

Notes of the pre-implementation meeting of the **DOVER DISTRICT LOCALITY BOARD** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Monday 24 September 2012 at 11.00 am.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor P A Watkins

Councillors: S S Chandler  
N J Collor  
G Cowan (for agenda items 5-12)  
L B Ridings  
C J Smith

Also Present: Councillor P M Beresford  
Councillor P I Carter  
Councillor L A Keen  
Councillor M A Russell  
Councillor P Walker

Officers: Chief Executive (Dover District Council)  
Director of Environment and Corporate Assets (Dover District Council)  
Alternative Service Delivery Manager (Dover District Council)  
Leadership Support and Communications Manager (Dover District Council)  
Leadership Support Officer (Dover District Council)  
Mrs Jenny Olpin (Kent County Council)  
Mr Will Farmer (Kent County Council)  
Ms Jackie Taylor-Smith (Kent County Council)  
Ms Jacqui Ward (Kent County Council)  
Democratic Support Officer (Dover District Council)

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Julie Rook, and Ms Janice Duff and Ms Rebecca Spore (Kent County Council).

### 13 NOTES

The Notes of the meeting of the Board held on 18 June 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 14 LOCAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

Mr Will Farmer advised the Board that the Joint Commissioning Board had commissioned a review of Children's Trust Board (CTB) arrangements across Kent, looking at the strengths, weaknesses, etc of the current partnership arrangements and allocation of resources. The ultimate aim of the review was to improve services for children and young people. Comments from stakeholders were sought by 29 October and Mr Farmer undertook to circulate further details.

In response to Councillor P A Watkins, Mr Farmer advised that it was anticipated that the CTB, which would make comments to the review through its chairman, would be a sub-group of the Board. In response, Councillor S S Chandler stressed that that arrangement should be reviewed to look at reporting procedures and representation on both boards. Mr Farmer confirmed that there was an ambition to

have a CTB representative on the Locality Board, this being the arrangement in some other parts of Kent. It was agreed that the CTB review needed to be undertaken before the review of partnerships envisaged in the Board's Work Programme.

It was reported to the Board that the CTB had made recommendations to KCC on the priorities for this year's community chest funding. Kent County Council's (KCC) commissioning unit had approved three priorities for funding which had been put out to tender. The approved priorities included a NEET project (aimed at young people not in education, employment or training); family advice and support for people with challenging behaviour. Concerns were raised about the lack of clarity and coordination surrounding the allocation of money for such projects, as well as the fact that CTB priorities were not necessarily being pursued by KCC. The way in which the projects had been identified and monies allocated illustrated the overwhelming need for a review, and in particular an assessment of how the Board's strategic, overarching role could be improved.

- AGREED:
- (a) That Councillor S S Chandler and the Alternative Service Delivery Manager would respond to the consultation on behalf of the Dover District Locality Board.
  - (b) That Jenny Whittaker (Central Commissioning Team, KCC) be approached in relation to concerns raised by the Board regarding funding co-ordination.

## 15 EXPANSION EAST KENT

The Board was informed that Expansion East Kent (EEK) was formerly the Regional Growth Fund and had been established to offer £35 million in loans over 4 years to encourage jobs and growth by supporting businesses. Since the programme was launched on 27 April 2012, 29 full applications had been received, of which 3 had formally been offered funding of £1 million to date. Many of the 354 'pre-applications' received had been rejected because they were either looking for 100% funding (some private funding was a condition), not creating jobs or were outside the area.

Ms Ward confirmed that she was aware of concerns regarding the complexity of the application process, and assured Members that these were being addressed. EEK was particularly committed to helping small businesses, by providing additional support for the application process and holding workshops to assist companies in creating a business case in order to obtain private funding. Applications were not prioritised on how many jobs they would create, and it was anticipated that the number of applicants applying for maximum funding of £2.5 million would be minimal. Several Members emphasised the opportunities that EEK offered to fledgling businesses, and stressed the importance of encouraging and facilitating such businesses, for example by giving grants if private funding was not available.

The Board was advised that the scheme would be reviewed on a regular basis, with a formal review taking place in December. It was confirmed that repaid loan money would be recycled back into EEK. The period for loans would be negotiable (not necessarily 4 years), but there were timescales for delivering jobs. Applications were assessed and credit checks conducted by PWC, following which they were presented to the Investment Advisory Board for consideration.

- AGREED:
- (a) That a list of Investment Advisory Board members be circulated.
  - (b) That Mr Mark Dance be invited to attend the next meeting of the Board.
  - (c) That an update on East Kent Expansion be included as a regular item on Board meeting agendas.

16 DOVER ADULT STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Mrs Jenny Olpin referred Members to the paper circulated at the meeting. The Board was advised that there had been a decline in voluntary sector attendance at meetings of the Dover Adult Strategic Partnership (DASP), which had lacked direction in recent years. However, the establishment of the local Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) had injected new vigour into the DASP, and it had become less focused on operational issues and more strategically minded. Nevertheless, it was agreed that the DASP was in need of a radical overhaul and a key element of this would be identifying a suitably high-level voluntary sector representative (i.e. Jonathan Sloggett). The Alternative Service Delivery Manager added that practical issues, such as meetings venues, would also need to be considered if voluntary sector involvement were to improve.

- AGREED:
- (a) That the DDC Leadership Support & Communications Manager, Councillor L B Ridings and Ms Olpin work together to review arrangements and identify a way forward.
  - (b) That the report be noted.

17 LOCALITY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME 2012-13

The Leadership Support and Communications Manager introduced the Work Programme, advising that it was split between a Strategic Action Plan and an Operational Action Plan. Members welcomed the planned review of partnerships and the creation of a Dover Student Task Force. In respect of the latter, it was suggested that the Locality Board could assume responsibility for developing a model 'path' for young people to follow from the age of 14 through to employment. Members also highlighted the following issues:

- Confusion amongst further education colleges;
- Importance of helping young people into work, including apprenticeships and work placements;
- Help for small businesses in identifying their training needs;
- Fragmentation of secondary schools a complicating factor;
- Effectiveness of Joint Transportation Board arrangements (particularly the Member Highway Fund).

- AGREED:
- (a) That a Dover Student Task Force be established by November 2012.
  - (b) That the DDC Leadership Support & Communications Manager present a report to a future meeting of the

Board outlining the remit and membership of identified partnerships and outcomes of the review.

(Councillor L B Ridings assumed the chairmanship of the meeting for a period of 6 minutes during this item whilst Councillor P A Watkins left the room.)

18 SUB-GROUP UPDATES

(1) Transformation of Youth Services in Kent

The Board was advised that, by the closing date for applications of 7 September, 17 bids to deliver youth services in Dover had been received. The commissioning budget for Dover would be £136,000 per annum. The sub-group established by the Board at its meeting held on 18 June 2012 would meet on 8 October to assess bids and award contracts. Young people's views would also be sought.

In response to Councillor Cowan, the Alternative Service Delivery Manager reported that discussions had taken place between the Head of Integrated Youth Services, KCC and the head teacher at Christ Church Academy regarding the future provision of youth services at the school. Councillor Watkins advised that there had been developments surrounding K College and Christ Church Academy, including a new head teacher and chairman of governors at the latter. A decision on the form of the new building at Whitfield was therefore unlikely to be imminent.

(2) Libraries

Ms Taylor-Smith gave a verbal update, advising that community consultation had been launched and the Libraries Sub-Group had met to look at opportunities to reduce costs, generate income, etc. The sub-group would consider consultation responses, develop ideas and report back to the Board at its November meeting.

AGREED: That the updates on Youth Services and Libraries be noted.

19 SHADOW HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD UPDATE

Councillor Watkins reported that Shepway was now a formal member of the shadow HWB. Dover and Shepway would each have a voluntary representative on the HWB, with Dover's representative replacing Malcolm Barry who had sadly passed away. The Board's terms of reference had been agreed and covered relationships, public health, community aspects, etc. The HWB was a role model for Kent, having already approved two projects (relating to nutrition and pharmacies), and with the Clinical Commissioning Group about to appoint lay members and consult on a forward plan.

AGREED: That the update on the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board be noted.

20 FUTURE MEETINGS

AGREED: That future meeting dates in November, February and April be noted.

The meeting ended at 1.09 pm.