

HEALTHIER READING PARTNERSHIP BOARD MINUTES - 6 OCTOBER 2009

Present:

Bev Searle (Chair)	NHS Berkshire West
Councillor Orton	Reading Borough Council
Anne Laing	Reading Voluntary Action
Nina Sethi	Reading LINK
Grant Thornton	Reading Borough Council
Chris Turner	Reading Citizens' Advice Bureau
Kim Wilkins	NHS Berkshire West

Also in Attendance:

Janette Searle	Reading Borough Council
Nicky Simpson	Reading Borough Council

Apologies:

Councillor Ennis	Reading Borough Council
Councillor T Harris	Reading Borough Council
Councillor Beard	Reading Borough Council
Sallie Bacon	NHS Berkshire West
Sarah Gee	Reading Borough Council
Jackie Lonsdale	NHS Berkshire West
Melani Oliver	Reading Borough Council
Deborah Wilson	Berkshire Scout Enterprises Ltd

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 3 (4) of the last meeting, it was reported that the Management Group had not yet produced briefing material for those involved in the Healthier Reading Partnership (HRP) Board, but that a glossary of terms used in health and social care would be appended to the Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

Further to Minute 9 of the last meeting, Bev Searle, West Berkshire Area Director, NHS Berkshire West, reported that funding for the Tobacco Control Coordinator Post had been able to be confirmed by the use of external monies. She said that she would update the Board further at the next meeting.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That Bev Searle bring an update on the Tobacco Control Coordinator post to the next meeting.

3. DRAFT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Further to Minute 2 (5) of the last meeting, Grant Thornton, Head of Community Planning, submitted a report which had appended a draft Partnership Agreement for the Healthier Reading Partnership (HRP) Board.

The draft Partnership Agreement built on and incorporated the membership and Terms of Reference agreed at the last meeting. It developed them into a more detailed agreement that covered how the Partnership would operate in relation to mechanics, roles, responsibilities and values. It incorporated:

- Purpose and Aims
- Status
- Make-up of the Board
- Selection of Board members (members to comply with a proposed person specification set out in Appendix A)
- Board membership - Role and tenure and deputies
- Board meetings
- Chair and Vice Chair
- Management Group - membership and role
- Development Role
- Disputes and Personal Issues

The report stated that the Agreement was modelled on that for the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) but simplified to be more appropriate for the thematic role of the partnership. It also contained a commitment to the Nolan Principles of Public Life which embodied the desire to work collectively to achieve shared goals for the public good (attached at Appendix B).

The meeting discussed and endorsed the proposal in the draft Agreement that the Chair of the Board should be the Area Director of the Primary Care Trust (PCT) or equivalent PCT LSP representative, to ensure that the Chair of the thematic partnership was also an LSP Board member. It also endorsed the proposal that the Vice Chair would be elected annually by secret ballot, with the position normally being rotated between representatives of the different agencies and sectors on the Board, and in any one year the Chair and Vice Chair being drawn from two different agencies/sectors.

It was noted that the draft Agreement currently required each Board member to have one named, fully briefed deputy who had comparable authority within their organisation or partnership to act on the Board member's behalf, in line with the situation on the LSP Board. However, the meeting discussed the difficulty of achieving this for members from the voluntary sector and it was suggested that the focus should be on encouraging attendance and achieving a quorum (defined in the draft Agreement as at least half the members). There was already a reference in the Agreement to the Board investigating if a Board member missed three consecutive meetings and it was suggested that there should be no reference to formal deputies in the Agreement, but that if a member of the Board could not attend a meeting, they

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could, with the agreement of the Chair, send an alternative representative from their organisation.

Further to Minute 2 (7) of the last meeting, the Board discussed the possible involvement of a Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) community representative in the work of the Board. It was noted that the Agreement already said that the Board would have the right to invite other persons to attend the Board as and when appropriate, and the Board discussed the difficulties of identifying one individual to represent the diverse BME community. It was agreed that a specific reference to the Board having the right to invite a BME representative to be co-opted onto the Board as necessary should be added to the Agreement. It was also suggested that, when referring to health inequalities impact in reports to the Board, report authors should include reference to the impact on BME groups.

AGREED:

That Grant Thornton amend the draft Partnership Agreement in line with the comments made above and bring the Agreement back for approval at the next meeting.

4. LAA QUARTER 1 2009/10 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Grant Thornton, Head of Community Planning, submitted a report presenting data on performance against health-related targets for Local Area Agreement (LAA) 1 (Appendix 1) and LAA2 (Appendix 2) for Quarter 1 of 2009/10.

It was noted that, whilst there was a lot of work going on in the voluntary sector which contributed to the indicators, there was no formal way of this work being included in the performance data, eg people who stopped smoking but had not been formally involved with the "Stop Smoking" service were not included in the data for smoking quitters. It was suggested that one way of capturing the contributions to achieving the targets from all of the sectors would be to include these in the action plan for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

It was explained that the voluntary sector was already familiar with the relevant LAA targets for their area and how they were contributing to them, as this information had been displayed on stalls at the last LSP Forum in November 2008.

AGREED:

- (1) That performance on health-related targets for LAA1 and LAA2 for Quarter 1 2009/10 be noted;
- (2) That the Management Group consider ways of capturing the contributions from all sectors towards achievement of the LAA targets for inclusion in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Action Plan.

5. JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT (JSNA)

Further to Minute 4 of the last meeting, Bev Searle, West Berkshire Area Director, NHS Berkshire West, updated the meeting on the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

Bev explained that the first draft of the Reading JSNA had now been produced for consideration by officers at the PCT and the Council and a workshop had recently been held to check that the draft identified key health and wellbeing issues for Reading and that it sourced important information from other relevant documents. The draft JSNA would be brought to the next Board meeting, and it would hopefully be on the agenda for the planned away day. It would be important for the Health & Wellbeing Strategy to address the key issues identified in the JSNA.

The meeting discussed the key issues in Reading that were likely to be flagged up in the JSNA, including the effect of alcohol on health and community safety, and the possible impact of the differences in population age profiles across the different local authority areas on decisions about prioritising work.

AGREED:

That Bev Searle bring the draft JSNA to the next meeting.

6. HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY - PROPOSALS FOR COMPLETION

Further to Minute 5 of the last meeting, Bev Searle, West Berkshire Area Director, NHS Berkshire West, submitted a report proposing a timetable for the completion of the Reading Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

The report explained that the draft Strategy had been considered by the Board at its last meeting, when there had been broad agreement about the priorities and structure of the document, but further work had been required on the vision statement and some sections of the document had required additional information.

The proposed timetable suggested circulation of the second draft by email to the Partnership by 31 October 2009, for comments by 30 November 2009, so that the third draft could be completed for approval by the HRP at the away day in December 2009. The Consultation draft would be completed by 30 December 2009 for wider circulation from January to March 2010 and the final draft would be published in April 2010.

It was suggested that when circulation to voluntary groups was needed, the Local Involvement Network (LINK) could help with this. It was also suggested that the consultation could be used to encourage people to feed in material for inclusion in the Health & Wellbeing Strategy Action Plan.

Bev Searle reported that, at the last meeting of the Housing, Health and Community Care Scrutiny Panel, she had presented an update report on service provision in South Reading, and had indicated that the Healthier Reading Partnership would be an ideal

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forum to consider how to improve health and wellbeing in South Reading through a coordinated partnership approach, building on existing initiatives. This geographical area had a higher level of health need than some other parts of Reading, as a result of the relatively high level of deprivation of the area, and the Partnership would be well placed to address this issue in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Action Plan.

AGREED:

That the timetable for completion of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy be endorsed.

7. AWAY DAY

Further to Minute 3 of the last meeting, Grant Thornton, Head of Community Planning, submitted a report setting out the need for and potential content of an away day for the Healthier Reading Partnership.

The report explained that, at its last meeting, the Board had agreed to a cycle of six meetings per year, four on a quarterly scheduled basis, with an additional two out of cycle meetings, one of which would be an away day. The report suggested that the away day should be held in late November or early December 2009, in advance of the 14 January 2010 Board meeting.

The aim of the away day would be for the Board to get to know each other, gain shared knowledge of key issues, reflect on the emerging Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan and to think about the future work programme. Key subjects to be considered at the away day would include:

- Evidence base - JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment)
- Policy Overview; Change and transformation agendas
- Developing the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (facilitated via workshops to consider emerging challenges).

Emerging challenges were likely to encompass:

- Geographic inequalities and service gaps
- Similarly in relation to BME (Black & Minority Ethnic) groups and communities of interest
- Preventative services and health improvement
- Financial context, joint commissioning and greater efficiencies

AGREED:

- (1) That an away day be held prior to the next scheduled Board meeting on 14 January 2010;
- (2) That members of the Board be consulted on their availability for a possible away day to be held on 9, 10 or 11 December 2009, starting at 9am for 9.30am, and finishing in the early afternoon;

- (3) That the detailed planning of the away day be delegated to the Management Group, taking into account the views of the Board.

8. ADULT SOCIAL CARE GREEN PAPER - SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CARE TOGETHER; THE BIG CARE DEBATE

Janette Searle, Strategy Manager, submitted a briefing note on a Department of Health Green Paper entitled "Shaping the Future of Care Together", which was the source document behind The Big Care Debate, a national consultation running until 13 November 2009. The briefing note had the consultation questionnaire appended. Janette also tabled copies of slides from a presentation on this matter at the meeting.

The note explained that the Green Paper sought to address perceived unfairness in the current social care system in two respects - in relation to penalising those who had acquired assets through careful financial planning and management, and in the "postcode lottery" where the level of need at which someone was eligible for social care services varied in different local authority areas. The Green Paper contained two key concepts - a vision for a National Care Service, and a series of options for funding this.

The new National Care Service would be defined by a vision with the following six elements, which were explained further in the briefing note:

- Prevention Services
- National Assessment
- Joined Up Service
- Information and Advice
- Personalised Care and Support
- Fair Funding

To achieve the vision, three main changes were required to the care and support system: more joined-up working; a wider range of care and support services; and better quality and innovation. The following three possible models for funding the service were being proposed, with the funding options of paying for yourself and tax-funded having already been ruled out, and the note gave further analysis of the different options:

- Partnership
- Insurance
- Comprehensive

The government was also seeking views on whether it should set the amount of funding to which individuals would be entitled, which could vary in different parts of England, or whether local authorities should be able to set this amount. This would have implications for whether social care funding should be raised through national tax or council tax.

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Janette reported that a number of consultation events on the Green Paper had taken place in Reading and summarised some of the views expressed at the Reading Older People's Partnership consultation event, which had included: a request for more availability of information on care services; a positive response to the vision, especially the emphasis on prevention; a preference for a national funding model to avoid the "postcode lottery" problem; and an interest in having more information on the proposed funding options.

It was reported that the Council and the PCT would both be responding to the consultation. It was suggested that it would be useful for Partners to share their responses to the consultation with each other and that a way to do this would be to submit copies to the 14 January 2010 Board meeting.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That copies of Partners' consultation responses to The Big Care Debate be submitted to the Board meeting on 14 January 2010.

9. SPECIAL SCRUTINY OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH & EDUCATION

Kim Wilkins, Strategic Lead for Health Improvement: Reading, NHS Berkshire West, submitted a report giving details of a joint scrutiny review of Children's Health and Education which was to be held on 14 October 2009 by members of the Housing, Health & Community Care and Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Panels.

The aim of the joint scrutiny review was to consider the relationship between poverty and deprivation and children's health outcomes and educational attainment and a report had been prepared for the members of the Panels giving an overview and addressing nine key areas selected for particular attention. The report stated that, following the joint scrutiny meeting, the papers and outputs from the session would be circulated to the HRP Board for information and consideration.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

10. FORWARD PLAN

Grant Thornton, Head of Community Planning, said that a forward plan for the HRP was being produced by the Management Group and would be considered further at the away day and the next meeting of the Board.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) LINK Project - Availability of NHS Dental Treatment

Nina Sethi, Alafia Coordinator for Reading LINK, said that the LINKs Board would soon be deciding on its next project, which was likely to be on the availability of NHS dental treatment, and that if this topic was chosen, it was likely that the LINK would ask for early input from the Healthier Reading Partnership.

(b) LSP Forum Event - 17 November 2009

Grant Thornton, Head of Community Planning, said that the 2009 LSP Forum event to be held on 17 November 2009 was to be run to a different format than in previous years. Two expert speakers would give talks on The Impact of the Recession & Economic Issues and Climate Change & Sustainability Issues, followed by workshops to consider the Reading of the future, in which the LSP thematic partnerships (including the HRP) would play a key part.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED: That a date for an away day be arranged and the next scheduled meeting of the Healthier Reading Partnership be held on Thursday 14 January 2010.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and closed at 7.51pm)

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