



Community Action Group

Tuesday 20th August 2013, commencing at 10:00am

RCCE Offices, Threshelfords Business Park, Feering CO5 9SE

Present:

John Brown (Chair) (JB)
Suzanne Harris (SH)
Amanda Plummer (AP)
(Minutes)
Gary Raynor (GR)
Joy Darby (JD)

Ken Edwards (KE)
Darren Smart (DS)
Linda Riley (LR)
Jasmine Frost (JF)
Sarah Sapsford (SS)
Cllr John Aldridge (JA)

Chris Rust (CR)
Sheila Jackman (SJ)
Paul Williams (PW)
Paul Gayler (PG)
Tony Shelton (TS)

1 Welcome & Introductions

1.1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from: Rachael Price, Joy Darby, David Ennifer and Julie Nelson.

2 Whole Essex Community Budget – Jasmine Frost, Essex County Council.

A copy of the presentation can be found on the Essex Rural Partnership Website at www.essexruralpartnership.org.uk

Notes relating to the presentation.

Slide 1

JF- A small amount of the overall budget has been allocated from Health Partnerships which has specific health outcomes attached to it.

Slide 2

Vision -The approach is “bottom up” communities are worked with and decide their own priorities, rather than a prescriptive approach. This has much better success regarding outcomes.

Slide 4

Community Builders - The intention was to roll it out across the whole county but lack of funds dictated this was not possible. Now through the Police and Crime Commissioner more funds have become available

which are being allocated to Braintree. Basildon is doing a similar scheme through their locality board. The approach has been to target different issues in each area. This has the benefit that they can see what has worked. Networking meetings will take place to share best practice. These will take place around the county in each locality. In each area the District Council is taking the lead, but is working with a voluntary sector group to help them deliver what is needed. They work out their own outcomes and feed into the projects overarching strategic outcomes. SJ raised the point that transport is quite often a problem, how do you move things forward when there is very little money? and some communities do not have the where with all to do it for themselves. KE felt that the council could provide a framework and then let the community do it themselves. SJ agreed it encourages people to do things unpaid as a volunteer. JF felt that everyone needs to work together to get the outcome that the community want. GR commented from past experience that when a body funds the changes then recipients are passive and project sometimes just end when funding is withdrawn. When volunteers take part and the community gets involved then it creates ownership and becomes a community led project.

Slide 5

Volunteering -With regard to recruiting young volunteers research has been undertaken as to the best methods for effective recruitment, the results are expected soon. The Time bank concept is that individuals can either give or share skills. This concept is popular as it means individuals do not have to make a regular commitment. It is administered by the voluntary sector. The concept has been rolled out in Colchester, with Colchester CVS being the organizing body. The Mid Essex area will be next. There will be a staggered approach to rolling this out across the rest of the County. There is also the concept of a care bank which can support vulnerable people. This could for example be used in the care of elderly parents or relative. Tracey at Braintree CVS is leading on this project.

Slide 6

Community Resilience Fund -The previous leader of the council committed to this fund. There is still some internal wrangling with ECC regarding this. It will be managed by the Essex Community Foundation.

Slide 7

VCS Strategy – It will probably be next year before the results of the consultation are made public, and it has been agreed that a 90 day period should be observed to comply with compact agreements.

Slide 8

Key Outcomes –The main point is to get people involved in their communities.

PW - What effort will be made to address the rural needs as opposed to urban needs? JF It is up to the localities themselves to identify their areas of work. It will be useful to highlight the comparisons between success stories in rural and urban areas to see which are most effective. The projects will run for 12 months.

TS - Would it be possible to get feedback from the outcomes in rural areas as Sible Hedingham is not particularly rural and is considered a small town. Likewise in the Tendering area the majority of funding will go to Clacton. This does not really enable people to see the rural/urban differences and the rural areas are not really represented.

JB - requested that SS from the RCCE be invited to go to meetings from the Braintree and Tendering areas. SS felt that her team may be involved as there is a bias to non- rural groups. SS commented that she did not like the words "capacity builders" as people need support and confidence building to do things themselves. Many have no experience and are terrified of formality. She also commented that her team has no involvement with Tendering. JF felt that they have a shared expression of interest.

Slide 10

Next Steps – The two areas of focus will be Community Builders and Volunteering. There will hopefully be a 3-5 year plan so that agencies can work together over a longer period. It is hoped that they won't be too reliant on self- funding, and that some funding may come from the Big Lottery, the Centre for social action and Nesta. DS felt it was good that there was a focus on 16 – 24 year olds, but in some areas there aren't many young people of this age.

KE - asked how parishes can get involved in this. JF the Essex Fire Service are involved in the Community Builder Project. JB asked if JF had spoken to EALC? JF we have liaised with Angie Balcombe.

JB - extended an invitation to an Executive Meeting of the EALC.

TS - commented that he is on 8 local parish committees and he had not heard of this initiative. JF asked how he thought that they should liaise with parishes. TS felt they should make a presentation to show people what they wanted to achieve and the timeline involved.

Cllr JA - felt every parish had the opportunity to get involved with this. They can advocate by Parish magazine. JF asked if any members were interested they should forward their e mail addresses to her and they could be added to the WECB mailing list for the weekly newsletter. The WECB website is due to be updated.

3 *Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 11th March 2013*

2.1 Accuracy

Approved for accuracy

2.2 Matters Arising

KE to pick up funding.

Point 5 PW – We would like to visit Parishes; could we make this an action point, and agenda item for the next meeting? It was agreed that SH and JB to do this and circulate to the group. PW suggested that JB Nazeing would be a good place to visit.

4 **Adult Social Care – and how it affects rural communities**

Cllr John Aldridge, Essex County Council.

Cllr Aldridge introduced the subject by explaining that people are generally living longer, with increased health needs, at a time when financial resources are under great pressure.

Cllr Aldridge believes public understanding about the need for change is good, but that the will to accept the forthcoming changes needs to be developed. Over the past 4-5 years the target savings to be made by ECC have increased; Adult Social Care in Essex has a budget of almost £400million per annum – the largest in the County Council.

Cllr Aldridge had chaired an event jointly with Cllr Ann Naylor: Bringing Together Health and Social Care. The need for integration of services is recognised.

The recent 'Who Will Care' Commission, headed up by Sir Tom, Hughes-Hallett, was released on 12 September; it highlighted five recommendations:

- i. A need to understand the relationship between public sector and public
- ii. A need for integration
- iii. Prevention is better than cure
- iv. Hospital discharge protocol (too many people are in hospital when they don't need to be)
- v. People with learning disabilities and difficulties should be integrated into the community

ECC is increasingly moving towards a commissioning model.

Attention is being focussed on changing delivery methods – not reducing care available; this includes using technology, e.g. to monitor people in their own homes (including self-monitor and results submission online).

There is also a push to look at possible duplication between service

providers, including fire and ambulance services.

There is a wider education agenda – ‘Your Essex is Changing’ is helping to explain the role of those in public service – from MEPs to Parish Councillors.

There is a need to plan for the next decade, to provide best value and to be driven by providing a better service.

KE – concern about ECC being a commissioning organisation; how will you retain expertise on LA side of negotiating desk?

JA – there are in-house people who are commercially sensitive

TS – asked about cross-border issues

JA – Southend, Thurrock, Cambs and Suffolk are all considered as adjacent authority areas

SS – asked about the voluntary sector

JA – confirmed the VCS is a critical element

5 Health and Wellbeing

Healthwatch update circulated.

6 Strategic Updates

SE LEP is looking at internal restructure. Its rural group has not met since the last meeting of CAG.

7 Terms of Reference

Any comments to be sent to SH by end September.

8 Forthcoming Events & Round Table Information Sharing

Chris Rust – Maldon DC – National Democracy Week event with Omiston & Plume Schools – come and meet the Chairman. Considering an event for Planning Issues. Also, senior Health and Wellbeing event in Latchingdon – encouraging older people into activity/sport.

9 Any Other Business

None.

10 Date of next meeting

Monday 4th November at 10.00am – later changed to 19th November at 10.00am; coffee will be available from 9.45 am