

# Minutes of the Fairer Derbyshire Partnership

Tuesday 4 March 2014

**Present:** Bev Parker  
Julie Hirst  
Lois Race  
Lee Bloomfield  
Cllr Martin Stone  
Sylvia Green  
Gary Greaves  
Steve Ward  
Theresa Waldron  
Claire Thornber (minutes)

**Apologies:** Lorna Wallace  
Jo Radcliffe  
Emma Haggar  
Paul Whittingham

Agenda item	Minutes	Action
1	<p><b>Welcome, Introductions &amp; Apologies</b></p> <p>JH welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies, introducing Bev Parker in her new role of Partnership Manager and thanking her for taking time off her current position to attend.</p> <p>Bev Parker introduced herself, saying she currently teaches at a residential school for girls with EBD. She previously worked for the Audit Commission and wrote Derby City and Derbyshire's Comprehensive Area Assessments. She was employed as the Derbyshire Area Relationship Manager and has worked closely with a range of public sector partners. She is an active volunteer and is passionate about fairness and equality and is excited about her new role.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting</b></p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting agreed as a matter of accuracy.</p>	
3	<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <p>a) BLF SG reported that the BLF had agreed changes to the</p>	

	<p>original funding application which had assumed that training could be delivered free of charge. RAD intend to take delivery of training by employing a Assistant which has been agreed by BLF.</p> <p>SG also reported that the Grants Officer had asked whether the post had previously been made redundant. He had been informed of this by the Grants Assessment Officer. SG assured him that BLF funds were to employ an assistant, rather than the position of manager but had concerns this might be damaging for the project.</p> <p>GG asked whether this contravened an 'exit agreement' but SG informed the meeting that contact with BLF was prior to the agreement being signed. This can be made reference to if any further issues arise.</p> <p>GG offered the support of the partnership should it be needed. All were in agreement.</p> <p>b) Recruitment</p> <p>Successfully recruited BP to the Manager role using same application process as previously.</p> <p>Interviews for the assistant post take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> March with SG, BP and the RAD Chair. From 108 applications, nine were shortlisted although 2 will not attend interview. SG will email details of the successful candidate.</p> <p>BP added she will arrange meetings with all partners asap. SW requested a meeting date to pass on training materials.</p> <p>GG suggested a meeting with EMH Head of Housing Chris Rawlings</p>	<p>SG</p> <p><u>BP / SW</u></p>
4	<p><b>MSE Schools Programme</b></p> <p>SG reminded the partnership that this funding was to enable Financial Capability to be embedded within the National Curriculum. Temporarily being delivered by staff at RAD but will be the new Assistants responsibility. Outcomes must be delivered by Dec 2014: 30 one to one sessions in schools to 'train the teacher' and four countywide workshops. Two experienced trainers are in place to deliver and DCC's CAYA team have helped with promoting the opportunity to schools.</p>	
5	<p><b>New Draft Strategy – results of consultation</b></p> <p>JH suggested the partnership discuss the comments on each question of the survey.</p> <p><b>Q1 – Partnership name;</b></p>	

	<p><del>73% of respondents agreed it was the right name. people unhappy with it.</del></p> <p>———The partnership recognised the importance of advice to the name and the partnership but thought the title could be ‘snappier’. Group agreed Financial Action and Advice Derbyshire or FAAD.</p> <p><b>Q2 – Partnership aims;</b> 93% of respondents supported the aim Make slight change to read “Taking action and giving advice to enable Derbyshire people to have enough to live on”</p> <p><b>Q3 – Partnership Objectives</b> 89% of respondents felt they are the right objectives All agreed there is no intention to write an income maximisation strategy. BP agreed with the comment <b>that</b> the strategy should make more reference to prevention but that this should be woven into the existing objectives. BP to review and amend.</p> <p><b>Q4 – Partnership Principles</b> 100 % of respondents approved the principles Principles also need to make reference to ‘enabling capacity’. BP to review and amend. The group discussed the tone of one respondent’s comments which intimated that poverty is less a political problem and more the responsibility of the individual. The <b>grouppartners</b> agreed that this did not chime with partnership’s principals.</p> <p><b>Q5 – Partnership Aspirations</b> 100 % of respondents approved the aspirations</p> <p><b>Q6 – Partnership Structure and Approach</b> 96% of respondents approved the Structure and Approach BP suggested adding details of the Steering Group’s reporting structures and how it relates to other partnerships and strategies.</p> <p><b>Q7 – Objective One (campaigning / lobbying)</b> 96% of respondents would endorse this objective. Discussed whether the language needs to be simplified but agreed as this was a strategy document rather than an action plan that the language is appropriate. BP suggested adding a Glossary of Terms to the end of the document and that a ‘plain English flyer’ could be produced to promote the partnerships work to a wider audience. MS advised to approach any lobbying work with caution as this is a new area of work with existing (and sometimes</p>	<p>BP</p> <p>BP</p> <p>BP</p> <p>BP</p> <p>BP</p> <p>BP</p>
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	<p>conflicting) ‘players’. BP to employ the wider stakeholder network in the communications strategy to ensure a strong influence in the right places. All agreed that the number of campaigns should be removed from the objectives and defined in an action plan instead.</p> <p><b>Q8 – Objective Two (building capacity)</b>  100% of respondents would endorse this objective  LR reported that the work on the Anti Poverty Strategy is mapping the current picture to avoid duplication.  SG questioned whether the milestones should be widened to open other possible interventions than ‘budget buddying’.  BP to review and amend.</p> <p><b>Q9 – Objective 3 (communication)</b>  100% of respondents would endorse this objective  The group discussed whether this would be better as two separate objectives but agreed that it covers two strands of the communication strategy – reaching vulnerable people and promoting the work of the partnership.  BP to review and amend.</p> <p><b>Q10 – Objective 4 (identify and roll out new initiatives)</b>  100% of respondents would endorse this objective  TW asked whether advice should be made more explicit but was assured that this would be via the action plan rather than the strategic document.</p> <p><b>Q11 – Objective 5 (access and maximise income)</b>  100% of respondents would endorse this objective  The group discussed the Living Wage Campaign and agreed to support it but not include this in the strategy. MS raised the group’s awareness that the campaign has an accreditation system which partners should pursue as it assures an organisation’s commitment to it.</p> <p><b>Q12 – Critical Success Indicators</b>  78% of respondents felt they were the right indicators  BP asked whether the indicators should have more of an outcomes focus. MS pointed out that outcomes would be better defined by the partners focussing on that aspect of the strategy to make them realistic and achievable.  BP to review timescales and amend where necessary.</p> <p>Q13 – Optional contact details.</p> <p><b>Q14 – Further comments</b>  BP to map the links with other strategic documents;  Health Inequalities  Affordable Warmth</p>	<p>BP</p> <p>BP</p> <p>BP</p>
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	<p>Anti Poverty Child Poverty Employment And Skills</p> <p>The group also discussed the comments about the links to the housing / homelessness agendas and how this relates to the partnerships work. BP to review existing strategies and make any links.</p> <p>JH thanked Red Gem for their excellent work on the conference and the draft strategic plan. SG confirmed she had also written to thank them on behalf of the Steering Group.</p> <p>The group discussed a follow up event. BP suggested this should be held in June 2015 to showcase the partnership's achievements and to improve the project's sustainability. This will also be timely due to the general election in May 2015.</p> <p>Lois reported that she and EH had contributed to objective 5 and work is already underway.</p> <p>a) The group agreed to adopt the new strategy in principle (subject to the changes discussed at today's meeting being made and circulated).</p> <p>b) The group formally agreed to name the Partnership Financial Action and Advice Derbyshire (FAAD).</p>	BP
6	<p><b>Food Bank Forum</b></p> <p>Advice Derbyshire Partnership Manager successfully set up and raised the profile of the Food Bank Forum. There are now 22 food banks across the county but <u>since the partnerships merged</u> no-one has picked up on the strategic issues raised by this.</p> <p>The forum will reconvene on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May at the Lea Green Centre. Invitations are limited as lunch will be provided so JH asked partners to inform her asap if they would like to attend.</p> <p>DCC gave £126,000 in grants to existing food banks, JH requested a small grant to be made available to support any new food banks and RAD will manage this.</p> <p>The meeting will elect a new Chair who the group suggested inviting to join the Steering Group if this fits with FAAD's Terms of Reference</p> <p>TW asked what other services are available at each food bank. JH said that the organisations receiving grants had been asked to record beneficiary's postcodes but that they were reluctant. LR noted the importance of gathering as</p>	All

	<p>much information as possible to ensure countywide coverage and thought that the opportunity to provide access to wider services should be developed.</p> <p>The information requested was;</p> <p>First 3 digits of beneficiary's postcode</p> <p>Numbers of beneficiaries and their family 'make up'</p> <p>The name of the referring agency</p> <p>Beneficiary's key issues</p>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Anti Poverty Strategy</b></p> <p>DCC have established 5 task groups to develop the 5 strands of the strategy led by Sarah Eaton in the Policy Unit. These are;</p> <p>Financial Inclusion</p> <p>Affordable Warmth</p> <p>Child Poverty</p> <p>Health Inequalities</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>An analysis of the current situation is underway but the majority of CABs and Credit Unions have yet to respond. The draft strategy will be completed in advance of the next meeting of the DPF.</p> <p>MS noted that Anti Poverty Strategies have been developed by other Local Authorities and there were existing good examples of best practice to make use of.</p> <p>The strategy will be linked with the FAAD strategy.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>TW – Bolsover's Financial Inclusion Partnership has changed <del>if'sits</del> name to Fighting Poverty in Bolsover and includes the district's Food Banks.</p> <p>The Chesterfield Law Centre has changed <del>if'sits</del> name to the Derbyshire Law Centre, will move premises on April 14<sup>th</sup> to share Chesterfield Borough Council offices and has applied for DCC funding to support vulnerable adults.</p> <p>A second 'bedroom tax' event will be held for debt and benefit advisors across the county.</p> <p>GG – The <u>EMH</u> restructure is ongoing. The North region now covers South Derbyshire. It is unclear whether GG will remain in post or another representative will attend. The group <del>GG</del> expressed their support and well wishes.</p> <p>MS – CBC have identified that one and two bed-roomed flats have a high failure rating - analysis indicates 54% of young people do not maintain a tenancy beyond one year. A multi agency meeting will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> March aiming to identify solutions and increase support for young people. LB commented that Rykneld had increased retention of young</p>	

	<p>people to 84% after two years by ensuring tenants were appropriately placed initially and that properties were decorated in advance of the new tenant moving in.</p> <p>All – Attendance at meetings  Sarah Dinsdale, is no longer at EBC and is new the CEO at Erewash Credit Union, this leaves a vacancy on the Steering group.  Eric Thomson and Jo Radcliffe and have not been in regular attendance nor sent apologies. Mark Homer may not be available.  BP to contact non-attendees as part of induction process and discuss.  SG clarified that the Terms of Reference stated that the individual is the member rather than the organisation.  Having said that, a representative would be acceptable. The group were not clear whether the T of R defined a limit to the number of absences allowed and recommended BP and SG discuss at induction.</p> <p>SW – The IMLT team will now be working under themes. The next is vulnerable families and will aim to increase the team's profile with a wider range of agencies. SG offered to share contacts with mental health teams in Leicestershire and the Southern Derbyshire Voluntary Sector Mental Health Forum and that IMLT could make links with Parish Councils via a DALC mail out. Rykneld Homes has a project to engage with tenants before they become involved with the Family Intervention Programme and LB will pass contacts on to SW</p>	<p>BP &amp; SG</p> <p><u>SW / SG / LB</u></p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b>  Dates have been agreed and circulated;</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> May 2014                      - - Rykneld  8<sup>th</sup> July 2014                        -Rykneld  9<sup>th</sup> September 2014               - Rykneld  11<sup>th</sup> November 2014             - Rykneld  13<sup>th</sup> January 2015                Rykneld</p>	