welcome and introduction by Jane Scott

9:45 A brief review of WPSB - September 2008 to April 2011 [SB]

- The Family of Partnerships and the original purpose of WPSB
- So what have we achieved together?

10:15 Update on main statutory changes – 10 minute presentations from:

- Probation – [Diana Fulbrook](#)
- Police – [Chris Hoare & Brian Moore](#)
- MoD – [Brigadier Hodder](#)
- NHS – [Jeff James](#)
- Fire – [Simon Routh-Jones](#)
- College – [Steve Stone](#)
- Council, including new statutory partnerships: Local Enterprise Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board – [Jane Scott & Andrew Kerr](#)

This includes tea/coffee at 11 o'clock

12:00 The state of Wiltshire: key messages from the JSNA and the economy.

- Are these adequately covered by existing partnerships and plans?
- Are there any gaps?

12:30 LUNCH and networking

1:30 WPSB to consider:

- What should WPSB's purpose be in this new context?
- What are the implications for the Family of Partnerships?
 - What partnerships do we no longer need?
 - What supporting partnerships are needed?
 - What should WPSB's relationships be with partnerships?
- What should be the membership of WPSB?
- Consultation process for any changes proposed to the Family of Partnerships

This includes tea/coffee at 2:30

3:30 Finish

Wiltshire Public Service Board

Thursday 7th July 2011

St. John's Parish Centre, Trowbridge

Attendance: Sharon Britton; Alistair Cunningham; Bill Dowling; Diana Fulbrook; Carolyn Godfrey; Robert Hall; Gerry Hamersley; Christopher Hoare; Stephen Hodder; Jeff James; Peter Jones; Andrew Kerr; Brian Moore (Police Rep.); Christine Reid (NHS Wiltshire Rep.); Simon Routh-Jones; Jane Scott; Steve Stone; John Thomson; Jackie Tuckett; Lynne Wootton (Probation Rep.).

Apologies: Paul Aviss; Tony Barron; Di Dale; Craig Fisher; Pat Geenty; Phil Harrison; Steve Hedley.

Jane Scott welcomed everyone and gave a brief introduction about the intentions of this meeting and what we hoped to achieve. She summarised the major changes facing the public sector and its resources. This is an opportunity to refocus the way the Board works, and its supporting partnerships.

What has the Wiltshire Public Service Board achieved?

Sharon Britton gave a presentation and summarised the achievements of the Wiltshire Public Service Board to date, since it was formed in 2008. This is a reminder of those achievements:

- The **Economy** – the Credit Crunch report – Action 4 Wiltshire (£1m)
- **Local Agreement for Wiltshire** – made improvements in 7 areas of ambition
- Reinvested **£1.6m in local priorities**
- **Area Boards**
 - **PRG Scheme** to fund local initiatives (£1.4m) and
 - shaped area boards and championed public sector partner involvement and community engagement
- **Think Family**
- **Safeguarding** children and adults
- Our **Information Sharing Protocol**
- Visits to '**hot spots**' to better understand the issues
- **Military & Civilian Integration Programme**
- **Improved communications**
- **Public confidence**
- **Joined up research & intelligence** (JSNA, JSA)
- **Wiltshire Infrastructure Delivery Board**
- **CCTV**
- **Child poverty**
- **Equality & diversity**
- **Climate change**
- **Domestic abuse**
- **Voluntary and Community Sector** development and new relationships
- *and worked on CAA and LAA (now abolished)*

It is clear that the WPSB does add value and these achievements may not have happened at all or as quickly, if WPSB did not exist.

Each member organisation gave a 10 minute summary of the main changes to their organisation and the likely implications for Wiltshire.

Probation – Diana Fulbrook explained that probation had fewer targets and that national standards are being simplified. There are still a considerable number of Performance Indicators. Professional judgement will be used instead of prescriptive standards and this will be challenging to deliver. Geographically, the country is being split into 6 large areas for the current competition relating to Community Payback so there are concerns about Wiltshire's needs being met, and further competition based on Payment by Results is being developed.

Health – Jeff James summarised the changes to the National Health Service Bill following the government's listening exercise. Legislative process is not yet complete so there may be further changes.

Commissioning decisions will be clinically led and there has been a shift in the balance between collaboration and competition.

PCTs are being clustered together in preparation for the changes.

The arrangements for local commissioning, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Public Health are not yet finalised nationally. Within Wiltshire we are making progress. Good relationships are vital to making this complex transition successful.

Police – Chris Hoare and Brian Moore spoke about the changes resulting in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. This is making its way through parliament but it is not yet clear if elections of Police and Crime Commissions are to be held in May 2012. A national review of Police Pay and Conditions is underway. There are also changes to the Courts Services and Crown Prosecution Services that will affect Wiltshire.

The Police and Crime Commissioner will hold the budgets for police and community safety.

Further savings are expected from police forces. There are fewer targets being set nationally, and no nationally set requirement for competition. Police forces and authorities are expected to find solutions, and this may include some competition.

Wiltshire Police is working with neighbouring Police Forces. There are opportunities for public sector organisations within Wiltshire to work together more efficiently, e.g. Fleet and Vehicle Maintenance, Asset Management and Information & Analysis. Work on some of these has already started. It is important that we work together on Safeguarding and Public Protection; Youth; and public contact and confidence.

Fire and Rescue – Simon Routh-Jones explained that the regulation governing Fire and Rescue Services had reduced considerably.

The changes give local fire services more scope to decide what is done locally, whilst still meeting the requirements of the Fire Services Act. Savings for the Fire Service are back loaded to years 3 and 4 and Wiltshire is working on transformation to meet the challenges. This will give opportunities for the service to be more integrated into communities and with the council. Nationally and locally, the Fire and Rescue Service is developing its approach and Simon Routh-Jones will bring a paper to WPSB to look at the opportunities and gaps, and the possibilities for joint working.

Wiltshire has a good Control Centre.

ACTION: Simon Routh-Jones will keep the Board updated on progress.

Ministry of Defence – Brigadier Hodder provided an overview of changes in the Military, in particular the impact on Wiltshire. This will be clearer still after 1st September.

The MoD is looking at youth engagement and in Wiltshire, Bemerton Heath cadets had a very successful launch.

Armed Forces covenants are being introduced that will cover how local areas will work together in partnership. This will be discussed at the next MCI meeting and then reported back to WPSB.

ACTION: To be brought back to a future WPSB meeting.

This is Brigadier Hodder's last meeting. He was thanked for the great contribution he has made to Wiltshire and on the Board. He is to be replaced by Brigadier Piers Hankinson.

Wiltshire College – Steve Stone explained that there are significant changes affecting post-19s Further Education. This gives the College greater flexibility in training, which can be tailored to what local people and employers want and will fund.

The College is working with Swindon College and Bath College and there is more collaboration locally. The College is also able to compete over a wider distance as the market place is expanding for different types of courses (e.g. shorter). It looks likely that this will expand for more work with the Higher Education sector. The greater freedoms help to offset the recent reductions in funding.

The Council and College are working well together on Further Education.

Changes are also expected for under 19s education.

Wiltshire Council – Andrew Kerr and Jane Scott summarised the reductions in funding and stated that most of the cuts are already being managed.

They outlined how the Localism Bill will give powers to communities (i.e. community right to buy), and the 'general power of competence' for councils.

The Open Public Services White Paper is due to be published.

It is likely that business rates will become more important locally, linked to economic development. We are awaiting approval on our proposal for a Local Enterprise Partnership.

The National Health Service Bill includes setting up a Health and Wellbeing Board and transferring local Public Health to local government.

JobCentre Plus – Jackie Tuckett explained that advisors now have more autonomy about what they can do for clients, and are able to work more collaboratively with people to help them get back into work. Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset are in the top 3 for getting people back into work. JobCentre Plus has only 2 targets:

1. Getting people through the system.
2. Getting people back into work.

Homes & Communities Agency – This was Peter Jones' first meeting with the WPSB. He described the priorities of the agency and the focus on regeneration and on affordable rents. Funding is more limited but the new approach provides clearer focus and more flexibility.

The Agency should have a team by September who will work with Wiltshire Council and other partners in more depth.

Natural England – Gerry Hamersley stated that the Natural Environment White Paper had been produced, which summarises the ecosystem approach to resilience. It sets out the vision for Local Nature Partnerships and he will bring more information on this to WPSB as this becomes clearer.

Economy – Alistair Cunningham presented information about Wiltshire's economy and led a discussion on the implications for local people and areas. Wiltshire's economy has suffered more than the South West, but the comparison is not useful as Wiltshire's economy mirrors national economy, rather than the South West. Our economy has recovered a third of its loss in the last year, and some areas are doing well, but others have significant problems. Housing has a big impact on the economy and economic growth needs housing, but there is reluctance in some communities to housing development.

He will circulate a paper that provides information at a community area level.

ACTION: Alistair Cunningham to circulate the paper.

Purpose and future of Wiltshire Public Service Board

The Board reviewed its purpose and membership in the context of the changing role of the public sector and in particular the implications of that for Wiltshire. It agreed that:

- The Board works well and membership of WPSB should remain as it is now. Changes to public sector organisations are expected (eg health, police) and so changes to membership will be considered as these changes become clearer.
- The Board's partnership working has matured since the original terms of reference were set in 2008 and so these should be updated to reflect the close way we work together and our ambitions for working in the future. Priorities will be reflected in our organisational plans rather than be part of a separate Local Agreement for Wiltshire.

From the discussion a **draft** updated terms of reference has been drafted and is shown below. This will be looked at by the Council's communications team to make it more 'public friendly'.

Wiltshire Public Service Board 2011

Purpose: We will work together to deliver efficient services and support that helps Wiltshire people and communities to help themselves and to protect vulnerable people.

Terms of Reference

In challenging times it is even more important for public sector bodies to work together – to be more efficient; to improve our services and support and to make it as easy as possible for Wiltshire people to use our services and to work with us to improve their lives and communities. To achieve this, we will:

- *Have the right people at the table making decisions that commit their organisations to action. These are senior decision makers from statutory public sector bodies that put substantial funding into Wiltshire, and are able to take decisions on behalf of their organisations.*
- *Have a good understanding of the Wiltshire economy, and the impact of this on Wiltshire communities.*
- *Look forward to plan strategically, making use of shared research and intelligence and an understanding of risks, and reflect shared priorities in our organisational plans.*
- *Achieve real outcomes by working strategically and enabling local working.*
- *Improve efficiency and impact by agreeing action and through joint working, commissioning and purchasing, and joint use of public assets.*
- *Support partnerships or other joint working to meet the following needs:*
 - *Children and young people*
 - *Achieve economic growth that is appropriate for Wiltshire's communities*
 - *Safeguarding and public protection*
 - *Community safety, including resilience*
 - *Effective new arrangements for health and wellbeing*
 - *A strategic overview of the environment*
 - *A strategic overview of strong, resilient communities*
- *Work with the voluntary and community sector as part of these partnerships and working groups and encourage volunteering within our services – to achieve better efficiency and results and to engage communities to better shape services to meet their needs.*
- *Achieve greater public awareness and recognition of partnership achievements, and lead our organisations to promote the benefits of partnership working.*

The Board decided to ask the Wiltshire Coordinating Group if it would please make a proposal on the optimum Thematic Delivery Partnership and other cross-agency working arrangements to meet the needs identified above, for consideration at the WPSB meeting in October. WCG should work with others if appropriate. The context for this is:

- The Thematic Delivery Partnerships were designated as such in 2008 to deliver significant action in the three-year Local Agreement for Wiltshire (LAW). This was successful and the LAW ended in March 2011.
- It is now time to consider what delivery partnerships are needed for the next few years. It is important that these arrangements are efficient, focussed and deliver real outcomes, as involvement in partnerships takes capacity that could otherwise be used elsewhere.
- Based on the information papers produced by Thematic Delivery Partnerships for its September meeting, the Board thought that it would be better for Transport and Housing to feed into economic development, rather than be designated as Thematic Delivery Partnerships. It would also like greater clarity about the role and future working of the Resilient Communities Partnership.
- The WPSB recognises that partnership relationships have matured since 2008 and so will reflect agreed priorities in organisational plans, rather than have a separate Local Agreement for Wiltshire. It would expect to strongly influence the work programme and agendas of any supporting partnerships or cross-agency working arrangements.
- Following WPSB's deliberations in October, its proposals will then be opened for wider consultation if the changes to partnership working are significant.

ACTION:

- Andrew Kerr and Sharon Britton will bring WCG's proposals on partnership/cross-agency working to the Board
- Laurie Bell will provide an update on the cross-agency communication group and a communications strategy to the next WPSB.
- Carolyn Godfrey will circulate a briefing on Think Family for WPSB members
- Simon Routh-Jones will bring a paper to WPSB on the future working of the fire and rescue service.