



LICHFIELD DISTRICT BOARD

Held at 4 pm on 27 November 2018 at Lichfield District Council House

Present:

Representatives from Partner Organisations:

Mark Smith, Staffordshire Police
Suzanne Shead, Bromford Housing

In attendance:

Richard King, Susan Bamford of Lichfield District Council
Wayne Mortiboys, District Commissioning Lead, Staffordshire County Council
Marisha Place, Staffordshire Police

Agenda Item	Minutes	Action
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies Richard King opened the meeting and agreed to chair in the absence of Cllr Wilcox.</p> <p>RK welcomed Paul Shaw from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies have been received from Cllr Alan White, Cllr Ashley Yeates, Cllr Mike McKenzie and Sandra Payne.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the Meeting 31 July 2018 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising SB – chased college again for a representative. MC offered a contact from the college. MC to pass on details to SB.</p> <p>SB – unable to hold meeting at the library as not yet ready but will look to arrange for the next Board meeting.</p> <p>SB – have contacted the Office of the Commissioner for Staffordshire to see if they would like to send a representative but not had a response as yet.</p>	MC
4	<p>Place Based Approach - Update Wayne Mortiboys provided an update report on the Place Based Approach.</p> <p>At the July meeting, the District Board endorsed the approach for spending the earned autonomy funding of £113,600 over two years.</p> <p>Financial agreements have been signed with the Citizens Advice Serve East Staffordshire (CASES) to support the 'addressing financial understanding and responsibility' priority.</p>	

	<p>A single project specification is being put out for ‘improving children’s mental wellbeing and resilience’ and ‘tackling persistent absence’ following a meeting with Lichfield and Burntwood Schools District inclusion Panels.</p> <p>Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Partners noted the progress and approval of the plan by the Staffordshire PBA and Earned Autonomy operations board. b) Partners agreed to receive annual updates on the District Investment Plan. 	
5	<p>Community Safety Partnership Mid-Year Progress Report</p> <p>Susan Bamford presented some highlights from the mid-year review of the current CS Delivery Plan.</p> <p>Getin2it – the project has engaged with 559 young people so far. They have done work on the referral routes to ensure the young people they are reaching are those engaged in ASB or at risk of doing so. They have proved very successful in providing diversionary activities and are working well in the priority wards having engaged 166 young people from the priority wards.</p> <p>Domestic Abuse – peer mentoring project by Pathway is still providing 1:1 sessions and MP and SB supported them in their World Cup Campaign which received 11 million hits.</p> <p>Alcohol and mental health – Struggled to get support as the current service is based in Burton and Stafford. It has been a great deal of effort to get the project off the ground and has taken some time but a local service will now be provided one day a week.</p> <p>Public re-assurance – CACH are holding awareness raising sessions. The level of contacts they receive indicate that the issue of Hate Crime may be more widespread than the official crime figures indicate.</p> <p>WM endorsed the work of Getin2it and the length of time and effort they put into engaging with young people. They are well connected with the PBA. Burntwood community centre has been vacant since August but Getin2it have worked in the vicinity and there have been no instances of vandalism at the centre. SCC are hoping to bring the centre back into use.</p> <p>Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Partners noted the progress in the CSP delivery plan to date b) Partners agreed the suggested amendments and removal from the Delivery Plan. 	
6	<p>Community Safety Partnership Funding 2018/2019</p> <p>The CSP is currently in the final year of a three year funding commitment from the Staffordshire Commissioner and we have received £71,885 for 2018/2019. Appendix A to the report showed how the funding has been allocated and spent so far.</p> <p>£5,000 has been allocated to a mediation pilot which is being run by an external company. The project is dealing with issues of low level asb/neighbour disputes which have previously taken up a lot of CS officer time. These cases can often become protracted and hard to make progress or resolve anything. There was</p>	

	<p>also a concern, in some cases, that the involvement of a council officer was fuelling disputes as residents felt their complaint could be dealt with and that the involvement of the council meant their concern must be valid.</p> <p>Other CSP's have been using mediation and it has proved successful. So far we have referred two cases, one case was resolved in a very short of space of time and this was a case we had held for some time. The second case the mediators are waiting to hear from one party but have said they can engage with the willing party even if the neighbour does not agree to engage.</p> <p>The second new project is targeting alcohol misuse and mental ill health. It is being run by ADS with a complementary project being run by Pathway to make those links between domestic abuse and alcohol misuse and mental health issues. This project has taken a lot of time and effort to get off the ground but will see a project worker based in Lichfield for one day a week alongside an awareness campaign and an enhanced practitioner who will attend the weekly HUB meetings.</p> <p>Decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members noted the progress of the projects and spend so far. 	
7	<p>Community Safety Strategic Assessment</p> <p>The Community Safety Strategic Assessment document looks at crime levels and provides evidence to inform the strategic priorities of the CS Delivery Plan. This strategic assessment update has also tried to report on progress but this is difficult as they are collecting information at the mid-year point. The strategic assessment shows the changes in the nature of crime, there are increases in reports of Domestic Abuse, CSE and on line crime.</p> <p>Public re-assurance doesn't feature in the strategic assessment but we can add it in if we feel it is needed.</p> <p>Overall there is a 14% increase in crime reported in the district. There has been a 22.7% increase in reported domestic abuse. There has been a 5% decrease in reported instances of ASB. There is an issue in Lichfield of perceptions of what ASB is and things may be reported here which wouldn't be elsewhere.</p> <p>CSE – difficult areas as this is often a 'hidden crime'. There have been instances in the district of inappropriate relationships and concerns around sexting in secondary schools.</p> <p>Mental health and alcohol have a significant impact on crime figures and on both victims and perpetrators. Almost a quarter of crime is influenced by alcohol.</p> <p>Priority wards are identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chadesmead • Chasetown • Curborough • Stowe 	

	<p>In addition there are two non-priority wards which have crime rates above the most similar group (MSG) of forces average for certain crime types. These are Fazeley and Shenstone. The CSP should consider the priority wards when developing pilots and projects.</p> <p>MS – the police resources are lined up to these priorities and areas.</p> <p>RK – the rape figures stand out as significantly increased (82 cases in 2017/2018 compared to 57 in 2016/2017 and showing a continually increase from 26 in 2013/2014) why is there such an increase over the 5 years?</p> <p>MS – believe it is a result of better recording and more support for victims to report. So don't believe this is an increase in cases. Similar situation with domestic abuse, more reports doesn't necessarily been more instances but more people coming forward to report.</p> <p>WM – the OPCC/County Council now have a contract with New Era to provide domestic abuse support across the county and WM would like to seek re-assurance that we do engage with the new provider. The New Era model will run a perpetrator programme alongside support for victims and the OPCC has put funding into this for the first time. SB – we have invited them to comment and add to the CS delivery plan and invited them to the Burton, Lichfield and Tamworth Domestic and Sexual Abuse Forum but they have yet to attend. MP – they have contacted and say they will attend the next Domestic Abuse forum. WM – there have been some delays whilst they recruit staff.</p> <p>SS – there was a concern that universal credit could negatively impact on domestic abuse and opportunities to leave as UC is paid to one member of the household and there is no discretion about who the benefit is paid to. It appears this was a concern rather than anything there is evidence of yet but SS will look for any data around this.</p>	SS
8	<p>Universal Credit update</p> <p>Pat Leybourne gave a verbal update on universal credit.</p> <p>Lichfield's final postcodes will all be in UC by the end of November.</p> <p>Government have announced that PBS and ADS will transfer to Citizens Advice Bureau from 1 April 2019 and the funding for this will follow. LDC has always had low number for this and UC has not changed this.</p> <p>There will be an increase in work allowances from April 2019. This is the amount people can earn before UC tapers off.</p> <p>The amount which can be recovered from UC for debt recovery is currently 40% but will decrease to 30% from Oct 2019.</p> <p>Advance payments are currently repayable over 12 months, this will increase to 16 months in October 2021.</p> <p>Full migration to UC for existing claimants will start in July 2019 but will be slower and not be completed until Dec 2023.</p> <p>Latest figures published by the DWP claim that 94% of people receive their full UC on time i.e. within 5 weeks. 97% received some payment on time.</p> <p>Self-employed individuals have a 12 month grace period to build up their businesses then a minimum income floor applies. This period will be extended from July 2019 but, as yet, we don't know what it will be extended to.</p> <p>Housing support for 18-21 year old will be re-instated. This requires a change in law which is currently in the House of Lords.</p>	

9	<p>Partner update</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council</p> <p>The medium term financial strategy is a plan for the worst case scenario of a £35 million gap. The plan will close the gap but includes speculative property sales. Could reduce the savings a little if budget from the central government is better but will probably still go ahead with property sales as free reserves are now less than 1 year running costs.</p> <p>St Mary's library will open on 17 December. The existing library will close on 1 Dec, allowing 2 weeks for fitting, cleaning and transfer of stock. The upstairs facility will be opened the week before as there are Christmas events already planned. Croft conservation have done an excellent job on the project.</p> <p>Allied health care have gone into administration. A major incident has been declared at the County Council. There a very few, if any, people affected in Lichfield District. It is mostly around Stafford, Cannock and Newcastle. The County Council are currently working through 300 contracted clients and providing them with alternative care. Will then support the 50 private clients. No one will go without care.</p> <p>Staffordshire Police</p> <p>Neighbourhood resources are in place. Some of the expected staff may not arrive due to budget pressures but resources are aligned to priority neighbourhoods and crime. The police hold daily HUB's with the Domestic Abuse officer, ASB officer and the Partnerships manager. These meetings focus on repeat cases.</p> <p>ASB is down 5% on last year. There has not been an increase overall but there are spikes in burglary, dwellings and car thefts so are focussing resources on these two areas. Lichfield District are third from bottom for the county. Only Staffordshire Moorlands and South Staffordshire are lower.</p> <p>The response hub is based at Burton and they cover Lichfield District. Officers based in Lichfield deal with neighbourhood issues.</p> <p>Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service</p> <p>There is not an issue with deliberate arson and car fires in the district. There have been 5 fatalities in the district for the year. Paul Shaw will be in post for at least 2 years.</p> <p>Strategic Housing Partnership</p> <p>Darrin Gamble is leaving Bromford at the end of the year. Suzanne Shead will take over on the District Board and Strategic Housing Partnership.</p> <p>Understanding impact of homelessness prevention act. The voluntary right to buy has been in force. 64 eligible households applied. 42 successful in their bid. 28 of these were Bromford tenants, 20 of these have put in a bid to buy their property. They can't buy a home in rural settlement but will be offered something in an urban settlement.</p> <p>WM – have rent arrears increased because of Universal Credit?</p> <p>SS – our eviction rates are very low. Those who have gone straight on to the UC have managed. Now concentrating on those moving from legacy benefits.</p> <p>There have been some issues on UC as they can take payment early and some clients are not budgeting to pay this back. In addition 40% of UC can be taken to pay debts so this can compound these problems.</p> <p>MC – is there enough information and support available?</p>	
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	<p>SS – there is a lot of information and support out there. Wm – rent arrears can be an important early indicator which shows a family may need support. SS – Bromford’s arrears are low. PL – there is a new policy around discretionary housing payment allowing for higher payments to help with this issue. Will take this to the Strategic Housing Partnership.</p> <p>Chamber of Commerce MC has met with Geosprite who are keen to engage with housing sector. They have technology to measure damp and measure footfall. They have moved to Lichfield and are keen to engage. They also have meeting space which could be made available for a board meeting. General issue which has been raised is the lack of professional office space in Lichfield. There is an enterprise model in Tamworth which has proved very successful. GD – what sort of spaces are people looking for and what sort of numbers? MC – to find out any data available. Talent Match have become a charitable incorporated organisation. They are very successful at supporting young people who are struggling to get into work. Chase Terrace Technical College held businesses and careers advice event. Concept was very good linking businesses and young people.</p> <p>Lichfield District Council Looking to create more events in the city to generate income and footfall. Birmingham road renovation is being looked at in the context of the city as a whole. District Council will be holding elections in May 2019. There is currently a live consultation with the community and voluntary sector about the possibility of setting up a community lottery. If you have contacts with the community and voluntary sector, please encourage them to respond. GD – to send a covering email to MP WM – County Council will support LDC in the development of Birmingham Road and other areas. MC – need to grow but remain mindful of the character of Lichfield.</p>	<p>MC</p> <p>GD</p>
9	<p>Any other business None</p>	
10	<p>Items for next meeting Community Safety Delivery Plan New Era to be invited to the next meeting</p>	
10	<p>Future meeting dates 28 March 2019– St Mary’s WM – to send contact details for booking the room to SB The meeting ended at 5.25pm</p>	<p>WM</p>