



LICHFIELD DISTRICT BOARD

Held on 8 November 2010 at Lichfield District Council Offices

Present:	Elected Members: Councillor Helen Fisher (in the Chair), Lichfield District Council Councillor Matthew Ellis, Staffordshire County Council Representatives from Partner Organisations: Rachel Chapman, representing South Staffordshire PCT; Jean Collins, representing Lichfield and District Community and Voluntary Sector Support ; Mick Harrison, representing Staffordshire Police; Phil McFarlane, representing Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service; Graham Morley, representing South Staffordshire College
In attendance:	Sharon Ashton, Lesley Bovington, Nina Dawes and Helen Spearey, Lichfield District Council Graham Hunt, Staffordshire County Council Rose Vakis, Lichfield and District Community and Voluntary Sector Support
Apologies:	Councillors Mike Wilcox (Chairman) and Val Richards; Anne Birch, Children, Young People and Families Directorate and Marie Duquesnay, Health and Social Care Directorate, Staffordshire County Council

Agenda Item	Minutes	Action
1	Apologies and Welcome Councillor Helen Fisher (in the Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.	
2(a)	Action Notes of the Previous Meeting, 28 June 2010. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 June 2010 at Mansell House, Bore Street, Lichfield were agreed.	
3	Matters Arising a) Budgetary positions Rachel Chapman reported that the Primary Care Trust continues to be subject to significant budgetary pressures due in part to a continually increasing demand for health services. The transition from Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to practice based commissioning based on General Practitioner consortia is likely to exacerbate this situation. Phil McFarlane reported that Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service is one of the lowest funded and highest performing services nationally. FARS is facing significant budgetary pressures and services may look very different in the future. It was noted that despite financial constraints, two new fire stations are planned for the District, and that these buildings would be used as community facilities as well as operational centres for the service. Graham Morley reported that South Staffordshire College was	

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	<p>expecting to make further savings of 15% of their budget on top of the 8% reduction that has already been delivered in 2010 resulting in the deletion of 70 full time equivalent posts.</p> <p>Rose Vakis reported that as public services reduce in response to budget cuts, the community would turn to the voluntary sector as an alternative provider which will have a profound impact on their operation.</p> <p>Councillor Ellis reported that Staffordshire County Council had a target to save in excess of £120m and had identified 70% without making significant changes to frontline services. The integration of provider services from 1st April 2011 would also offer opportunities for cost cutting. It was noted that funding to the voluntary sector would be continued and prioritised.</p> <p>Nina Dawes reported that Lichfield District Council was currently undertaking a third Expenditure Review exercise to meet a three year funding shortfall in excess of £3m. Significant savings had been identified through shared services, especially from the recently introduced joint waste service with Tamworth Borough Council. However, within the context of a national reduction of 33% in the Department of Communities and Local Government budget, it was expected that significant additional savings would need to be found. The position will be clarified following the formula grant announcement in December.</p>	
4	<p>Update on Staffordshire and Lichfield One Place</p> <p>a) Nina Dawes updated partners on the Staffordshire One Place Project submission to Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands.</p> <p>It was reported that Staffordshire One Place consisted of a range of initiatives surrounding collaborative working and it was noted that funding of £275k had been secured to facilitate a number of projects including a sum of £75k to implement Lichfield One Place.</p> <p>b) Helen Spearey updated partners on Lichfield One Place which consists of two projects which have previously been endorsed by the District Board; a) Let's Work Together and b) Supporting Families (previously referred to as the Lichfield District Integrated Family Intervention Project).</p> <p>Let's Work Together is focusing on maximising the value for money of home visits, primarily to vulnerable adults, by providing front line practitioners with the skills to spot risks to the person they are visiting and acting on the risks identified. The project links closely to the County Council's strategic agenda around Staffordshire Cares.</p> <p>The Supporting Families project arose out of the Serious Incident Review undertaken by Staffordshire County Council following the murder of Michael Eccles in January 2009. The project aims to achieve value for money gains by focussing more investment in prevention and early intervention, thus preventing potentially expensive crisis situations arising.</p> <p>Both of these projects are accountable to the District Board via Project Steering Groups.</p> <p>A key issue for the success of both projects will be information</p>	

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	<p>sharing and communication between agencies. Nina Dawes referred to a project (Safeguarding 2.0) being funded by the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) delivered by FutureGov which is developing web based technology to make communication quicker, easier and cheap to develop. FutureGov are interested in working in Lichfield / Staffordshire to take forward their initial ideas.</p> <p>Councillor Ellis referred to a project being undertaken with Orange to pilot mobile technology eg. door sensors.</p> <p>Decision: That the progress made on the Lichfield One Place projects be noted.</p>	
5	<p>Census 2011</p> <p>Alyson Thomson, Area Census manager, made a presentation to partners regarding the 2011 Census (which takes place on 27th March 2011).</p> <p>It will be vital to maximise the number of census form completions as this impacts directly on the funding received from government; although the response rate in the District is high (97% completed in 2001) each form has a value of £500 per year over ten years and therefore the 3000 non returns resulted in a loss of £15m</p> <p>Two focus groups, the elderly and young adults, are being targeted for the 2011 Census and partners were asked to help, where possible, with the display and distribution of posters and leaflets, as well as the insertion of articles publicising the Census in any relevant literature.</p> <p>Lesley Bovington commented that the role of elected Members was key in the success of this project and that articles would be printed in 'In Touch' magazine as well as being displayed on the plasma screens in the reception of the District Council offices. A discussion took place regarding other opportunities to publicise the census including through the College, using Speakers' Corner and via council tax bills.</p> <p>Decision: That partners supported the Census Local Partnership Plan for Lichfield District and noted that Councillor Helen Fisher is the Census Champion for the District.</p>	
6	<p>Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy</p> <p>It was reported that a Health and Wellbeing Strategy had been produced by the County Council and South and North Staffordshire Primary Care Trusts in order to coordinate a coherent countywide approach to public health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The document was approved by the County Council's Cabinet in September 2010 and by the District Council's Cabinet on 2 November 2010 and was brought before the District Board for information.</p> <p>The aim of the strategy was noted as being to ensure that all partners are working to the same outcomes, lifestyle messages are promoted in a consistent way, best practice and learning are shared and a 'single voice' will increase our collective ability to influence and lobby at national level on key issues.</p> <p>It was reported that Staffordshire County Council in conjunction with the PCTs had set up an Innovation Fund with an initial funding pot of £100k.</p>	

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	<p>Applications had been invited for sums up to £25k for brand new and existing schemes which supported the key points of the strategy. It was suggested that an application could be made to support the Lichfield One Place project as it was noted that priorities on the health and wellbeing agenda were key points addressed by the Let's Work Together project.</p> <p>Councillor Ellis reported that brand new schemes would be funded up to 75% with 25% being held in reserve until results from any new scheme could be quantified. The concept of the fund was to look at which local priorities in respect of health could support a localised approach to link to a more common approach and similar issues across Staffordshire.</p> <p>Decision: That the Strategy be endorsed and a submission be made by Lichfield District Council against the Innovation Fund in support of the Lichfield One Place initiative.</p>	
7	<p>Progress Report – Lichfield District In To Work Group</p> <p>Lesley Bovington outlined the key successes of the Group in relation to a) child care training and b) support into work for those with poor mental health or learning impairment.</p> <p>To date, 33 people have accessed Level 1 training in childcare, 10 of these progressed to the accredited Level 2 course and 4 are starting a Level 3 course. Progression into work was predominantly into childcare and teaching assistant roles but also into youth work. Tracking of students' progress will continue into the future.</p> <p>The In To Work Group has worked very closely with two voluntary sector organisations GrowWell, a mental health charity and Cherry Orchard Garden Services (COGS) which supports adults with learning impairment. Both of these organisations operate in the area of horticultural services.</p> <p>GrowWell had made a successful funding application to Lloyds TSB and the Big Lottery sufficient to sustain their work for an additional five years. GrowWell is currently working with the Heanton Housing Trust to support ex offenders and COGS is moving to Burntwood Memorial Hall and will have improved scope for running a nursery onsite.</p> <p>The In To Work Group has a new Community Buddy for Lichfield District who is responsible for helping long term incapacity benefit claimants back into work.. This post was funded by Advantage West Midlands; additional funding is being sought to continue the role post March 2011.</p> <p>Decision: That partners note the recent success of the project.</p>	
8	<p>Feedback from the Strategic and Executive Boards</p> <p>Nina Dawes gave feedback from the Executive Board. It was reported that both Boards were currently in the process of re-shaping. It was intended to identify a small number of key priorities to guide activity across Staffordshire and this is being pursued via the Staffordshire Hundred event.</p> <p>Decision: That the report be noted</p>	

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9	<p>Any other Business : Business Start Ups</p> <p>Councillor Ellis outlined the need for more care orientated businesses to be established to cope with the needs of an ageing population. He described the 'Business in a Box' initiative which provides loans to encourage new care business start ups. £0.5m has been allocated for this purpose and Councillor Ellis requested support in disseminating this opportunity and encouraging applications.</p>	
10	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting of the District Board would be held on Tuesday 29 March 2011 at 4pm at a venue to be determined</p>	