

SSP OMG Plus & Geographical and Faith Reps Meeting 14th September: Notes

Present: Tom Charnock (Chair) (TC), Daniel Rose (DR), Stephen Henderson (SH), James Griffin (JG), Paula Harrison (PH), Linda Ford (LF), Marilyn Beale (MB), Karen Leakey (KL), John Brownlee (JB), Carolanne Bond (CB) Michelle Matthews (MM)

Apologies: Cllr Brian Mattock, David Brown, Dorothy Brown, Fidelma Meehan, Janet Beattie, Alison Chamberlain, Mark Ormrod, Martha Parry

Discussion and Decisions

Big Local Lottery Fund

PH updated the group on the Big Local Lottery fund allocation. (See attached). The lottery are due to appoint a trust to oversee setting of parameters for eligibility. In Swindon the targeted neighbourhood will be Toothill. Toothill was chosen through criteria set by the Big Lottery. We are discussing ways of building capacity within the Toothill area to be able to access and use this money (£1M).

MB outlined the need to build aspiration and capacity within the community. MB happy to offer learning from previous experiences of NRA funding.

PH is meeting with Councillors and VAS on 4th of October to discuss planning.

DR was keen for young people to be involved in decision making, SH suggested that Rev. Ann Carter had good links into the Toothill community. Ruth Kiddle could also be involved.

Connecting People Connecting Places

Some concerns were raised about the lack of meetings in the East Cluster.

MB questioned whether the programme was really 'resident led'. There was concern that Cluster Leads did not have enough time to give to the programme as they were only doing it part-time.

Some concern was expressed about the size of clusters and that they do not reflect natural neighbourhoods.

It was suggested that a cluster lead should be invited to the next meeting (Mark Hopkins?).

SH stated that some of the appointed faith reps had been unable to get a response from their cluster leads on information or how they could contribute. The faith community are looking at ways they can engage with people and build up support within the community and are taking a pro-active approach.

The group reported that one of the Cluster Chairs was unable to give an outline of CPCP and what it was aiming to achieve.

MB asked whether SSP and CPCP would survive the spending review given that public sector resources were being cut. MB wondered how the Voluntary and Community Sector (V&CS) are going to be more involved going forward.

TC stated that in the past meetings with the voluntary sector were not always as productive as they could be. How can we change this?

DR expressed concern over the size of the Clusters, resources available to be put into clusters eg Community Development/Engagement workers, and concern over the role of VAS in representing the voluntary and community sector.

JB said that he could often get issues resolved and information through VAS.

PG assured the group that CPCP was still a priority for the council and would be a way of working differently in the borough at a time of diminishing resources. The group were asked to contribute thoughts on the role of the new Cluster Directors.

The group agreed that they would like to see improvement in communications in each cluster and agreed to give feedback on the SSP web-pages.

KL said that she was taking the approach of being pro-active by getting involved in actions within the Cluster.

The group also agreed that there was a need for capacity building within the community. SH said that the faith groups were looking at training people to develop conversations and to help support others to get involved in groups and actions.

Recommendations:

Improved communications with accessible language

Community capacity building

Swindon Youth Partnership Conference

DR circulated a report from the SYP conference. The partnership is a membership-led network organisation of voluntary and community groups working with young people in Swindon. The conference looked at the current situation for the youth sector from a national, regional and local perspective.

The group then carried out a mapping exercise to look at what provision is currently in place around the Borough, gaps in provision and barriers preventing the uptake of facilities by young people.

There was also a panel debate, which covered issues including rural deprivation, transport and lack of support and co-ordination.

DR raised a general issue about inadequate feedback from forums and groups and questioned the purpose of his role on OMG+

SH checked whether there were links to the SYP from Swindon Youth for Christ.

JB asked whether SYP were involved with the closing of Stepping Forward.

CB fed back a very positive story where young bikers and cyclists had come together to repair and paint the vandalised skate-park in their neighbourhood.

Voluntary and Community Sector Review

JG informed the group that Juliette Randall from GOSW is carrying out a piece of research for the Council on the V&CS in Swindon and is seeking views.

The outcomes of the research will be shared with the group.

Consultation on Behalf of the NHS

MM outlined some work that she is doing on behalf of the PCT on what the people of Swindon feel about the delivery of healthcare in the borough and what would make a difference.

MM asked for any support in reaching people in the community who would be willing to give views, ideally via voice or video recording. The group made some useful suggestions.

mmatthews@swindon.gov.uk

One Swindon

JG outlined the timetable for One Swindon as SBC and partners agree a series of outcomes, measures and pledges.

A consultation draft will be shared at the conference on the 8th October.

Outcomes are starting to emerge set in the demanding context of 30% savings over 3 years.

OS will become a standing item on the agenda of OMG+ and will be discussed at the next meeting. There is an opportunity for this group at the conference and thereafter to keep us honest and to input into the development of the programme.

AOB

KL reported on some work underway in the town centre. Broadgreen community council are working with Swindon Town Football club and Tesco's. This will involve getting more young people involved in football and other positive activities, addressing racism issues around football and community development and raising additional funding for the area.

Date of Next Meeting

SSP OMG 26th October

SSP OMG+ 7th December