

STRONGER COMMUNITIES NETWORK

Minutes of meeting held at 2.00pm on Friday 9 April 2010
Committee Room B, County Hall, West Bridgford

Members Present		Organisation
AMH	Ann Marie Hawkins	NCC Communities Department (Chair)
PC	Peter Clarke	NCC Communities Department
NC	Nigel Cook	NCC (minute taker)
RC	Rob Crowder	Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
DD	Dermot Dolan	NCC Chief Executive's Department
CG	Cheryl George	Bassetlaw PCT (representing Penny Spring)
PL	Phil Lyons	Mansfield Area Strategic Partnership
MR	Michael Rimington	East Midlands Ambulance Service
SS	Simon Starr	Sport Nottinghamshire
ZF	Zoe Fenwick	Networking Action with Voluntary Organisations
KW	Keith Wood	Newark and Sherwood District Council
SW	Sue Wayne	NCC Communities Department

Item	Issue	Action
1.0	Apologies	
	Richard Hodge Richard Edwards Jeremy Regan Colin Handley David Jayne Sarah Pearson Andy Peacock Deborah Widdowson Fiona Simpson Sarah Dawes Wendy Young	Nottinghamshire County Council Manton Community Alliance Mansfield District Council Nottinghamshire Police Authority Gedling Borough Council Bassetlaw District Council NCC Communities Department Ashfield District Council Networking Action with Voluntary Organisations Newark and Sherwood District Council NCC Adult Social Care and Health Department
2.0	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising Due to apologies from Richard Hodge, interim Chair of the Group, AMH chaired the meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2009 were agreed as a true record.	
2.1	Intensive Local Engagement PL reported that there would be another round if the Labour Government was re-elected. RC was not encouraged by public apathy in Killisick.	
2.2	Sustainable Community Strategy SSC has been adopted by Cabinet. RC said a shortened version is to be circulated shortly.	
2.3	CAA Improvement Plan Draft plan submitted to Nottinghamshire Partnership. AMH reported that a Safer Nottinghamshire Board CAA reference group was working on red flag issues and the Improvement Plan would be discussed at SNB Extraordinary Meeting on 26 th	

	April. PL said it was important to focus on critical key outcomes.	
3.0	Key focus for the next quarter and blockages	
3.1	<p>NI 1 – Community Cohesion</p> <p>AMH said that main development was the inclusion of Hate Crime as a key SNB priority despite not being a volume crime. A draft Hate Crime Strategy is being developed through Community Cohesion Delivery Group. Focus is on increased reporting, reducing repeat victimisation and supporting victims. SNB and Adult Safeguarding Board are working together on disability hate crime and a report will go to SNB Meeting in May. PL raised concern around BNP candidates standing in Ashfield and Mansfield at forthcoming election. NC to circulate draft strategy.</p>	NC
3.2	<p>NI 4 – Engagement and Decision Making</p> <p>PC informed group of reorganisation of NCC Stronger Communities Team. New remit is to engage with groups on community safety. Team now consists of 6 community development officers, 3 in Mansfield and Ashfield, 2 in Bassetlaw/Newark and Sherwood and 1 in South Notts. Team to contact district Community Safety Managers and CDRPs offering support on engagement plans. Also working with Police on Safer Neighbourhoods, NI 4 and confidence issues. Work with Neighbourhood Watch on new Police computer system – Neighbourhood Alert – which will replace Ringmaster. Neighbourhood Alert generates targeted e-mail/text messages and will be utilised by Safer Neighbourhood teams as an engagement tool and an older people services pilot is planned to identify vulnerable adults living independently. RC asked about Voluntary Sector involvement with CDOs, PC said this would be through TRAs, newsletters etc. PL said communication was a key issue and suggested to commission and fund through LAA Reward Grant.</p>	
3.3	<p>NI 7 – Thriving Third Sector</p> <p>ZF said Voluntary Sector Survey had been completed and distributed and returns awaited. Compact Launch to be at Notts Partnership meeting on 25th June, national Compact office supporting. Working on lack of engagement. PL said need to convince local people why Compact matters. CG suggested shared communications function. ZF met with David McCullough, Diocese of Southwell, re hard to reach, vulnerable elderly. Looking at Linkline project with VS Older Persons Network. RC suggested working with Bassetlaw Befriending team.</p>	
3.4	<p>NI 8 – Sport</p> <p>SS said Notts, in common with the rest of country, was struggling with 4% sedentary reduction indicator. Success with 1x30 exercise but 3x30 proving hard to achieve. 175,000 attendances locally at Government free swimming initiative. All partner budgets under pressure. Reduced leisure spending unhelpful.</p>	
3.5	<p>Culture</p> <p>SW said culture and enrichment was broader than NI and reported good work going on locally including peer mentoring improvement tool and safeguarding work. Notts Local Authority Cultural Partnership (which also includes City) working closely with Voluntary Sector. Potential threat of future budget reductions. SS raised concern over website duplication with Sport Nottinghamshire. SW will investigate.</p>	SW

4.0	<p>Performance Reward Grant DD said first instalment of £3m had been received. £349K would go to each district with spend endorsed through LSPs and £831K to Community Safety through the Safer Nottinghamshire Board. DD circulated PRG summary from NP Executive Board 15 March 2010 which he said was also available on Notts Partnership website. PL will circulate conditions of allocation. AMH said chairs of NIs meet at SCN Performance Group and would formulate a measured, outcome focused, sustainable approach. PL said there was an opportunity to influence district thinking and stress benefits of scale.</p>	
5.0	<p>Governance & Survey Results DD ran through the governance survey questionnaire results. Sadly only four members from the SCN took part in this survey. The following improvements were recommended by these respondents. In summary, members wanted to see the following improvements made to the SCN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A more coordinated approach to community engagement ▪ More updates on LAA developments and its strategic fit with the sustainable community strategy ▪ Resources to drive work in a sector that struggles for funding ▪ Senior level support and drive of the work being undertaken through the SCN <p>Members would also like to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A stronger simplified action plan ▪ Better time management of agenda ▪ A more focussed action plan which includes shared interventions ▪ More presentations at meetings, detailing the work being carried out against the delivery plans for each national indicator <p>Positive outcomes currently gained by organisations from attending the Stronger Communities Network include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to networks for community engagement ▪ Support from the partnership, keeping members up to date and included ▪ Sharing best practice and formulating joint strategies ▪ Linked into the LAA process, awareness of related activity across the Partnership, networking opportunities, ability to ensure my sector has profile and recognition <p>AMH asked group if there was any will to change current arrangements for Chair and programme lead. Following a vote there was no wish from any members to change the chair or lead organisation. NCC will remain as lead organisation. PL said group had duty to deliver Sustainable Community Strategy.</p>	DD
6.0	<p>Sport and Culture in Nottinghamshire SS gave presentation (attached). SS will take to LSPs to drive forward. PL</p>	SS

	suggested route of Notts Partnership Locality Working Group. RC said Carbon Neutral funding could be accessed. SS to contact RC to discuss.	
11	<p>AOB</p> <p>RC raised the honours system in the East Midlands, where we are poorly represented. Thousands of people are doing good work but there is a shortage of people being put forward. This is a great way of promoting the good work in our area. RC would like this issue to be included in the Nottinghamshire Partnership event at Arnold Town Football Club on the 25th June (Event details listed on the Nottinghamshire Partnership website events calendar).</p> <p>SS has asked for more public sector organisations in Nottinghamshire to get involved in the workplace physical activity challenge.</p>	PL
	<p>Dates, times and locations of future meetings</p> <p>Wednesday 16th June 2010, 9.30-12.30 – The Exchange, County Hall Wednesday 15th September 2010, 9.30-12.30 - Committee Room B, County Hall Wednesday 8th December 2010, 9.30-12.30 - Committee Room B, County Hall</p>	