

# PSG Area Partnership

## MINUTES

Meeting of the Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership,

27<sup>th</sup> August 2014, 7-9pm

Port Seton Centre, Port Seton, EH32 OBG.

### **Members (and substitute members) Present**

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

Ian Patterson, Prestonpans Community Sports Hub (IP)

Janice Finney, Longniddry Community Council (JF)

Jenny Gibson, Preston Lodge High School Pupil Council (JG)

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

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

Peter MacKenzie, Elected member, East Lothian Council (PM)

Rachel Menzies, Prestonpans Primary School Parent Council (RMz)

Willie Innes, Elected member, East Lothian Council (WI)

Zoe Inglis, Prestonpans Community Council (ZI)

### **Others Present**

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

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

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

Paolo Vestri, Service Manager Corporate Policy and Improvement, East Lothian Council (PV)

Veronica Campanile, Policy Officer, East Lothian Council (VC)

### **Apologies**

Steven Brown, Elected member, East Lothian Council (SB)

Isobel Robertson, Cockenzie West TRA (IR)

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

## PSG Area Partnership meeting 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Agenda Item	Key discussion points	Action
<p><b>1. Welcome</b></p>	<p>PV opened the third meeting of the Area Partnership and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that he would chair on behalf of Ray Montgomery, the Interim Chair, who was unable to attend the meeting.</p> <p>He noted that the previous meeting had included a presentation on the key statistics for the area and an open discussion but due to a number of people and organisations not being present it had not been possible to begin the analysis.</p> <p>He recalled that the presentation had been circulated along with the note of the meeting which he hoped members had been able to discuss within their organisations and had begun to identify issues and priorities. This meeting therefore would take forward the analysis and being the substantive work to develop the Area Plan.</p> <p>The apologies received were noted (as above).</p>	
<p><b>2. Approval of the minutes</b></p>	<p>There were no corrections to the minutes.</p> <p><b>DECISION</b> - The minutes were approved.</p>	
<p><b>3. Matters arising</b></p>	<p>a) <u>Boundary Commission Review</u></p> <p>KS reminded members of the information sent by email regarding the review of the number of Councillors in east Lothian and the encouragement given to respond to this consultation on behalf of their individual groups.</p> <p>She asked that if any groups had responded if they would consider sharing their response with East Lothian Council as the Council was keen to keep note of the responses submitted locally.</p>	<p><b>Action</b></p> <p>If your group responded to the Boundary Commission Consultation consider sharing it with ELC. Responses can be forwarded to <a href="mailto:psg-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk">psg-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>4. Undertaking a strategic assessment of the needs and issues in the Preston Seton Gosford ward - presentation</b></p>	<p>a) What do we already know?</p> <p>KS introduced a presentation on the key points arising from the Preston Seton Gosford Area Profile this time with a focus on statistical trends across the key themes, which would be the framework for the group work to follow. She said that copies of the presentation would be made available at the tables. The presentation is available at: <a href="http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/15650/psg-statistical_trends">http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/15650/psg-statistical_trends</a></p> <p>b) Small group discussion exploring what is working well and not so well in this area in relation to the four themes.</p> <p>There was discussion in two groups covering two themes and then a second round of discussion covering the remaining two themes.</p> <p>A <b>record of the group discussions</b> by is attached as APPENDIX A to this minute.</p>	<p><b>Action-</b> for those present at the meeting to review the record of discussion for accuracy and forward any corrections / clarification to <a href="mailto:psg-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk">psg-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</a></p>

## PSG Area Partnership meeting 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014

	<p>The session ended with a plenary beginning to identify priorities across the four outcome areas.</p> <p>Finally, hard copies of the Preston Seton Gosford Area Profile were distributed. The profile can also be downloaded at <a href="http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/7351/preston-seton-gosford_ward_profile_november_2013_v2">http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/7351/preston-seton-gosford_ward_profile_november_2013_v2</a></p>	
<b>5. Setting Priorities</b>	<p><b>Key themes emerging from the discussion</b> (in no particular order)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local Employment</li> <li>2. Prestonpans Town Centre</li> <li>3. Local Environment and Development</li> <li>4. Services for Children and Young People</li> <li>5. Personal Resilience</li> <li>6. Access to Health Services</li> <li>7. Community Involvement and Cohesion</li> <li>8. Local Housing Need</li> </ol> <p>A more detailed explanation / exploration of each of these themes is attached as APPENDIX B to this minute.</p>	<p><b>Action-</b> for all members to review the summary of the Key Themes with the groups they represent to identify additions / omissions and priorities for discussion at the next meeting</p>
<b>6. Next Steps</b>	<p>PV brought the discussions to a close and thanked people for their participation. He explained that the next steps were that all of the discussion notes would be written up and distributed to members. The themes that emerge here would be brought back to the next meeting and would help set out key areas of work for the Partnership and might give us a starter framework for beginning to develop the area plan.</p> <p>KS noted also that the Partnership needs to be aware of other sources of information and other interventions underway or planned so that the future Area Plan can take account of and support them.</p>	<p><b>Action –</b> All to forward any relevant reports / survey findings etc to <a href="mailto:psg-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk">psg-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>7. AOCB</b>	<p>There were no additional items of business.</p>	
<b>8. Date of Next Meeting</b>	<p><b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 7pm at Pennypit Centre, Rope Walk</b> Prestonpans EH32 9BN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Members and substitutes are specifically both invited to attend this meeting as it will focus on identifying key issues for the area.</i></li> </ul>	<p>RSVP apologies to: <a href="mailto:psg-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk">psg-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</a></p>

## Summaries from table discussions – Preston, Seton, Gosford Area Partnership 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014

### Objective 1) To reduce inequalities across and within our communities

<i>What has been getting worse?</i>	<b>Fewer people across our community are living in poverty.</b>	<i>What has been getting better?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food poverty.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to community health services and drugs, alcohol, mental health.</li> <li>• Primary schools are full.</li> <li>• Less affluent families cannot access services that more affluent families do.</li> <li>• Lack of spaces in after school clubs and for holiday clubs and cost of those.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health centres at capacity. Residents deprived of the service.</li> <li>• School leavers with poor qualifications are being squeezed out of the requirement for qualifications to enter trades.</li> <li>• Need for sustainable job related courses.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus services to Port Seton and the Royal Infirmary from Longniddry.</li> </ul>

#### Parked items

- Need more early intervention projects eg Sure Start and Support from the Start.
- Isolated/hard to reach young mothers with low social skills difficult to engage.
- Roll out model of Support from the Start. More of the same.

<i>What has been getting worse?</i>	<b>We live healthy lives and the gaps in health inequalities are closing</b>	<i>What has been getting better?</i>
	This topic was not specifically discussed.	

## Appendix A – Discussion Summaries

*What has been getting worse?*

### **Our communities are vibrant, supportive and inclusive places**

*What has been getting better?*

---

This topic was not specifically discussed.

---

#### **Overall priorities for this theme**

- Investment in early years/Support from the Start/holiday clubs etc
  - early intervention
  - affordable childcare.
- Access to health services
  - including for those already in the system - mental health etc.
- Boosting individual personal Confidence

Appendix A – Discussion Summaries

**Objective 2) To support people to develop the resilience they need to lead a fulfilling life**

<i>What has been getting worse?</i>	<b>Children in our area get the best start in life and are ready to succeed</b>	<i>What has been getting better?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isolated mothers with young children – are they being reached.</li> <li>• The amount of childcare for young children (toddlers), availability of nursery spaces.</li> <li>• Large increase of children at infant school (affects education).</li> <li>• Childcare support for low income families.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming and supportive community.</li> <li>• Increase in community based “breast-feeding friendly”</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Support from the Start (Equally Well).</li> <li>• Good pre-school groups eg Patchwork, Jo Jingles. Book bug, Bambino Beats – helps parents and young children socialise/support.</li> <li>• PSG Support from the Start – very active and offers funding, support and training for numerous groups (and Dads’ Work/Group).</li> <li>• Support from the Start “Pathways” brochure.</li> <li>• 24-27 month checks.</li> <li>• Early Years Instrument.</li> </ul>

**Our young people have the opportunities needed to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens**

*What has been getting worse?*

*What has been getting better?*

- Rising school roll at nursery, infants stage – reaching capacity – and how that affects how learning is delivered. Same quality /access to drama, dance etc.
- The amount of children participating in local groups (Council’s planning groups).
- Reduced budget and piecemeal funding for youth work activities/programmes.
- Active schools now charge £30 per person for an annual playing fee.

- Schools - staff vacancies/classroom assistants. Detrimental effect for young people.
- Attendance at school declining – but by less than 1%.

- Stronger partnerships – working together.

- Confidence that they can influence decisions.
- Confidence to be out and about – not be attacked.
- Range of out of school activities- active school clubs, swimming, drama, dance.
- Interest in interest amongst young people in fitness/exercise – included in regular programme.
- Reduced transport costs for young people/Scotrail/transport

- There are a lot of opportunities in high schools of late for young people on how to be successful and be the best you can be.
- Sports and the social aspect of youths in our area. It has been shown through high school statistics that learning has increased (although this is not seen in our exam results due to the Curriculum for Excellence).
- Increase music/performance opportunities → growing confidence, working with others, transferable skills.
- More qualified community. Exam qualifications.
- Sporting – recreational activities – Arts/ Battle Trust /Cockenzie House/churches.

## Appendix A – Discussion Summaries

### People in this community have the skills, confidence and capacity to make positive changes in their lives and their communities

*What has been getting worse?*

- Courses local access. Edinburgh college outreach. We need more of these.

*What has been getting better?*

- Columba 1400 leadership courses give young people and staff skills, confidence and the capacity to make positive changes but it is a limited number who get to go from Preston Lodge.
- Work experience in Preston Lodge has now been changed from 4<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year allowing those in 4<sup>th</sup> year to focus on exams etc.

#### Parked items

Are the good/improving qualifications impacting on this community – or are they leaving?

Columba 1400 leadership courses – Is this just for achieving pupils? Are the opportunities spread? Are there inequalities of opportunity?

#### Overall priorities for this theme

- Single older households - social connectedness
  - resilience to crisis.
- Lots going on - inclusiveness/ability to participate
  - natural environment.
- Affordability of options / reductions of funding
- Educational opportunities for adults in the community



### Objective 3) To develop a sustainable economy across the area

#### Our town and village centres are thriving and well maintained places where people want to be

*What has been getting worse?*

*What has been getting better?*

- 
- |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Town centres are losing out to the larger supermarkets.</li><li>•</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cost of shopping in village</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Longniddry shops.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plans for development at the war memorial.</li></ul> |
|---|---|---|---|--|
- 

#### Parked items

- Can Prestonpans get a U.S.P for “specialist” shopping eg West Kilbride.
- Need to attract restaurants and better shops to Prestonpans.
- Market in Prestonpans Town Hall.
- Improve appearance of town centre.

#### Our business sectors are growing and a higher proportion of our residents are working in and therefore contributing to East Lothian’s economy

*What has been getting worse?*

*What has been getting better?*

- 
- |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul> |
|---|---|---|---|---|
- 

#### Parked Items

- Need to attract businesses to re-locate/come to East Lothian.
- Broadband needed.
- Can we attract a hotel to PSG?

**We are changing our patterns of consumption to reduce our use of finite natural resources**

*What has been getting worse?*

*What has been getting better?*

---

This topic was not specifically discussed.

---

**Overall priorities for this theme**

- Prestonpans town centre
  - re- imagining what the role of the town centre is
  - unique selling points
  - regeneration
  - appearance of.
- Local employment
  - hospitality/large hotel.
  - need to attract businesses to establish locally
- Development in the area
  - while proposals for development can be controversial and potentially divisive (eg Blindwells, proposals for the powerstation site) we need to work to ensure that the community is able to maximise any benefits from these opportunities and minimise negative impacts
- Broadband need to improve access
- Focus on employability – getting people onto the job ladder.

## Objective 4) To ensure safe and vibrant communities

<i>What has been getting worse?</i>	<b>Our area is a safe place – indoors and out</b>	<i>What has been getting better?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people self harming.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in single households – also increase in over 65s trips/falls/mental health not convivial.</li> <li>• Mental health – suicide rate.</li> <li>• Are there enough “fun” sporty/leisure activities for adults – or are they too competitive?</li> <li>• How to ensure community/neighbourhood support happens in the new and established areas. Do people know their neighbours? Do people check on neighbours living alone?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety issues within an aging community.</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

<i>What has been getting worse?</i>	<b>Our communities are vibrant, supportive and inclusive places</b>	<i>What has been getting better?</i>
	This topic was not specifically discussed.	

<i>What has been getting worse?</i>	<b>People in this area have access to high quality sustainable housing that meets their needs</b>	<i>What has been getting better?</i>
	This topic was not specifically discussed.	

## Appendix A – Discussion Summaries

### We have high quality built and natural environments and green space in our area that enhances the wellbeing of our communities

*What has been getting worse?*

*What has been getting better?*

- 
- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed coastal parking charges.</li> <li>• Potential impact to area re use of power station site – impact on John Muir Way; historic site/Waggon Way; bisecting communities of Prestonpans and Cockenzie.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of inactivity – given a quality environment.</li> <li>• Cycling network and leisure facilities.</li> <li>• Leisure option availability/not force</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastline – great to have for walking, cycling, enjoying.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of outdoor/gardening activity in primary schools +links with Preston Lodge High School.</li> <li>• Forest school collaboration with senior school and infant school →play area with lots of engagement.</li> <li>• Preston Lodge High School creating a garden space within the school (Columba 1400 academies).</li> <li>• Community based action – Cuthill park – volunteers working on community garden, clearing the area, play equipment.</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|--|
- 

#### **Overall priorities for this theme**

- Personal safety - self confidence, mental health self-harming
- Connectedness - new residents etc.
- That people have access to Secure / stable housing - appropriate to need

## **Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership**

### **Key themes emerging from the discussions held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July and 27<sup>th</sup> August**

Across all of the discussions there was a recognition that this ward was one of the most diverse in East Lothian, particularly in relation to levels of deprivation and affluence. Related to this was an acknowledgement that the needs in some areas of the ward were going to be quite different from those in others. While there was a general sense that in some aspects of the plan resources would need to go to where they could make the most difference to people's lives it was also emphasised that this was a whole ward Partnership and that all of the communities across the area had issues and priorities that were important to address.

The themes listed below (in no particular order) have been collated from the recent discussions at Partnership meetings and may provide a framework for beginning to identify what can be done differently in the area to make a difference towards achieving the goals of:

- i. Reducing inequalities
- ii. Developing a sustainable local economy
- iii. Supporting resilient people
- iv. Having safe and vibrant communities

#### **1) Local Employment**

There was considerable emphasis throughout the discussions to improve local employment opportunities and the need to focus on employability, getting people onto the job ladder through appropriate skills development and training. One option highlighted was the need to attract larger employers to the area (with key opportunities highlighted in the hospitality and care sectors). It was felt that not only would this both reduce the need to travel for work but could also improve progression routes for residents into more skilled/professional employment, both factors which could assist the local economy overall by reducing 'spending leak' to other areas and over time increasing the disposable income of residents. The importance of reliable broadband for business use and home-working was also highlighted.

#### **2) Prestonpans Town Centre**

It was acknowledged by all that Prestonpans Town Centre was struggling and seemed to be continuing to decline. Unlike other wards in the East Lothian the physical shape of the area meant that this town centre did not really function as a centre for the villages (or the town itself) and, aside from the supermarket provision, held little draw as a commercial, retail or service centre. The consensus was that there was a need to re-imagine the role of this town centre in order to deliver a regeneration plan based on its unique assets.

#### **3) Local Environment and Development**

Preston Seton Gosford is almost a mini East Lothian – heavily urbanised at one end with a coastal frontage, industrial pockets and an expanse of agricultural areas inland – and it was highlighted by participants that it is the coastal aspect of the area that has drawn many residents to its town and villages. This area also however faces the same pressures as exist across East Lothian for more housing and employment. While recognising that this is a very controversial, and potentially divisive, topic at present (with the future of the power station site under debate and the Main issues Report that will shape East Lothian's Local Development Plan about to be released) it was also clear from the discussions the importance people placed on ensuring that the community is able to participate in negotiating a balance between the impacts, opportunities and benefits that may arise from any development in the area.

#### **4) Services for Children and Young People**

Throughout the discussions there was a clear awareness that budget constraints are already having an impact on the non-statutory learning and development opportunities for children and young people (eg youthclubs, crèches, holiday clubs, wrap-around care, sports/music activities etc) that are being provided in the area. In some cases this has resulted in reduced operating hours / weeks of the year, limitations on numbers of places or increased costs. Within this discussion a number of priorities for provision emerged however including:

- investment in work with children in their early years (both to support families to provide positive home environments and more directly to ensure that all children have the opportunity to develop the core skills they need to flourish once they reach school age)
- providing access to affordable, high-quality childcare (from crèche provision to holiday and after-school clubs) to enable parents to undertake training and also pursue sustainable, forward looking employment
- working with local providers to ensure access to opportunities for young people are more equitably available to all young people in the area and also able to benefit those most in need.

#### **5) Personal Resilience**

A key theme that emerged from the discussions was the need to support initiatives that promoted personal development, learning, positive mental health and social connectedness for adults across the community (particularly the young unemployed, the under-employed and older adults living alone). Central to these discussions was the importance of people developing personal resilience – ie the ability to confidently respond to change and crisis in their lives in constructive ways. It was also recognised however that, while this was an important long term goal, this needed to be balanced by the availability of services able to intervene / offer support as required.

#### **6) Access to Health Services**

Access to health services in the area was another key focus on discussion, particularly the sense that the existing doctor's surgeries are oversubscribed, resulting in it becoming increasingly difficult for residents to get timely appointments. There was also discussion of the need to maintain / re-provide mental health and preventative services in the area.

#### **7) Community Involvement and Cohesion**

Participants acknowledged the high levels of community spirit and involvement in the area – emphasising the range of active local groups and events contributing to this including the 3 Harbours Festival, the Goth, In-Bloom Groups, Battlefield trust, Galas etc. There was also a general feeling that newer residents to the area were becoming increasingly involved in these activities, promoting community cohesion. There was however the sense that more could be done to ensure the whole community was able to engage with these groups and events and that more effort could be made to target involvement from potentially isolated new residents and older members of the population.

#### **8) Local Housing Need**

The emphasis placed on community cohesion and sense of place throughout the discussions also led to an emphasis on making sure people have access to secure, stable and affordable housing across the area. Given the changing demographic in the area - a growing older population, more adults of all ages living alone, economic pressures resulting in more inter-generational households - the discussions also highlighted the need to make sure that there were appropriate housing options available locally to enable people to stay in their communities if their housing needs changed – eg downsizing from a family home to a retirement home.