



Minutes of Tuesday 23 June 2009

ACTION LIST

Item	ACTION	Responsible
1.0	(8.0): RW clarified that as the PRG funding was rewarded for the performance of a vast number of indicators in Kent Agreement One, all views on the allocation of this funding would be considered.	ALL
2.0	<p>TWBC Planning would be contacting organisations shortly to see what level of engagement they wish to take in discussions regarding the Infrastructure plan.</p> <p>CH to circulate copy of green paper to all TWT members.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>CH</p>
4.0	RW to feed views from TWT on Audit Commission Health Inequalities report (paper 3) to Health & Older People thematic delivery group for inclusion in their response.	RW
6.0	Robbie Graham (Kent Police) asked TWT members that if any wished to be involved in helping to put the structures in place to assist the prevent agenda, to inform him at the end of the meeting.	ALL
9.0	RC would circulate two papers to TWT members which provide more information on the new well-being powers.	RC/HG
10.0	'Total Place' work - thought KCC was a pilot area for this piece of work but it had not yet been discussed at district level. CH to follow up with KCC.	CH

**Tunbridge Wells Together
Minutes of Tuesday 23 June 2009
Salomon's Centre**

Represented:

Cllr Roy Bullock (CRB) – Chair	Leader of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC)
Rob Cottrill (RB)	Director of Planning and Development (TWBC)
Raymond Warren (RW)	Interim Head of Community & Corporate Planning (TWBC)
Holly Goring (HG)	Research and Information Officer (TWBC – minutes)
Keith Harrison (KH)	Action with Rural Communities in Kent
Jon Rosser (JR)	Town & Country Housing
Ahmed Eslami (AE)	Learning Skills Council
Martin Wilson (MW)	West Kent Police
Caroline Highwood (CH)	Kent County Council
William Benson (WB)	Director of Change and Business Support (TWBC)
Chris Lay (CL)	Kent County Council
Robbie Graham (RG)	West Kent Police (presentation)
Chris Hare (Cha)	West Kent College
Caroline Shaw (CS) – Vice Chair	Voluntary Action West Kent
Liz James (LJ)	Voluntary Action West Kent
Daniel Bech (DB)	Town Forum
Martin Adams (MA)	Kent Fire & Rescue
Rosie Serpis (RS)	Axa PPP Healthcare
Estelle Hudson (EH)	Community Development & Partnerships Manager (TWBC)
Tom Crookall (TC)	Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)
Michael Turner (MT)	Environment Agency

Apologies:

Di Woolloff	Government Office for South East
Mark Salisbury	West Kent Police
Chris Carter	West Kent Police
Ian Read	Courier
John Davies	Kent County Council LSP representative
Sheila Wheeler	Chief Executive (TWBC)

Item		Action
1.0	Welcome and minutes of previous meeting (paper 1)	
	<p>CRB welcomed attendees and asked for introductions around the table. Minutes from last meeting were agreed and CRB signed master copy.</p> <p>CRB asked for updates on the action list from the previous meeting:</p> <p>(1.0)– CL informed TWT that they were still not able to put this report forward.</p> <p>(3.0)– RW had circulated the monthly economic statistics and brought a copy of the latest report to June meeting (paper 2).</p> <p>(5.0) – CH had spoken with Carol Kirkdale. KCC have strong links with VAWK.</p> <p>(8.0) – Report circulated. RW informed attendees that a framework had been developed for the PRG funding. The details of this framework were to be taken to the July PSB meeting. RW also clarified to the group that it was essential to remember that the PRG funding was rewarded for the</p>	

	<p>CRB asked TWT members whether they had any anecdotal evidence of the economic downturn affecting their organisations. AE thought it should be noted that the number of benefit claimants recorded does not include the 'highly educated commuter' who has been made redundant but seeking work through alternative routes such as setting up entrepreneurial activities. This makes it more difficult for agencies working in these areas to identify their needs and in particular their business support needs. AE has not seen any evidence of people requiring this type of entrepreneurial support in Tunbridge Wells, but recently some evidence in Sevenoaks. RW clarified that they had seen an increase in the start up support provided by Business Link Kent and a large number of professionals were seeking other methods of employment but in terms of raw numbers, this was difficult to obtain.</p> <p>CRB asked whether LSC had any contact with recruitment agencies. AE stated that they did not as these people are unlikely to contact the LSC for support.</p> <p>CS advised TWT that nationally there had been a large increase in the number of people volunteering, although this had not yet been recorded in West Kent. CS clarified that although there was increasing demand for volunteering, this had coincided with a time of reduced funding.</p> <p>CHa informed TWT that WKC had recently received a contract to assist those who have been unemployed for six months or more. WKC have also identified that the largest number of hits on their website had been from those unemployed for more than six months. WKC are currently running short programmes and finding that a greater number of leavers are staying on for further education rather than progressing into employment. There had also been a slight reduction in apprenticeships (mainly in construction) whereas other areas still appear to be fairly buoyant.</p> <p>RS added that this is where opportunities could be made available for these students; perhaps if more people in borough staying on in education, need to assess what employment opportunities have we got for two year placements. This would then reduce the numbers leaving the area due to lack of jobs. This should encourage businesses to recruit on that basis.</p> <p>RS informed TWT that they had been misrepresented in the press recently. Axa PPP Healthcare employ over 1600 staff. Through a recent consultation exercise, which was a very advanced form of consultation, they asked employees to 'have their say.' RS advised TWT that Axa PPP was currently looking to the long-term and building for the future, whilst being aware that it costs a great deal to train and ensure employees stay within the company. RS also noted the importance of providing added customer service and retaining current employees. Employees were asked to consider the various options in order to make savings. Not surprisingly, employees voted 'redundancies' as the last resort. The Health Insurance business has been affected by the economic downturn and moreso now than in the last recession. Although 2009 has been steady, it was expected that the full impact will be more apparent during 2010.</p> <p>DB asked at what age school leavers feature in the 'benefit claimant' statistics. AE informed that working age population starting age was regarded as 16 and over. DB also questioned whether it was still 3months before people were entitled to claim. AE advised TWT that there were two main types; job seekers allowance and income support.</p>	
4.0	Health Inequalities report in Kent – Audit Commission results (paper 3)	
	RW informed TWT that paper 3 reported the key findings of Audit Commission's recent survey into health inequalities in Kent. The report included a series of tables	

	<p>which reviewed a number of health indicators. Out of the 386 local authorities in England and Wales, Kent was regarded as 66th best performing. RW informed TWT that although this was good news, the report did not explicitly refer to the apparent health inequalities within specific wards.</p> <p>RS thought that Tunbridge Wells had not featured as well as expected against other areas with more notable levels of deprivation. RW agreed there appeared to be some anomalies. CH felt that their figures should be challenged. For example Hampshire CC featured top for number of health profile indicators significantly better than England average, however only one of their districts featured in the top 12. Similar case with reporting of KCC. CRB also noted that the 'lack of clarity of leadership from Strategy Health Authority/County Council' was not fully explained. CH thought would be interesting to view their evidence. RW felt this is something TWT should express to the Audit Commission and this would be fed through the Health and Older People thematic delivery group.</p>	RW
5.0	Annual Sustainable Community plan 2006-2011 Performance report (paper 4)	
	<p>RW informed TWT that the Sustainable Community Plan 2006-2011 had now been in place for over two years. Paper four reviewed the performance of the action plan and indicators within Kent Agreement Two during 2008/09. The action plan had been very successful and nearly three years on, a large number of actions had been achieved. With this and many other changing agendas (Kent Agreement Two, CAA etc), the current plan is due to be refreshed during 2009. Overall 62% of actions were on target and a further 19% making some progress.</p>	
Part 2	Briefings	
6.0	'Prevent Agenda' – what it means for partners in TWells (presentation)	
	<p>Superintendent Robbie Graham from Kent Police attended to provide a presentation on the 'Prevent Agenda.' RG informed TWT that his role was to mainstream the agenda into organisations' current structures. A countywide steering board was held a few days before the TWT meeting which agreed the governance structure to manage the prevent agenda. RG confirmed that the country was still at 'severe' threat level and had been at that level on and off for three years. The Prevent Strategy has a three year period for delivery and is essentially three-tier in terms of involvement (organisations and community). There are four key elements: Prevent; Pursue; Protect and Prepare. RG advised TWT that although a great deal of planning would take place, the key to this strategy being delivered effectively is through co-ordinated local delivery.</p> <p>RG discussed the various terrorist attacks that had occurred in the past and the difficulties in obtaining a profile against a 'terrorist.' RG highlighted the importance of managing information flows, thus understanding the information being reported and increasing agencies' knowledge and awareness. Kent Police are aware that their partner organisations are at the frontline in relation to customer service and therefore by Kent Police strengthening their contact points within each of these organisations, there is more understanding of particular individuals or locations that are most vulnerable.</p> <p>Glynn Thompson at Kent Police will be responsible for dealing with each of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP's) and RG informed TWT that the aim is to work with each of the CDRPs to develop structures to support these information flows. RG asked TWT members that if any wished to be involved, to inform him at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>RG also added that Kent Police were peer reviewed last week on this subject area by the HM Office and deemed best practice nationally due to their very strong action</p>	ALL

	<p>plan. They are continually looking to engage communities across the board and inform agencies of the various processes in place.</p> <p>RW asked how the flow of information would be transmitted to local level organisations and what these organisations should be doing in preparation for the 'prevent' agenda. RG pointed out that every policing area has to have a County Terrorist Local Profile by end of July 2009. RG advised TWT that this would then be shared with Local Strategic Partnerships and CDRP's. RG stated that he was more than happy to return at a later date to update TWT on the partnership governance and information flows in place.</p> <p>RW asked how restricted the information was within the County Terrorist Local Profiles. RG responded that there was some level of sensitivity but there will hopefully be an opportunity for partners to view restricted reports.</p> <p>CH asked to what extent their work is going to take account of and manage the two dynamics to the county (one – knowledge of reduced movements and settled population and two – Kent as a corridor). RG responded that Kent can sometimes be seen as a transitory county and their work will be absolutely dual balanced to account of this.</p> <p>TC referred to the 'anti-terrorist helpline' and wondered how this was going to be fed out to local residents. Are they going to be informed of the correct contact telephone numbers to call in the case that they might notice a strange object or vulnerable person. RG informed TWT that Kent Police are producing a communications strategy alongside this work which will look at issues such as this.</p> <p>CRB also raised the issue about the forms of media exchange such as the Internet which are difficult to control. CRB clarified that TWT would be more than happy to assist Kent Police with the prevent agenda and thanked RG for his presentation.</p>	RW
7.0	'Love Where we live' - presentation	
	Item postponed to next agenda.	
Part 3	Strategic Planning	
8.0	Sustainable Community Plan refresh update	
	<p>RW reminded TWT that at the November 2008 meeting, TWT members agreed to the refresh of the current Sustainable Community Plan. The thematic delivery groups have been working on their sections of the plan. The revised plan will run until 2026 and will become a much smaller high level document outlining the overall objectives to meet our vision. There will be a maximum of 14 indicators and underneath those, will sit each of the thematic delivery groups and individual organisation's strategies and plans.</p> <p>Each thematic delivery group has been developing a page to summarise their work and hope to have the full draft complete by July. Consultation of the draft will run from August through to September and this consultation will take place with residents and partners at various events and through existing partnership networks during that time. The final version is planned to be produced by November 2009.</p>	
9.0	Well-being powers	
	RC informed TWT of the changes put in place and introduction of the well-being powers. Powers have now been disseminated to the county, district and unitary authority level, allowing authorities at this level more freedom to improve anything relating to the environmental, social and economic welfare of an area. Well-being powers cannot be used to raise funding and any action or decision to put powers in	RC/

	<p>place must relate to the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This was introduced initially to develop solutions. For example the Borough Council has set up the Tunbridge Wells Regeneration company, which is working on the Southborough hub and town centre plans. This is much more beneficial as the company can now recruit local traders to work in the area, rather than having to follow the procurement process at all times. RC informed TWT that as the Sustainable Community Strategy is revised, the Borough Council will be looking at new ways of working. RC will circulate two papers to TWT members which provide more information: cabinet report and briefing note from Local Government Association. RC also informed TWT that an update would be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>It was at this stage within the meeting that CRB wished to inform TWT members that RC will be leaving Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for a new position. On behalf of TWT, CRB wished to thank RC for all his help and wish him well in his new position as Chief Executive at Eastbourne Borough Council.</p>	<p>HG</p>
<p>10.0</p>	<p>Items/briefings for next meeting - suggestions from partners</p>	
	<p>CRB informed TWT members that it was their Local Strategic Partnership and wished members to make suggestions for future agenda items and contributions.</p> <p>At present, CRB advised that the following items were on the draft agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information sharing through MOSAIC - Update on well-being powers - Draft Sustainable Community Strategy (2009 – 2026) - Green Paper <p>Suggestions from TWT members were as follows: MT advised TWT that the Climate Change Strategy had just been revised which lets us know the predictions of rainfall for the Tunbridge Wells area as far ahead as 2050 and 2080 and would be happy to take members through this at the October meeting. CRB also requested that MT update on the Flood Risk Strategy.</p> <p>CS advised TWT that volunteer’s week was very successful but ongoing commitment needed from partners, so would be happy for her or Mandy Wynne to provide a presentation on volunteering.</p> <p>CL wondered whether TWT would be interested in receiving a presentation on the new Vocational Academy (Skinners, WKC and KCC) and discuss what the Academy will bring to the area.</p> <p>RS would be interested in looking at schooling provision and housing provision in the area (infrastructure) for the future.</p> <p>KH stated that the Commission for Rural Communities had recently published its Rural Proofing Toolkit. A Kent version is being put together, so could look at this at next meeting. KH also mentioned the ‘Total Place’ work which will encourage conversations to be held at all levels of government to perceive how services can be delivered far more effectively in an area over the next 25 years (dissemination of powers to local level etc). CS thought KCC was a pilot area for this piece of work but it had not yet been discussed at district level. CH to follow up with KCC and possible presentation to be held at future meeting.</p> <p>CHa also thought it would be good to discuss the demise of Learning Skills Council at a future meeting and how this is going to work. CHa was also happy to bring an update on what WKC is doing in terms of offender learning to a future meeting.</p>	<p>MT/ RW/HG</p> <p>CS/ RW/HG</p> <p>CL/ RW/HG</p> <p>RW/HG</p> <p>KH/ RW/HG</p> <p>CH</p> <p>CHa/ RW/HG</p>

	CRB asked TWT members to refer any further ideas to RW or HG.	ALL
11.0	A.O.B	
	<p>(1.0) CS informed TWT that '121 youth befriending' had just transferred their services to VAWK, therefore 121 will be closing.</p> <p>(2.0) CS also informed TWT that VAWK had recently bought the old Kent Messenger building and will look to renovate this subject to planning permission, to enable VAWK to have a great town centre presence.</p> <p>(3.0) EH advised TWT that the Kent Community Development Managers Group were completing a project to disseminate best practice on community engagement. I&DeA have offered to do a project with Local Strategic Partnerships and this is due to commence Autumn 2009.</p>	