

Committee Minutes

South West Neighbourhood Partnership

Edinburgh, 1 March 2011

Present:- Councillors Wilson (Convenor), Buchan, Burns; Louisa Jeffrey (Stenhouse Community Council), Anne Denholm (Wester Hailes Community Council), Hellen McDonough (Longstone Community Council), Alec Mitchell (Hutchinson Community Council), Tom Crombie (Craiglockhart Community Council), Carol Cawood (Voluntary Sector), Inspector Irene Ralston (LBP), , Bruce Penman (WEACT), Shona McAllister (Get on), Stewart Farquhar (CEC), Christine Doherty (CEC), Scott Neill (CEC) and Graham Budd (CEC).

1 Welcome and Introduction by the Convenor

Councillor Wilson thanked Gorgie Parish Church once again for providing the South West Neighbourhood Partnership with a venue for the meeting and noted that this was the third meeting in public in the partnership meeting schedule for 2010/2011. Partnership members introduced themselves to the public in attendance.

Councillor Wilson explained the theme for the meeting was Employment & Learning and the meeting would hear from a number of partners delivering employment services in the South West Partnership area. Councillor Wilson noted that the themed meetings have always proved to be very successful and the feedback has always been very positive.

2 Order of Business

The Convenor confirmed that no motions or urgent items of business had been received prior to the meeting, so the order of business would progress as detailed on the agenda.

Apologies were noted from Councillor Elliot- Cannon, Kate Burton (NHS), Louisa Jaffrey (Stenhouse Community Council), Elaine Hamilton (H&SC) and Keith Bell (Sighthill, Broomhouse & Parkhead Community Council).

3 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were received.

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4 Minute

The minute of the South West Neighbourhood Partnership meeting of 23 November 2010 was approved as a correct record.

5 Neighbourhood Partnership Community Grants Fund

Details were given of applications made to the Neighbourhood Partnership Community Grants Fund.

Decision

Scott Neill informed the meeting that the two applications processed from Puppet Animation Scotland and Gorgie Dalry Community Council were approved at the Partnership's last Business Meeting held on 1 February 2011.

The Gorgie Dalry application for the memorial plaque was processed using the Councils standing order 63 procedures. The Convenor remarked that this project will be completed at the end of March with a short formal ceremony at the site of the incident.

Partnership member's attention was brought to section 6 Financial Implications showing a surplus of £25,365 remaining. However, currently in the Funding Panel holding file there are approximately 13 applications due to be considered by the Funding Panel at its meeting on 9 March 2011. It is expected that the remaining funds will be comfortably distributed before the 31 March 2011 deadline.

6. Partnership Development – Performance Framework

Christine Doherty, South West Partnership & Information Manager presented this item to the meeting to help the neighbourhood partnership measure and demonstrate its progress better. There is a need for partner organisations and council departments to agree what needs to be measured to demonstrate successful outcomes.

The new community plan which the NP is looking at producing this year through consultation with the community will identify key areas of work. The sub groups working in the NP will identify how this work is to be delivered and who is involved. To make sure the NP can see if these work streams are effective and making a difference, the NP needs to have agreed outcomes and measurements which all the service providers can agree to.

It is proposed that the NP partner's members and departmental representatives meet to discuss how this can be developed.

Decision

Partnership Members agreed with the proposal presented

Saughton Park - Play Park Refurbishment Update

The Convenor confirmed that funding has now been secured for the refurbishment of Saughton Parks children's play area.

Funding for this project, to replace the play equipment and the fencing in this area, is being supplied by WREN (£46,493), Biffa (£49,926) and Edinburgh City Council (£100,000). This work will now be put out to tender. At this time the proposed start date is late summer.

7 Public Questions

1. Ann Gardiner Hutchison Community Council asked when the lighting project amounting to £15K would be started in the area. Initial meetings with officials in Spring 2010 indicated that the project would be completed by December 2010?.

Decision

Steward Farquhar reported that in this type of project the South West Roads Team traditionally would liaise with the Central Street Lighting Team who has direct responsibility for the project work and timetable. The South West Roads Manager will contact the Community Council to discuss.

2. Maria Kelly Gorgie Dalry Community Council noted that she is on the City Centre Partnership who is offering an online survey to review priorities. Might the proposed South West Community Conference in late March not do the same thing type of service to save time?

Decision

Christine Doherty replied that the Partnership view the Community Conference at the end of March as a direct way for community council's and wider community groups to become involved in something that is totally focused on the South West Partnership areas needs. The Partnership will also be looking at a number of communication channels (social media avenues, focus groups, survey, visits by officers) to encourage and offer community groups and especially hard to reach groups the opportunity to participate in the development of the next local community plan.

Catie Guitart Local STV- Edinburgh West offered the service of her organisation to assist promote the **South West Community Conference on Saturday 26th March at Tynecastle High School, from 1 – 4.30pm.**

3. Maria Kelly raised the issue of the studentification of the local area. The concern was that high density student accommodation was becoming evident in the area which can bring unsocial behaviour and other unacceptable problems. What were the Partnership member's thoughts?

Decision

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Cllr Buchan commented that while higher education organisations had done well developing attractive course programmes they had failed to address the growing accommodation requirements of students taking up places.

However, the managed sites do offer a more controlled environment than HMO's that are basically bedsits. The managed sites are well supervised and any student not complying with the rules can be evicted.

Architects and developers should be encouraged at the planning stage to develop tenancy agreements that can be included in the planning process at the project outset.

With the ever increasing density of student accommodation, particularly in South West in general, it is essential that this growing community attempt to integrate into the communities they reside while they attend the college/ university for their course duration.

Members agreed that it would be worthwhile inviting one of the colleges/ university Accommodation Staff Teams to a future Partnership meeting to get a better understanding of the matter and possible solutions.

8 Presentation

Employment & Learning

Meet the Funders

Graham Budd, South West Neighbourhood Partnership Officer presented the future event, which will take place on Thursday 28th April at Gate 55, which is the old Westburn Primary School. This event will have at least 25 external funding groups looking to meet and assist community groups develop projects in their areas. The funding on offer can be as small as a few hundred pounds to very large sums for large community/ health projects.

During this event the libraries team will offer community reps the opportunity to view as well as actively use the Fundfinder database. This new tool allows the group to put on the database their projects particulars and the database matches them with potential funders. This will be the first event to use this Fundfinder tool.

The South West Partnership team will be sending out invitations before the end of March to all Community Councils and wider community groups.

WEACT Community Based Employment Access

Bruce Penman delivered a background update of the work WEACT are currently involved in. Throughout the City they are have contract to deliver access to employment opportunities. The contract for the SWNP targets specifically young people in danger of not accessing work on leaving school.

The work also includes helping young people access skills training or further education to help them get jobs in the future. It is important that young people get the best start to working life. The WEACT team work very closely with the schools in the SW.

They have had a good working relationship with the WHEC which is on their doorstep and through this work have now developed a strong link to Tyncastle High School, working with young people who had previously not been targeted for employment access support. WEACT now operates from Gate 55 (the old Westburn School, now a hub for the community centre, library and community learning and development).

The official opening of the Gate 55 hub will be Monday 4th April over the lunch period with the facility thereafter open to the local community. An invite to this opening was extended to all partnership members.

Get-On Initiative

Shona McAllister from the GET-ON Initiative presented information on this city wide project which has been working locally in the SWNP to deliver information to the public on learning and employment access services across the city. The GET-ON project is a mobile unit which visits key locations in a local area to provide info and to signpost people to the right kind of help and assistance.

GET-ON is in the process of setting up info points in local venues and in local organisations. (Broomhouse Centre and Carrickvale Community Centre next). GET-ON is happy to visit specific locations if asked to do so.

The Convenor reminded partnership members and members of the public that copies of the evenings presentations could be obtained by contacting the South West Partnership & Information Team (Scott Neill & Graham Budd, 0131 527- 3816 or 3884).

Questions

1. Cllr Buchan asked how many young People have been assisted through this work in the South West?

Reply

GET-ON 20 through direct referrals and 35 were signposting activities, and WEACT 50 since September 2010

1a. What funding amount do both organisations receives and from where?

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Reply

The GET-ON Initiative is centrally funded by the Council

WEACT receive funding from the Capital City partnership, Fairer Scotland Fund contract which amounts to £250K per annum. The core service will assist approximately 800 people per year with approximately 300 finding definite link work placements. WEACT also receives £100K from the European Fund. The organisation annual budget comes to £800k.

1b. The limited results delivered and limited areas visited do both organisations not think this is a poor return on this investment in Employment Access initiative?

Reply

The GET-ON Team are always looking for new areas, and that will grow each year. The areas noted in the presentation are on the whole successful in assisting young people engage with the process and be referred to service that can assist them.

The mobile service is looking at new potential sites to add to their growing list. It is worth pointing out that we only have the one vehicle and it does operate City wide which again limits the service that can be offered in each partnership area. That is one of the reasons GET-ON is keen to develop staffed and unstaffed information points and the development of the web page and contact numbers.

WEACT the key thing for members to take away tonight is the nature of this work. We are dealing with young people who are dropping through the existing education process and would before these project were established would not have has a positive destination to go to (positive destination is defined as going on to further/ higher education, apprenticeships, training or volunteer work).

WEACT is working closely with these young people to help them reengage with society, initially we do this through group work and in 1 to 1's, the latter being time and resource intensive.

These young people come to WEACT via a variety of channel community policing, voluntary groups, schools and other traditional ways. In some cases the young people are needy and vulnerable, but the investment in these programmes saves other areas of public service in the long run i.e. Policing, Social Services, Community Safety, Health & Wellbeing, Housing, Education etc. Where the young people live are always going to be the traditional areas as outlined, but that reflects the NP priorities impacting of some areas more that others in each category.

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2. Cllr Burns noted that the service offered by the libraries in the South West, especially their traditional role of distributing information and strong links with their communities could not be more utilised but both organisations?

Reply

GET-ON looking to in the future establish information points in this key community service.

WEACT worked on the original project planning group to look at gaps for signposting. The Library service was involved in the initial discussion but chose at that time not to formally go ahead. However they are still provided with relevant information of initiatives and information on a regular basis

Christine Doherty added that as Partnership & Information Manager she is committed to involving libraries in this signposting role. This initially will involve Fountainbridge library in particularly at this stage.

3. Cllr Wilson asked what was the difference between info point that are staffed and those which were not to give members a better understanding?

Reply

Shona McAllister reported that both offered similar service to the bus such as engagement, sign-up and referral. The only difference was that at staffed information points the interaction between an interested party with a staff member would normally result in a positive outcome. Where as at an unstaffed information point the initiative was firmly with the person picking up information what to do next.

4. Tom Crombie, Craiglockhart Community Council asked how our presenting organisations measured success?

Reply

GET-ON as an engagement tool measures its outcomes in terms of successful referrals as opposed to, for instance, job related outcomes,

WEACT reported that the contract usually has set targets to be met as well as specific outcomes.

Young people achieve an award equivalent to SVQ level 3 the cost per outcome is about £1000 - £1200 (per job outcome, which is someone holding a job for more that 3 months).

Young people in this type of programme especially in the South West contract have higher intensity of 1:1 work which would ordinarily cost upwards of £1500 per job outcome, the value was there to see

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The Convenor thanks the presenter for the informative presentation and taking time to answer the partnership member's questions. He emphasised to members and the public that one thing the presentation couldn't fully convey was the affect on young people not having a future to focus on. The effort to simply move people from their current circumstances to a better place where they feel productive cannot be over estimated.

The time and effort being invested in the employability programmes will ease pressures on other key partner's resources and that has to be a positive outcome.

9 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 7th June 2011 at 7.00pm in Gorgie Parish Church, 90-92 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh, the theme to be Annual Partnership review.