

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th January 2013
At Leeds City College, Beeston Centre, Burton Avenue (Room G12)**

Present

Cllr Angela Gabriel (Chair)	LCC - Leeds City Council
Neil Diamond	Aire Valley Homes Leeds
Al Garthwaite	South Leeds Community Radio/Vera Media/Aspire To Succeed
Shaid Mahmood	LCC – Customer Access and Performance
Matthew Walker	Leeds Federated Housing Association Ltd
Ann Eveleigh	Leeds City College
Martin Hackett	LCC – Customer Access and Performance
Gerry Shevlin	Leeds Community Safety
Liz Lawrence	LCC – Employment and Skills
Paul Akerman	West Yorkshire Police
Tom O’Donovan	LCC – Customer Access and Performance
Simon Betts	Job Centre Plus
Dennis Kitchen	Holbeck Community
Joanne Loft	LCC – Adult Social Care
Tom Smith	LCC – Environments and Neighbourhoods
Ashley Dublin (Minutes)	Aire Valley Homes Leeds

Apologies

Cllr Mohammed Iqbal	LCC – Leeds City Council
Cllr Adam Ogilvie	LCC – Leeds City Council
Ali Iqbal	Unity Housing Association
John Statham	LCC – Housing Partnerships
Mahboob Nazir	Abu Huraira Masjid – Hardy Street Mosque

Action**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 Monday 10th September 2012

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

3.0 Matters Arising - Board Meeting Monday 10th September 2012

- 3.1 There were no matters arising.

4.0 Welfare Reform (Tom O’Donovan)

- 4.1 Frontline staff briefing sessions were held in November to which over 150 members of staff were invited. There were around 60 attendees in total.
There is evidently still a need for more staff sessions.
There may be similar briefings for the 3rd sector if a need were identified.

- 4.2 Regular discussions are held with Steve Carey (Chief Officer Revenues and Benefits) to help co-ordinate small working groups across the 3 Wedge's. Among other things, these working groups are exploring engaging with employers to raise awareness of welfare reforms and the potential impact on their employees. They will also look to address high interest lenders and loan sharks.
- 4.3 Through AVHL there is targeted marketing of the Credit Union budget account (and other available budget accounts) would help to prepare residents for Universal Credit. The Credit Union is a key partner with the ALMO going forward.
- 4.4 A new lead officer has just been appointed to head the 'Get IT Together' digital access scheme. Vic Berry now in post.
- 4.5 Mapping work is being done with Aire Valley Homes Leeds to identify areas of greatest need and vulnerability.
- 4.6 Shaid Mahmood suggested that work around getting people into employment will be key.
- 4.7 Matthew Walker stated there needs to be training for housing staff on how to advise tenants and where they can be signposted to. Although letters have gone out to tenants there has been a low response rate. A vast majority of tenants won't be ready for the impacts of welfare reform and will no doubt head to housing offices seeking help.
- 4.8 Neil Diamond stated it is not yet clear who falls into the 'vulnerable' category. One million people are currently using payday loans to pay rents and mortgage obligations. This looks set to increase significantly.
- 4.9 Finally, Tom O'Donovan stated that he was co-ordinating a small team of colleagues from AVHL, Advice Leeds, Health and other agencies.
- 5.0 NEET (Tom O'Donovan)**
- 5.1 Through its Development & Improvement Plan, the Area Leadership Team has asked that a NEET Reduction Plan is produced. This section of the plan is led by Anne Marie Spry from Leeds City College. Following some exploratory work with TSLs and other colleagues a NEET OBA event is planned for the Thursday 28th February. The main objective of the event will be the production of a plan.
- 5.2 A date at the end of February is to be published soon for the OBA event at which a sustainable NEET reduction plan will be developed. A NEET reduction plan should be in place by the end of Spring.
- 5.3 With regard to the practitioners meetings, Ann Eveleigh offered to help with accommodating meetings at the college. AE
- 6.0 Employment and Skills Board (Martin Hackett)**
- 6.1 Martin Hackett stated the Employment and Skills Board is inviting a representative from the 3rd sector.
- 6.2 A series of 3 events funded by the Inner Area Committee are to take place. The market place event planned at Cockburn that was due to take place in November was cancelled.

Further market place events are scheduled for Middleton (24th January at 1pm -5pm) and Hunslet with a variety of organisations and employers involved.

6.3 A bid will be submitted to Job Centre Plus for the work club at St George's Centre (Middleton). Aire Valley Homes and Igen have offered to provide support, Employment and Skills can offer ½ a day while Union Learn could offer ½ a day to 1 full day. Further negotiations with partners are on-going to ensure all days are covered.

6.4 Tom Smith asked if it would be worth reporting to the Area Committee on the work experience scheme that local environmental services previously ran with prisoners (on licence). It was agreed that this could be part of the Summary of Key Work report.

TS/TPO

7.0 Locality Worklessness Update (Liz Lawrence)

7.1 The next set of data (up to the end of December) is currently being collated.

7.2 35 job vacancies were available at the new Iceland on Dewsbury Road. 27 of these jobs went to people from the South Leeds area.
Liz Lawrence will confirm whether these are all permanent positions.

LL

7.3 Shaid Mahmood asked if there was a way to identify particular skill shortages in certain areas in order to target work that would address needs.

LL

7.4 Liz Lawrence to find out if data can be published with a greater level of detail and check to ensure the wards are correct.

LL

7.5 The Point at the White Rose Centre has 55 people registered in the job shop. 12 of these people are aged 16-18 years old.
So far there have been 3 job outcomes since 7th January 2013.

7.6 In the past there has been an issue with the promotion of The Point through the White Rose Centre. The new manager of the White Rose has agreed to put up banner stands and stalls to help promote The Point.

8.0 Health and Wellbeing: Niche Tobacco (Joanne Loft)

8.1 The Niche Tobacco Project is funded by the NHS and Adult Social Care. Niche tobacco products such as; shisha and various chewing tobacco's are smokeless and so, awareness around the harmful effects of these products is low whilst their usage is high.

8.2 There are many retailers in the Beeston Hill area especially, selling and promoting the use of niche tobacco. There is a need for awareness to be raised in such areas.

8.3 Two project officers are training frontline staff on the dangers of the use of niche tobacco products. The project started in December and is a 1 year venture.

9.0 Prostitution (Gerry Shevlin and Insp. Paul Akerman)

9.1 Local residents have raised concerns about the problem of prostitution over the years. In response, Operation Dairy was developed to tackle this problem.

9.2 Work is being done to try and engage with women and help them into support. Also, trying to raise awareness in local areas without tarnishing the community's image.

- 9.3 There is a city wide approach to addressing the overall problem of prostitution. A steering group which consists of elected members is in place.
- 9.4 Dennis Kitchen raised concerns over male and female members of the community being approached either offering or being offered sex. This could lead to the Police arresting people who may be innocently sitting in their cars.
- 9.5 Al Garthwaite suggested that work in schools and other youth services should take place in order to reduce the risk of grooming and young people becoming involved in prostitution.
- 9.6 Shaid Mahmood noted that communities tend to be sensitive about this issue and so it may not be addressed properly because of this. Difficult conversations need to be had in order to progress.
- 10.0 Holbeck PFI**
- 10.1 Financial close is expected to be 26th January, after this there will be a 3 month mobilisation period. This would mean starting on site at the end of spring/early summer.
- 11.0 Area Committee Updates (circulated)**
- 12.0 Any Other Business**
- 12.1 Cllr Gabriel asked the group to consider the future of this Board, its geography, and its remit.
- 12.2 Shaid Mahmood suggested the Middleton Park Ward NIB model is working well. It was timely after a year to review the set-up of this NIB and revisit it, with a greater focus on actions.
- 12.3 Matthew Walker stated that the focus of this Board should move from information sharing to partnership working and actions.
- 12.4 Cllr Gabriel has become concerned that the Beeston Ward is being overlooked due to a much needed focus on the City and Hunslet ward.
- 12.5 It was agreed that the next steps for the Board should be progressed.
- 13.0 Dates of Future Meetings**
 22 April 2013 – 1:00 – 2:30
 26 August 2013 – 1:00 – 2:30

All

Cllr.
G/SM/
TPO