

Attendees

Robin Thompson	Chair, Shropshire Partnership	RT
Mike Hyatt	Shropshire Council	MH
Carolyn Healy	Shropshire Partnership	CH
Ruth Turner	Shropshire Partnership	RLT
Keith Barrow	Shropshire Council	KB
Paul Raymond	Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service	PR
Ashley Silverstone	Member of Youth Parliament	AS
Dawn Lewis	Shropshire Council	DL
Stuart West	Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority	SW
Pete Lightwood	West Mercia Constabulary	AR
David Beechey	Association of Local Council	DB
Julia Baron	Voluntary & Community Sector Assembly	JB
Tom McCabe	Shropshire Council	TMcC
Helen Herritty	Shropshire County Primary Care Trust	HH
Rod Thomson	Shropshire County Primary Care Trust	RodT
Mandy Thorn	Business Board	MT
Graham Shaw	Ashridge Business School	GS

Apologies

Jane Williams	West Mercia Probation Trust
James Ellsmoor	Youth Parliament
Kim Ryley	Shropshire Council
David Taylor	Children's Trust

Item

Action

1 Welcome and introductions

RT welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

2 Apologies

Apologies were noted (see above).

3 Notes of the last meeting

Notes of the Leaders Board meeting held on 8 February 2011 were agreed as a true and correct record.

4 Matters Arising

No matters arising.

5 Notes from the Chief Officers Advisory Group

MH advised that this had been a small meeting with only one agenda item, the same item would be covered under item 7 of today's agenda – from LSP's to Collaborative Working, Emerging Trends and Proposals for Change.

6. Public Service Reform White Paper

MH advised that this paper was expected to be published in May, but publication had been delayed, possibly until Autumn.

It is expected that the paper will outline:

- The expanded role of the voluntary & community sector (VCS) in delivering public services.
 - VCS organisations being encouraged to be business minded.
 - Preparing for the transfer of community assets to VCS groups and organisations.
- Public Sector being better able to trade in the market place through commissioning of services
- Lifting restrictions that make it hard for social enterprises to compete.
- Understanding how Social Enterprises will work in partnership with private sector.

MH added this would be a fundamental paper in how we will work in partnership for the future.

Emphasis was made that community groups needed open and transparent communications of change and the opportunity for equality of treatment.

It was added that one model does not fit all. Smaller organisations may find the transition to delivering public services too big a leap.

It was noted that it is important not to shift the risk from the public sector to the VCS – need to share the risk in partnership.

It was also noted that the Business Board was concerned about unfair competition between business and social enterprise.

7. From LSP's to Collaborative Working: Proposals for the future of the Shropshire Partnership

MH outlined the paper highlighting that with changes in central government policy, the Comprehensive Spending Review and Localism Bill have meant that the landscape in which LSP's operate has drastically changed. The term LSP is now seen as redundant, and instead, the use of 'collaborative working' and 'partnership arrangements' is more common. All areas are reviewing the roles and structure of their partnerships. Membership of consultative groups like the Standing Conference has been broadened to include wider representation from the Voluntary Sector and Business Boards. There is a more thematic focus on meetings and task & finish groups are been created to see through priorities.

MH opened up a group discussion about Partnership working. The following points were noted:

- Pooled budgets – lack of flexibility and difficulty in pooling budgets.
- Streamlining the Leaders Board – Possibility of having the Leaders Board after the COAG.
- Support around Placed Based Intervention.
- Effectiveness of partnership working depends on delivery.
- Partnership working at lower level still sensitive issue – trusting organisations, some level of control is needed.
- Planning policy stands in the way of development of businesses.
- Emphasis was made to point 24, bullet point 4 – *being able to properly account for and accommodate upstream spend to save type activity (e.g. where early action by one partner significantly reduces greater costs falling on another downstream)* – it was noted that this was the key 'nut to crack'.
- Need to attract business to the County.
- Need more clarity of strategic planning with greater dissemination of this focus to the front line.
- Partnership working should be the culture of how we work – empowering the frontline, if people need help they should come to the partnership.
- The Leaders Board is about building relationships and trust and changing cultures to allow people at the front line to work with partners and focus on outcomes.
- The role of local councillors is very important as they are the community leaders who can work with partners to tackle local issues.

- LJs can help set local priorities.
- Housing and planning issues should be incorporated in the work of the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment should not just be a health and wellbeing issue – it needs to underpin all partnership working.

Purpose of the Leaders Board was questioned and a group discussion developed, it was felt that the Leaders Board was an essential meeting but could be more outcomes focussed. Emphasis was also made on keeping the membership of the Board to a minimum.

Action - CH to arrange meeting with all Partners to talk to them about the future of the LSP and report back at the next meeting.

CH

Action – Partners asked to refer back to the Community Strategy and the 3 priorities.

ALL

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- a) The Leaders Board support development of a future model for partnership working, based on the principles set out in the paper:
 - Standing Conference: 2 x year – continued wide engagement of Public and Voluntary Sector partners plus Business Board representation.
 - Shropshire Leadership Team: Shropshire Council Leader, key portfolio holders and Board member representation from partner organisations.
- b) That the Shropshire Leadership Team's focus be on:
 - Coordinating effective multi-agency place based intervention – making a sustained impact on intractable problems in Shropshire's most high priority neighbourhoods
 - Joint management of public service transformation in the context of the public service reform white paper

Were noted

MH summarised that CH would have meetings with all partners and at the next meeting a paper would be presented with a firm proposal for the future of the LSP.

8. Any other business

No items.

Meeting closed at 11.20am