



## **Community Action Group** **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013 10:00am**

RCCE Offices, Threshelfords Business Park, Feering CO5 9SE

### **Present:**

John Brown (Chair) (JB)  
Suzanne Harris (SH)  
Joy Darby (JD)  
Ken Edwards (KE)

Sheila Jackman (SJ)  
Wendy Jackson (WJ)  
Gary Raynor (GR)  
Darren Smart (DS)

Tony Shelton (TS)  
Chris Rust (CR)  
Sheila Jackman (SJ)

### **1 Welcome & Introductions**

Canon John Brown welcomed those present to the meeting and round table introductions were made.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from David Ennifer and Philip Wilson.

### **2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

#### **Accuracy**

The minutes were agreed as accurate.

#### **Matters Arising**

SH reported that Jasmine Frost, who had presented on the WECB at the previous meeting, had moved to a new role.

p.2. slide 5 – SH to clarify which Tracy (Rudling or Turner) the minutes referred to, and to gain an update on time banks for volunteering. **SH**

TS commented on the value of having Village Agents in Braintree and questioned the funding position; GR advised that Village Agents are funded to the point of decision-making on a longer-term future.

SJ expressed her scepticism about integration of healthcare and role of CCGs.

Slide 10 – JD highlighted parish involvement in WECB in Rochford (Gt Stambridge and Hullbridge) with pilot projects. A simple newsheet of 'wins' is being planned for publicity, e.g. local care home is setting up a sensory garden with private company input; a volunteer has been

sourced to cut grass in public areas. It is not always appropriate for the Parish Council to lead, but it is important for them to be involved. In Tending, money has been given to the CVS to lead.

JD suggested that George from Rochford District could give a presentation at a future meeting. **JD/SH**

Minute 3.2 re inequity of funding allocations: KE reported that he had been reassured that allocations within Essex are equitable. He proposed that the group should be happy that they had done as much as was possible on this subject. This was agreed.

Minute 8 – CR confirmed that 2 events had taken place. The first was ‘meet the Chairman and Leader’, where the Q&A session included lots of questions on planning. As a result, a second event based on a mock planning committee was held with Ormiston school. CR felt the events had both been successful and hoped more would take place in future.

JB suggested that RCCE might highlight the events via Oyster magazine. SH agreed to put forward as an article suggestion. **SH**

## **2b Healthwatch Essex**

Dr Tom Nutt joined the meeting to provide a background and update on the activities of Healthwatch Essex.

Healthwatch Essex was given statutory duties from 1 April 2013, to speak on behalf of patients and service users, following its formation as an organisation on 1 January 2013. Prior to this Healthwatch Essex was a pathfinder and carried out research. Research showed that people feel they are not listened to and identified 3 key benefits of listening – better expectations, staff morale and ability to tailor services to needs, thereby saving money.

Healthwatch Essex has 5 staff, and serves the 1.5million population of Essex.

Dr Nutt explained the variety of statutory agencies working in relation to health in Essex – including CCGs, hospitals, mental health trusts and local authorities.

Healthwatch is continuing the legacy of LINK, and prior to that PPI forums and Community Health Councils. Healthwatch does not have an entirely new role, but the role had not necessarily been regarded as being fulfilled to an accepted standard previously. Healthwatch Essex is a small organisation and has a difficult legacy, but it is believed that they have a good long-term plan and good principles on which to work.

Healthwatch is intending to gather evidence of lived experiences, and to use these to drive change and improvement.

Healthwatch Essex will

- i. work with statutory partners to ensure they work meaningfully and effectively
- ii. work with voluntary organisations and use volunteers, in 3 roles:
  - i. strategic ambassadors
  - ii. community ambassadors to be 'eyes and ears' (training available)
  - iii. research ambassadors (applied social research / independent research) (training with ARU)
    - i. experience of unpaid carers
    - ii. experience of discharge from hospital

Co-production is a key theme – exploring ways of providers and users finding solutions together.

Healthwatch will undertake a PR and awareness campaign to recruit volunteers in 2014.

Q – JN – how will you be recruiting?

A – TN – we are finalising role specifications; people will then be invited to apply. Advertisements will be made via voluntary sector and volunteer centres.

Q – JN – how will Healthwatch Essex look at 'rural'?

A – TN – there is nothing specific planned, but we will look at this in 2014.

SJ – rural is important, as is local.

A – TN – Healthwatch is trying not to duplicate and is using existing networks. Outcomes are important. Aim to 'do less, but do better'.

Q – TS – there are no GP's in some areas, and for some the nearest GP is across a county border. Cross-county-border problems are always difficult to solve – how can 5 people achieve results?!

A – TN – Healthwatch Essex is working to ensure that partners do their job properly, not to solve all problems!

Q – KE – recognising the challenges that exist, when might it be fair to look at achievements and judge success?

A – TN – quarterly reports are submitted to Essex County Council and these are already sounding positive. The first outcome has

been identified.

Q – JB – are these reports public?

A – TN – the annual report is expected to be a public document. TN hopes that the Strategic Plan will become a public document in the future.

Q – DS – borders and bus routes can be a problem. Lots of issues like this are small, but collectively they are a big – do you keep a database of issues to detect common themes?

A – TN – This is a work in progress. Information management is being developed.

JD – offered EALC as an aid to recruitment; all parish councils can be e-mailed posters, etc

JN – offered the Diocese as a good contact and conduit for information

### **3 Rural Public Transport**

Wendy Jackson was welcomed to the meeting. Wendy works with Rachael Price who regularly attends CAG meetings.

Wendy spoke about the Local Bus Consultation which is open until 9 December.

WJ explained that the Local Bus Strategy is 11 years old and is undergoing a review. Much has been done to promote this review.

ECC is facing a 28% funding reduction and the impact of this on the local bus budget is currently unknown.

An online consultation is taking place 16 Sept – 9 Dec; forms with pre-paid envelopes are also available. The consultation hopes to identify travel patterns and needs.

A draft strategy will be prepared and then area reviews will take place.

There are over 200 services, many of which are rural – a list can be obtained at [www.essex.gov.uk/busreview](http://www.essex.gov.uk/busreview)

WJ noted that it is difficult to pre-judge the outcomes when the funding availability is unknown.

JD – agreed to promote via e-bulletin

CR – asked if the second phase will have a deadline for other views

WJ – responded yes

### **4 Health and Wellbeing Updates**

KE reported that he would attend the public part of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November. He was expecting discussion about restructuring of the health service in Essex, including

about personal responsibility and being clear about state provision.  
JD asked where responsibility within ERP sat and JB replied, with full ERP.

JN commented that we could be looking at a future countryside which has only wealthy and elderly living in it.

CR reported that Maldon has set up its own Health and Wellbeing Board group. At present there is 1 day/week officer time contributed from Essex CC, but this post is due to be made redundant; the future is unknown but it is not expected that this link will be replaced.

## **5 Site Visits**

JB reminded the group of a desire to undertake some further site visits.

Suggestions included:

Nazeing

Chrishall – right to bid – Methodist Chapel to be a V Hall

Streathall

Pebmarsh – housing – pub reopening

Alphamstone and Lamarsh

JB agreed to write a paper setting out why and how the group would benefit from such visits.

## **6 Strategic Developments**

SE LEP is still considering an internal reorganisation and possible federated structure. The SE LEP Board is due to take a decision on this imminently. The Rural Working Group of the SE LEP has not met recently. An event is taking place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November, but is primarily about economic growth.

## **7 Terms of Reference**

KE had prepared a template for reviewing the Action Plan, which would be circulated.

## **8 Forthcoming Events & Round Table Information Sharing**

SH advised that the full ERP meeting would take place on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

Chris Rust advised of a People's Health Trust event.

KE advised of a Crime and Community Safety event, hosted by the PCC, at Colchester FC on 29<sup>th</sup> November; invitations were being handled by Colchester CVS.

## **9 Any Other Business**

JN suggested an item on credit unions be added to the next agenda.

Peoples Millions was suggested as a future topic.

GR highlighted the Silver Surfers website – activities and opportunities to engage with and celebrate older people. Events could be registered – over 20 events in Essex already shown.

GR also advised that he would be leaving ECC on 13<sup>th</sup> December. He was thanked for his contribution to the ERP CAG.

CR highlighted the ECC Youth Services Consultation, ending on 20<sup>th</sup> November; the budget is being reduced from £6million to £2million.

**Date of next meeting**

25<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 10.00am  
(following meetings in June and October/November)