
RUSHMOOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Notes of a meeting held on **Wednesday, 7th February 2007** at the Rushmoor Borough Council Offices at 4.00 pm.

Present:

Aldershot Garrison		Colonel Nigel Josling OBE Garrison Commander
Enterprise First		Mr John Mitchell (Vice-Chairman) Chief Executive
Guildford Diocese		Ms Clare Sewell North Hampshire Development Officer
Hampshire County Council		County Councillor Roger Kimber
Rushmoor Borough Council		Councillor Peter Moyle (Chairman) Leader
Rushmoor Citizens' Advice Bureaux		Ms Alex Hughes District Manager
Rushmoor Healthy Living		Mr Tony Docker Chief Executive

Absent:

Basingstoke Canal Authority	a	Mr Ian Brown Director
Farnborough College of Technology	a	Mrs Christine Davis Principal
First Wessex Housing Group	a	Mr Peter Hall Deputy Group Operations Director
Government Office for the South East	a	Mr David Hobbs
Hampshire Primary Care Trust	a	Dr Olufemi Oduneye Public Health Directorate
North East Hampshire Police Division	a	Chief Superintendent Paul Netherton

North Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry Parity for Disability	a	Mrs Valerie Cloke
	a	Ms Alison Cooper
Rushmoor Borough Council	a	Mr Andrew Lloyd Chief Executive
Rushmoor Voluntary Services	a	Ms Sally Saunderson Chief Executive

In attendance:

Hampshire County Council	Ms Cheryl Bosworth Hampshire Action Team Co-Ordinator
	Ms Joy Waeland LAA Priority A. Lead Officer

Rushmoor Borough Council	Mr Andrew Colver Head of Democratic and Facilities
	Miss Annie Denton Partnership Officer
	Miss Jemma Gibbons Administrative Officer
	Mr Les Murrell Strategy Co-ordinator (Sustainability)
	Mr Jon Rundle Assistant Head of Strategy and Communications
	Mr Richard Mann Educational Attainment Project Officer

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Femi Oduneye (Hampshire Primary Care Trust), Alison Cooper (Parity for Disability), Mr Andrew Lloyd (Rushmoor Borough Council), Chief Superintendent Paul Netherton (North East Hampshire Police Division), Mr Peter Hall (First Wessex Housing Group), David Hobbs (Government Office for the South East) and Christine Davis (Farnborough College of Technology).

1. **NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –**

The Partnership confirmed the notes of the meeting held on 12th December 2006.

2. **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU –**

The Partnership welcomed Ms. Alex Hughes, District Manager for Rushmoor Citizens' Advice Bureaux, who began the meeting by giving a presentation on the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). Ms. Hughes advised that there were two CABs in the Borough, one in Farnborough and one in Aldershot Town Centre. There was also a specialist CAB located in Frimley called the Beech House, which concentrated specifically on assisting disabled and mental health customers. Ms. Hughes highlighted that the Bureau in Aldershot was the oldest one in Hampshire.

The Partnership noted that CAB was a national charity and that each local authority bureau worked independently, sharing common aims and principles. Ms. Hughes then advised that the CAB was accessible to everyone and that the Rushmoor CAB website contained lots of useful information and advice for residents. The 2005/06 funding for Rushmoor CAB was noted by the Partnership and Ms. Hughes highlighted that the majority of the funding was provided by the Legal Services Commission and Rushmoor Borough Council.

It was explained that Rushmoor CAB's staff were made up of 80 volunteers, 23 paid staff and various caseworkers, specialising in welfare benefits, housing and financial advice. The volunteers ranged in all ages and in total committed to 640 hours per week. Each volunteer had to complete six months training to gain a National Accreditation qualification and Ms. Hughes advised that the CAB worked hard to celebrate their staff's achievements. The Partnership noted that being a CAB volunteer was a good way to step back into work after being on long term sick or unemployment.

Ms. Hughes then informed the Partnership on the issues that CAB dealt with on a daily basis. These included: Benefits, debt, housing, employment and relationships as well as various other issues. It was noted that in 2005/06 the CAB dealt with 33,400 issues. When first meeting with the client the CAB would complete an initial interview to establish the facts and then either refer them, or help them further by problem solving or negotiating with others on the clients behalf.

The Partnership then noted the various Partners that worked with the CAB and Ms. Hughes explained that these Partnerships were essential to the CAB's success. Ms. Hughes highlighted the different outcomes for their clients and it was noted that the CAB had helped clients gain £890,643 worth of welfare benefits and helped to make a difference to 1000 peoples lives.

In response to a question, Ms. Hughes advised that the CAB interacted with Rushmoor in about one third of all their cases and that the Council were very helpful with requests and advice. It was also noted that the CAB would like the opportunity to do outreach visits in different communities throughout the Borough, especially in the deprived areas. The Partnership noted that debt figure in Rushmoor were similar to national figures. Ms. Hughes highlighted that figures had increased over the years because there was now so much more irresponsible lending of credit.

The Partnership thanked Ms. Hughes for her presentation.

3. **HAMPSHIRE ACTION TEAM (HAT) –**

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Cheryl Bosworth from Hampshire County Council, who attended the meeting to provide an update on the Hampshire Action Teams. Ms. Bosworth advised that she was the Hampshire Action Team Coordinator for Rushmoor and Hart and that she was one of four coordinators in Hampshire. It was noted that, in total, there were nine HATs in Hampshire, each with ten members, and that Councillor Eric Neal was acting as the Rushmoor and Hart HAT Chairman.

Ms. Bosworth provided the Partnership with a background of the HATs. She explained that it was the result of the Local Government Act 2000, which had allowed for County Councillors to be more involved with their community and play a larger role in the decision making process of the Council. Ms. Bosworth explained that the HATs were a group of County Councillors concentrating on Hampshire County Council responsibilities in the locality. This involved working with Partnerships and taking action on issues identified, as well as gaining support and statistics from Hampshire County Council's Services. It was highlighted that the HATs were trying to achieve local action and identify the real needs of residents. The HATs would feed into decisions and priorities and were able to make changes.

The Partnership then noted the HATs main obligations and Ms. Bosworth highlighted that they would be able to identify and anticipate further local needs and feed this through Hampshire County Council's decision makers. In response to a question, it was advised that the Rushmoor Strategic Partnership would also be able to feed ideas in to the HAT.

It was explained that the Rushmoor and Hart HAT had participated in four meetings and had acknowledged the various partnerships throughout the two boroughs and were now in the process of listing all the work completed. This was to ensure that work was not duplicated and Ms. Bosworth advised that the HAT would be contacting members of the Rushmoor Strategic Partnership in due course to gain required information.

In response to a question, it was explained that the HATs would not be receiving any funding and that they would instead be recommending advice and lobbying decisions to assist proposed procedures and those already in place. The Partnership thanked Ms. Bosworth for her update.

4. **LAA PRIORITY A: IMPROVE LIFE CHANCES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE –**

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Joy Waeland from Hampshire County Council, who attended the meeting to provide a presentation on LAA Priority A. Ms. Waeland began by providing a background on the Twelve Schools and Communities Project. She advised that school achievements were largely dependant on their community and that it was sometime not the child themselves that was the reason for under achievement. Ms. Waeland

explained that it was often a lack of parent involvement, out of school activities or a lack of nutrition that was the cause.

The Partnership was advised on what the project was aiming to achieve. It was explained that the aim was to make learning exciting by using a different approach to improving schools. The project also aimed at raising educational awareness in areas of significant deprivation and provided a possible model for future learning.

Ms. Waeland outlined the project introduction and explained that the twelve schools involved had first been identified in the summer of 2005. Head teachers had been interviewed and a conference was held on 15th November 2005. Individual projects and had then been outlined and funding, up to £200,000, was allocated in March 2006. A second conference was planned for 6th June 2006. It was highlighted that the schools did not necessarily need help with education and that they were asked what support they required. Teachers were also asked to identify their own solutions to problems.

The Partnership noted some examples of individual challenges, individual solutions and common themes. These included working with families, introducing breakfast clubs and nurture groups and employing learning mentors to work one on one with children. It was highlighted that one of the schools had introduced “Pizza, Puzzles and Parents Evening” to involve parents more in activities with their children. Ms. Waeland explained that it was as much about getting the parents involved as the children.

Ms. Waeland then advised the Partnership, that the Project’s “next steps” were to measure the difference it had made to the children and to establish steering groups for each of the schools. The Partnership noted that the two schools in Rushmoor were doing particularly well in the project. Cherrywood Community Primary School in Farnborough and Park Primary School in Aldershot were both rapidly improving. Cherrywood had been given £18,000 in their first year and had employed a learning mentor to work alongside children and parents. Park Primary had started a creative project and employed a link worker to work with children who were repeatedly arriving late to school and children who were not eating healthily. Coffee mornings had also been introduced where parents could meet with the head teacher, once the children were at school, and gain legal, financial and employment advice whilst socialising.

Ms. Waeland advised that funding would only be provided for three years and that the twelve schools were already aware of this. If funding were to continue, the Twelve Schools Project would need to prove that these different approaches could make a difference to a child’s learning.

Action/Decision	Who	When
To circulate a copy of the presentation slides.	Partnership Administrator	February 2007

5. **PROJECTS REPORT –**

(1) Rushmoor Learning Partnership –

The Partnership received an update from Richard Mann on the Rushmoor Learning Partnership. Mr. Mann advised that the four action groups had met twice in 2007 and circulated a paper to the Partnership on the work completed so far. The action groups would report back at the Learning Partnership's next meeting on the 1st March. Mr. Mann explained that this would be an opportunity to prioritise the outlined work.

(2) Quality of Life Report –

Les Murrell provided an update on the Rushmoor Quality of Life Report. It was explained that the report had now been circulated to 350 organisations across Rushmoor and that the report would soon be available in public venues, on the RSP website and advertised by the press. Mr. Murrell asked that the Partnership complete the feedback form attached to the report and reminded members that statistics were constantly changing and so the report would need to be updated every year.

(3) Environmental Project – Renovation of Farnborough Community Centre Pond -

The Partnership received an update on the Environmental Project from Les Murrell. He explained that research showed that Rushmoor had a lack of local pride and that it was important to improve this. The Partnership noted that the project was scheduled for completion by Easter 2007 and that schools and local groups were involved.

(4) Accidents in the Home -

Tony Docker provided an update on the Accidents in the Home Group and explained that the Group had now met four times so far. He advised that they had organised two events called the 65+ Roadshows, which were due to be held on the 26th March in Farnborough and the 29th March in Aldershot. Mr. Docker explained that Hampshire County Council were providing safe slippers for the event so residents could swap their old pairs for new ones. The Partnership noted which organisations would be attending the Roadshows and it was highlighted that the Fire Service had volunteered to supply funding to produce a falls booklet.

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership noted the updates.	All	----

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS –**

John Mitchell from Enterprise First advised that the Chambers of Commerce had launched a Government pilot on 7th February to try and improve fourteen to sixteen year olds learning at school.

Action/Decision	Who	When
Alex Hughes requested that the NHS Local Health Team be a future agenda item.	Partnership Administrator	March 2007

7. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS –**

Full Partnership Meetings:

Wednesday, 21st March 2007 – 4.00 pm at Rushmoor Borough Council

Steering Group Meetings:

Tuesday, 13th March 2007 – 10.00 am at Rushmoor Borough Council

The meeting closed at 5.50 pm.
