

**Note of Wealden Local Strategic Partnership meeting 24 March 2010,  
Uckfield Civic Centre, Uckfield.**

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**Present:**

Ian Chisnall – Chair, Churches Together in Sussex  
Monica Akehurst - NFU  
Lisa Compton – PCT  
Cllr Pam Doodles – Leader, WDC  
Cllr Linda Francis – Willingdon & Jevington Parish Council (representing southern parishes)  
Cllr Roy Galley – WDC Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning & Housing Delivery  
Teresa Gittins – Action in Rural Sussex, Director of Policy  
Jeff Hart – Freedom Leisure, Managing Director  
Alison Horan - East Sussex County Council  
Claerwyn Hughes - Environment Agency  
Charles Lant – WDC, Chief Executive  
Cllr Di Phillips - WDC Councillor  
Neal Robinson - East Sussex Fire and Rescue  
Sue Shoemith - 3VA  
Cllr David White – WDC Councillor  
Cllr Chantal Wilson – WDC Councillor

**In Attendance**

Gill Cameron-Waller – WDC, Policy and Partnership Manager  
Alex White – WDC, Policy Officer  
Tom Stuart, WDC, Policy Officer  
Jeremy Leach - WDC Public Health Development Manager

**Apologies:**

Cllr Gerald Carter - Polegate Town Council (representing town councils)  
Alison Culshaw - Jobcentre Plus  
Tracy Evans - Downland Housing Association  
Nigel Eveleigh - WDC  
Alison Fryer - Jobcentre Plus  
Garry Frostick - Highways Agency  
Cllr William King - Maresfield Parish Council (representing northern parishes)  
Julia Pope - Sussex Police  
Sheila O'Sullivan - PCT  
Ken Stevens – Federation of Small Businesses  
Marie Tomblin – Eastbourne Association of Voluntary Services  
Andy Beatie – South Downs Joint Committee  
Adam Chugg - 3VA  
Cllr Johanna Howell - WDC

## **1. Welcome and introductions**

Ian Chisnall welcomed everyone to the meeting

## **2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

Lisa Compton had arranged a briefing note on norovirus which had been circulated with the minutes of the January meeting.

Working together - see item 6 below

Local Development Framework - see item 7 below.

Rural issues - Tom Stuart briefly updated members on progress of the rural deprivation project: The next stage of work will be to conduct focus groups and interviews to help understand and explain the results of the data analyses. A final report should be available for the next LSP Board meeting in May.

## **3. Support for young people**

Linda Francis informed members about her recent attendance at a Pass out Parade and Presentation by East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service. This was to mark an intervention scheme comprising a one week course for young people who face difficult personal and family circumstances. Linda raised the general point about the need to engage with such young people and their families and suggested the LSP Board could debate this in more detail at its next meeting.

Members suggested a number of issues to discuss at the next meeting and suggested speakers/invitees.

**Action: Alex White**

## **4. NHS Strategic Commissioning Plan**

Lisa Compton gave members an overview of the joint strategic commissioning plan 2010-2015 for NHS Hastings and Rother and NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald. A copy of the presentation is circulated with these minutes and is also available via the LSP website ([www.wealdencommunitystrategy.co.uk](http://www.wealdencommunitystrategy.co.uk)).

Lisa explained an overall aim was to focus care on prevention and to invest more in primary care and community services. The two PCTs will work closely with partners to deliver the programme.

## 5. NHS Consultation on Mental Health Services

Lisa Compton informed members about the current consultation on mental health services. A recent study had indicated that East Sussex has poorer outcomes than the national average and as a result of the study a number of changes to provision were being proposed. The consultation on the proposed changes continues until 1 June 2010. Further information and a copy of the consultation document is available from the PCT website - [www.esdw.nhs.uk](http://www.esdw.nhs.uk).

## 6. Working together

(i) Ian Chisnall reminded members that all the East Sussex LSP Chairs and coordinators had met in January and again on 4 March to discuss the future role for LSPs. Out of those discussions had emerged a proposal to rethink the structure of 'Pride of Place'. The intention would be to move towards a more integrated document structured around thematic chapters. Two examples of what a housing theme chapter may look like, drawing on the existing text of Pride of Place, were tabled for discussion. In broad terms one example set out the issues 'top-down' and one 'local-up'. These were merely examples to prompt a conversation - if the approach was adopted any final document would require redrafting and editing.

Discussion indicated that there was some support for each approach, but that for many partners it was not a burning issue. It was therefore agreed that the East Sussex Chairs and Co-ordinators should discuss the issue of further integration in light of feedback from other LSPs.

### **Action: Gill Cameron-Waller**

(ii) Charlie Lant circulated a paper setting out the 'roadmap' for Wealden District Council's Transformation Programme. He wanted to provide this update to partners to enable them to identify potential linkages and synergies with their own organisational changes. Charlie stressed that there were a number of 'gateways' built into the roadmap where key decisions would need to be taken that may influence the evolution of the programme overall. Cllr Pam Doodes suggested that members check with WDC to confirm the current position if referring to the roadmap in future.

(iii) Ian Chisnall circulated a map, drawing on information provided by Lisa Compton and Neal Robinson, that set out the location of GP surgeries and Fire Stations across Wealden. He reminded members that this had been developed following discussions he and Cllr Pam Doodes had hosted in January to explore ways in which the public sector partners may possibly share resources and assets. Further information would be added to the map in due course. Members suggested including, for example, children's centres; CABs; community hospitals; and libraries.

### **Action: Alex White**

## 7. Local Development Framework

Cllr Roy Galley updated members on the current situation. Work was continuing to finalise the Core Strategy and a draft would be considered by the LDF sub-Committee in July. Roy suggested that it may be helpful to discuss the finalised strategy with the LSP around that time. A key piece of evidence for the Core Strategy - the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) - had now been finalised and would be published this week. The SHLAA sets out possible sites that are considered suitable, achievable and available for future housing development.

Discussions with infrastructure providers - including many partners - are ongoing to help prepare the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). Roy asked if partners who are involved in these discussions could ensure that any necessary responses are made as soon as possible.

## 8. Broadband

Tom Stuart informed members about the current Government consultation on Next Generation Access to broadband. The consultation concerns how best to use funding to provide access to those households that will not be provided for through the private market. However, even with this additional support it is estimated that some 10% of households will still receive inadequate provision and many parts of Wealden will fall into this category. Tom asked if there were any particular points members would want to see included in the Council's response to the consultation. Members highlighted the importance of broadband for businesses, particularly small businesses which predominate in Wealden. Lack of access impacts upon competitiveness, equality, education and in turn the viability of rural communities.

**Action: Tom Stuart**

## 9. Road Safety

Jeremy Leach gave a presentation about Wealden District Council's Community Scrutiny Committee recent report on Road Safety. He gave apologies on behalf of Cllr Johanna Howell who had hoped to be able to present the findings. The report highlighted the issue of safety on rural roads and made a number of proposals for action to tackle the issue. The report has received much positive publicity, being taken up by the Sussex Courier and was featured on Meridian news on 23 March. Jeremy encouraged members to read the report and to let the Council know if there were any issues partners felt they could assist with. Cllr Pam Doodes said the Council was planning a series of press releases to maintain the profile of the issue. Pam offered to share the timetable with partners so they could consider joining in with publicity campaigns (copy now circulated with these minutes).

**Action: Alex White**

## 10. AOB

Alison Horan said that this would be her last LSP meeting as she was leaving the County Council. Ian Chisnall thanked Alison on behalf of the Board for all her work to support the LSP. Charlie Lant presented Alison with a gift on behalf of all members.

## 11. Next meeting

The next meeting of the LSP will be at **10am on Wednesday 12 May 2010 at Heathfield Community Centre.**

## 2010 Board meetings

Month	Date 2010	Time	Venue
May	12	10 - 12.30	Heathfield Community Centre
July	7	2 - 4.30	Polegate Community Centre
September	8	10 - 12.30	Council offices, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham
November	17	2 - 4.30	Uckfield Civic Centre