

Minutes of a meeting of the Warwickshire Public Service Board held on 25 September 2007

Present:

Members of the Public Service Board

Council Leaders: Alan Farnell - Warwickshire County Council (appointed chair at this meeting)
John Hammon (substitute for Michael Coker) – Warwick District Council
Colin Hayfield – North Warwickshire Borough Council
Craig Humphrey – Rugby Borough Council
Les Topham – Stratford on Avon District Council

Coventry and Warwickshire Infrastructure Consortium (CWIC)- William Clemmey

Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce – Louise Bennett

Warwickshire Police Authority – Ian Francis

Invitees and officers:

Children and Young People Theme Block Representatives (for item 4 (a):
– Marion Davis and Councillor Izzi Seccombe

District/Borough Council Chief Executives:

Chris Elliott – Warwick District Council
Christine Kerr – Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Paul Lankester – Stratford on Avon District Council
Simon Warren – Rugby Borough Council
Robert Beggs (substitute for Jerry Hutchinson, North Warwickshire borough Council)

WALC Alison Hodge

Warwickshire Police Keith Bristow Chief Constable

GOWM Sharon Shattock

Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor Rachel Mann

County Council Jim Graham - Chief Executive
David Carter – Strategic Director of Performance & Development

Dave Clarke - Strategic Director of Resources

John Deegan – Strategic Director of Environment and Economy

Andy Davis –Warwickshire Observatory

Spencer Payne – Warwickshire Observatory

Nick Gower-Johnson – County Partnerships Manager

Janet Purcell – Member Services Manager

1.	Welcome and introductions	
	The Chair welcomed Members to the Bharat Sevak Samaj which had been established 27 years ago as a centre for Indians in Rugby and which provided a focus and welcoming venue for all in the community.	
2	Apologies	
	<p>Apologies for absence were received from Members of the Board – Bryan Stoten (Chair, Warwickshire PCT) and Councillor Vaughan Owen (Association of Local Councils).</p> <p>Apologies were also received from Jerry Hutchinson, Chief Executive of North Warwickshire Borough Council and David Rose – Chief Executive of Warwickshire PCT.</p>	
3	Minutes of meeting held on 10 July 2007	
	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2007 be Agreed as a correct record.</p> <p><u>Matters arising from the minutes</u></p> <p><u>Minute 3 – website</u> Nick Gower Johnson advised that the website was now live (and accessible at the website address shown on the agenda) – www.warwickshire.gov.uk/newlaasite.</p> <p><u>Minute 10 – Communications</u> The Board was advised that the leaflet on the LAA was on the point of completion.</p>	NG-J

4	Progress across the LAA Blocks	
4a	Progress on Children and Young People	
	<p>County Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Chair of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership) and Marion Davis, (Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families and block lead) presented the progress with the Children and Young People theme block.</p> <p><u><i>Development of Partnership Working</i></u></p> <p>Marion Davis reminded the Board that the Strategic Partnership Board had been established 2.5 years ago and was reviewed some 18 months ago in the light of the LAA and in view of the Board's recognition that there were key partners that needed to be included. The current partnership therefore included schools, business and voluntary sector. As the partnership was already established and had developed its plan, it was decided that this be integrated with the LAA rather than produce a separate plan. The Partnership also had a performance monitoring system that can be accessed from their website (www.warwickshirechildren.com/cypp). An example of the data captured for quarterly reporting and list of the LAA targets were tabled.</p> <p>Councillor Izzi Seccombe emphasised how valuable the partnership had been in enabling partners to understand each other's perspective and the work they undertook. The partners had shared objectives and have agreed how they can work together on initiatives – for example in providing enhanced support services in Rugby, which were being rolled out through urban areas and to rural areas by the end of 2008.</p> <p>It was noted that the approach to resources to date had been to align partner resources rather than to attempt a pooling of them. Marion referred to the challenges for them in funding, including the changed relationship with Connexions to a 3 year commissioning arrangement and the pooling of £3m. In addition the Children Fund, once ring fenced, is now part of the LAA. Decisions needed to be made on the allocation of fundings but it was complicated by the cross cutting nature of objectives and activities. For example there had been discussion with police on the 'Safer Schools Project.'</p> <p>The following were cited as examples of cross cutting</p>	

	<p>objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halt the increase in child obesity • Reduce the fear of crime • Access to extended services/children's centres • Improve positive destinations • Develop Enhanced Support Network • Increase participation <p><u>Narrowing the Gap</u></p> <p>The Board was advised that the focus had been on the following areas, reflecting concerns reflected in other blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing teenage pregnancy • Reducing infant mortality rate • Closing the attainment gap for disadvantaged groups (looked after children) • Reducing the percentage of not in education, employment or training (NEETS). <p>It was noted that resource had been put into tackling teenage pregnancy, especially in Nuneaton. The data collection had confirmed, however, that although the level of teenage pregnancy was high in Nuneaton, a high level of conception had been discovered in Stratford, even though pregnancy rates were low.</p> <p>There were other areas that required further analysis – such as in the area of infant mortality where the target had been met but where there was an increase in Rugby. The question Marion put to the Board was whether, in focusing on one area, there was a danger of missing what was happening elsewhere. (see minute 5 below on further discussion on this issue).</p>	
	<p>The attainment gap for looked after children was also being narrowed with the number achieving 4 A-C at GCSE having increased on the previous year. The number of NEETs had also fallen (but there had been an increase in Nuneaton).</p> <p>The Board was advised that partners were keen to be ambitious in target setting with a focus on stretching targets and comparing with the 'best in class.'</p>	

	<p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <p>The following next steps were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding issues – maximising aligned resources, moving to pooled budget mechanisms • Localising the LAA through Partnerships for Action/Theme Group • Communication and Partnership • New LAA, and: • Achieving targets to improve outcomes for children and young people. 	MD
	<p>Marion was asked how she could be convinced that the right strategies were in place and that they were making a difference. Marion replied that it was not possible to be sure of effectiveness within just one year. There was, however, an issue of ensuring sufficient resources was available in schools (for example school nurses can play a part in helping to ensure children are healthy). The ability to hit targets would rely on a mix of actions. For example the healthy school target is not just about diet but also about exercise, transport, play strategies and there was a link with the healthier communities block.</p>	
	<p>A question was also asked about what action had been taken to 'raise the bar' as well as narrow the gap. It was noted that the block's ambition was to raise the bar, which was why they had set stretching targets, whose realisation would make a visible difference for the community.</p>	
4b	<p>Progress Summary from Block Leads</p> <p>The Board received the following (tabled) reports and the issues suggested should be considered by the board:</p> <p>(1) <u>Healthier Communities and Older People</u> The Block sought support to encourage the statutory agencies across Nuneaton and Bedworth to fund the Healthy Living Network from April 2008.</p> <p>(2) <u>Climate Change and the Environment</u> The Board agreed to look at the request for a small budget to facilitate guest speakers at the County-wide Theme</p>	

	<p>Group.</p> <p><u>(3) Stronger Communities</u></p> <p>The issue for this block concerned resources and a need for early decisions on the use of Reward Grant from LPSA2.</p>	
	<p><u>(4) Economic Development and Enterprise</u></p> <p>Louise Bennett reported that a workshop had been held on 12 September with a range of representatives, including councillors and officers from county and district, planning officers, LSC, private sector, AWM, Government Office and CSWP. The workshop shared progress (targets and outcomes) with focus on market towns (encouraging footfall, enterprise take up and raising the bar to higher level of growth. They considered skills and employment (or unemployment) and discussed where focus for tackling this should be and taking account of changes in trends. For example there was growing youth unemployment in Stratford. A theme group had developed which would need support officers and would look at alignment of resources, sharing of best practise, the areas of greatest need and where there was under provision.</p>	
	<p><u>(5) Safer Communities</u></p> <p>Keith Bristow reported that he was concerned that the perception is that crime is rising, even though recorded crime is down this year to date (2007/08) compared to the same period in 2006/07 in all the crime reduction priorities set by the Police Authority except 'serious violent crime'. Current performance up to the end of September is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious violent crime up 2% • Domestic burglary down 13.5% • Vehicle crime down 25.3% • Criminal damage down 7.7% <p>In addition, although not a crime reduction priority it was noted that total recorded crime was down 9.3% and there was outstanding performance in some areas – for example Warwick District recorded vehicle crime was reduced by 43.5%.</p> <p>It was important that this was recognised and that the aspiration and motivation of those who had achieved this was maintained. Whilst performance measures against LPSA2 targets indicates that not all targets are likely to be hit, the pace of improvement was excellent and the performance</p>	

	<p>gap was narrowing.</p> <p>The direction of travel for Warwickshire, therefore, is one of significant improvement but because of the Home Office approach, they were in danger of not receiving the Reward Grant.</p> <p>Sharon Shattock reported that the Home Office data had indicated that Warwickshire would not make the reduction to the target set by the Home Office.</p> <p>Jim Graham suggested that there was a need for flexibility and renegotiation of the LPSA2 targets with GOWM, particularly as there was an insistence on revising the LAA structure even for those LAAs, like Warwickshire, that had only been in place since last March. <i>(see also discussion at minute 6)</i></p>	
	The Board agreed that an overview of progress with the blocks was useful but that the format should be a brief report focussing on issues and outcomes, including an explanation of any targets that are not on track and information about positive outcomes achieved as a result of the LAA.	NGJ- to send round note to block leads (plus new template)
	During discussion it was suggested that websites for other blocks be developed to a standard as with the CY&P block. It was agreed that this be looked at.	NGJ to follow up.
4c	Programme for future block presentations	
	The following programme of presentations was agreed:	
	29 November 2007 Safer Communities	
	Climate Change and Environment	
	20 February 2008 Economic Development and Enterprise	
	Stronger Communities	
	15 April 2008 Healthier Communities & Older People	
	Children and Young People	

5	Narrowing the Gap	
	<p>Nick Gower-Johnson introduced the report which included detailed research work prepared by Andy Davis and Spencer Payne.</p> <p>An assessment of the 16 key indicators confirmed that the north-south divide persists, except in the 'access to services' indicator. Nuneaton and Bedworth is the worst performer. The ward level analysis also showed a number of wards that consistently appear within the 'best' or 'worst' 5%.</p> <p>Of particular concern is that of the 13 indicators that can be tracked over a number of years, only two show a reduction in the gap between 'best' and 'worst' districts.</p> <p>The Board's attention was drawn to the comments and suggestions from partners at paragraph 2.2 of the covering report. There were indications of the need to do research at sub district level as gaps in smaller communities were not</p>	
	<p>showing up in the data, and on areas such as ethnicity. The Board was advised not to wait for this information though.</p> <p>It was also suggested that the best performing districts should be used as basis for setting the bar.</p>	
	<p>John Deegan reported that there was a need to find out what is happening in areas that lead to the results in order to find appropriate interventions and to find the evidence that allocation of resources has produced results. Until this work is done he was not clear what interventions were needed or on what scale. He added that an officer board (including Borough representatives, FE College and Director of Public Health) would meet on 18 October to look at this. (The work was due for completion by March 2008).</p>	
	<p>The Board welcomed the report and supported the proposed further work to better understand the results and reasons for them. Members requested that there be some assessment of where each district is in relation to the best of County and in relation to the best in England.</p> <p>Whilst recognising that further analysis should continue, Members were keen to start addressing how the gap could be narrowed and to see tangible outcomes. It was suggested that</p>	

	<p>there were already areas where the need was known and where action could be taken.</p> <p>It was suggested that the blocks be asked to come back with specific actions being taken (and new proposals) to tackle the gaps with an estimate of the timescale for achieving outcomes.</p>	
	<p>During discussion Keith Bristow pointed out that there is sometimes a misalignment between what actions the public think the police should do to reduce crime and what actually works. For example visible policing has little impact on crime and often resources deployed outside an area stops crime going into an area.</p>	
	<p>The Board concluded that it supported the recommendations in the report but that the report back should include actions to address the gaps.</p>	
	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the revised data set appended to the report is confirmed.</p> <p>(2) That the Warwickshire Observatory add information that will, for each indicator in the data set, show performance that compares Warwickshire as a whole with the rest of the country.</p> <p>(3) That the gap measurement undertaken by the Warwickshire Observatory in relation to districts and electoral wards be agreed.</p> <p>(4) That further progress be made on gap quantification in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Geographical areas at a level more local than electoral wards ii) Gender iii) Age iv) ethnicity (to include economic migrants) v) social class vi) disability <p>5) That the block leaders and district LSPs report on what actions are already being taken to address the gap (and any further suggestions/ideas that are emerging) and identify</p>	<p>Andy Davis/Spencer Payne</p> <p>Andy Davis –in collaboration with partners</p> <p>Nick Gower-Johnson to coordinate.</p>

	specific communities/localities within which to focus any agreed work programme.	
6.	Local Public Service Agreement 2 (LPSA2) The Board received a report that explained the Government's approach to the reward element of the LAA, including that once targets are set and consequent levels of performance reward grant have been agreed, they cannot be renegotiated. The report before the board showed an assessment of current performance against targets, including 7 behind target, indicating that performance will not meet target required to obtain full grant. An officer working group is looking at the information to validate or otherwise the assessments. Jim Graham expressed his concern at the number of and approach to targets, out of which there were up to 35 open for negotiation with GOWM. He added that he did not see a benefit in running more targets alongside these as this increased the focus on targets and process rather than on achieving outcomes. He reiterated his plea that there be flexibility and a renegotiation of the boundaries. Sharron Shattock agreed to put the Board's views to GOWM. During discussion it was agreed that the report to the next meeting include how other partners are supporting the achievement of LPSA2 targets. Resolved That the County Council ensures the following information is available to the next meeting of the Board: a) the current and predicted performance of LPSA2 Projects as at Quarter 3 and b) The PRG likely to be available at the end of the LPSA2 agreement (March 2009).	Sharron Shattock to pass views to GOWM NG-J To coordinate with partners.
7	Safer Communities – Budget Pressures	
	Nick Gower Johnson presented the report back from the safer Communities Partnership, requested by the Board at its last meeting. The report set out how the shortfall of £95,454 would be met from the County Council Community Safety Budget and from reduction in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	

	allocations.	
	<p>Concern was expressed about the lateness of Home Office allocations in the past and the risk to retention of staff and cost this caused local authorities.</p> <p>Dave Clarke reported that he had made representations on behalf of the Society of County Treasurers and had been told that the Home Office intention was to announce the 3 year grant allocations following the comprehensive spending review announcement and about the same time as the local government grant settlement.</p>	
8.	Partnerships Update	
8a	County Themed Partnerships Membership Update	
	The Board considered updates to the membership of the Safer Communities Partnership and the Stronger Communities Partnership, which had been suggested by the two partnerships since the last meeting of the Board.	
	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the Safer Communities Themed Block membership include a representative of the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust.</p> <p>(2) That the Stronger Communities Themed Block membership include a representative of the Warwickshire Primary Care Trust and a representative of Warwickshire Police.</p>	
8b	Local Strategic Partnership Update	
	<p>The Chair reported that the last meeting of the task and finish group had taken place and had considered the review of the LSP's governance arrangements. The update on the position with the Nuneaton and Bedworth LSP was tabled.</p> <p>The Board noted the report.</p>	
9.	Six monthly review of the LAA and the 'New LAA'	
	Nick Gower-Johnson presented a report that set out a proposed process to the mid year review, with a suggested format for each of the Blocks to follow and a format for overall	

	<p>self-assessment. A template for completion by the blocks to start consideration of the new LAA was also included. The new LAA needed to be signed off by March 2008 (with Government approval by June 2008).</p> <p>Members expressed frustration that the Government Office had not accepted the suggestion that, as the Warwickshire LAA had only been in place 6 months, it should be excluded from review for at least another year. Members were particularly concerned that it will discourage rather than encourage partnership working and another round of reviewing and focussing on targets could cause severe de-motivation amongst those who want to concentrate their efforts on producing positive outcomes for Warwickshire.</p> <p>Sharron Shattock agreed to make representations to GOWM.</p>	
	<p>Resolved</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) That the processes and timescales described in the report for undertaking the mid year review of the LAA and the preparation of the new LAA be noted. (2) That the Block Leaders and partners comment on the mid year review immediately and use the opportunity given by the review to begin the process of considering the new LAA. (3) That the Board place on record its disappointment that this process has been applied so soon after the establishment of the LAA and its concerns that it could distract partners from working together for innovative solutions. 	
10	Advisory Forum	
	<p>The Forum discussed the timing of a meeting of the Advisory Forum and the possible format of the meeting which could cover work on 'narrowing the gap', successes to date and an opportunity to engage with wider partners on the new LAA.</p> <p>The Board agreed that a meeting should be held in March when the fuller picture of the evidence relating to narrowing the gap would be available.</p>	
11	2008/09 Budget Planning Framework	
	Dave Clarke advised the Board that it needed to begin to develop its initial views on the use of any available LAA Pooled	

	<p>Grant to deliver the LAA in 2008/09 and beyond, at its November meeting, allowing partners to build this into their local planning processes.</p> <p>The Board considered a framework of budget principles against which each block leader and partner should consider the financial issues they face in delivering the LAA priorities. The report also suggested that block lead finance officers consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what are the proposals for considering the redirection of LAA pooled Grant to deliver the priorities? • Are there any areas where the redirection of LAA pooled grant cannot be considered? • Are there any areas where additional resources could provide measurable stretch outcomes? <p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the 2008/09 Budget Planning Framework (paragraph 4.3) be approved.</p> <p>(2) That the Themed Blocks comment on the potential use of LAA Pooled Grant in 2008/09 and 2009/10 in the light of the framework, reporting back to the meeting of the Board on 29 November 2007.</p>	Virginia Rennie (WCC Resources)
12	Liam Byrne, Minister for the West Midlands	
	Sharron Shattock reported that Liam Byrne would be touring Stratford, Warwick and Leamington on 26 November and would be visiting Camp Hill and Warwick University on 17 December.	
13	<p>Arrangements for the Next Meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting should take place in Nuneaton & Bedworth – possibly in the new Camp Hill Community Centre and to be followed/preceded by a tour in order to raise members' awareness of some of the issues discussed under minute 5 above.</p>	NG-J and Ckerr to coordinate

The meeting finished at 4.05 p.m.

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Chair