

578 NOTES FROM LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on 26th January, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting with the following correction;

- In para 556 reference was made specifically to Moseley Road swimming baths.

579 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

580 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Cllr Paul Tilsley informed the board of the following;

- Jackie Mould had been appointed as Director of Birmingham Strategic Partnership to start in April;
- The public consultation on the Climate Change Strategy on 22nd February was well attended and received positive feedback.

581 REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMME BOARD CHAIR

Jon Bright, vice chair of the Programme Board (PB) informed the board of the following;

- There is currently an under spend of £946K for 2006/07, for which the PB had received over £2 million bids. The target of 95% of total allocation is likely to be met by the end of the year. There has also been an increase of spend in ward allocations over the past months and it is now likely that ward targets will be met. The PB had proposed a planning process to ensure that money is spent on services and activities that will deliver LAA outcomes. More would be done to involve CSP chairs and the devolution and localisation review in April should assist with this.
- The PB has received approximately £14 million bids for the remaining £3.45 million of NRF for 2007/08. The PB will consider the bids at its next meeting and is likely to propose investing the NRF under spend on the LAA outcomes not on target.
- Regarding the community engagement review: funding from central government was not available for 2007/08 and the PB recommended that £750K of NRF be allocated to sustain BANF and BCEN for this period. As NRF finishes in 2008 there is an urgent need to consider options for commissioning a sustainable community engagement service. As a result the PB decided to stand down the Community Engagement Board and suspend the review and establish a Commissioning Group to move the work forward. This is not another review but the preparatory phase of the new service, which will be sustainable beyond 07/08.

Mick Rice registered an interest in the item as a member of BANF.

The board made the following comments:

- Cllr Tilsley asked the timescale for the recommendations to the board be brought forward to May.
- Cllr Jerry Evans stated that predicting ward spend at month 9 is not useful without also comparing it to the spend profile in previous years. Cllr Evans asked whether neighbourhood projects would be penalised for not reaching Neighbourhood Element spend targets. Jon Bright accepted Jerry's first point and said he would get back on the second.
- Hannah Worth welcomed the clearer focus on delivery and expressed the view that it is important that there is clarity around what the money is funding. The infrastructure of the Community Networks is endangered as a delivery mechanism if there are insufficient available funds.
- Mick said that NRF funding will be coming to an end for all projects in 2007/08, which will likely result in infrastructure problems elsewhere. Mick suggested that larger organisations are usually preferred through a commissioning approach and the Commissioning Group should include community representatives to inform the process and avoid these pitfalls. Also, the £750,000 is less than the organisations combined budget of more than £1 million.
- Cllr Sue Anderson responded that the way the third sector is commissioned has changed in the past two years. When commissioning work, the local knowledge and influence of organisations is considered and national organisations are not always the best option on these criteria.

- Mick clarified that the £116k allocated to Neighbourhood Forums in 2006/07 is to pay back the Council for their grant to Neighbourhood Forums and is not additional money.
- Sophia Christie said the publication of the Local Government White Paper had influenced the change in direction. The BSP would develop a specification for community engagement within the partnership framework in the spirit of moving on positively.

Jon Bright concluded that the Commissioning Group will take evidence from partnership members on what has worked well and what hasn't and will consider the points made about its membership.

582 REPORT FROM THE PARTNERSHIP MANGER

Dr Naomi Rees informed the board of the following;

- Steve Morley is the new co-chair of the Birmingham Environment Partnership and will be replacing Dr Peter Strachan on the BSP board in May.
- There is a City Shapers event on the 29th March. For more information contact Pam Dixon.
- The notes from the extended session on the Regional Economic Strategy were circulated with the papers and will form the BSP response to the consultation.
- The first BSP Annual Report was circulated with the papers for comment. Naomi suggested the new BSP Communication Officer and Director take the work forward. The Board agreed.
- Proposed board look at each of the LAA blocks in turn starting with the May meeting considering the LAA Stronger and Safer Block. The board agreed.

The board made the following comments;

- Cllr Evans asked whether there could be a discussion around the CPA report on partnership working at the board. Naomi replied that the PB would consider the report at its March meeting.
- Louise Rowland informed the board that the extended session on the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) was only stage one in a two-stage consultation process and that there would be a public consultation on the draft RES in May. Louise asked that the discussion around the Enterprise and Economic Development Block and the second phase of the consultation, scheduled for the autumn, coincide. The board agreed.

583 NORTH BIRMINGHAM CYCLING AND WALKING ROUTE

Graham Lennard introduced the item and informed the board that the Sustrans "Connect2" bid is included in the final round of the BIG Lottery Living Landmarks fund. Winning the funding would result in significant match funding for the North Birmingham walking and cycling route. There are six finalists in the lottery competition, which will be decided by a public TV vote at the end of the year. Graham asked the board for support in principle for the proposal. The board agreed.

Mick Rice asked for further information to be able to promote walking at a neighbourhood level. Graham informed the board that in Birmingham there is currently a promotion of healthy walking routes and a Walk 2000 scheme in every ward in the city, as well as safe routes for cycling.

584 LIVING WELL IN THE WEST MIDLANDS: BWELL BIRMINGHAM

John Grayland introduced the item and asked for the boards support for the Living Well in the West Midlands: bWell Birmingham National Lottery fund proposal. The project will promote positive mental health and wellbeing in Birmingham through a two-pronged approach by focussing on employers and communities. Employers will be given training and support to identify and deal with mental health issues within their staff. Community and voluntary sector organisations will be encouraged to make bids for money around therapeutic and preventative activities. Brain Carr commended the involvement of the voluntary sector in shaping the bid. The board supported the proposal.

585 NICE CONSULTATION ON HEALTH INEQUALITIES

Dr Chris Spencer-Jones informed board members that the NICE consultation is about the way PCTs address health inequalities and asked whether the BSP would like to respond to it. The deadline for the consultation response is the 26th February. Dr Spencer-Jones made the following points;

- That the review should not be restricted to the NHS but should cover areas such as sport, CAB poverty relief, education and literacy.

- There should be emphasis on reaching people who don't like using hospitals. This can be done through going out to people in their communities and measuring blood pressure and cholesterol, having call centres for smoking cessation projects, taking a pro-active approach.
- There should be a focus on utilising social marketing techniques.
- A wealth of experience has been gained in Birmingham, particularly by the Health and Well-being Partnership in developing the floor target action plans.

The board made the following comments;

- Mike Dickinson said the Sports Partnership is currently looking at ways to more effectively market and raise awareness of ways to access facilities and improve healthy lifestyles.
- Sophia Christie stated that the majority of actions sit outside the NHS and that a partnership response would be useful.
- Yann Lovelock stated that Birmingham has a larger faith base than any other city and suggested the report promote spirituality (including meditation and prayer) as a means of leading a disciplined life style and a way of helping with mental health.

Dr Spencer-Jones to draft a response from the BSP for the deadline.

586 **BIRMINGHAM HEALTH INEQUALITIES DEMONSTRATION**

Sophia Christie informed the board that the Health Inequalities Toolkit was funded through NRF. The Toolkit is a DVD, which contains ward based information to assist community and partner organisations to understand the key health issues at a local level and what can be done about them. Sophia went on to make the following points;

- There has been a good impact over the last 8 years by way of interventions across the city, such as a reduction in deaths from heart disease and cancer in the poorest areas. Birmingham is performing but it is still the educated middle classes that benefit the most from public sector services;
- The challenge is designing services that reach out to the most vulnerable who are those most unlikely to use the services. It is no longer accepted that poor communities do not receive the best services. Now most of the effort and resources are being channeled into the areas of greatest need.
- The Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that inequality is no longer focused in the inner city area, nor does deprivation relate solely to BME communities, but is still largely geographically based. The most deprived wards do not map exactly with those with the worst health.
- Drivers of health inequality include life style indicators and the Inverse Care Law. It is important not to look just at areas, but to pay attention to the shift/movement of communities over time.
- Health has been set a huge challenge by the LAA to effectively revolutionise a service for 1 million people in 3 years. To achieve the targets there will have to be an impact on infant mortality (greatest years lost) and male life expectancy (greatest number of preventative deaths) to make a difference to the overall life expectancy. The BSP must be honest in targeting and clear about what action to take in which wards to give collective improvement. It is not about making small changes in every ward. A prioritisation system is required.

Sophia informed BSP members of the Launch on the 6th March and encouraged a wide attendance.

587 **COMMUNITY STRATEGY – CHAPTER 10 A HEALTHY CITY**

Sophia Christie introduced the item stating there are 5 key areas for health in the Community Strategy; promoting healthy lifestyles; reducing health inequalities; reducing infant mortality and teenage pregnancy; managing long-term illness; and creating a centre for health. The Community Strategy update will cover this. Sophia said that a focus group had been held with vocational trainees asking what would attract them to work in Birmingham. They wanted continued professional development, mentoring, and to be employed by the PCT. By acting on these recommendations they were able to fill vacancies in the most deprived areas and begin to shift the inverse care law. The Health and Wellbeing Partnership had also collected information about how BME groups sought to use/engage with primary care services.

The board made the following comments;

- Mike Dickinson informed the board that a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy is being produced and he is keen to look at creative solutions for targeting health issues, such as smoking, through joined up programmes with physical activity. Mike informed the board that an Active People Survey has been conducted with a sample of 4000 people and the Toolkit could help identify areas for targeting. Sophia suggested Mike meet with John Grayland, lead on male life expectancy to explore further.
- Naseem Akhtar asked how accessing opportunities for preventative action, such as the use of green spaces for walking and cycling safely, have been incorporated. Sophia responded that the Toolkit covers a broad range of suggested local interventions.
- Mick Rice suggested smart interventions with quick responses to strokes would limit long term damage to health. Sophia responded that while a stroke target was not in the LAA, work around this very health service specific challenge was already going on.
- John Grayland suggested holding an event for members of BANF and B:CEN separate to that on the 6th of March, which is more aimed at partnership officers. The board agreed.
- Keith Budden asked how health was responding to sustainable communities and whether they are linking into the spatial awareness strategy, as Birmingham is aiming to grow its population and encourage new communities to the city. Sophia said there is an ongoing debate with the Council to grow the infrastructure of open spaces, schools and health services thereby making Birmingham an attractive place to move to, where people have access to services.
- Barnard Borham said there is a lot of focus on teenage pregnancy although there are health issues associated with older women having babies as well. Sophia said that teenage pregnancies also have a social impact, as young women will have limited their skills and educational attainment, as well as physical and mental elements. Younger teenagers are physically immature and there is evidence that the babies don't do as well if born to young teenage mothers.

Sophia concluded that the profile of the population and the pattern of disease in the 21st century are already hugely different from when the NHS was created in the 20th Century. Consequently, there is a move towards a smaller number of high-tech hospitals with the bulk of the work being carried out in community settings using diagnostics and pharmaceutical technology and health promotion work.

588 AOB

There were no items of any other business.

MEETING ENDED 16:50

NEXT MEETING 12:45 to 16:00 hours on Friday 30th March 2007 in Committee Rooms 3 and 4, The Council House, Victoria Square, B1 1BB

Appendix A Attendance

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Naseem Aktar, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network
Cllr Sue Anderson, Cabinet Member for Adults and Communities, Birmingham City Council
Jon Bright, Director of Policy and Delivery, Birmingham City Council
Brian Carr, Chief Executive, Birmingham Voluntary Services Council
Sophia Christie, Chief Executive, Eastern and North Birmingham Primary Care Trust
Professor Michael Clarke, Vice Principal, University of Birmingham
Elaine Elkington, Strategic Director of Local Services, Birmingham City Council
Trudi Elliott, Government Office West Midlands
Cllr Jerry Evans, Sparkbrook District Chair
Paul Hannah (for Jerry Blackett), Birmingham Chamber of Commerce
Debbie Harrod (for CSUPT Steve Jordan), West Midlands Police
Lyndley Jenks (for Margaret Tovey), Jobcentre Plus
Ifor Jones, District Director, Birmingham City Council
Cllr Les Lawrence, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families, BCC
Yann Lovelock, Birmingham Council of Faiths
ACC Anil Patani, West Midlands Police
Louise Rowland (for Mark Pearce), Advantage West Midlands
DCFO Vijith Randeniya, West Midlands Fire Service
Mick Rice, Birmingham Association of Neighbourhood Forums
Barnard Borham (for Mohammad Shafique), Birmingham Community Empowerment Network
Dr Peter Strachan, Environment Partnership
Cllr Paul Tilsley, Deputy Leader, Birmingham City Council (Chair)
Cllr Jim Whorwood, Cabinet Member for Local Services & Community Safety, BCC
Hannah Worth, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network

MEMBERS APOLOGIES

Cllr Sir Albert Bore, Leader of the Opposition, Birmingham City Council
David Cragg, Regional Director, Learning and Skills Council
Cllr Ken Hardeman, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Birmingham City Council
Cllr Ray Hassall, Birmingham Culture Consortium
Stephen Hughes, Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council
Geoff Inskip, Director General, Centro
Dr Abdul Rashid, Faith Leaders Group
Jean Templeton, Birmingham Housing Strategic Partnership
Paul Verity, Chief Executive, Birmingham & Solihull Connexions
Joy Warmington, Chief Executive, Birmingham Race Action Partnership

SUPPORTING OFFICERS

Dr Naomi Rees, Partnership Manager, BSP Secretariat;
Sue Webb, Assistant Policy Officer, BSP Secretariat (notes).

ALSO PRESENT

Natascha Bonett, Birmingham Strategic Partnership; Richard Browne, BSP Performance Team; Keith Budden, Birmingham Strategic Partnership, Martin Clark, West Midlands Fire Service; Victor Cot, Birmingham Association of Neighbourhood Forums; Neil Davies, Environment Agency; Mike Dickenson, Birmingham Sports Partnership; John Grayland, Eastern Birmingham PCT; Will Groves, Environment Agency; Ken Lawrence, Community Services; Graham Lennard, Transportation Strategy; Anne Mason, Birmingham Strategic Partnership; Kevin Mitchell, Birmingham City Council; Steve Moorley, Environment Agency; Dr Chris Spenser-Jones, South Birmingham Primary Care Trust; Malcolm Vede, Health and Wellbeing Partnership; Kiran Virk, Birmingham Strategic Partnership.