

**Minutes of the  
Stronger Communities and Health Improvement Group  
held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010  
at County Hall, Exeter**

<b>Attendance:</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Jay Talbot (chair)	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
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
Neil Roberts	Chief Executive	Active Devon
Diana Crump	Chief Executive Representing Devon Consortium	Living Options
Penny Mason	Chief Executive Representing Devon Consortium	Torrige Voluntary Services
Andrew Lightfoot	Regeneration and Resources Team Leader	Devon County Council
Ian Tearle	Head of Health Policy	NHS Devon
Ian Hobbs	Community Strategy Officer	Devon County Council
Sue Craythorne	Community Strategy Officer	Devon County Council
Lynn Thornton	Rural Transport Adviser	Devon County Council
Greg Davies	(for item 9)	Community Council of Devon

<b>Apologies for Absence:</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Mike Holme		Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue
Marguerite Shapland	Non Executive Director Attending as Chair of Northern Devon H&W Group	NHS Devon
Karen Nolan	Chief Executive Representing Devon Consortium	West Devon CVS
John Tucker	External Contracts and Procurement manager	Devon and Cornwall Probation Service
Simon Perkins		Devon and Cornwall Probation Service

Iain Mellis	Head of Public Health Partnerships	NHS Devon
Julia Page	Head of Health Improvement	NHS Devon
Ian Bollans	Head of Environmental Health	South Hams and West Devon
Marion Playle	Representative of Devon Housing Strategy Officers Group	West Devon District Council
Steve Robinson	Representative of Devon Chief Planning Officers Group	Teignbridge District Council
John Bunting	Chief Executive Representing Devon Consortium	Exeter CVS

### **1/10 Welcome and Introduction**

Jay Talbot welcomed members and introductions were made. Apologies were noted. The minutes of the last meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009 were noted.

### **2/10 Matters Arising**

#### **a) Update on Membership**

Ian Hobbs had joined the group due to his leadership role in social inclusion. Lynn Thornton has joined because rural transport and access to services are key to this agenda. Chairs for East and Mid Devon Health and Wellbeing groups have not yet been appointed.

The group was reminded that a query has been received as to whether we should include a faith representative. It was agreed that clarification would be sought concerning communication channels with the Devon Faith and Belief Forum, the outcome of which will be reported at the next meeting.

It was also agreed that the Equality, Scrutiny and Strategy Group should be included in the circulation list, for information and to enable members of ESSG to raise issues or contribute to the agenda.

**Action - Sue to contact Ed and add ESSG to the circulation list.**

#### **b) Web Forum**

No progress has been made on this as yet. It was agreed to review membership again in 6 months time.

### **3/10 Comprehensive Area Assessment**

Sue Craythorne introduced the paper circulated with agenda, which included the results of the CAA and indicates likely Audit Commission priorities for 2010.

The group was reminded that inclusion in the list did not necessarily mean performance was below par, simply that the inspectors felt they needed more information to reach a judgment. The lead officer for the Audit Commission was to attend the healthier and Stronger Communities Partnership on 12<sup>th</sup> February and it was likely that we would get

more clarity at that point.

The group agreed that:

- We will get clarity on exactly which aspects of our work the AC will be looking at
- We should be proactive in bringing good practice and positive outcomes to the attention of the AC
- We should be self aware and recognise our weaknesses, showing how we are addressing these
- A web Forum would help this process
- We should positively promote what we are doing in partnership, and how well this is working

Mike Holme of the Fire Service signaled his wish to do a short presentation to the group next time about the Fire Service's partnership working. **Action – next agenda**

#### **4/10 Rural Health Strategy**

Ian Tearle introduced the draft strategy which had been previously circulated. He indicated that very few areas had attempted this, and it was difficult. Research shows that rural deprivation in Devon is higher than anywhere else in the south west.

The circulated document is still a draft and all comments and additional material, particularly actual evidence, will be welcomed by Sarah Tickner by mid February. [Sarah.tickner@nhs.net](mailto:Sarah.tickner@nhs.net)

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

- Do we really need a specific rural health strategy? Response was that access to services is a big rural issue which needs highlighting. Rural inequalities are high, and need addressing and preventing.
- A draft action plan is essential, with specifics and SMART.
- More recognition of the role of the voluntary and community sector should be included
- Equality issues are not yet fully covered
- The strategy needs more specifics about older, isolated people

Once a final draft has been approved, there will be a 3 month consultation period.

#### **Action – Specific feedback to Sarah Tickner by Mid February**

#### **5/10 Health and Wellbeing Locality Plans**

Tina Henry gave a presentation on the South Devon and Dartmoor group and plans. (copy slides attached).

It was agreed that locality plans must be specific and involve practical action by partners, otherwise the groups become talking shops. South Devon and Dartmoor had been able to carry out some simple partnership actions which would not have happened without the group.

The group discussed and agreed the links between the locality groups and the DSP and LAA agendas. Local actions will contribute to the achievement of county wide goals, and there are specific local issues which may only apply in one place – eg skin cancer.

The role of SCHIG in terms of monitoring performance of locality groups was discussed. SCHIG should also be supporting locality groups, unlocking blockages where necessary.

**Action – standing agenda item should be locality group chairs to have an opportunity to raise particular local issues. Further consideration to be given to performance monitoring.**

#### **6/10 Stronger and Inclusive Communities Budget, delivery plan and projects**

Sue Craythorne explained the background to the delivery plan, as presented, stressing the fact that the research has been extensive over 2 years, mapping had been done and the Consortium led projects were aimed at filling gaps in provision. The dedicated budget is the one off £734,000 LPSA reward funding, which was received by Devon County Council this week.

Devon Consortium, with advice and support from the County Council, undertook a rigorous procurement process which had just been completed and contracts are to be awarded for the following projects due to start on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010:

- Volunteering Support Services
- Community Hubs
- Service User Engagement
- Developing third sector capacity
- Developing VCS representation on strategic groups

All projects are intended to help Devon to achieve its LAA targets.

The group discussed its role in monitoring the work and it was explained that the Consortium's monitoring processes will be applied, and the County Council will also ensure that it is satisfied with performance in view of the source of the funding. It was agreed that SCHIG would receive monitoring reports and would be able to deal with any matters of concern during the life of the projects.

It was stressed that these projects are in addition to a range of other activity which is being undertaken by statutory agencies and the third sector and that duplication is to be avoided.

It was agreed to circulate copies of the project specifications to all group members, for information and to assist in ensuring that links were made with other LAA strands, particularly health and social care targets.

**Action: Sue to circulate project specifications with the minutes**

#### **7/10 Community Planning and CIA Database**

Greg Davies of CCD demonstrated the Communities in Action database [www.communitiesinaction.org.uk](http://www.communitiesinaction.org.uk) which is an interactive database of community led parish and town planning activity. He showed how users can search by geographical area and themes and that the website is a useful tool both to help local communities to work together, and for statutory agencies to identify common issues and themes. The supporting paper describes this further. Almost 50% of parishes now have up to date completed community plans, of which the majority are recorded on the database.

The group discussed the following issues:

- Community led planning is not always inclusive of all and are not equality proofed.

- Smaller villages usually do better at inclusion
- Young people are not always reached
- Neither economic nor employment issues tend to be highlighted
- LDF (statutory planning framework) does not link up well with community plans, and needs to improve.
- Some District Councils do have protocols which commit them to taking account of community plans
- Statutory partners would often like to influence the questions asked, in order to inform their decision making eg public transport.
- It is a challenge to keep the website up to date

SCHIG members were encouraged to make full use of the database to inform their work.

**8/10 Date of next meeting:**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 10.0 to 12.30 in the Boardroom at the County Hall Annexe  
Agenda to include a presentation from Devon Consortium presentation on their activity and LAA16 projects**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July (same time, same place)**