



LSP Board Meeting, 17 March 2015
Davertry District Council
10.00am – 11.50am

Partners Present (* denotes voting member)

Carella	Davies* (Chair)	(CD)	Davertry Volunteer Centre
Lynn	Aston	(LA)	Davertry & District Housing
Sarah	Birch	(SBch)	JobCentre Plus
Simon	Bovey	(SBv)	Davertry District Council
Cllr Elizabeth	Griffin*	(EG)	Davertry District Council
Cllr Alan	Hills*	(AH)	Davertry District Council & Northamptonshire County Council
Andrew	Jepps	(AJ)	Northamptonshire County Council
Judy	Reeve	(JR)	JobCentre Plus
Suzanne	Shead	(SS)	Bromford Housing
Tom	Thompson	(TT)	Northamptonshire Police
Roz	Tidman	(RT)	Davertry District Council

1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies and Declarations

Carella Davies welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from: Anne Bamfield (Citizens Advice Daventry & District);
Colin Staves (WNJPU)

There were no declarations of interests relating to the items on the agenda.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 16 December 2014

a) The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

b) Matters Arising

Cardiac rehabilitation service – Letter welcoming the re-introduction of the service had been sent.

Performance Report – Targets for Health & Wellbeing would be discussed at the next Health & Wellbeing Board. SB suggested that a follow up report be presented to the next meeting on progress against targets for all the theme groups. **ACTION: Roz Tidman.**

Apprenticeships – Three events had been held during Apprenticeship Week

alongside an article in Daventry Calling.

AH commented on the event at the iCon, which had been well attended adding that variety of apprenticeships available was very encouraging. JR advised that the JobCentre Plus event, which was aimed at the 18+ age range, had not been as well attended. She added that only 9 apprentices were registered with JobCentre Plus.

Chris Heaton-Harris business breakfast meetings – Action outstanding from previous meeting. **ACTION: Roz Tidman.**

3. Northamptonshire County Council – Next Generation Council

AJ gave a presentation on future arrangements for the delivery of services by NCC, following the publication of their draft Council Plan in December 2014, which was agreed by Full Council in February 2015.

A radical model had been proposed with a smaller organisation commissioning services from external organisations and social enterprises to deliver Safeguarding and Wellbeing outcomes for the Authority.

With regard to Wellbeing, a Wellbeing Community Organisation would be commissioned by the Council to deliver public health and wellbeing outcomes. Discussions had been entered into with two partners, NHFT and the University of Northampton, to set up a community interest company. Discussions were also underway with a range of other organisations that had a crucial role around wellbeing. AJ acknowledged that the creation of a Wellbeing Community Organisation to deliver services was a different approach, a change, and it was not yet fully clear what Council functions would sit in this organisation. Roll out may be over a number of phases. A further report would be presented to Cabinet in due course.

The report considered by Full Council set out the maximum scope to be delivered. There were exceptions, which would remain in-house. These would be communications, customer call centre, the coroner's office and specialist care. All other services would not automatically transfer into the new Health and Wellbeing operation; a business case would be required for each one.

CD invited questions from the Board.

SBv noted that AJ had acknowledged the frustration of partners following the Health & Wellbeing bid process and commented that the greatest concern wasn't just the uncertainty of funding for existing services but the discontinuity of services with partners, what would happen in the interim. He also queried the partnership with the University of Northampton in the Community Wellbeing Organisation, and sought reassurance that a health sector focus would not mean that the wellbeing element would be inadequately covered.

CD noted, with concern, that the voluntary and community sector were not mentioned in the proposals. There was already significant strain on voluntary sector organisations. She added that existing contracts with NCC were due to finish in March and there was uncertainty around their continuation. Organisations were losing staff because of this.

AJ acknowledged the issues and that it was a challenging period. Directors had been given delegated powers to extend contracts and providers were being contacted.

With regard to the budget, there was a reduction in Supporting People and non-statutory services which did have an impact on contracts. The budget for 2015/16 remained the same and there were no immediate further reductions planned. Alongside that there was also the Public Health Grant, which was ring fenced, and consideration was being given as to how to use this grant. Contracts that would have been re-shaped into public health contracts would be re-designed into the new arrangement.

NHFT was the public service partner in the county. Health had to be considered as well as Wellbeing. There was a need to build research and design into the new processes hence the involvement of the University of Northampton. There may also be other areas of work the University carry out that could build into the Wellbeing element.

AH commented that, from presentations he had received in his capacity as a County Councillor, development of the Health and Wellbeing part of the new proposals was progressing quickly compared to the others. He added that the proposal needed to be strictly scrutinised and, in his view, there was still a long way to go.

SS advised that Bromford's main general support contract was due to end on 31 March 2015 and that there was a risk of lack of continuity of support. The mental health contract had been extended for a further 12 months, though welcomed, she considered this was just extending the uncertainty.

LA advised that Daventry & District Housing had withdrawn from Supporting People and were now self-funding. Some partnership relationships that were in place with withdrawing.

AJ commented that, for older people services, encouragement was being given to look at different funding models and there was an expectation that some would be self-funding.

RT asked if alternative funding arrangements would be in place for when contracts ended on 31 March 2015, and whether the new arrangements in place for vulnerable people would be provided with equality and equity across districts, particularly as it was understood that funding had not been removed in some areas.

AJ advised that there was a list of maximum funding available for Directors to allocate; some organisations were receiving that funding at a difference pace. Payments were being made on what bidders were telling NCC. Due to historical reasons there were variations in funding for general support/mental health in the county. There were also a small number of accommodation based services where almost certainly there would be eligibility for personal budgets.

SS commented that the principle of providing support to people when they need it was good, and this was an opportunity to do so, however the timing and period of uncertainty was not good. AJ acknowledged this was a change in how services were delivered and would face significant challenges to achieve.

CD thanked AJ for his attendance.

CD reported on a recent announcement by Edward Timpson, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families of additional support for young people with disabilities. £5m funding was available to provide Supported Internships to young people with special education needs. This funding could be accessed by local authority and used to build relationships with employers and create such placements.

EG commented that this could build into a numbers of areas, giving young people aspiration to succeed and providing confidence for parents.

AJ reported on the successful joint NCC/district/borough councils bid for DCLG funding for supporting refuge provision for victims of domestic violence. £450k had been awarded for 2015/16.

4. Universal Credit – Rollout in Daventry District

JR updated on the rollout of Universal Credit on 23 February 2015. Uptake had been quite slow with 19 claimants so far. So far only single non-householders could claim, the roll-out would then be extended to couples then all householders. The roll-out would be slow and the intention was for the basic Universal Credit to be in place in all Jobcentres by May 2016.

Applications could only be made on line, however IT access was not a concern at Daventry as six PCs were available, with one dedicated to on-line claims. Job Seekers Allowance claims were already taken on line so customers were used to this approach.

RT commented that there had been a significant level of increase from registered providers in the LSPs Welfare Reform Group since the introduction of Universal Credit.

LA advised that she was aware of one DDH tenant that was now on Universal Credit. SS asked whether there was a system in place so Jobcentre Plus could notify housing associations when a tenant signs up so they can provide support. JR advised that, at the moment, no arrangement was in place.

There was a brief discussion on unemployment rates in the district. There were approximately 450 people registered with Jobcentre Plus. DIRFT was the main employer but was difficult to access using public transport. Transline were working with the Jobcentre providing warehouse training which is where Universal Credit was helpful as those on training would not lose any benefits. The Centre's Resource Centre provided support such as CV writing and job searching. The Community Safety Partnership had successfully bid for funding for a Community Projects Officer who would work with Jobcentre Plus to coach ESA claimants. The recruitment process for this post had just started.

5. Theme Group Updates

RT provided an update on work carried out by the theme groups.

- a) Health & Wellbeing Partnership Board – Met the previous week and received a presentation from Pete Glover from the Community Safety Partnership on the recent Young Citizens Day at the UTC. This event was supported by the Police and very well organised.

187 students from eight schools in the Daventry area attended on the first day, with 139 from six schools in South Northamptonshire and one from Daventry on the second day. Consideration was being given to hold another event in October.

A Rural Forum Facebook page had been created to raise awareness of rural issues. TT advised of a spate of allotment thefts in the county and the action being taken by the Police on this.

Views had been aired on NCC's abandoned Community and Wellbeing tender process.

Richard McKendrick from NHFT and Louise Tarplee from Nene CCG had attended to discuss the use of Danetre Hospital and the strategic way forward for health.

The Eat Out Eat Well pilot project would be rolled out in Daventry using volunteers. Kettering had decided to use an Environmental Health approach so it would be interesting to compare outcomes. The aim of the scheme was to encourage food outlets to try and deliver healthier options.

Research was being carried out into a potential social isolation project and it was hoped to get a speaker to the next meeting to talk about the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat.

TT advised of Police partnership event later in the week, aimed at district councillors, about police visibility in Daventry and to give an opportunity for councillors to meet their local policing teams. There will also be a Q&A session with the Deputy Chief Constable.

Opening hours at Daventry Police Station front office were being reduced. Towcester station would also be reducing its front office hours and Brackley's front office would close completely.

In respect of crime figures, TT advised that recording methods for violent crime had changed which was reflected in the figures. Crime in general was reducing both county wide and country wide though public awareness and confidence in Daventry was very volatile.

The rural agenda was developing and there was a big debate on the definition of rural crime.

Northamptonshire had the highest number of Special Constables per capita in the country, with Daventry having the highest number of specials per capita. Daventry and South Northamptonshire also had the most, per capita, of Police Cadets.

- b) Business & Skills – Good links were being formed. Three events had been held during National Apprenticeship Week, one at the Leisure Centre run by Connexions aimed at young students, one at the iCon run by Northampton College and SWAN aimed at parents, and one at Jobcentre Plus aimed for 18+ years. Consideration was being given to a whole day of apprenticeship events for 2016 to provide a different focus.

The Group were trying to produce an Education Directory but were finding it difficult to engage with the secondary schools in Daventry.

Both colleges were on board.

- c) Environment – A lot of work was taking place outside of the group. The wildflower project had developed, with 27 communities planting up areas of wildflowers. The Big Switch had also been successful. There was a need to look at how to link people in on this group and consideration would be given on how this Group could link with other things happening in the county. A review of how the Group was operating would be carried out in six months' time.

SS commented that Daventry LSP was the only one she attended now. TT commented that partnership arrangements on this side of Northamptonshire were better. SB added that credit should be given to RT for making the LSP a success.

6. Countywide Volunteering Strategy

CD advised that the Strategy, which had been in place for a number of years, was being reviewed. A draft Strategy had been prepared which would need to be considered by all volunteer centres before being finalised.

7. AOB and Information Exchange

AH updated on the proposals for a Special Needs Academy in Daventry, which would be able to accommodate 175-200 students.

An additional play area had been opened at Daventry Country Park for 4-5 year olds and had received a very positive response from the public.

CD advised that a Funding Fair would be taking place for the voluntary and community sector on 22 April 2015 at the iCon.

The Daventry VCS Forum meeting would be taking place on 18 March and would look at planning a development day for the sector.

NHS for England had recently published a document for clinical commissioning groups on the importance of linking in with the voluntary sector.

SS advised that a report on Bromford's support service would be provided for the next meeting. **ACTION: Roz Tidman/Suzanne Shead**

LA advised that the Benbow Close Surestart Centre building had now closed and would be turned into flats. AH advised that meetings with Action For Children were taking place to make sure that as much support as possible could be maintained for parents on the estate.

7. Date of Next Meeting

16 June 2015, 10am – 12 noon, Committee Room 1, Daventry District Council offices.