

Shropshire VCS Assembly Board

Meeting with VCS Task Group members 9am – 11am



9 April 2014

9.15am, Council Chamber, Shirehall

Action Points/Notes

Attended

Board and VCS Task Group Members		
Jackie Jeffrey	Chair, VCS Assembly	JJ
Sonia Roberts	Shropshire Providers Consortium	SR
George Candler	Shropshire Council	GC
Marion Youens	Information, Advice & Advocacy	MY
Cllr Tim Baker	Member, Shropshire Council	TB
Cllr Lee Chapman	Member, Shropshire Council	LC
Linda Cox	Shropshire Community Transport Consortium	LC
Cllr Gwilym Butler	Member, Shropshire Council	GB
Chris Child	County Sports Partnership	CC
Heather Osborne	Shropshire Older People's Assembly	HO
Nicola McPherson	Health & Social Care Forum	NMcP
Angela Parton	Criminal Justice Forum	AP
Mark Gibson	Partners for Social Enterprise	MG
Maxine Smith	Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership	MS
Sarah Thomas	Children's Summit	ST
Pat Bell	Training Providers Consortium	PB
Hilary Paddock	Housing Support Forum	HP
Guest Speakers		
Tina Wigfall	Shropshire CCG	TW
Nigel Denton	Shropshire Council	ND
Ruth Houghton	Shropshire Council	RH
Neil Evans	Shropshire Council	NE
Andy Begley	Shropshire Council	AB
In Attendance		
Elaine Griffiths	VCSA Coordinator	EG
Kate MacDonald	Shropshire Graduate – VCSA	DF
Sarah Dodds	VCSA Coordinator	SD
Ruth Turner	VCSA Support Officer	RT

Apologies

Laurel Roberts, Gill Pitt, Jean Robinson, Sue Fry, Carola Fielden, David Currant

Item

1. Welcome and introductions

JJ welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made.

Apologies

The above apologies were noted.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were agreed and the action points were highlighted. The actions were complete with one action requiring further attention. EG reported on progress.

Declaration of Interests (DOI)

Forms to register DOI were circulated. Forms were then collected and held on record by the VCSA Team.

2. Shropshire Council's Draft Procurement Strategy

ND tabled a report on the Draft Procurement Strategy.

Main points:

- Aligns with the Council's priorities.
- Sets out the direction the Council will take over the coming period.
- Aligns to the Council's Commissioning Strategy.
- Sets out how procurement will contribute to achieving the corporate aims of the Council.
- The strategy will be reviewed annually.
- Influencing considerations.
- Identifies key values.
- Procurement is part of the commissioning cycle not exclusive.
- Strategy to go to Cabinet in July

Action – Board are asked to read the Strategy in detail and feedback to ND. SD to circulate electronic copy of Strategy to the Board.

Board/ND

Comments made from the Board

- Lack of clarity concerning how Shropshire Council's overall strategies fit with Locality Commissioning.
- No mention of VCS under 'Value for Money'

Actions

- ND to amend to include VCS in all sections and to ensure VCS is included in same way as businesses (COGS is referenced).
- SD and JJ to collate feedback. JJ to write to Nigel with the Board's comments.

ND

JJ and SD

3. Adult Services and joint work with the VCSA

GC introduced this item and explained that it was still just in the discussion phase and at the very beginning of the process.

Following on from the Board meeting in October the Council has taken on board the comments made regarding the Adult Social Care Commissioning Plan.

The Council are wanting to create a different way of working and co-design a way forward with the VCS

GC committed to ensuring that the VCS are involved in Shropshire Council's transformation through the VCS Assembly. He spoke about the need for engagement in short pieces of work to test new approaches including, Ageing Well, STEP and further projects as they emerge.

He would like to establish a new way of working so the Commissioner is not remote from the provider market but engaging providers in early discussions and throughout the commissioning cycle.

AB updated the Board on progress to date, he spoke about People 2 People going live the previous week with social workers across the county having been seconded. There is an intention to get VCS input at the front end and build resilience in communities through formal and informal support.

Action – AB suggested that a Community Contact group is needed and that the VCS need to be engaged in that development.

AB spoke about conversations he had had with individual organisations but it was agreed that a more coordinated and representational approach was necessary. AB suggested the way forward was fast, fluid and beneficial relationships.

ST raised concerns in two main areas:

- The VCS are not engaged early, for example work is now taking place to engage the VCS in STEP2 but no joint working took place in STEP (1).
- Adult & Children Services appear to be working in silos. SEN reforms mean work needs to take place aged 0-25years. So joint working is essential.

TB agreed that age should be irrelevant and services should not be so focused on an artificial break between child and adult. TB stated there is a current dichotomy in the way people are treated. More work is required on systems, information flows and predicting demand.

The group discussed the value of the sector as a critical friend provider and advocate for service users. The group also agrees the need for more emphasis on prevention.

AB

GC suggested a small team be established to take this forward. The team will have to have a good representative mix to include providers and those who aren't in the provider market.

SD/Board

Action - Board agreed to discuss this further in the close section of the meeting and SD to provide GC agreed representatives.

GB suggested one area of focus should be a better understanding of place including, needs and capacity to meet those needs. He recommended work in this area.

AP warned against missing people who don't fit into natural communities. ST agreed that there are often low incidents but high need.

JJ asked Ruth for an update on Day Centre. (Insert text from Ruth Houghton).

4. The Better Care Fund

Tina Wigfall from Shropshire CCG tabled a paper detailing The Better Care Fund.

The main points were:

- Important national development that will have a significant impact at the local level.
- The Better Care Fund (formerly the Integrated Transformation Fund) is described as 'a single pooled budget for health and social care services to work more closely together in local areas'.
- The fund will become a pooled budget held between Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups.
- Not new investment but reallocation of existing health money (from acute services).
- Significant efficiencies will need to be generated in order to find the money to invest in the Better Care Fund for 2015-2016. 2014-2015 will be a transformational year.

Details are still to be confirmed but Shropshire's Health and Wellbeing Board has considered the following key themes for the Better Care Fund:

- Prevention
- Living Independently for Longer
- Long Term Conditions
- Managing and Supporting People in Crisis.
-

A Task and Finish will work on the Better Care Fund and feed into the Health & Wellbeing Board. VCS are to have a seat on this Task & Finish Group. Board to discuss further in closed section of the meeting.

Action –JJ to identify how this group fits into the Flowchart that was tabled at the last Health & Wellbeing Board

JJ/SD

5. Public engagement at the Community Health Trust

Mark Donovan from Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the work of the Community Health Trust and its engagement activity.

The presentation highlighted:

- The Community Trust's Background and Key areas of Service
- Developments since September
- New Patient & Carers Panel Focus

The Board discussed current representation arrangements – ST and RT attend meetings along with other VCSA representatives (some representation is provided via the membership of the Health and Social Care Forum). It was agreed that representation needs to be maintained.

For copies of the presentation please email ruth.turner@shropshire.gov.uk.

6. Connecting Shropshire, Broadband Partnership

Ben Walker from Shropshire Council attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the above.

A video on superfast Broadband was shown. Main points from the presentation were:

- Programme aims:
 - Basic broadband for all in programme area
- By end of March 2014
 - 36 cabinets live, serving over 8,400 premises
 - 53 cabinets installed in total
 - Laid more than 80kms of fibre optic cable
 - Installed more than 180kms of new ducting
- Need to talk to Internet Service provider to be switched over to the upgrade.
- April 2014 – Broadband partnership 1st meeting.
- Two websites to check for updates:
 - www.connectingshropshire.co.uk
Information on the Connecting Shropshire programme, sign-up to the mailing list, FAQs, useful links and contact details.
 - and
 - www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/where-and-when/

For a copy of the presentation please email ruth.turner@shropshire.gov.uk

Action VCSA to select representative to sit on the Broadband Partnership Meeting. Maxine Smith agreed to be the representative.

7. Helga Edstrom from The Office for Civil Society

Helga joined the meeting.

Helga talked about the Government's consultation on the Local Sustainability Fund. The main points were:

- Supports smaller organisations to become more sustainable and robust
- Is aimed at hardest to reach.
- Compact compliant. Time live consultation around the design of the fund.
- Web survey etc.
- Balance representation from lots of different organisations.
- Draft consultation available at the end of April.
- Indicative £140 million.

European and Social Fund LEP

- Helga is the Champion for the Sector.
- Single Economic Programme.
- Marches LEP one of the better LEPs.
- Marches LEP signed a Compact Agreement (first time this has happened – very encouraging).
- Big Lottery to provide match funding.
- Dedicated Officer for LEP and sector.
- Local Programme Board for each LEP and seat available for the Sector (possibly two seats)
- Helga will support as part of the local growth team.

MS raised concerns that the VCSE sector is losing its small grants (for example through Local Joint Committees). The very small groups and organisations are finding it increasingly difficult to access small grants. MS asked whether Helga had any influence at the regional and national levels and whether this could be raised with the larger funding bodies.

Actions:

- SD to apply for Compact Award in November.
- Seat for the sector on the Local Programme Board. SD to circulate when this is made available.
- Marches LEP 13 May Stakeholder Event – KM to publicise event electronically.
- VCSA Board to receive future updates when consultation opportunities are known.
- Helga to raise small grants concerns where possible.

SD

SD

KM

SD

HE

Due to the first part of the meeting overrunning and as the Board were keen to allocate time for Helga. The Board agreed that the rest of the agenda should be postponed to a future meeting. One exception was made to cover the following points:

Sub group for Shropshire Council Change Discussions

GC had asked for a Sub Group to be created. The Board agreed the below representation from the Board:

- Jackie Jeffrey as Chair.
- Rachel Wintle as Vice Chair.
- Nicola McPherson – Health & Social Care Forum (provider market).
- Child Child – County Sports Partnership (None provider market).

The initial meeting will be to find out what and who is needed at future meeting (representation from the Board may need to change as the group develops).

Action - SD and JJ to feedback reps to GC.

SD/JJ

Action – Board members are reminded of the importance of sharing with other Board members individual organisations feedback from meetings held with Shropshire Council.

Board

Action – Board are asked to think about Andy Begley statement of working ‘Better, Faster, Quicker’. Board to feedback to SD electronically.

Board

Action – HO to circulate notes from a previous meeting she had with AB.

HO

Better Care Fund

- A draft structure for the Better Care Fund Delivery has been provided via the HWBB.
- The Better Care Fund Manager post has been filled through Secondment.
- Draft Terms of Reference have started to be developed and existing groups reviewed.
- Delivery Groups will be established (some are already in place) and this is the forum the CCG and Council would like to see greatest VCS Engagement.

Action – JJ/SD to request clarity concerning opportunities for engagement and report back at the next meeting.

JJ/SD

Long Term Conditions Group

SR has been the rep from the Board on this group but now needs to step down. NMc agreed to be the new rep in the interim.

Action – SR and NMc to hand over representation.

SR/NMc

Board discussed how they can communicate with each other differently and the website was talked about as a way of using a shared drive.

The Board agreed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and correct record.

The Board thanked JJ for all her hard work over the last year.

Meeting closed at 12.30pm

Action Table (with summary of actions) Attached.

Actions – VCSA Board January 2014

Item	Action	Responsible
2.	<p>Shropshire Council's Draft Procurement Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The VCSA Board members are asked to read the Strategy in detail and feedback. SD to circulate the electronic copy of the Strategy to the Board. ND to include VCD under 'Value for Money' section of the Strategy. ND to amend to include VCS in all sections and to ensure VCS is included in same way as businesses (COGS is referenced). SD and JJ to collate feedback. JJ to write to Nigel with the Board's comments. 	<p>Board/SD</p> <p>ND</p> <p>ND</p> <p>SD</p>
3.	<p>Adult Services and joint work with the VCSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AB suggested that a Community Contact group is needed and that the VCS need to engage in that development. 	AB/Board
4.	<p>The Better Care Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JJ/SD to request clarity concerning opportunities for engagement and report back at the next meeting. 	JJ/SD
6.	<p>Connecting Shropshire, Broadband Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VCSA to select a representative to site on Broadband Partnership Board- Maxine Smith agreed to be the representative. 	MS
7.	<p>European and Social Fund LEP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SD to apply for Compact Award in November. Seat for the sector on the Local Programme Board. SD to report on this when information is available. Marches Social Inclusion Stakeholder Event 13 May – KM to publicise the event electronically. VCSA Board to receive future updates when consultation opportunities are known. Helga to raise small grants concerns where possible. 	<p>SD</p> <p>SD/Board</p> <p>KM</p> <p>SD</p> <p>HE</p>
	<p>Sub Group for Shropshire Council's Change Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SD and JJ to advise GC of elected reps: Board members are reminded of the importance of sharing with other Board member individual organisation feedback from meeting held with Shropshire Council. Board are asked to think about AB statement 'Better, Faster, Quicker'. Board to feedback to SD electronically. HO to circulate notes from a previous meeting she had with AB. 	<p>SD/JJ</p> <p>Board</p> <p>Board/SD</p> <p>HO</p>