

**Minutes of the
Stronger Communities and Health Improvement Group**
held on **14th April 2011**
at the ACS Boardroom, Annexe, County Hall, Exeter

Attendance:		
Name	Role	Organisation
Jay Talbot (Chair)	Chief Executive Representing Devon Consortium	Community Council of Devon
Diana Crump	Chief Executive Representing Devon Consortium	Living Options
Ian Tearle	Head of Health Policy	NHS Devon
Stuart Dudley	Development Manager	Active Devon
John Bunting	Chief Executive Representing Exeter Social Inclusion and Health Partnership (SHIP)	Exeter CVS
Tina Henry	Head of Health Improvement S Devon	NHS Devon
Julia Page	Head of Health Improvement	NHS Devon
Andrew Lightfoot	Regeneration and Resources Team Leader	Devon County Council
Alan Robinson	Strategic Director as chair of South Hams, Teignbridge and West Devon H&W Group	South Hams District Council
James Hannaford	Area Fire Commander	Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
Patsy Temple	Head of Health Improvement Exeter	NHS Devon
Eleanor Rutley	Admin assistant (minutes)	Community Council of Devon
Apologies for Absence:		
Malcolm Carmichael	Area Commander, Central Command	Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
Karen Nolan	Chief Executive Representing Devon Consortium	West Devon CVS
Neil Roberts	Chief Executive	Active Devon
Lynn Thornton	Transport Co-ordination Service	Devon County Council
Caroline Rae	Partnerships Lead	Devon County Council
Penny Mason	Chief Executive Representing Devon Consortium	Torrige Voluntary Services
Lucy O'Loughlin	Chair Mid Devon Health and Wellbeing group	NHS Devon
Marguerite Shapland	Non Executive Director as Chair of Northern Devon H&W Group	NHS Devon
Simon Perkins		Devon and Cornwall Probation Service
Alison Golby	Strategic Commissioning Manager, Adult & Community Services	Devon County Council
Ian Bollans	Head of Environmental Health & Housing	South Hams D C

1 Welcome and Introductions

Jay Talbot welcomed members and introductions were made. Apologies were noted. The minutes of the last meeting on 2nd November 2010 were agreed. Action points had been completed.

2 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

a) Web Forum

Jay Talbot asked this be kept under review so that all partnership groups can be better engaged outside meetings using social networking etc.

b) Third Sector Commissioning and Social Enterprise Workshops

Andrew Lightfoot reported that these had been brought together (see 8 below).

c) Localism Bill

Jay Talbot reported that Dawlish and Lynton would be neighbourhood planning pilots.

d) OCS Consultation on Voluntary and Community Sector

There was nothing yet from OCS following the consultation.

3 & 4 Feedback from the HSCP/ Initial discussion on the statutory Health and Wellbeing Board / Update on PCTs and GP consortia

Ian Tearle informed the group that the Public Health Consultation ended on the 31st March. The Coalition Government had announced a 'pause to listen' on the Health and Social Care Bill. This was in response to a number of organisations and bodies, including the All Party Health Select Committee, challenging the government about the accountability of the £80billion public expenditure at stake.

At this stage progress on local commissioning was continuing and timescales retained i.e. Strategic Health Authority ceasing on March 31st 2012 followed by Primary Care Trusts on March 31st 2013). The Health Select Committee were recommending that Health and Wellbeing Boards should not be created and Local Commissioning Authorities should be created with a wider stakeholder representation than GPs. Scrutiny functions would continue to lie at the County Council level.

The intention in Devon continues to be that GP consortia will be grouped into 3 commissioning clusters; Exeter, East and Mid Devon; North Devon; and South Hams, West Devon and Teignbridge. The catchment area of the main hospitals was influencing the configuration although in some cases boundaries are not co-terminus with local authorities. In line with national guidance Devon, Plymouth and Torbay PCTs had formed a commissioning support cluster.

The Health and Stronger Communities Partnership is proposing to hold a workshop event for a wide range of stakeholders at the end of July to share current national and local thinking. Jay Talbot asked if it was possible for Ian Tearle to write up some of the main discussion points, which everyone agreed they would find helpful.

Concerns were expressed that Public Health and Stronger Communities could fall off the Agenda. Also that there was a potential democratic deficit, regarding the structures and the public funding involved. The SCHIG needed to monitor these points particularly.

5 Current consultations on the right to buy and the right to challenge

Jay Talbot reported there are two consultations from Department of Communities and Local Government and the closing date of these will be on the 3rd May.

Right to buy includes compiling a register of community assets in each area. Concerns were expressed over the timescales available to communities, and the impact on local businesses and local authorities including compensation.

There were concerns over the right to challenge, in that a voluntary sector or community challenge could open the door to a private sector or non-local take over of service provision.

6 Locality updates

North: Julia Page reported uncertainly about LSPs and the impact of the funding cuts e.g. Domestic Violence.

South Hams, West Devon and Teignbridge: Alan Robinson reported that Teignbridge have abandoned their LSP. The local elections could have an impact on future partnership working. South Hams & West Devon are increasingly working together and the LSP is to focus on homes, economy, and environment and community life.

Exeter: John Bunting reported that the SHIP continues, but there was member and officer uncertainty.

East Devon and Mid Devon: in the absence of Lucy O'Loughlin, those attending thought that there was little strategic partnership activity at present.

7 Stronger Communities Programme Update

John Bunting reported for Karen Nolan. He highlighted work with Devon County Council on Commissioning Strategies; work on organisations coming together as a consortium.

The programme was now performing well with no significant budgetary or performance concerns.

8 Social enterprise support and 3rd sector commissioning

Andrew Lightfoot mentioned that Young Foundation supported work on Social enterprise and the IVAR supported work on third sector commissioning had been brought together. He pointed out that some of the biggest DCC contractors in the VCS were not involved in Devon Consortium or workshop planning, especially the environment sector. Future contracts would be bigger and fewer, which created a challenge for local groups.

Internally DCC had arranged a talk on Social Enterprise and thirty staff had attended. There is a social enterprise guide coming out. A key priority was to put a cash figure on added social value. In regards to accessing funding, there was a move towards loans and new forms of finance like social impact bonds.

Jay Talbot commented that the Government was flagging that 'money isn't everything, what about happiness'.

Note: Andrew circulate subsequently a link to this paper: "Will measuring well-being change the way we develop the economy?"

http://www.ied.co.uk/images/uploads/Critical_Issues_WELLBEING_Issue_2_.pdf

9 Future of SCHIG / Election of new chair.

Jay Talbot asked for everyone's opinions about the future of SCHIG. After discussion the key points were:

- Do not let SCHIG go at this point in time, as it will be very difficult to put back.
- We must ensure that both Public Health and Stronger Communities remain on an agenda
- We can flag these issues to a workshop by DSP on 18th May
- Stronger communities perhaps deserves its own partnership with extended membership
- exchange of information is not enough to justify time and cost (explore e-options for this aspect if a wider role is not clear)

- Public and Voluntary and Community links must be retained and strengthened
- There was a danger of reinventing work such as that done on defining stronger communities by the predecessor Stronger and Inclusive Communities group
- An effective SCHIG needed to be seen to add value to work at the more local level

It was agreed that the Chair of SCHIG continue to be put forward by Devon Consortium. Devon Consortium would also need to elect a replacement for Penny Mason.

10 AOB/ DONM

Ian Tearle asked that the Group's appreciation be noted for Jay's work as chair.

It was agreed that a future meeting date be notified following DSP and HSCP workshops scheduled for Spring and Summer. The chair / new chair would liaise with Ian Tearle and Caroline Rae.