

Minutes of a Meeting of the External Partnerships Select Committee held at Surrey Heath House, Camberley on 17 September 2013

+ Cllr Josephine Hawkins - Chairman
+ Cllr Paul Deach – Vice-Chairman

Cllr Glyn Carpenter	- Cllr Ken Pedder
+ Cllr Ian Cullen	+ Cllr Ian Sams
+ Cllr Tim Dodds	+ Cllr Pat Tedder
+ Cllr David Hamilton	- Cllr Alan Whittart
+ Cllr Lexie Kemp	+ Cllr John Winterton
+ Cllr Adrian Page	vacancy
+ Cllr Chris Pitt	

+ Present
- Apologies for absence presented

Substitutes: Councillor Rodney Bates substitute for Councillor Alan Whittart
Councillor Bob Paton substitute for Councillor Ken Pedder

In attendance: Councillor Joanne Potter

07/EP Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 June 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

08/EP Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed Mike Blower and Gavin Kitchen from Surrey County Council's Youth Support Service, and Solette Sheppardson, Manager of Voluntary Support North Surrey, to the meeting.

The Chairman advised the Committee that the representative from Siemens who had been due to give a presentation on the company's apprenticeship scheme was regrettably unable to attend and a substitute from Siemens was not able to be found at short notice.

PART I **(public)**

09/EP Youth Support Service

The Committee was informed that the Youth Support Service (YSS) had been formed in January 2012 following the amalgamation of the Youth Justice Service, Connexions, and elements of the Youth Development Service. Members were advised that, whilst previously young people may have worked with all 3 organisations, the integration of these services meant that they now worked with 1 service and 1 case worker, therefore providing a better service for young people.

Surrey Youth Support Service's 3 key aims were to:

- enable more young people to participate in education, training and employment
- divert more young people from crime and anti-social behaviour
- enable more young people making successful transitions to adulthood

In order to deliver these aims, the YSS operated a case management model, with each young person receiving one to one support from a case manager.

Mike Blower, the North West Surrey Area Manager for Surrey YSS, emphasised that the YSS was one commission within a broad range of services for young people; services for young people were split into specialist, targeted and universal services categories, with the YSS classed as a specialist service.

The YSS worked with 16 to 18 year olds who were NEET (not in education, employment or training), young people identified in year 11 as vulnerable to becoming NEET, and young people involved with the criminal justice system. The YSS had also taken on responsibility for homeless teenagers and, since November 2012, had taken responsibility for working with children aged 15+ who were classed as 'children in need'. It was noted that the young people the YSS worked with were often classed under more than 1 category.

The Surrey Heath team was based at Frimley Green Youth Centre and currently had a case load of 120 young people. There were 13 members of the team, 11 of whom were youth support officers and each case worker was managing approximately 15 cases.

The Committee received details of Surrey Heath YSS's performance. It was reported that Surrey Heath had the 2nd lowest number of NEETs in Surrey, which had improved from the 6th lowest in January 2012. The team had initially been working with 92 NEET young people, but was currently working with 32 NEETs. A particular challenge for the YSS was engaging with the young parents and the team was looking at ways in which to engage with young parents group.

Members were advised that there were currently 11 young people in the team's current caseload who were homeless or at risk of being homeless and it was advised that this was often the most challenging and resource intensive area of work for the team. It was noted that, as there was no hostel accommodation within Surrey Heath, it was necessary to go outside the borough to find accommodation. In order to address this gap, work was taking place in partnership to set up supported lodgings in the borough and host families were actively being sought to offer a short term base for homeless young people. Members noted the need to publicise this work more actively in local media.

The Committee was informed that the Surrey Heath YSS had established a unique 'ready for work' programme. Surrey Partnership Learning Academy Surrey Heath (SPLASH) was an informal in-house college based at the centre in Frimley Green designed for those who needed to take additional steps before attending college or work. The college was a franchise of Brooklands College and enabled participants to obtain OCN qualifications in a wide range of subjects. The courses run by the college were based upon an analysis of the needs and interests of the group. Staff had trained as lifelong learning

teachers but the college had the flexibility to buy in specialist training as necessary. It was reported that 25 NEET young people had graduated from the college last year and the Committee was advised of 2 success stories of graduates of the scheme who were now working with local employers.

It was recognised that there was a need to develop engagement with employers and consideration was being given to improving the promotion of the scheme to the business sector. The Committee suggested that the YSS should attend a future Business Breakfast to promote SPLASH.

The YSS had access to £15,000 from the Individual Prevent Fund which it could use to help to remove barriers to participation, for example to assist with the purchase of equipment necessary for work. The YSS reported to the Local Area Committee on how the money had been spent.

RESOLVED, to

- i) request a further update from the Youth Support Scheme in 12 months;**
- ii) invite the YSS to a future business breakfast meeting in order to promote SPLASH to local employers;**
- iii) ask officers to look for opportunities to promote the assisted lodgings scheme and SPLASH in the Council's media; and**
- iv) advise the Executive of the merits of the SPLASH and ask it to support the proposal to use graduates of the college as part of the Council's apprenticeship scheme.**

Note 1: In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct the following Members declared non-pecuniary interests:

- i) Cllr Rodney Bates as he was a member of the Old Dean Youth Centre Advisory Group and was a Surrey Heath representative on the Local Prevention Framework;
- ii) Cllr Paul Deach as he was on a Working Group with the Youth Council

Note 2: It was noted for the record that Cllr Ian Sams declared that his wife worked for a company which tendered for NEET Government contracts.

10/EP Voluntary Support North Surrey

The Committee was informed that Voluntary Support North Surrey (VSNS) was a council of volunteers, whose aim was to build capacity of the voluntary sector, supporting approximately 350 voluntary organisations. VSNS assisted voluntary groups with securing funding, with their governance arrangements and liaising with corporate organisations.

A large proportion of the organisation's work was focused upon finding and placing volunteers. Placements were often led by the volunteers and where their interests lay, but if VSNS was aware of certain needs for volunteers in a voluntary group it endeavoured to fill those gaps. It was reported that 11% of volunteers placed were with groups who worked with youth.

The Committee received an outline of the work undertaken by VSNS relation to youth and youth organisations. Members were advised that VSNS had recently helped secure funding for the Windle Valley Youth Project. VSNS was actively involved in the Young Enterprise Scheme and had helped find advisors for the Scheme. It was also worked with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and was active in looking for volunteer placements for young people.

Members were informed that VSNS had a liaison officer who worked in areas of deprivation in the borough, in particular in St Michaels and Old Dean, whose role included sitting as a member of a number of committees, helping with fun days and engaging with youth. The Committee publicly recognised the liaison officer's contribution to the Old Dean Fun Day and commended his work.

VSNS had been concentrating on developing relationships between charities and companies. It had a dedicated worker in Surrey Heath who was working to organise companies to link with charities, which could include providing funding, providing teams of volunteers, skills exchange, or the use of venues.

The Committee considered how VSNS promoted its work. It was reported that VSNS's new website would be launched the following week. Members suggested that the organisation should make use of Social Media in order to engage young people and suggested the use of YouTube for short promotional videos to advertise a charity's work. It was also agreed that the Council should consider opportunities to promote VSNS in the Council's media.

RESOLVED, to

- i) thank Voluntary Services North Surrey for the presentation;
and**
- ii) ask officers to look for opportunities to promote Voluntary
Services North Surrey using the Council's media**

Note: In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct the following Members declared non-pecuniary interests:

- i) Cllr Rodney Bates as he was a member of the Old Dean Youth Centre Advisory Group and was a Surrey Heath representative on the Local Prevention Framework;
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11/EP Committee Work Programme

The Committee considered a report on the work programme for the 2013/14 municipal year.

RESOLVED, that the Work Programme for 2013/14, as attached at Annex A to these minutes, be agreed.

CHAIRMAN

External Partnerships Select Committee Work Programme – 2013/14

Date		Topic	Presenter/ Author
14 November 2013	1.	Update on organisations in receipt of Revenue Grants	Kevin Cantlon
	2.	Highways Authority, Surrey CC	Andrew Milne
14 January 2014	1.	Community Safety Update	Inspector Goodwin
	2.	Trading Standards	TBC
	3.	Neighbourhood Watch	John Eldridge
4 March 2014	1.	Health and Wellbeing Board	TBC
	2.	Enterprise M3 LEP	Geoff French
	3.	Collectively Camberley BID	Glen Fulton