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GREAT YARMOUTH SOCIAL FORUM

8 December 2005 – 1.30 pm

PRESENT:

Representing Norfolk Constabulary:

Inspector Carol Congreve (Chairman)

Representing Great Yarmouth Community Trust:

Carole Reilly

Representing Cobholm and Lichfield Health Resource Centre:

Jack Payne

Representing GFS Platform:

Sue Battersby

Representing Claydon and Waterside Community Partnership:

Paul Griffen

Representing the Rural Partnership:

Chris Barlow

Representing Norfolk County Council:

Councillor John Holmes

Representing GYROS:

Des McKeating

Representing Patient and Public Involvement in the Health Forum:

David Nettleship

Representing the Citizens Advice Bureau:

Claire Blamey

Representing Shelter:

Lesley Burnett

Representing Norfolk Youth and Community Services:

Lisa McRobb

Representing Boroughwide Churches Forum:

Adrian Barns

Representing North Yarmouth Community Partnership:

Mike Hewitt

Representing Norfolk County Council (Social Services):

Bob Honnor

Representing NNREC:

Julia Dyson

Representing GO-East

Nicholas De Jong and Chris Lewis

Representing Great Yarmouth Voluntary Sector Partnership:

Rob Walker and Claire Collen

Representing the Legal Services Commission:

Justin Davies

Representing Community Connections:

Chris Warner

Representing the CDRP:

Naji Darwish

Representing Great Yarmouth Local Strategic Partnership:

Tim Leonard

Representing the Disability Forum:

Lindsay Seward

Representing Great Yarmouth Sports Partnership:

Jim West

Representing Great Yarmouth Borough Council:

Councillors Joy Cosaitis and Pat Page and Officers Brendan Bergin,
Roy Beiley, Diane Gilbert and Andrew Harrison

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Michael Carttiss, Rachel Edwards, Alan Ellison, Hilary Feetham, Tony Rattlidge, Councillor Jim Shrimplin and Councillor Bernard Williamson.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced new Members.

1. **MEMBERSHIP**

Roy Beiley (Social Strategy Officer) detailed membership changes since the last meeting as follows:-

- Carole Reilly as Great Yarmouth Community Trust representative replacing John Holmes.
- Councillor John Holmes representing Norfolk County Council.
- Jack Payne representing Cobholm and Lichfield Health Resource Centre (Area Community Representative).
- Des McKeating representing the Voluntary Sector (GYROS).

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2005 were confirmed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Item 2 – Job Descriptions for Chair/Vice-Chair. Claire Collen proposed that reference to the CEN Protocol be included in the documents.

RESOLVED:

That reference to the CEN Protocol be included in the Job Descriptions for Chair and Vice-Chair.

Item 7 – Reference was made to the verbal update from the Housing Sub-Group and a request for a more detailed written report.

The Chair stated that in future written reports would be provided for each themed group.

4. THEMED GROUP UPDATES

Lead Members of the following Sub-Groups provided progress reports for Members' information.

- **CEN**

Chris Warner distributed an update. He described the process of information gathering and monitoring referring to a recent CEN Finance meeting. He stated that the CEN had encountered some difficulty in identifying a Chair and had therefore agreed a formula of having three Chairs working as a team to sit on the Local Strategic Partnership Board. The three Chairs would represent Voluntary, Community and Faith sectors.

- **Crime**

Naji Darwish referred to his report in the 'Additional Papers' and the colour spreadsheet tabled at the meeting, and offered to answer questions of Members.

Members asked for wider details of racist incidents and other crimes. Naji gave details of racist and 'hate' crimes and undertook to provide details of these crimes in a future report.

The Chair clarified the definitions of woundings/serious crimes and confirmed that there had been no increase in this type of crime, indeed the stretching targets set by the Crime and Disorder Partnership were looking for reductions in this area.

- **Housing**

Diane Gilbert gave a brief update referring to the report of the Housing Action Group referring to the 9 January Consultation. She stated that the outcome of the Private Sector Housing/Secondary Tourist Areas was due soon.

Claire Collen asked how creative the work around vulnerable families and their properties was. Diane clarified the difficulties and the need to encourage vulnerable people to come forward.

- **Health**

Tim Leonard (LSP Officer) tabled an update from Lynn Blizzard for Members' information.

- **Financial Wellbeing**

Claire Blamey referred to an impending meeting (Monday, 12 December) to review floor targets, and she described the process for Bids.

Members referred to difficulties for access to services within statutory organisations such as Job Centre Plus and Inland Revenue. These ongoing issues were being considered by the sub-group. The issues related to front-line staff and procedures for dealing with languages etc. It was recognised that these issues were very costly to address.

- **Sports Partnership**

Jim West referred to his report, and stated that Great Yarmouth Sports Partnership had been identified by Active England as the second best Sports Partnership in England. He also confirmed that there was a positive future for the Partnership which was currently working with youths at risk of offending.

The Chair offered her congratulations.

5. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS UPDATE

Tim Leonard stated that the Local Strategic Partnership was to be performance managed against the LAA indicators (currently 29). He confirmed that there was no additional funding and a great deal of work to be carried out in 'editing down' the list of indicators.

There was some debate about district priorities and opportunities for the Voluntary Community Sector. The Chair stated that this was an ongoing dynamic document.

Tim Leonard offered to present any additional views of Members to the Local Strategic Partnership Board Meeting of 16 January 2006.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDING ALLOCATION PROCESS

Roy Beiley (Social Strategy Officer) gave a brief history on the open bidding process against agreed criteria issued centrally. There had been some concern that the process was over centralised and following availability of two years further funding a new process was to be introduced.

The new process involved the funding being allocated to each major forum and the Local Strategic Partnership Board decided that the funding be allocated direct to four themed groups: Crime, Housing, Health and Financial Wellbeing. This was referred to as the 'Commissioning Process'. Following allocations, the sub-groups would identify which floor targets should be addressed.

A structured manual had been sent to Chairs of the Groups. Roy gave a brief overview of the Commissioning and Evaluation process, and confirmed that the Social Forum would receive a copy of the sub-group's proposals at their next meeting.

Roy answered questions of Members clarifying such issues as sub-group membership including both statutory and voluntary sector Members and the need to encourage cross-cutting discussions between different thematic groups.

Roy confirmed the sub-group leaders as:

Penny Dimond	-	Housing
Lynn Blizzard	-	Health
Naji Darwish	-	CDRP (RAG)
Claire Blamey	-	Financial Wellbeing

7. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT NETWORK WORKSHOP

Chris Warner detailed the recent success in a bid for 'Change Up' funding to help communications improve. The outcomes to be sought were:

- More effective communications between the CEN and LSP
- increased membership of the CEN
- a stronger network

He divided the Forum into four separate groups and asked them to consider these questions:

1. How do you communicate with the CEN?
2. How should the CEN be informing and communicating with the Social Forum and the LSP as a whole?
3. What are the key gaps/priorities that the CEN needs to address when developing its information and communication strategy?

After the workshop session Members debated the issues highlighting the following main points as:

- Difficulties for new Members with a lack of basic information, therefore emphasising the need for good communication.
- Possible need for a website.
- Need for a glossary of terms and description of the composition of the CEN and LSP with flow charts.

Chris thanked all Members for their input and summarised, stating that he was encouraged by Members' responses and confirmed that the four groups' comments would be included in a report to be presented to a future meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Community Activity Park

Paul Griffen referred to a landmark funding bid, and the need for support. He offered a questionnaire and asked that Members complete and return it by 14 December.

9. DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday, 2 March 2006.

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 3.35 pm.

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