

PSG Area Partnership

MINUTES

Meeting of the Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership,

1st October 2014, 7-9pm

The Pennypit - Prestonpans

Chair

Ray Montgomery, Head of Infrastructure, East Lothian Council (RM)

Members (and substitute members) Present

Bryan Hickman, Cockenzie and Port Seton CC (BH)

Ian Patterson, Prestonpans Community Sports Hub (IP)

Iain Stewart, Longniddry CC (IS)

Isobel Robertson, Cockenzie West TRA (IR)

Jim Melvin, Cockenzie West TRA (JM)

Cllr Peter MacKenzie, Elected member, East Lothian Council (PM) – part attendance

Rachel Menzies, Prestonpans Primary School Parent Council (RMz)

Scott Penman, St Gabriel Primary Parent Council (SP)

Cllr Steven Brown, Elected Member, East Lothian Council (SB) – part attendance

Cllr Willie Innes, Elected member, East Lothian Council (WI) – part attendance

Others Present

Kaela Scott, Local Community Planning Officer, East Lothian Council (KS)

Lori Tragheim, Community Development Officer, East Lothian Council (LT)

Rurighd McMeddes, Asst Local Community Planning Officer, East Lothian Council (RMc)

Yvonne Binks, Preston Lodge High School (YB)

Apologies

Aaron Doidge, Preston Lodge High School Pupil Council (AD)

Helen Harper, Community Development Officer, East Lothian Council (HH)

Janice Finney, Longniddry Community Council (JF)

Lynne Lewis, Preston Lodge High School Parent Council (LL)

Cllr Margaret Libberton, Elected member, East Lothian Council (ML)

Stephanie Carr, Asst Local Community Planning Officer, East Lothian Council (SC)

Agenda Item	Key discussion points	Action
1. Welcome	<p>RM welcomed all attendees to the fourth meeting of the PSG AP.</p> <p>KS noted apologies made in advance.</p>	
2. Approval of the minutes	<p>There were no corrections to the minutes.</p> <p>DECISION - The minutes were approved without amendment.</p>	
3. Matters arising	<p>a) <u>Membership of the Area Partnership</u></p> <p>RM noted that compared to other APs PSG meetings are not attracting high attendance, highlighting the need for 'core members'.</p> <p>KS noted that though the attendance was slightly better for the present meeting, there is still an under-representation from members/substitutes. KS referred to the decision made not to broaden membership to other groups as initially it looked like the existing membership would be quite representative of the range of interest in the community, however if that range of members were not attending this was no longer necessarily the case.</p> <p>RM presented two questions to the group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Should membership of the AP be widened?</i> 2. <i>If so, who should be invited?</i> <p>In the discussion that followed a number of important points were raised. These are bulleted below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BH stated that perhaps members are exhausted by meeting attendance as at present there are a lots of other meetings happening in the area, highlighting the current meetings of the Coastal Regeneration Alliance (CRA) as an example • PM questioned whether a good way forward would be to encourage attendance from Parent Councils in the area. KS answered that involvement from Parent Councils has tended to be good so far but we had not yet secured participation from Cockenzie or Longniddry. • BH pointed out that the present meeting clashes with an 'extra' meeting of Cockenzie & Port Seton CC, perhaps clashes like this are reducing attendance. KS noted that though there will always be occasional clashes with this many groups involved, if there are calendar clashes it would be beneficial to know and for apologies to be made. • IS suggested that perhaps people would be more incentivised to attend if the partnership was dealing with more specific issues. KS acknowledged this but noted that in other APs this stage has come around quicker due to reliably larger attendance to the earlier meetings as it is important that specific issues are identified by a broad group. 	

	<p>particular and highly divisive issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IR stated that the CR Forum previously worked across all areas of the ward and have done a lot of work, much of it on issues other than the proposed energy park. • BH stated that the CRA currently represent thousands of people across the ward, and as such cannot be ignored. PM agreed, stating it was the ‘elephant in the room’ and it was the role of the AP to engage with the issue. • SP expressed a need for caution, questioning whether representatives from a campaigning group regarding a specific issue would remain after that issue was resolved one way or another. • It was suggested that the Three Harbours Festival– might join as they are a group with broader interests. • WI agreed suggested that this might also be the case for the Battlefields Trust • It was pointed out that the CRF do still exist and are founding members of the CRA. As such it was suggested that the CRF might be invited to join also. <p>Decision: Invite CRF, Three Harbours Festival and the Battlefields Trust to nominate members to the Partnership and make clear the role and remit of the Partnership to new members</p> <p>b) <u>Key Themes</u></p> <p>KS drew attendees attention to the list of eight key themes that had emerged from the discussion groups at the previous meetings. KS asked attendees if there were any other issues that had not been included, inviting IS to raise the issues he had identified as a potential new theme.</p> <p>IS explained that as the chair of the PSG Community and Police Partnership(CAPP) he was aware of a number of important issues surrounding Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and support for children and young people in the area.</p> <p>At this stage a brief explanation of CAPP was provided: The CAPP provides communities with a clear pathway for working with their local Community Officers with CAPP meetings taking place monthly. Here a panel made up of members of the community and partner agencies, use their experience of the community and the information provided at the public meeting to agree a realistic and achievable course of action. Up to three priorities are listed for the Community Officers to concentrate on during the next month. The Community Officer reports back to the next meeting on the progress made</p> <p>IS stated that members of CAPP had been very pleased with the progress made regarding ASB across a number of years. However over the last year this improvement has been reversed with problems</p>	<p>Staff: Extend membership invitations to the CRG, Three Harbours and the Battlefields Trust.</p>
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	<p>being seen again in the area, increasing at an alarming rate.</p> <p>IS reported CAPP members put this down to several factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced community policing • Restructuring the children’s panel • Removal of attendance officers • Limited support from social work or council <p>IS highlighted that this turnaround was deeply concerning and should be considered a fairly crucial issue for the area</p> <p>SP stated that he would support this, noting that rationalisation in public services takes people who know the area away. Hence, though it saves money, the personal understanding is lost.</p> <p>YB provided a thorough explanation of the impact of recent restructuring in several areas - Education, Children's Wellbeing, Reporter to the Children's Hearing Administration on the provision of school services and its relevance to ASB. A brief summary of the key points she made follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the school had been aware that restructuring would have a significant impact, and that this impact had appeared, particularly in relation to ASB. • Restructuring in Education caused an increase in caseloads for the Guidance Teachers, the implementation of The Children and Young Peoples Scotland Act 2013 (i.e. the introduction of the Named Person) will increase the responsibilities even further. • Restructuring has brought back a ‘cluster model’ that was used in the past effectively. However under GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child) this structure is not working effectively and there is a negative impact on children and families. • that the lack of an attendance officer in the area was having a serious knock-on effect. Now it is the case that Children's Wellbeing staff are working at a higher ‘tariff’ – only dealing with crisis cases which go to the Children’s Panel. There is now a situation where pupils who previously would have been supported via earlier intervention are developing high levels of chronic dis-engagement • that the multi-agency structure previously had a positive impact and this had been clearly evidenced. Attendance had been highly positive and once PSG achieved the highest rate of positive destination for pupils leaving school of any ward in EL. • that this had not been achieved through any targeted initiatives, instead it was good multi - service intervention throughout. • that the situation now is very different and last year an emergency intervention had been required to get pupils into school to even sit a Maths and English qualification, and as lack of attendance grows it stimulates a domino effect. • YB concluded highlighting that this issue, if left unchecked, will 	
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	<p>have a huge impact on the community.</p> <p>KS asked if this issue was recognised as one that should be added to the list of key themes.</p> <p>All agreed.</p> <p>Decision: That a new theme should be added covering issues around support for young people, increasing attendance and preventing ASB.</p> <p>YB was asked whether ‘multi-agency’ approaches were no longer working. YB answered that they were not working as well as they did, and there is now some confusion regarding how it all fits together. YB stated a need for multi-agency training for social workers, to increase their understanding of how schools work.</p> <p>YB stressed that key roles have been removed, and the budgets that supported them have been removed also. She stated that there is a key debate within education in the area dealing with questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can we accept as a council that the tariff for poor attendance is increasing, even while understanding the impact this may have? - Can we get an attendance officer, and if not how can this issue be effectively dealt with? <p>RM stated that this was a very good debate to be having, and highlighted how beneficial it was to understand the issue from a school perspective. However RM stressed that it is equally important to understand the issue from the perspective of behind the scenes funding battles.</p> <p>RM suggested it may be beneficial to bring in professionals involved to discuss these issues openly with the group.</p> <p>Decision: Seek input on issues from professionals within the area.</p> <p>BH questioned how the AP can be empowered to affect change.</p> <p>This led to a broad discussion surrounding the role of APs and their potential for impact, particularly if impact required extra resources, and if so how these could be obtained.</p> <p>RM stated that as APs grow this will become clearer, and the role of APs within the council context will also become clearer. RM also highlighted the importance of community involvement and responsibility in taking actions forward.</p> <p>SP questioned how the AP would be involved in approving priorities. He gave the example of truancy stating: “if kids aren’t in school they’re doing something else” highlighting that if costs are cut and preventative measures are affected, greater costs are created elsewhere. Ie: things only get worse.</p>	<p>Staff: Involve professionals from police, education and related services to discuss issues and priorities with the group at a future meeting</p>
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	<p>BH stated that at the end, solutions require additional funds, and it is unclear how this can be accessed.</p> <p>WI agreed that initiatives need resources - and that resources have to come from somewhere. Although it is accepted that prevention and early intervention should be a major priority, if more funds are required this might require removing support from other areas. He stated that the community needs to get involved and, if this is done effectively, it is possible to start thinking about using resources differently.</p> <p>IS agreed stating that some things don't necessarily need money and can be fixed without a budget by working effectively in partnership.</p> <p>YB further agreed, stating that focus doesn't need to be on resources, instead it should be on focus. Eg: previous educational successes did not rely solely on budgets – the focus should be on changing outcomes for children and young people, and there are ways to achieve this without additional funding.</p> <p>KS noted that there was clearly significant interest in the area around issues of ASB, poor attendance and adequate community responsive policing, and that this should clearly be followed through at future meetings where we could ensure the relevant people to provide information etc were present.</p> <p>KS provided an answer to the earlier question 'What can the AP do?' stating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Some things can progress more quickly than others, the AP provides a platform for identifying priorities, and can provide a platform for voicing quick solutions as well as longer term strategic approaches- Key role of the AP is to look at where priorities for action should be- Though the themes being considered are broad at present these will be tied down in coming meetings and the aim is to assess what the specific issues for change are.- The AP is charged with developing an Area Plans which will be negotiated with relevant services throughout the council and other public service providers and all elements of the plan will have the intention for delivery <p>KS suggested returning to a brief discussion of the original eight themes to consider if, besides the issue discussed above, anything had been left out.</p> <p>BH suggested more focus on sports, and activity – particularly focusing on health and issues like safe walking and cycling routes in the area.</p>	
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	<p>KS suggested adding ‘Challenges to Living a Healthy Active Lifestyle’ for discussion as a potential tenth theme.</p> <p>Decision: To add a 10th theme ‘Challenges to Living a Healthy Active Lifestyle in the Area’ to the list of themes identified.</p> <p><i>It was noted at this point that the three councillors who had been in attendance had made their apologies and left the meeting. A request was made that in the future it be minuted when elected members leave the meeting. This was widened to include all attendees.</i></p> <p>Decision: That attendees leaving AP meetings is minuted.</p> <p>RM stated that the next stage for the AP was to prioritise the themes to generate a picture of where attention should be focussed.</p> <p>He suggested that as some of the themes were highly relevant to the forthcoming Main Issues Report (MIR) it may be best to leave these themes aside for discussion at a later date. He indicated that two such themes might be: Local Environment and Development, and; Local Housing Need.</p> <p>At this stage RM provided an explanation of the MIR explaining that the MIR is a major body of work that sets out the priorities for the East Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) that will direct development throughout the county for the next ten years. There will be a twelve week consultation period for the MIR expected to begin in November, and the AP will be closely involved in this process. The AP meetings during will January focus specifically on the MIR and provide a deliberative forum that will attempt to consolidate issues from the area. For further information on the MIR: http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/204/statutory_development_plans/1470/east_lothian_local_development_plan/3</p> <p>RM indicated that there will also be a consultation forthcoming on the Integration of Health and Social Care services and we hope to have an input on this for the December meeting.</p> <p>Discussion returned to the other key themes – including <u>Prestonpans Town Centre</u>.</p> <p>Some attendees expressed concerns that significant improvement to Prestonpans Town Centre was likely to be outside what the AP could realistically accomplish.</p> <p>It was argued by many attendees however that the significant role that the AP could play in assessing specific problems and generating</p>	<p>Staff: to amend the key themes and distribute with the minutes</p>
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	<p>issues as priorities to be taken on by ELC or other groups at a later stage meant it should be a key issue.</p> <p>The examples of initiatives now being taken on by ELC in Musselburgh, and currently starting in Tranent served as good examples of the role of community assessment of town centres, and community led development of 'Town Centre Strategies'.</p> <p>KS concluded this discussion stating that the AP could indeed have significant impact on the Town Centre, the important question was whether or not the AP deemed this to be one of its priorities.</p> <p>Decision: Prioritisation exercise to be carried out by members prior to the next meeting</p>	<p>Members /substitutes : to complete prioritisation exercise sent with these minutes</p>
<p>4. Further discussion around key themes</p>	<p>At this point attendees split into groups to discuss 2 of the themes to be expanded on in forthcoming meetings.</p> <p>The discussion groups considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ASB, Attendance & Support for Children and Young People 2. Health: Including Access to Health Services and Challenges to Healthy Lifestyles. <p>A full record of the discussions can be found in the appendices of these minutes.</p>	<p>Action- for those present at the meeting to review the record of discussion for accuracy and forward any corrections / clarification to psg-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</p>
<p>5. Next Steps</p>	<p>Dates for the next 3 meetings were confirmed,</p> <p>Intended area of focus for upcoming meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October - based on the discussion at this meeting we will aim to get a senior Police representative to input on their ward plans, local priorities and discuss issues raised tonight. • December - Consultation on the integration of Health and Social Care and discussion of the local health service issues identified. • January – Consultation on the Main Issues Report. <p>The meeting agreed that this seemed a reasonable plan of action</p>	
<p>6. AOCB</p>	<p>There were no additional items of business.</p>	
<p>7. Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>Wednesday 29th October, 7pm at Pennypit Centre, Prestonpans</p> <p>Wednesday 3rd December, 7pm venue tbc</p> <p>Wednesday 21st January, 7pm venue tbc</p>	<p>Please send apologies to: psg-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</p>

Key theme: ASB, Attendance and Supporting Young People				
What is the specific issue?	What (if anything) is already being done to address this?	Who is involved?	What else do we need to know to be able to work on this issue?	Ideas for action
Truancy Support mechanisms/ organisation			PIT team effectiveness (are they doing their job as prescribed?). What are other communities doing?	Neighbourhood watch CCTV Provision
Loss of personnel. Eg: - Community police - Social work - Attendance officers - Children's panel		- Police Scotland - Social Work Cluster Manager - Children's Panel	What provision exists within the community, eg: churches, youth groups, sports, etc.	Activities for engaging youths
Lack of guidance teachers, and poor pay for those we have			Lack of staff provision	Bring key personnel together and try to fill the gaps
Responsibility	CAPP Policing Priorities			
Prioritisation				
Communication				
Police/Panel Response Times (& Children's wellbeing)			School info on truancy etc	
Conflict with statutory bodies, re: responsibility				Openness vs defensive stance
Change has created gaps	Discussion on training			Multi-agency training

Key theme: Health – Including Access to Health Services and Barriers to Healthy Living				
What is the specific issue?	What (if anything) is already being done to address this?	Who is involved?	What else do we need to know to be able to work on this issue?	Ideas for action
			statistical information on Health and Social Care demand & Provision, etc, an indication of how often people don't turn up for appointments. How levels of provision in an area are determined	
Difficulty in accessing healthy living opportunities			Outcomes and more information	
Getting appointments/ accessing health services	Supposedly addressed by the community/ GP forum	CCs, GPs & members of public		
Lack of/ difficulty accessing sports facilities	Prestonpans & District Sports Hub	Local sports clubs & ELC		
Poor mental health/ addiction services. - No provision of PTSD or Depression care in EL. One patient (a soldier) needs to go to Newcastle every day for specialist treatment.	New access arrangements introduced in 2010	All of statutory & volunteer agencies		
Lack of safe, quality cycle paths and walking routes.				