

**MINUTES OF THE
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2008
RUFFORD SUITE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
AT 2.00 PM**

Present:

Board Members

Cllr David Kirkham, Nottinghamshire County Council (Chair)
Cllr Mike Quigley MBE, Bassetlaw District Council – for Items 1 - 5
Cllr Michael Rich, Broxtowe Borough Council
Cllr Wendy Golland, Gedling Borough Council
Tony Egginton, Executive Mayor, Mansfield District Council
Cllr Tony Roberts, Newark & Sherwood District Council
Cllr Neil Clarke, Rushcliffe Borough Council
Marie-Laure Huke, Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM)
Terry Laws, Learning and Skills Council
Nina Dauban, Networking Action with Voluntary Organisations (NAVO)
Tom Fremantle, NHS Nottinghamshire County
Phil Lyons, Chair of the Nottinghamshire Partnership Management
Group

Officers in Attendance

David Hunter, Bassetlaw District Council – for Items 1 - 5
John Robinson, Gedling Borough Council
Ruth Marlow, Mansfield District Council
Faye Booker, Nottinghamshire County Council
Cathy Harvey, Nottinghamshire County Council – for Item 6
Joe Pidgeon, Nottinghamshire County Council – for Item 6
Trish Pogue, Nottinghamshire County Drug and Alcohol Action Team
(DAAT) – for Item 6
Alison Brock, LSP Secretariat
Peter Elderton, LSP Secretariat - for Items 1 - 3
Susan Lewis-Roberts, LSP Secretariat

1. Apologies

Cllr Jason Zadrozny, Ashfield District Council
Cllr Roland Spencer, Gedling Borough Council (represented)
Cllr Mick Storey, Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Darrell Pulk, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Cllr John Clarke, Nottinghamshire Police Authority
John Dowson, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Chamber of Commerce

Councillor David Kirkham welcomed everyone to the meeting. He referred to the new seating arrangements which were being trialled to encourage the full contribution of Board Members.

2. Proposed arrangements for Local Area Agreement (LAA) Scrutiny

Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny at Nottinghamshire County Council, attended for this item and outlined key issues contained in the report. The proposed arrangement is while scrutiny of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) should be undertaken by all Councils, overall co-ordination would be provided by the County Council as the accountable body, and this work could be undertaken on a partnership basis. A further meeting on these arrangements will be held on 15 December 2008 once all authorities have had an opportunity to consider the proposals.

Tony Egginton asked for further clarification (under paragraph 3.4) on the proposed political make-up of the Joint Committee. Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones confirmed that it would be five Conservative, five Labour, two Liberal Democrat and two Independent. It would be important for no political group to have overall control.

Councillor Neil Clarke asked for information on the timescales concerned. Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones advised that it was hoped to have arrangements in place after the 15 December meeting. The first stage will be to look at the purpose of the LAA, how the targets are to be arrived at, whether they are workable and if they are the right ones. Once these general issues have been considered then authorities will be able to put forward ideas for specific topics to be scrutinised.

Councillor Wendy Golland asked (under paragraph 3.7) how membership of the task and finish groups would be made up. Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones replied that out of the 14 Joint Committee members, two would be nominated to act as chair and vice-chair of a task and finish group and they would be joined by non-executive members from each authority. Ruth Marlow asked how representation would be made up and Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones replied that there should be two people from each authority, giving a total of 9 – 14 members depending on who wants to be involved.

Councillors Mike Quigley and Tony Roberts expressed a view that there is a lack of clarity regarding the status of scrutiny recommendations although it was recognised as a way of involving back benchers in the LAA. Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones confirmed that scrutiny is purely a recommendation for the Executive to take on board or not. Councillor David Kirkham shared that he considers scrutiny as a critical friend and his view is that it could be very useful to this Board.

Councillor Neil Clarke referred to the strategic role of the Joint Committee (under paragraph 3.3) and his concern that there may be duplication of discussion by that Committee and the task and finish groups.

Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones confirmed that the Joint Committee would set up a task and finish group which would engage with the authorities concerned and then report back. The Joint Committee would then disband the group and, therefore, only one body is looking at a scrutiny issue at any one time.

Terry Laws advised of the need to ensure that the appropriate people were brought in to the scrutiny process and be asked to sit on the task and finish groups. Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones confirmed that the task and finish groups would be made up of elected members; however arrangements would be made to talk to people involved in the issue being scrutinised.

The recommendation for joint scrutiny of the LAA was agreed. A further report will be brought to a future meeting of the Board on progress after all councils have considered how best to implement a joint scrutiny process.

3. Feedback on Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) Trial

Steve Barnett, Audit Commission, attended for this item and presented feedback from the Nottinghamshire CAA trial. He informed the Board that feedback from the consultation and information from all the trial sites is currently being considered by the Audit Commission to inform the final assessment process. The primary purpose of the trial was to validate the methodology and, therefore, the final report will not be published. The area assessment was the main item trialled and different inspectorates were involved. The inspectorates raised green and red flags where there were potential areas for concern. These potential flags were shared with the Nottinghamshire Partnership Management Group and further information was then provided to determine the content of the final report.

Organisational assessments were undertaken for Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council in addition to the Nottinghamshire area assessment. Steve Barnett shared that two areas were identified as green flags which reflected local innovation and excellence in services: access to services for older people; and use of public transport. A red flag was identified in respect of the level of crime locally. Possible future red flags were also identified which could be of potential concern for inspectorates and further discussions will be requested with the Nottinghamshire Partnership over the next few months.

Councillor Neil Clarke raised concern about the use of red flags which can continue to be associated with an authority even after an issue has been resolved. He also expressed the view that, although the methodology was potentially less intrusive, there has also been contact with less people and particularly with elected members.

Tom Fremantle asked for assurances that there would not be duplication by inspectorates. Steve Barnett responded that people are working together to share information and a meeting is being held with the Strategic Health Authority this week to talk about workload and duplication. Elected member involvement is being considered as the methodology is taken forward. He asked to be invited to attend meetings of the Board on a regular basis to provide updates as the trial progresses.

Tony Egginton referred to paragraph 10a in Pete Elderton's covering report and highlighted that there are members in Mansfield who are extremely concerned about the focus on area assessment. Steve Barnett confirmed that he has spoken with Mansfield members on this issue.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 September 2008

These were agreed as a true record.

5. Nottinghamshire Partnership update

Phil Lyons drew the Board's attention to the Nottinghamshire Partnership website. The first edition of the Nottinghamshire Matters newsletter will be circulated shortly.

The Board then considered the report detailing recommendations of the Nottinghamshire Partnership Management Group on finance proposals which were formed at its meeting on 13 November 2008. Phil Lyons highlighted the need to finance innovative ways of working. Recommendation one (3.1) should correctly read "the current resource allocation is maintained for the next two financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11".

Councillor Mike Quigley asked for clarification under Recommendation four (4.5) where it is proposed that the previously agreed position, laid out in the table in the background report of the LAA Finance Working Group, be replaced by the arrangement outlined in the recommendation. Phil Lyons confirmed that this was a different proposed arrangement. Councillor Quigley expressed concern that funding for the District LSPs could potentially be reduced. Nina Dauban referred to the discussion at the Management Group meeting when the view was taken that the allocation of funding to the District LSPs should, as a minimum, be equal to current levels received. Board members requested that the caveat to this recommendation be amended to reflect this.

The recommendations in the report were agreed, with the changes to be made to the caveat for Recommendation four (4.5). Options developed by the Finance Working Group for the specific distribution ratios for the performance reward grant (Recommendation four - 4.5) will be brought to a future meeting of the Board for approval.

6. Health theme

Tom Fremantle gave a presentation to the Board on the strategy for the NHS Nottinghamshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT) which included the breadth of business covered by the PCT, strategic goals, core values, health outcomes, strategic initiatives, assurance system, and the 11 competencies (copy attached with minutes).

Tom Fremantle shared the PCT's vision, developed through stakeholder meetings held in the early part of 2007, which is "improving the health and well being of people in Nottinghamshire".

He referred to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) findings and linkages with the LAA. He also discussed the PCT's vision and values and highlighted the importance of inclusion of strategic initiatives on mental health and the need for more cognitive behaviour therapists. World class commissioning is also a key objective of the PCT.

Councillor David Kirkham thanked Tom Fremantle for his interesting presentation.

Councillor Wendy Golland asked how situations would be handled when someone has gone home after a short stay in hospital following an operation and then, for example, has problems with their blood pressure. Tom Fremantle confirmed that this was what initiatives for care closer to home are aimed at. Communication will be key as will training of nursing staff. Councillor David Kirkham also stressed the importance of communication with carers/next of kin.

Nina Dauban asked about the impact of World Class Commissioning on development of the Thriving Third Sector. Tom Fremantle referred to the importance of developing a social care framework, with appropriate governance arrangements, within which carers and social providers can work together and take ownership. Trish Pogue informed the Board that there had been some good examples of working with the Third Sector. She also stressed the importance of innovation and the need for a pragmatic approach.

Councillor Michael Rich highlighted the need for a mechanism for relationships with authorities to ensure communication and liaison with all people working with older people in care.

Phil Lyons added that core values are important for everyone and the governance work will hopefully be achieved. He asked about linkages between mental health issues, and socio-economic factors such as levels of benefit claims and domestic violence and how some of the health outcomes could be used in a wider arena. Tom Fremantle agreed the importance of these linkages and advised of the difficulty of measuring them. Marie-Laure Huke confirmed the expectation that the economic down turn would bring an increase in benefit claimants and increased pressure on mental health provisions. Tom Fremantle advised that

NHS Nottinghamshire County are putting contingencies in place. They will need to consider the order of priorities as they might change and he requested feedback from partners which would inform any adjustments if required.

Joe Pidgeon advised of the joint commissioning work which is being undertaken by Nottinghamshire County Council, NHS Nottinghamshire County, and Bassetlaw PCT in relation to independent residential care. He also mentioned LAA Indicator 136, which promotes the ability of individuals and agencies to identify people at risk, and there is an integrated team to help with benefits. Linkage Plus has been a success for the over 50s and it is hoped to widen this initiative in the LAA to include vulnerable adults.

7. Any other business

The seating arrangements will be trialled again at the December meeting.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 15 December 2008, at 2 pm, in the Rufford Suite, County Hall.**