

**Minutes of the
Stronger Communities and Health Improvement Group
held on Thursday 24th September 2009
Coaver Club, County Hall, Exeter**

Attendance:		
Name	Role	Organisation
Jay Talbot	Chief Executive Representing Devon Consortium	Community Council of Devon
Alan Robinson	Strategic Director Attending as chair of South Hams, Teignbridge and West Devon H&W group	South Hams District Council
Marguerite Shapland	Non Executive Director Attending as Chair of Northern Devon H&W Group	NHS Devon
Tina Henry	Head of Health improvement	NHS Devon
Kate Brookes	Partnership Officer	Devon and Cornwall Constabulary
Alison Golby	Strategic Commissioning Manager, Adult and Community Services	Devon County Council
Jill Borrow	Substitute for Neil Roberts	Active Devon
Karen Nolan	Chief Executive Representing Devon Consortium	West Devon CVS
Diana Crump	Chief Executive Representing Devon Consortium	Living Options
Ian Tearle	Head of Health Policy	NHS Devon
Sue Craythorne	Community Strategy Officer	Devon County Council

Apologies for Absence:		
Name	Role	Organisation
Neil Gibbins	Deputy Chief Fire Officer	Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue
John Tucker	External Contracts and Procurement manager	Devon and Cornwall Probation Service
Neil Roberts	Chief Executive	Active Devon
Iain Mellis	Head of Public Health Partnerships	NHS Devon
Ian Bollans	Head of Environmental Health	South Hams and West Devon
Andrew Lightfoot		Devon County Council
Marion Playle	Representative of Devon Housing Strategy Officers Group	West Devon District Council

Penny Mason	Chief Executive Representing Devon Consortium	Torrige Voluntary Services
John Bunting	Chief Executive Attending as chair of Exeter SHIP Officers Group	Exeter CVS
Julia Page	Head of Health Improvement	
Steve Robinson	Chair of Devon Chief Planning Officers Group	Teignbridge District Council

09/09 Welcome and Introduction

Sue Craythorne welcomed members and introductions were made. Apologies were noted. The notes of the last meeting on 26th March were noted.

10/09 Appointment of Chair

Jay Talbot was unanimously agreed to be chair of the SCHIG for the forthcoming year.

11/09 Review of Terms of Reference and Membership

The group agreed that section 4.2 of the terms of reference should lay more stress on the stronger communities elements of the group's work.

It was agreed that other people could be brought into the group for specialist input as needed. However, the group would like to see a group member who has a social inclusion focus, and one or more people who works at community level. District community development officers or equivalent would have a useful role to play. The group also needs to identify the chairs of the East Devon and Mid Devon health and wellbeing groups and invite them to participate.

It was agreed to review membership again in 6 months time.

No	Action	Lead	By
11/09	Revise para 4.2 of terms of reference and recirculate with the minutes	Sue Craythorne	Asap
	Identify individuals who can meet the above requirements, to join the group	Sue Craythorne	In time for next meeting
	Contact LSPs to identify chairs of East and Mid Devon H&W groups	Sue Craythorne	For next meeting
	Agenda for 29 th April - membership	Sue Craythorne	April 2010

12/09 Rural Health Strategy

Ian Tearle introduced the draft plan which had been previously circulated. He thanked Sarah Tickner, who is working on the plan and indicated that it will be the SCHIG which will sign it off when finished.

The circulated document is an early draft and all comments and additional material, particularly actual evidence, will be welcomed by Sarah. Sarah.tickner@nhs.net

A wide ranging discussion ensued, and a summary of the key points follows:

- The strategy should be signed off by and badged as a DSP document, not just Health
- There are links to other work such as the recent Health Needs Assessment of migrant workers and Gypsies and Travellers
- Although the factors impacting on rural health are many, the strategy should concentrate on a few key issues, and not attempt to tackle everything. Pragmatism is the key.
- The strategy should include more reference to disability and its impact in rural areas.
- The group welcomed the document as a real attempt improve health and its determinants
- Links to local Health and Wellbeing groups and their priorities are essential. Rural housing issues are closely linked.
- The local LSPs need to own the document and use it to inform their activity. It should go on LSP agendas.
- We need to be opportunistic and use a variety of ways to promote this agenda through other projects and plans – eg Building Schools for the Future, Active Devon work
- Need input from farmers – NFU
- Access to services and information is key – links with other DSP work about this. Access is cropping up in almost all DSP theme groups.
- Much ‘self help’ activity which should be encouraged and supported – eg community transport, social groups, clubs, community buildings etc and community volunteering
- ESSG is happy to provide equality scrutiny and an equality needs assessment must be done.
- Next steps are for a consultation draft to be ready by November for a 3 month consultation and likely finalising by April 2010

No	Action	Lead	By
12/09	Specific feedback to Sarah Tickner sarah.tickner@nhs.net	ALL	ASAP

13/09 Stronger and Inclusive Communities Budget, delivery plan and projects

Sue Craythorne explained the background to the emerging delivery plan, stressing the fact that the research has been extensive over 2 years, mapping had been done and the proposed activities were aimed at filling gaps in provision. The only dedicated currently available budget is the one off £734,000 LPSA reward funding, due to be handed over to the County Council in December. Devon Consortium is finalising the proposals. Much is

also already happening and the group is keen not to duplicate, but to add to what is already going on.

Diana Crump and Karen Nolan talked about the activity areas which fall into 5 categories:

- Community hubs
- Service user engagement
- Community engagement and development
- Developing the third sector including volunteering support
- VCS representation on strategic groups

A prioritisation exercise is underway and a key factor will be the extent to which the work will help Devon achieve its LAA targets. It was agreed that whilst the statutory sector should be clearer about what it wishes to commission, the third sector should be proactive in using their knowledge to influence and evidence those priority areas.

One role of the SCHIG is to provide steerage in order to help all agencies to deliver their own, as well as partnership, priorities. Close links are also needed to the District based LSPs, to ensure that local action contributes to the overall objectives, and can be recorded and tracked.

Some group members felt they didn't have a full grasp of the content of the Consortium proposals. The latest iterations will be re-circulated.

Jill Borrow drew attention to the fact that there are external funding opportunities, often at short notice, which can help us all to meet objectives. For example the Active Villages initiative is aimed at bringing in volunteers, developing community engagement and helping rural people be more active. Active Devon has made a bid and has reached round 2. Neil Roberts will circulate the information.

The group shared difficulties of keeping track of all activity in the community engagement field, and the chair suggested setting up a web based forum to which we could all contribute. Sue Craythorne will look into it.

No	Action	Lead	By
13/09	Statutory sector to develop a clearer specification around LAA16	Sue Craythorne	End October
	Circulate Active Villages information	Neil Roberts	ASAP
	Consortium proposals to be circulated	Sue Craythorne	ASAP
	Consider a web based Forum for the group	Sue Craythorne	By next meeting

14/09 Public Health Update

Ian Tearle outlined the current public health strategies which were now in place. These are:

- Physical Activity – in partnership with Active Devon
- Healthy Eating Strategy
- Infant Nutrition Strategy
- Emotional Wellbeing Strategy
- Tobacco Control Strategy

There are many time limited multiagency partnerships in place to develop and act on these. All of these strategies will be brought to the group for sign off. Public health will also be consulting the other allied theme groups. Early sharing and input will be critical to success.

A web forum would also be useful for this purpose.

Ian further informed the group that there will be a Healthier and Stronger Communities Partnership conference in January, to which the group would be invited.

15/09 Work Programme

January: - Stronger Communities Plan (Sue to lead)

- Health and Wellbeing Locality Plans (Ian to lead)
- Comprehensive Area Assessment findings (Sue to lead)
- Community planning report based on the Communities in Action database (Jay to lead)

16/09 Any other business

Communications – there was a view that this group needs to ‘tell its story’ more widely to try and ensure that all DSP agencies and partnerships understand the importance of the Healthier and Stronger agenda. This needs to be worked on and the January conference may be an opportunity to achieve this. The October HSCP workshop will also generate understanding and opinions.

17/09 Date of next meeting:

Thursday 28th January 2010 at 10.0 in the ACS Boardroom at County Hall

Thursday 29th April (same time, same place)

Thursday 8th July (same time, same place)