



## **Community Action Group** **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014 10:30am**

RCCE Offices, Threshelfords Business Park, Feering CO5 9SE

### **Present:**

John Brown (Chair) (JB)  
Rachel Fahie (RF)  
Suzanne Harris (SH)  
Sheila Jackman (SJ)

Julie Nelson (JN)  
Rachael Price (RP)  
Chris Rust (CR)  
Paul Williams (PW)

Philip Wilson (PhW)  
Brian Goodwin (BG)  
*(item 3 only)*

### **1 Welcome & Introductions**

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

#### **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Gill Burden, Ken Edwards, Melanie Rundle and Tony Shelton

### **2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

#### **Accuracy**

The minutes were agreed as accurate.

#### **Matters Arising**

CR reported that Door Step Club projects are happening in Heybridge and Southminster, funded by PCC New Initiatives Fund. JB asked if it is easy or difficult to obtain Police and Crime Commissioner funding; CR responded that it is a reasonable process.

#### **Credit Unions**

- Wider issue than being recognised
- Essex Savers marketing as only countywide CU – there are others
- Lack of ‘money knowledge’
- increasing bills and static incomes
- community issue as well as individuals

Junior Savers Clubs being run in primary schools – funded project

### **3 Community Agents**

Brian Goodwin joined the meeting give an update on the transition from Village Agents to Community Agents. Key points:

- replacing Village Agents, from July
- new focus – emphasis on health and older people
- capturing demand to guide future aims – unmet demand (if evident) will be recorded to provide needs information
- seeking to widen service
- there will be 36 agents – (all 12 from Village Agents are continuing)

Questions:

SJ who will fund the new project

BG ECC

SJ who decided on the new age target range

BG ECC (65, will change to 50) – aiming to get project established and then seek to adjust age targets; 75% customers over 65; new project will have a stronger focus on health and social care aspects, though other aspects not excluded

JB will CA ignore people under 56?

BG no, but will focus more on signposting

SJ how will people know which agent covers their area?

BG that isn't determined yet; promotion will begin in July

RP many transport meetings are parish-focussed – RP offered to circulate an article about CA

BG article will appear in Making the Links

CR could take to Parish Clerks Forum in Maldon

BG keen not to highlight 'big change' in existing delivery areas; focus on promotion in new areas

SJ agreed to arrange an invitation from BG to the EALC executive committee

PhW commented that GP's are very grateful for the referral facility

#### 4 Health and Wellbeing Updates

Josephine Querido from Healthwatch Essex joined the meeting to provide an update. Key points:

- a survey had been undertaken (in March) at Colchester Hospital about cancer services – report will be publicly available; initial findings most people either happy or extremely unhappy – no middle ground.
- The role of HWE is to champion the patient's voice
- Two other research projects are being worked on:
  - hospital discharge
  - transition to social care
- national research by HWE England about discharges – HWEssex will feed into this
- 146,000 unpaid carers in Essex
- 24<sup>th</sup> June – an event on 'care.data', a new information system which will be rolled out by NHS
- forthcoming event in Chelmsford – public debate with panel of 5 (NHS England, patient, GP, cancer epidemiologist (researcher), expert in ethics of data sharing); open invitation but attendees must pre-register

#### 5 Local Bus Strategy Review

Rachael Price gave an update report on the Local Bus Strategy 2014-20 following a presentation at the last meeting which had been given by Wendy Jackson. Key points/outcomes from the review:

- 43 million passenger journeys
- 5 million journeys receiving financial support from ECC

- 3,372 responses to initial consultation 2013
- 54% don't driver or have access to car regularly
- 35% longstanding illness or disability
- 75% happy with higher fares!
- There will be consultation on draft Local Bus Strategy

Questions:

PW Adult Community Learning are undertaking a survey which includes information on how people access services; this has identified that some classes are run at the wrong time to tie in with public transport

RP one possible project is looking at adult social care centres, encouraging people to be independent

RP one way of reducing costs would be to stagger school opening times, but this is outside the remit of ECC

RP the service is very dependent on budget

## **6 Emergency Services and Volunteers**

This was on the agenda to enable feedback/discussion following the full ERP meeting on this topic. No points were raised other than that the presentations had been interesting.

## **7 VCS Framework and Compact**

John Brown led on this item, as Chair of the Essex Compact Steering Group.

The VCS Framework is led by ECC; feedback on the draft has been received and it is due to go to cabinet in June/July.

The Compact Steering Group is likely to be the monitoring body for the Framework.

All statutory and voluntary organisations will be urged to sign up to the VCS Framework.

## **8 Strategic Developments**

### **LEADER**

SH reported that there are 4 developing Local Action Groups (LAGs) in Essex/partly in Essex:

- i. Essex Rivers (Maldon, Rochford, Chelmsford, Colchester, Braintree, Brentwood)
- ii. Wool Towns (north Braintree and north Colchester and Suffolk)
- iii. Heritage Coast (Tendring and Suffolk)
- iv. Eastern Plateau (applying to continue with larger area)

Areas are determined by rurality, defined by Defra. Local Development Strategies (LDS's - bids) will be submitted in early September and outcomes known (hopefully) by the end of the year. Each LAG will bid for approx. £2million.

### **LEP**

South East LEP is developing a rural chapter within its ESIF (European Structural and Investment Funds) Strategy.

The LEP will be required to endorse all Leader bids.

**9 Forthcoming Events & Round Table Information Sharing**

RP gave advised the CAG that there will be some changes made to policy for free school transport. Changes will be implemented in 2015 and will affect the current year 5 age group.

**9 Any Other Business**

There was none.

**Date of next meeting**

November 2014 – date tbc