

## **AGENDA**

### **West Kent Partnership**

**10am, 20 January 2006** - The Riverside Suite, The Angel Centre, Tonbridge

1. Minutes/matters arising
2. Co-ordinator's Financial report (to note) Paper A
3. Priority Communities – Paper B – Eamonn Dillon
4. Community plans – 3 x verbal reports
5. Sub Group updates
  - Business Development (Paper C)
  - Learning and Skills (Paper D)
  - Housing (Paper E)
  - Transport (Paper F)
  - Health (Paper G)
6. Presentation – Peter Horne, South West Kent PCT – Sexual Health
7. Consultation – Vision for Kent – Presentation – Liz McCutcheon \*
8. Any Other Business
9. Dates next meetings
  - Friday 28 April
  - Friday 16 June – half day conference
  - Friday 14 July
  - Friday 20 October

\* display in Angel Centre foyer

**Paper A****WKP Financial Report – January 2006**

	<b>2003/4</b>	<b>2004/5</b>	<b>2005/6</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Projected</b>
<b>Income</b>	50000	55000	55000	160000
overhead (co-ordinator + marketing)	2429	22955	31616	57000
Projects	11360	27450	64190	103000
<b>Total</b>	<b>13789</b>	<b>50405</b>	<b>95806</b>	<b>160000</b>
<b>Projects</b>				
Key Worker	11360		3640	15000
WKCVS post		6250	18750	25000
Priority Communities		7000		7000
Safety in Action		4600		4600
Volunteering England		9600		9600
AIF review			5000	5000
<b>TOTAL allocated</b>	<b>11360</b>	<b>27450</b>	<b>27390</b>	<b>66200</b>
<b>Total Unallocated</b>				<b>36800</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>103000</b>

## **Paper B**

### **West Kent Local Strategic Partnership (WK LSP) Priority Communities Sub-Group**

#### **Outline Development Proposal (December 2005)**

## **1. Introduction and Background**

The Priority Communities Sub-Group was established in July 2005. From the outset it was agreed that the broad-based multi-agency group would meet for a maximum of three meetings over the period to December 2005 and would prepare an outline development proposal, for WK LSP consideration. The following Terms of Reference were agreed at the first meeting in July:

- 1) To decide which specific issues should be included within a West Kent Priority Communities programme;
- 2) To determine which external funding streams should be further evaluated to support the programme;
- 3) To consider which local agencies need to be engaged;
- 4) To draw up an action plan and set out implementation and timescales;
- 5) The key priority is to support children and families, and in particular children living in poverty and achieving low educational attainment.

## **2. Coverage**

The sub-group covers the administration areas of Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells District/Borough Councils. The West Kent Priority Communities study carried out on behalf of the WK LSP in 2004 and presented to the WK LSP early in 2005, identified seven priority communities:

**Snodland** / Tonbridge & Malling  
**East Malling** / Tonbridge & Malling  
**Trench** / Tonbridge & Malling  
**Edenbridge** / Sevenoaks  
**Swanley** / Sevenoaks  
**Broadwater** / Tunbridge Wells  
**Sherwood** / Tunbridge Wells

## **3. Sub-Group Membership**

The group broadly consisted of the membership listed below, although not all could attend the limited number of meetings.

Eamonn Dillon – West Kent Extra (Chair)

Malcolm Staunton – Kent & Medway Learning & Skills Council  
Angela Painter – South West Kent Primary Care Trust  
Penny Chatfield – Home Start  
Jane Grogan – Kent County Council (KCC) – Social Services  
Karen Coffey – KCC – Education & Libraries Services  
Mark Raymond – Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council  
Pauline Smith – KCC – Supporting Independence Programme  
Lorna Innes, Job Centre Plus  
Rob Marsh – YMCA  
Merle Bigden – Sevenoaks District Council  
Mark Gorringe – Connexions Service  
Terry Wood, Job Centre Plus  
Peter Tree, KCC – Social Services  
Linda Mortley, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council  
Christine Upton – KCC – Adult Education Services  
Greg Falvey – High Weald Housing Association  
Linda Gay – KCC – Social Services  
Sarah. Whittaker – KCC – Social Services  
Theresa Seal – KCC – Social services

Janet Baker – Sevenoaks District Council (Administration and Minutes)

At the second meeting of the group on 11 October it was agreed that a small group would meet (on 11 November) to draft an outline proposal and that this would be considered at the final meeting of the full sub-group on 06 December. This is the outline proposal, which has emerged from those discussions.

#### **4. Outline Proposal**

We are keen to ensure that the focus on children and families would lead to a development/implementation plan that would benefit each of the three local authority areas, with particular attention to the seven Priority Communities listed above. Ideally, we would expect that any WK LSP implementation plan would allow for a 'customised' approach to respond to specific issues of concern in each of the seven priority communities, but equally it seems appropriate to look for common themes.

Currently work is underway in each of the three local authorities on the development of a Childrens' Consortia and it is highly appropriate therefore, that whatever we propose should match and support initiatives evolving from the three consortia.

The three consortia are proposing a number of themes, such as,

- Ensuring better access to services for 0 to 19 year olds and families in rural patches;
- Reduction of the number of children at risk of school exclusion;
- Improving speech and language for 0 to 4 year olds;
- Addressing the need for children and adolescent mental health services;
- Building on support for 0 to 5 year olds;
- Integrating services around schools;
- Ensuring equitable access and participation in the development of childrens' services;
- Addressing the issue of domestic violence;
- Improving access to employment and housing provision for 16 to 19 year olds.

## **5. Priority Communities Key Themes and Supporting Data**

We propose that whatever work the WK LSP embarks on it should link to these themes with a priority given to work with children and young people. The following 'themes' or issues, which appear to be 'common' themes across the three local authorities, are highlighted as such a priority.

- 1) Address isolation (rural/urban in respect of the seven areas listed) - particularly to ensure better access to services for 0 to 19 year olds and especially for young families with children aged 0 to 5 years.
- 2) Address the need for children and adolescent mental health services.
- 3) Improve access to employment and housing for 16 to 19 year olds.

These themes are also broadly in-line with key targets for Kent's Local Area Agreement and Public Service Agreement 2, particularly Outcomes 7 and 13.

To tackle these priority themes a wide range of related issues will need to be considered, such as, transport; availability of services and access to service sites; availability of alternative curriculum services; opportunities for the provision of dedicated specialist provision (e.g. CAMHs – Children and Adolescent Mental Health services); skill shortage and access routes for those on benefits – to employment, vocational and further education; community safety and the concerns of anti-social behaviour; opportunities for the sustainability and further development of the Power Project (including consideration of appropriate response/support for those identified through the Power Project).

All local statutory and indeed Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organizations now have access to a wide range of local data sources, which will support any likely action response. KCC's Supporting Independence Programme and the work of the three Children's Consortia can provide specific data for the three local authority areas (and thus for the seven priority communities). Copies of relevant data can be provided as supporting documents with this report, but is unlikely significantly to tell us anything we do not know already. In any event any new local initiative would need to be backed up with as much local information as available (on existing services) to identify the likely gaps. It was agreed that PCT and KCC colleagues will provide information on existing services to support any Priority Communities initiatives.

## **6. Way Forward**

Discussion at the final meeting of the sub-group (on 06 December) highlighted the need to take forward work which is not being undertaken by others at present, either within the statutory or VCS, or to support initiatives that were struggling to go forward due, for example, to lack of resources. Considering the themes listed above there was strong feeling that issues relating to young people who are disadvantaged and disaffected should be a priority and furthermore, that we should look to support initiatives which aim to tackle:

- preventing homeless amongst 16-19 year olds;
- provision of emotional and mental health support for young people;

- the need to support the voluntary sector in developing youth activities and support initiatives, including employment, to help young offenders and those at risk of offending/exclusion from school.

A number of proposals emerged regarding the broad approach to be taken on the ground to progress this work. One such proposal is discussed further here. Peripatetic Youth Workers, a mobile resource of two or three people, could work to support local VCS and statutory services, with the prime purpose of building and sustaining local capacity. These youth workers could work alongside existing local authority youth workers and VCS youth organizations. They would work to promote and support volunteers, to work specifically with young people aged 16 plus.

This work could incorporate aspects of an existing British Red Cross scheme ('New Start'), in Edenbridge, which is currently funded by Connexions. This takes a preventative approach aimed at supporting those who have 'fallen through the net', through a community development approach and through specific action to introduce these young people to positive activities and involvement in their local communities. This successful model works closely with existing statutory and VCS services and mobilizes local resources to support local (dislocated) young people and to tackle local concerns. This model could be replicated across the seven Priority Communities.

## **7. Priority Communities Project Management**

We propose that the lead responsibility for delivery of any proposed action/implementation plan should lie with each of the three WK LSP local authorities, working to the common themes identified above. We are very much in agreement that whilst all, or some, agencies - statutory and VCS - are likely to have a presence in each of the seven priority communities at present, there is a very real need to co-ordinate the activities of all those involved in each priority community. There is ample evidence, across the country (and the county) to show that where one agency is given the lead to co-ordinate activities there is greater likelihood of progress.

It was further proposed that the WK LSP link the work of the Priority Communities (initial research and the follow-up work of this sub-group) to the existing WK LSP Housing and Skills sub-groups.

## **8. Project Costs and Funding Opportunities**

A very rough estimate of costs for the Peripatetic Youth Work model referred to above suggests £45,000 per module, per annum, with three modules (one covering each local authority area) with £35,000 for staff costs and £10,000 for support activities. Each module would support specialist, targeted youth intervention work, supported by broader community development activity and would also focus on generic 'rural' patches as well as specific estates. External funding would be required to enable such a project to be implemented.

However, if this particular proposal is supported it is suggested, as a first step, that the WK LSP allocates approximately £5,000 to employ experienced/specialist 'bid writing' resources to take full advantage of available external funding. In this regard

the WK LSP would also have the opportunity of working with KCC's External Funding Unit, which has had a number of successes in the past couple of years.

With this resource in place, the project specification could be further developed in partnership with key agencies to ensure complementarity with existing programmes and local needs.

Eamonn Dillon  
Managing Director West Kent Extra – December 2005  
(on behalf of the Priority Communities Sub-Group).

## Paper C

### Business Development Sub Group Update – January 20 2006

The Homeworker Project group will meet on 19 January to discuss with West Kent College and Hadlow how to bring together IT training and support providers and others in a consortium to provide access to safe, impartial, trustworthy advice and training. The current and potential offer from colleges and how to link to potential delivery partners will be considered and an outline package worked up. Any future consortium will be led by the business development sub group with a brief to ensure that the Consortium develops a business plan focussing on partnership working and innovation and acts as a catalyst to increased effectiveness and profitability of vital WK economic sector through more efficient use of ICT.

The AIF executive group (who are all members of the business development sub group) met in November. It was agreed that two new working groups, closely linked to the business development sub group would be established to link to the themes emerging from the revised AIF. A group to exploit marketing opportunities and potential for West Kent will be established and their brief is likely to include:

- commissioning a study on perceptions of West Kent from outside West Kent
- carrying forward sites and demand project
- 2012 opportunities
- Tourism
- Inward investment opportunities
- Lobbying on behalf of West Kent

Secondly, a Landbased Sector group to include responsibility for rural business development as well as landbased business and issues is to be established. The group is to be chaired by Paul Hannan, Principal of Hadlow College.

It was further decided that the scope of the Business Development sub group be expanded to become the Business and Enterprise group. The following projects/direction the Business Development group might take are proposed:

- Develop town centre strategies based on the work currently underway in TWBC so that we have one for each of the major Districts
- Lobby SEEDA for the establishment of an Enterprise Gateway
- Audit of affordable business premises; premises in general and potential areas for development with a view to developing managed start-up space. Look at the potential for incubator space on school premises. Also the potential of unused high street premises for hatcheries/serviced affordable space etc.
- Develop an initiative for entrepreneurship in schools
- Look into the support of entrepreneurialism for the 50+ age group.

Roger House  
Chairman, Business Development Sub Group

**Paper D****West Kent Partnership Update 12th January 2006****West Kent Skills Forum (19+)**

This group met on 10<sup>th</sup> January.

The issue of the name of this group had been raised at the last WK Partnership meeting with the request that (19+) be removed. Following discussion it was decided that the current name clearly distinguished this forum from the WK14-19 Review and Planning Forum. It was felt that several members of this group are also members of the WK 14-19 Forum and able to report on the activity of that group. The focus of this group needs to be education and skills issues 19+ including workforce development, developing provision in line with business needs of WK, Adult Education, the Vocational Skills agenda and the Higher Education agenda. The group will include learning at all levels including Skills for Life (Basic skills) and the needs of priority communities. The group will also focus on specific sectors and work with the Sector Skills Councils. It is important not to duplicate existing activity. These two groups will address both the implementation of the outcomes of the Strategic Area Reviews for young people and adults and the WK AIF priorities under strategic objective 2. Both groups will report to the WK Partnership meetings.

Initial discussions were held about the WK Partnership **Strategic Objectives 2: Maximise opportunities for individuals to enhance their skills.**

**2.1 Develop a programme of enterprise education in West Kent Schools and Colleges.**

'Kent Works' is the organisation currently holding the contract for this activity, they will be invited to give an update of progress in WK to the next meeting of the 14-19 Review and Planning Forum. Emily Haswell will provide information on two pilots currently under way to support this in WK to the next meeting of this group

**2.2 Improve the provision of behavioural, emotional and mental health support for children and young people in learning****2.3 Extend alternative curriculum opportunities in KS3 and KS4**

both the above were agenda items at the last meeting of the 14-19 Review and Planning Forum.

**2.4 Develop specific proposals to develop provision in line with business needs for the following:**

- **Land based studies** – Hadlow College will take the lead here
- **Logistics** – West Kent College and Hadlow College will formulate plans for this
- **Leadership and Management** – Initial proposal discussed for a joint offer from both Colleges, discussion covered the need for an attractive base (possibly on the Hadlow site) and rebranding to attract business interest. WKC are now running supervisory management programmes which will provide a foundation for higher level management courses and training in land based and other sectors.

**2.5 Promote West Kent FE/HE provision to local people** – The Colleges together with Business Link Kent and local employers will form a sub-group to develop a range of partnership activities to support this item and to promote training to employers. Both colleges are aiming for 'Action for Business College' kite mark status this year.

The next meeting will be Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Wendy Wilton  
Kent and Medway Learning Partnerships  
13 1 2006

## **Paper E**

### **Report of WK Partnership Housing sub-group to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2006 meeting**

This sub-group met on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005 and discussed the following items:

- The Housing Corporation bid for grant to develop new affordable homes – in west Kent there is an issue in that land values make it difficult for social rented housing schemes to stack up financially (unless there is a s.106 agreement planning subsidy) – this means that Housing Associations are forced to do a higher percentage of shared ownership
- Progress on the adoption of a west Kent sub-regional housing statement – this has now been to all 3 LA cabinet meetings and has been adopted.
- Feedback on the results of the ODPM bids to help LAs reduce use of temporary accommodation for the homeless and for a sub-regional Choice Based Lettings (CBL) scheme. Both bids failed – see below paragraph on group's analysis of reasons for this and response.
- Sub-regional responses to the Regional Spatial Strategy – west Kent authorities need to recognise that they are in the lowest category in terms of resource distribution for social housing grant. To combat this position there is a need to lobby and use all information (TWBC and T&MBC have just done housing needs surveys) and to challenge the formula that put all 3 LAs into the lowest category.
- Feedback from Kent Housing Group
- TWBC seminar on their Audit Commission Inspection.

#### **Feedback on results of ODPM bids to help LAs reduce use of temporary accommodation for the homeless and for a sub-regional CBL scheme**

Both bids failed. Feedback suggests that in particular on the CBL bid our lack of member approval (now given) before submitting the bid and the gaps and omissions within the bid because we have not decided how the scheme might work in practice contributed to this failure. In contrast the 7 Mid and East Kent LAs bid was successful. Their bid was led by the Chief Housing Officer at Dover (now Thanet) who formerly set up one of the first CBL schemes covering local authorities in West London. They also have existing CBL schemes (e.g. Ashford) that they can expand. We need to get our sub-regional act together – currently we are losing out. We need a broader vision of what sub-regional working means and the benefits; and we need to create more support for this approach amongst the leaders of west Kent. The meeting agreed that there would be a brainstorming session on CBL in the New Year (fixed for 18<sup>th</sup> Jan) so that we could try and better prepare ourselves for the next round of bidding for money from the ODPM to promote sub-regional schemes.

The leader of the successful Mid and East Kent bid will be attending the meeting in Jan to help us work through what to do next.

The failure of the bid for money to help with reducing homeless cases in temporary accommodation by 50% has made the group think again about how to make offers from the private sector deemed as 'qualifying offers'. When inspecting TWBC the Audit Commission Inspectors expressed the view that Housing Association leasing schemes could be a means of hitting 2 targets – private sector renewal i.e. grant money would enable run down homes in the private sector to be brought back into use provided they were then made available for homeless households. If these homes could be made available prior to people being deemed 'homeless' then there

would be no need for them to sign that they accepted these homes as 'qualifying offers'. Prevention being better than cure - the emphasis being on housing advice to point people in this direction.

**Paper F**

**TRANSPORT SUB-GROUP REPORT – JANUARY 2006**

**Local Transport Plan Bid**

Since the latest meeting of the Transport Sub-group, Kent County Council have been apprised of the Government's settlement for the Provisional LTP. This will be discussed in detail at the meeting of the Transport Sub-group programmed for 1 February 2006.

As reported to the previous meeting of the Partnership, KCC will probably review the proposed project programmes to reflect the level of settlement and any schemes that are carried over from earlier years. District representatives of the Sub-group reiterated their requests to have the opportunity to input into the review process reflecting their considerable involvement in the derivation of the programmes.

**Integrated Kent Rail Franchise**

The Department for Transport announced on 30 November 2005 that the Integrated Kent Franchise is to be awarded to GoVia. The franchisee is to be in place by 01 April 2006.

## **Paper G**

### **WEST KENT PARTNERSHIP**

**20 JANUARY 2006**

#### **HEALTH POLICY BOARD UPDATE REPORT**

The Health Policy Board met on 28 October 2005. The Board decided that the membership of the group will in future include representatives from both the Acute and Social Care Trusts. The Board will then have full representation from local authorities and health partners.

#### **Choosing Health**

The Board was advised that the Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) would be allocated £1.2 million for 2006/07, increasing to £2m recurring in 2007/08 to tackle the "Choosing Health" priorities. The allocation of the funding was at the discretion of the PCTs in response to known local needs. The funding would support two main streams of activity:

- centrally delivered pan PCT services, e.g. sexual health clinics, national Chlamydia screening programme, Obesity reduction programmes, mental health activity; and
- community activity that is considered responsive to local health needs. (The board's senior managers' group subsequently produced a bidding process for the funding of local health initiatives which has resulted in submissions being made by local authorities to the PCTs). A verbal update on progress with this issue, which is presently being evaluated by the PCTs, is expected to be given at the meeting.

#### **Sexual Health**

A presentation was given by Peter Horne (South West Kent Primary Care Trust) on sexual health across South of West Kent. The National Chlamydia Screening Programme, targeting the 16-24 age group, would benefit from support from partner organisations to ensure positive health outcomes. It was agreed that this informative presentation on the significant pressures on current sexual health services in the area should be made to a future meeting of the West Kent Partnership.

#### **Reorganisation of NHS structures**

Dr O'Neil explained that over the past 12 months, South West Kent and Maidstone and Weald PCTs had been undertaking joint working. They now had joint management teams and a joint chief executive. However, a recent government proposal for a change in structure to the NHS had suggested that Medway would form one PCT and that the rest of Kent would be covered by two PCTs. The structure of the Ambulance Trust and PCTs was also likely to change. A consultation on the proposed changes has started. [www.kmpatientlednhs.nhs.uk](http://www.kmpatientlednhs.nhs.uk)

### **Influenza Pandemic**

Planning for dealing with any possible influenza pandemic was currently being undertaken by PCTs. Local authorities were being asked to be involved in the planning process.

### **Public Health Report for South of West Kent**

Dr O'Neil advised that the Joint Public Health Annual Report had been produced. This report defines the priorities for health action for partners across South of West Kent. The document has subsequently been circulated to local authorities.

### **Recommendations**

#### Implementation of Choosing Health

There are strong links between Local Area Agreements, Community Plans, and Choosing Health targets. We should ensure that we are working together to ensure that we have consistency in our approach. This way, we will maximise the health gains for the community.

**David Hughes**  
**Chairman, Health Policy Board**

Angel Centre, Angel Lane, Tonbridge

