

MINUTES

Tuesday 21st April 2020
12.00 – 1.00 pm
Skype Meeting

Present

Carolyn Bristow	BHCC, Families, Children & Learning
Mandy Crandale	Possability People
Cllr Amanda Grimshaw	BHCC – Joint Chair (<i>Chair for this meeting</i>)
Dee Humphreys	BHCC, Policy, Partnerships & Scrutiny
Debbie Ludlam	Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group
Emma McDermott	BHCC, Communities, Equality & Third Sector
Nora Mzaoui	Community Works
Sarah Podmore	BHCC, Health & Adult Social Care
Cllr Steph Powell	BHCC
Momtaz Rahman	University of Brighton
Emma Turner	Diversity & Ability (Chamber of Commerce rep)
Laura Williams	Community Works
Keira Woodroofe	ESFRS

Apologies

Madeleine Denny	Crown Prosecution Service
Geraldine Des Moulins	Possability People
Barbara Harris	Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals
Lawrence McAndrew	Sussex Police
Helen Osborne	Friends Centre
Anne Richardson-Locke	BHCC, Health & Adult Social Care
Paul Ross-Dale	BHCC, Finance & Resources
Simon Newell	BHCC, Policy, Partnerships & Scrutiny
Cllr Dee Simson	BHCC

Action

1 **Welcome & Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, being held via Skype due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

		<u>Action</u>
2	<u>Minutes of the Last Meeting & Matters Arising</u>	
2.1	Minutes	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 21 st January 2020 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.	
2.2	Matters Arising	
2.2.1	<u>Collaboration Framework Implementation Plan</u>	
	Lawrence McAndrew had given apologies for the meeting. Emma to meet with him in due course. <i>Post-meeting note: Tantara Fox-Stillwell appointed as new Partnerships Manager from 18th May 2020.</i>	EM
2.2.2	<u>Cumulative Impact of Public Sector Budget Reductions</u>	
	It was agreed to replace the action for the Cllrs to write to CMB with an action to look instead at the equality impact of Covid-19 and the recovery phase.	EM
2.2.3	<u>Street clutter</u>	
	David Fisher and Annie Sparks to be invited to a future meeting.	EM
2.2.4	<u>Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Strategy</u>	
	The SEND Strategy consultation had not yet been launched, but was due to go to Committee in June. CB would share the link to the consultation at that point.	CB
2.2.5	<u>Trans Sub-Group Priorities</u>	
	Training sessions for Members on Trans awareness had been held. However, Cllrs Powell and Grimshaw reported that attendance had been poor and it was hoped to repeat the training in a few months' time. Action: EM to take forward with Cllrs Powell, Grimshaw and Simson.	EM, Equip Cllrs
2.2.6	<u>Priorities for 2019/20</u>	
	DH and EM had not yet discussed potential duplication of work around engaging young people in equality work. Action to be rolled forward to the Covid19 recovery phase, to include checking in with the Children's Partnership Forum. Actions: DH to liaise with CB. EM and CB to discuss further and report to next meeting.	DH EM/CB

	<u>Action</u>
<p>Actions: SP to update the group on the Learning Disability Needs Assessment at the next meeting. Kate Gilchrist to update the group on the Community Insight Tool at the next meeting.</p>	SP
<p>2.2.7 <u>Upstanders Network</u></p> <p>Action for MK to update the group rolled forward to the next meeting.</p>	MK
<p>2.2.8 <u>Inclusive Cities Project</u></p> <p>Paused. To come back to the Partnership in due course. LB had circulated the Terms of Reference and would do so again during the recovery phase.</p>	
<p>3 Covid-19</p>	
<p>3.1 <u>Covid-19 Governance Structure</u></p>	
<p>3.1.1 EM explained that the Emergency Planning Protocols had been implemented. She described the governance structure, to assist partners in identifying discussion that might be relevant to their groups and to enable them to feed in to the Cells any other issues they wanted addressed.</p>	
<p>3.1.2 It was noted that EM was on the Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF) Supplies and Logistics Group (police, fire, military and local authorities) reporting in to the SRF. At BHCC Level, a Covid19 Response Team - chaired by a member of the Executive Leadership Team and including all the lead officers for the Cells together with CEO Community Works and CCG reps - held strategic and operational overview.</p>	
<p>3.1.3 Cells most relevant to the Partnership; Food Cell, Vulnerable People Cell, Vulnerable Housing Cell, Homeless Cell, PPE Cell, Workforce Cell (linked in with the NHS Workforce Cell), IT&D Cell, Hardship & Welfare Cell, Children & Young People Cell, Bereavement/Death Cell.</p>	
<p>3.1.4 Community Works leading the city's response around volunteers and volunteering.</p>	
<p>3.1.5 The Communities, Equality & Third Sector Team had been liaising with equalities staff in the CVS to ensure issues were being fed back to the right Cells.</p>	
<p>3.1.6 The Chair raised a concern around reports of children/families with no food. EM confirmed there had been an increase in people who were in emergency food need, but for different reasons; some already in poverty, which had been compounded by the crisis, some pushed into food poverty through recent loss of income. There had also been an issue around people who had money but no</p>	

		<u>Action</u>
	access to it (isolating, no credit/debit card) and they were receiving support through the emergency food scheme.	
3.1.7	Dee H had been working on a lobbying strategy around Covid issues for the city and drew attention to the work of the Women & Equalities Committee on the impact on protected characteristics of the Covid response. Action: EM and DH to discuss using this to identify how government could support the city through the recovery and reform period.	EM/DH
3.1.8	SP raised serious concern around the Bill for the Covid19 Act of Parliament, which would give councils the power to downgrade care for the disabled and elderly, subject to review by Equality & Human Rights Commission. EM reassured the Partnership that there would no change in the council's position on thresholds for assessment and an official BHCC statement was due imminently. EM had also raised this at the Covid Response group and suggested that the Equip Councillor reps might consider raising this at Full Council. Action: SP, AG & DS to discuss.	SP/AG/ DS
3.1.9	SP commented that hate crime was still happening and needed more information on this and follow up.	
3.2	<u>Key CVS issues</u>	
3.2.1	Emma Turner raised the issues of neurodiversity, hidden disabilities, blindness. Action: EM and ET to discuss outside the meeting how best to feed this information to the Cells.	ET/EM
3.2.2	Nora Mzaoui updated about the increasing demand on the food bank at Voices in Exile and also that the Table Tennis Club was running a foodbank. Access to food was a significant issue. NM stated that Voices was providing public health advice to refugees and migrants but more could be done by government/LA and also more advice on food handling for the food banks would be helpful.	
3.2.3	Mandy Crandale consolidated on SP's earlier comments in the meeting about the Coronavirus Act and concerns about the lowering of thresholds for support from Adult Social Care. MC reported that the key issues witnessed by Possability People were the impact on individuals' mental health with heightened anxiety due to the Coronavirus Act and Personal Assistants/paid and unpaid carers' access to PPE – currently getting just about enough. Also, that neuro-diverse individuals were finding the guidance/rules from government difficult and confusing, and needed them repeating frequently or rephrasing. Plus, digital exclusion very evident – not necessarily in terms of device or skill but data poor. Action: EM to feedback to the digital exclusion workstream under the B&H Vulnerable People cell.	EM

		<u>Action</u>
3.2.4	EM asked that any issues about supermarkets should be fed back to Nick Wilmot, who was leading the Supermarkets workstream of the Food Cell. Nick.wilmot@brighton-hove.gov.uk .	All
3.2.5	EM clarified that people were being encouraged to use mutual aid for deliveries rather than the Community Hub unless in desperate need.	EM
3.3	<u>Feedback from individual public sector organisations</u>	
3.3.1	KW explained that East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service would continue to visit people's homes for essential specialist support, but all other face-to-face contact had been paused. The Service had witnessed ongoing threat on domestic violence and arson.	
3.3.2	SP updated that Health and Adult Social Care had been ensuring that residents with Learning Disability had access to PH information and guidance and were receiving support. SP was exploring creative ways of using the Healthy Neighbourhoods Fund that supported health initiatives in the city's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. SP keen to ensure use of the Fund at this time.	
3.3.3	DH reported that Policy had been working on recovery planning and how the partnership structure would work within that. DH also reminded the Partnership that Brexit planning was ongoing; there was some pressure to extend the EU settlement scheme, and concerns around support for vulnerable EU nationals. Action: DH to provide a briefing for the next meeting.	DH
3.3.4	CB reassured the Partnership that the council continued to fulfil its statutory responsibilities regarding safeguarding children and young people. This was being constantly monitored. Capacity had been reallocated to supporting the most vulnerable families engaged with the council, for example families with a social worker who were not taking up childcare, families with a child/children with SEN or disability, families eligible for free school meals and KS1 aged children.	
4	Future Partnership Work	
4.1	Oxford University wanted the council to continue to develop its Inclusive Cities Action Plan. Post-Covid there would be a focus on the impact on different groups in terms of equality. The Vulnerable People Cell could take an overview on this and roll it forward into recovery, taking account of intersectionality. The Partnership could have a strong oversight role in this, perhaps taking on some of the recovery planning.	
4.2	NM raised an issue around reports of issues taken to Councillors not being responded to quickly, eg homeless people going without food for long periods. EM advised that this particular issue would be best left with the Homeless Cell to follow up with the parties involved. It was noted that the Vulnerable People Cell	

	<u>Action</u>
had numerous workstreams, which had impacted on the feedback loop and this would be addressed.	
4.3 There was some discussion as to whether agreement on the future role of Equip and planning for recovery could be left until the July meeting, given pressures to respond to current changes and new pressures, or whether it should be discussed and agreed sooner than that.	
4.4 The Partnership was in agreement that equality and inclusivity must be embedded in the recovery planning and process.	
5 Date of next meeting	
Meeting closed at 1326.	
Next meeting: 21 st July 2020 – via Skype	