

**Minutes of the  
Stronger Communities and Health Improvement Group  
held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 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
Alison Golby	Strategic Commissioning Manager, Adult and Community Services	Devon County Council
Jill Borrow		Active Devon
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
Sue Craythorne	Community Strategy Officer	Devon County Council
Marguerite Shapland	Non Executive Director Attending as Chair of Northern Devon H&W Group	NHS Devon
John Bunting	Chief Executive Representing Exeter Social Inclusion and Health Partnership (SHIP)	Exeter CVS
Lucy O'Loughlin	Chair Mid Devon Health and Wellbeing group	NHS Devon

<b>Apologies for Absence:</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
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
Diana Crump	Chief Executive Representing Devon Consortium	Living Options
Ian Hobbs	Community Strategy Officer	DCC
Paul Shand		GOSW
Tina Henry	Head of Health Improvement	NHS Devon
Lynn Thornton	Transport Co-ordination Service	DCC

### **9/10 Welcome and Introductions**

Jay Talbot welcomed members and introductions were made. Apologies were noted. The minutes of the last meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010 were agreed. Action points had been completed apart from those noted below.

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

#### **Web Forum**

Sue reported that it would be possible to set up a forum through the DSP website, but not through the DCC site. There would be a set up cost plus £100 per year maintenance, and the site would need to be moderated. Sue to discuss further with Caroline Rae with regard to a wider DSP forum structure.

#### **Comprehensive Area Assessment**

Sue had had a meeting with Martin Green of the Audit Commission about the VCS engagement aspect of the CAA. Martin had stressed that he did not want to create a great deal of extra work, but was looking for evidence of effective engagement. In particular he wants to see DSP strategies around how statutory agencies engage with the third sector, together with examples of how such engagement had made a difference to communities and organisations. Sue is in the process of gathering what exists to send to Martin, and will be asking group members for case examples of real outcomes.

Inspectors will also be meeting key staff on the subject of health inequalities, deprivation, transport, rural issues and community engagement. It was agreed that all these areas had significant overlaps, and that overall we have a good story to tell.

### **11/10 Locality News**

S Hams, W Devon and Teignbridge – no recent meeting

Mid Devon – has just relaunched and they are looking at how far current priorities in the workplan reflect local concerns. A new workplan is likely to be produced shortly.

East Devon – no group in place

Northern Devon – has aligned its priorities with the N Devon and Torridge community plan, and with the LAA and DSP priorities. The LDF is also being aligned with the community plan.

Exeter SHIP – the group has produced a community profile, highlighting the most deprived parts of the city for priority action on a number of fronts. Sometimes agency boundaries can undermine attempts to define priorities. For example, the recent

changes in children's centre areas has led to them appearing to be less deprived than they are, thus potentially restricting access to funding. This is being taken up through the Early Years service.

General issues – the group agreed that better communications are needed between locality groups and strategic partnerships, and between locality groups themselves. A more consistent approach is needed to the wider determinants of health.

There is currently a national consultation going on about the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Partners are encouraged to respond to this. It was noted that CCD has researched the impact of the IMD on rural areas, and has published a report which was commended to the group.

### **12/10 Stronger Communities Programme**

Penny Mason presented the programme of 5 projects which are being undertaken in support of the Stronger Communities strand of the LAA (slides were circulated with the agenda). The subsequent discussion highlighted the following:

- Group members were not fully aware of the Devon Consortium and its role – see [www.devonconsortium.net](http://www.devonconsortium.net) for more information
- The background to the selection of projects was the work over 2 years of the former Stronger Communities partnership
- There is also a strand of work which will improve the way in which volunteer using organisations can give appropriate support to volunteers. These include statutory organisations such as schools.
- The programme will bring together a range of associated projects and ensure that work is not duplicated. Increased collaboration between third sector infrastructure groups is one of the key objectives.
- What will be the impact on the Consortium and the programme if Exeter gets unitary status?
- SCHIG members can and should promote the programme and facilitate communications
- The representation project should help to improve communications
- The Audit Commission is looking for strategic preparedness, innovation and practical outcomes – the Consortium can demonstrate all of these.
- VCS levers in a great deal of external funding
- Many preventative services are provided through the VCS – this is likely to increase with the personalisation agenda, although the threat of public spending cuts is a big risk
- We may see increasing mergers of voluntary organisations, as seen nationally
- Co- design of services between the statutory sector, voluntary sector and service users will be an increasing feature in the future.

**Action: Statutory sector partners to disseminate information about the Stronger Communities programme within their organisations, and seek to put articles in staff newsletters etc.**

### **13/10 Performance reports for DSP – LAA**

Sue presented the reports which were with the agenda. It was agreed that the performance report on LAA 13 – “Maintain and increase levels of physical activity and sport”, should also be reported regularly to the SCHIG. Health and social care progress and targets should also be able to be viewed by SCHIG members. The wider use of the SPARNET system will facilitate this.

### **14/10 Total Place**

Sue Rook attended and spoke to the paper which describes the Devon, Torbay and Plymouth projects, which are funded through the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP). Of particular interest to the SCHIG was the project which aims to map advice service provision, and examine improved routes for those in need to access services.

Group members felt that there was much potential improvement to be achieved through better knowledge being available to a range of front line workers, who need appropriate skills and training, together with knowledge of services available.

South Hams and West Devon councils’ benefits service have improved greatly through increasingly making home visits and plugging in to other agencies. They are keen to link more closely with DCC’s Adult Services.

Parallels were drawn with Family Intervention projects, with the CAF system and the personalisation agenda.

### **15/10 Health Improvement Updates**

Ian Tearle presented the latest versions of the Healthy Eating Strategy, the Physical Activity Strategy and the setting up of the Smokefree Devon Tobacco Alliance. Implementation plans will follow, and comments from SCHIG members would be very welcome on all 3 topics. It was suggested that local food growing projects need to be referenced in the Healthy Eating and Physical Activity strategies.

### **16/10 Rural Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

The consultation draft was commended to the group. It is believed to be the only such plan in England, and there is a lot of interest from other areas. A 3 year implementation plan is to be started soon. It was agreed that the strategy should go out for consultation for 12 weeks. A near final version will be showcased at the HSCP conference on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

### **17/10 Future meeting dates were agreed:**

<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 10.0 to 12.0</b>	<b>ACS Boardroom, County Hall Annexe</b>
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 10.0</b>	<b>ACS Boardroom</b>
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011 10.0</b>	<b>Ansell Room, Coaver Club, County Hall</b>
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2011 10.0</b>	<b>ACS Boardroom</b>

**Future agenda items: Fire Service presentation, new LAA prep, DSP Partnership Agreement, Role of SCHIG vis a vis HSCP and the other strategic groups which report to it, Mark Gayler’s work on demography and total public spend**  
**Standing item : Locality Updates**