

Meeting of the Beeston, Holbeck & Hunslet Neighbourhood Improvement Board

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 29th June 2012 At Leeds City College, Beeston Centre, Burton Avenue (Room F12).

Present

Cllr Angela Gabriel (Chair)	LCC - Leeds City Council
Cllr Adam Ogilvie	LCC – Leeds City Council
Neil Diamond	Aire Valley Homes Leeds
Al Garthwaite	South Leeds Community Radio/Vera Media/Aspire To Succeed
Shaid Mahmood	LCC – Chief Executive's Office
Ian Pickup	Voice of Holbeck
Ashley Dublin	Aire Valley Homes Leeds (Minutes)
Shaun Kelly	LCC – Financial Management
Matthew Walker	Leeds Federated Housing Association Ltd
Aretha Hanson	LCC – Localities and Partnerships
Joanne Loft	LCC – Health and Wellbeing
Liz Lawrence	LCC – Employment and Skills
Tom O'Donovan	Area Improvement Manager
Anne-Marie Spry	Leeds City College
Simon Betts	Jobcentre Plus
Ali Akbar	Unity Housing
Mahboob Nazir	Abu Huraira Masjid & KMWA Community Centre

Apologies

Cllr Mohammed Iqbal	LCC – Leeds City Council
Steve Peacock	Cross Ingrams Area Residents Association (CIARA)
Maggie Hartley	JESS Cluster (Extended Services)
John Ashton	JESS Cluster (Extended Services)
Chris Town	Resident Landlords Association
Jane Hopkins	LCC – Employment and Skills
Sally Blunt	Leeds City College

1.0 Introductions and Apologies

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, introductions were made around the table and apologies were noted.

2.0 Minutes of Board Meeting on Friday 20th April 2012 and the Core Group of 1st June 2012

- 2.1 These were passed as being a true and correct record.

3.0 Matters Arising - Board Meeting 20th April

- 3.1 Shaid Mahmood – The Troubled Families initiative is to be added to list of agenda items for a future meeting.
- 3.2 Tom O'Donovan anticipates John Ashton and Maggie Hartley will come to the next meeting to bring an update on the JESS Cluster.
- 3.3 Item 8.1 – A leadership conference is being planned for the public, private and third sectors as well as communities throughout Leeds.

Action

3.4 Item 7.6 – Cllr Gabriel confirmed that the owners of the Malvern Public House are seeking to convert the building into a convenience store.

4.0 Employment and Skills Board (Tom O'Donovan)

4.1 It was highlighted that Cllr Adam Ogilvie is now part of this Board.

4.2 Tom O'Donovan circulated the jobs and skills action plan for the Middleton Park Ward. Current activities to support NEET's, provide training and job opportunities are outlined in this plan.

The board had recently made the following changes.

- Agreed to work across whole inner south and not just Middleton Park from the next meeting in September
- Cllr Adam Ogilvie will represent Beeston & Holbeck ward on the Board
- Agreed 3 Learning Market events
- To be named Employment & Skills Board rather than sub group

Tom suggested he would bring back more updates to the next meeting.

TPO

4.3 A new job shop will be opening on Old Elland Road in the next few months.

5.0 Locality Worklessness (Liz Lawrence)

5.1 A map of provision and also showing location of claimants was tabled for discussion. Gaps in provision were noted. In particular Cottingley.

5.2 Jobcentre Plus, Employment and Skills Service and White Rose Learning Centre are key organisations which have programmes of work in place to reduce claimant rates and get people into work.

5.3 A range of programmes are coming online at the White Rose Learning Centre and consultation is to be held to assess needs.

5.4 Cllr Ogilvie stated he is keen to see the Library Services getting involved to help bring in more job shops.

5.5 An agreement has been reached with 'Health for All' to deliver five work clubs which are due to start within the next few weeks.

5.6 Al Garthwaite suggested the college and the third sector organisations need to have stronger links. This engagement should be better so that community learning is done in co-operation between the agencies.

5.7 Liz Lawrence and Tom O'Donovan to meet to discuss programmes of work in the Cottingley area. Meetings are being held with key organisations to avoid overlapping and duplication of work.

LL/TPO

6.0 Welfare Reform (Shaun Kelly)

6.1 Draft regulations for Universal Credit are currently under a review to check for inconsistencies and a response to these regulations from the Authority is expected in July 2012.

Any information around this can be found on the Council's 'Share Point' web page.

- 6.2 Locally, all housing benefit claimants have been sent a letter to inform them of the benefit cap to commence in 2013. Letters informing of under occupancy are due to go out on the 2nd July 2012.
- 6.3 By October 2013, 50% of all new housing benefit claims will be made online. LCC has a pilot scheme to support people and help them to get online access.
- 6.4 There have been schemes across the country where housing benefit has been paid directly to tenants in order to see how this will work out. Assessments can be made and practical ideas can be brought forward as to how to help vulnerable people.
- 6.5 The current Social Fund will be abolished and community care grants etc will be put into one pot - unofficially named - "Local Welfare Provision".
- 6.6 People who are under occupying by 1 bedroom could lose 14% of their housing benefit, and people who under occupy by two bedrooms or more will lose 25% of their housing benefit.
- 6.7 The ALMO has agreed to contact every tenant who could be affected by these changes in order to offer advice and support.
- 6.8 Neil Diamond will distribute to the Board, a copy of the publication taken from the Aire Living magazine around welfare reform advice, and also a copy of the letter that Aire Valley Homes will send out to people under occupying their homes. **ND**
- 6.9 Shaun offered the following points for consideration and response from NIB members.
1. What can they do locally to increase capacity to support tenants to get online when they need to claim Universal Credit?
 2. What information can they provide around identifying most vulnerable families or individuals
 3. What avenues can they provide to help us communicate changes to people who may be reluctant to deal with us
 4. Can they facilitate meetings with 3rd Sector Leaders locally to discuss the range and availability of support to people struggling with the reforms (either financially or with compliance/behaviour requirements)? **All**
- Steven Carey was also keen that Jobcentre Plus have accountability locally for the way they administer Universal Credit, the support they provide to get people onto Universal Credit, the work they do at locality level to support people into work and the impact of the sanctions approach they apply. Is there a role for Improvement Boards or Area Committees here? **All**
- 7.0 Area Committee Updates (Tom O'Donovan)**
- 7.1 Tom O'Donovan presented this item and copies of the report on the Summary of Key Work and minutes from the South East Leeds Health and Wellbeing, and Cottingley Multi Agency Group meetings were circulated.
- 7.2 The Children and Young People's Sub-group are to address issues around duplication of service and transparency.
- 7.3 Steps have been taken to develop a city wide Prostitution Safety Strategy for Leeds.
- 7.4 A Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) for the Cottingley area has been established following recent multi agency work.

8.0 Any Other Business

8.1 Mahboob Nazir spoke to the Board about the Interactive Project which aims to bring deprived young people from all faiths, cultures and communities together in sports and other activities.

10 of the young people who display leadership qualities will be selected to be put onto a leadership programme.

The project is welcoming any links which may help young people gain an accreditation of some form.

8.2 Cllr Angela Gabriel officially extended thanks to Sally Blunt for her hard work and input throughout her time on the Board. Sally is retiring and will no longer attend these meetings. Anne-Marie Spry will now represent Leeds City College.

8.3 The dates of future meetings have been changed to Mondays instead of Fridays to improve attendance at the meetings.

9.0 Dates of Future Meetings

10th September 2012 – 14:00 – 15:30 - Beeston Village Community Centre. St Anthony's Drive, Beeston, Leeds, LS11 8AB