

ANNEX 1

Tonbridge & Malling Local Strategic Partnership Minutes of Meeting – 7th September 2012

Present: Cllr Nicholas Heslop – Leader, TMBC
Cllr Liz Simpson - TMBC
Cllr Brian Luker, TMBC
Cllr Graham Gibbens - Council Member, KCC
Cllr Chris Smith - KCC
Mark Raymond – TMBC
Julie Beilby – TMBC
Jonathan Shaw – T&M LCTB
Peter Robinson – T&M District Cricket Partnership
Jay Edwins – West Kent PCT
Sheila West – Kent Libraries
James Harman – KCC
Paul Temple – Age Concern
Angela Newey – Tonbridge CAB
Paul Daniels/Alex Farmer – Young Leaders in Cricket
Henry Swan – KCC
David Keogh – KCC
Lynn Coveney – KCC
John Turner - KCC
Penny Denne - KCC
Denise Reeves - Russet Homes
John Handley – Bridge Trust
Chris Hare – K College

Apologies: Liz Rikaby – RBLI
Cllr Valerie Dagger – Council Member, KCC
Father Brendan Grady - The Friars
Bishop Brian Castle - Bishop of Tonbridge
Bernadette Gillow – Ightham Mote
Bev Cleaves – Hadlow College
Angela Painter – Kenward Trust
Jon Kirby – Kent Police
Alison Roper – Kenward Trust

		ACTION BY
1. Introductions		
Cllr Nicolas Heslop welcomed all to the meeting and expressed his thanks to Peter Robinson for agreeing to host the meeting.		

<p>2. Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No declarations were made.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of the meeting held on 29th June 2012</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were signed and agreed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>4. Tonbridge and Malling Local Children’s Trust Board (LCTB)</p> <p>The Chairman of the LCTB, Mr Jonathan Shaw, was welcomed to the meeting. Mr Shaw outlined the progress made by the Board after one year in the role of Chairman. He drew attention to the £35K funding made available from the Board’s community chest which had been used to support local initiatives of value to young people including support for those with mental health issues, safeguarding training, support for the summer play scheme, tackling ASB issues and emotional health and well-being for young women. The aim of the Board was to add value to existing activities where possible and to focus on positive actions in support of children and young people.</p> <p>James Harman (KCC) drew attention to a consultation on a review of LCTB structures and governance. Comments on that review needed to be submitted by 29th October 2012.</p> <p>A number of issues were raised and discussed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The degree to which the LCTB should be seen as locally driven and not a KCC-centric body - The need for additional funding to be devolved to the Board - The need for local membership of the Board to reflect representatives of those supporting young people locally within the Borough including the Third Sector - The need to engage secondary schools to add value to the business of the Board - The need to ensure that smaller organisations such as the Beat Project and Platform 51 are involved and that smaller sums of funding can be made available to support engagement work. <p>The Chairman thanked Mr Shaw for his presentation.</p>	
<p>5. Young Leaders in Cricket – Peter Robinson, Paul Daniels, Alex Farmer</p> <p>Peter Robinson outlined the role of Addington Cricket Club and its role in promoting cricket, particularly for young people including girls.</p> <p>Paul Daniels, supported by Alex Farmer, gave a presentation on the</p>	

Young Leaders in Cricket initiative which had been started in South east London and was now being rolled out to other areas with the support of the ECB. The programme aimed to engage boys and girls aged 14-16, including those not currently involved in cricket and to provide them with a range of training and volunteering opportunities including coaching, officiating, grounds work and first aid. Participants were required to offer 20 hours volunteering in return. Funding had originally been obtained from the London Mayor's legacy fund to deliver a pilot programme in Bromley including 10 clubs, 5 schools, 100 young leaders and generating 2000+ hours of volunteering time. Following the success of this, the programme was now being extended to Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham. The ECB are now keen to promote this nationally in 2013.

Members of the LSP welcomed the proposal to bring the programme to Kent and for Tonbridge and Malling in particular. It was agreed that, given the wider benefits of the programme to engage harder to reach young people and provide 'life skills' training alongside the involvement in sport and activity, an initial programme could be focused on East Malling and Snodland, with the support of Addington Cricket Club. LSP partners agreed to take the proposal back to their own organisations to see how they could support its introduction locally.

The Chairman thanked the presenters for their attendance and noted the clear support from the LSP for developing a local Young Leaders in Cricket initiative. He suggested the following actions which were agreed:

- That a local steering group be formed to take this initiative forward involving Peter Robinson, TMBC and other relevant partners
- The initial focus should be on East Malling and Snodland
- Alex Farmer from the ECB would be available to help support the process
- The aim should be to develop a programme by Christmas with a view to this being launched in the Spring of 2013
- An update report would be submitted to the next meeting of the LSP.

P. Robinson
M. Raymond

6. Youth Unemployment – David Keogh/Lynn Coveney

It was reported that in recent months, the numbers of JSA claimants aged 16-24 had reduced from 525 in the Borough (Feb) to 405 (July). The T&M rate was now below the national average but remained above the average for the South East.

The 16-24 Youth Contract was described which involved a weekly meeting with an adviser and access to a range of work experience programmes. 50% get an offer of employment after a placement. JCP is able to assist employers with apprenticeships and work experience and can offer recruitment subsidies to encourage them to employ unemployed young people. In addition, Sector –based work academies can provide intensive training for a wide range of for example, customer service skills for retailing and life-guard qualifications.

JS drew attention to the youth contract for 16-17 year olds which provides support to engage those without qualifications for the most vulnerable and involves a wide range of providers.

The degree to which SMEs could be involved in the above programmes was raised. It was thought that SMEs were often reluctant to take on apprentices etc and needed more support to encourage them to do so. There was also a need to promote more entrepreneurship amongst young people to support those wishing to start up their own businesses but had no direct experience of this.

A number of issues were raised as follows:

- The restrictive nature of some apprenticeships meant that employers were unwilling to recruit. For example, Age Concern Malling had wished to recruit three apprentices and train them in all aspects of the business but this was not possible.
- The need for more flexible apprenticeships was agreed, more on the model of a 'mix and match' approach. There was currently no funding for this although a new round of ESF funding in April 2013 might provide some opportunity for these to be developed.
- It was felt that some young people are deterred from taking up apprenticeships due to the stigma, lack of confidence and the amount of bureaucracy involved.
- It was noted that a LEP skills group was investigating these issues (chaired by Cllr Peter Fleming) and that there are opportunities to influence the work of this group.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a need to improve access to support for young people in the Borough who currently need to travel to Maidstone and Tonbridge Job Centres. One to one support via locally based job clubs could be less intimidating. These needed to be provided in local settings where youth unemployment was high eg Snodland, East Malling and Trench. - There is a need for more work experience opportunities to be provided as part of the secondary school curriculum from Year 7 to introduce young people early to the world of work. <p>The Chairman thanked the speakers for their presentation. It was agreed that there was an opportunity to raise these concerns with the Skills Group of the Local Enterprise Partnership. It was agreed that Chris Hare and Paul Temple would prepare a short paper to submit to that group.</p>	C. Hare P. Temple
<p>7. Apprenticeships – John Turner/Penny Denne, KCC</p> <p>PD distributed a handout regarding the Kent Employment Programme This seeks to meet the need of employers interested in taking on apprentices and/or work experience. KCC grant of £2000 is available to help SME companies of under 250 employees with the costs associated with taking on a young person who has been unemployed for at least 3 months.</p> <p>It was noted that there have been a number of recent Apprenticeship placements in the Borough :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kent Top Temps - Middleton Murray - Aylesford Vehicle Sales - Job Centre Plus - K College. <p>Cllr Simpson drew attention to the successful employment of an apprentice at the St James Community Centre who has flourished with support from local staff. It was noted that the need to make a financial contribution to this by charities was often difficult although it was confirmed that KCC grant could be available to cover training costs.</p> <p>JE raised the issue of apprenticeships in the health and social care sector. The NHS was a major employer locally. It was confirmed that work was underway on engaging with this group.</p> <p>The targets for Kent apprenticeships was to achieve 88 per year.</p> <p>Additional information about the programme can be found at:</p>	

www.kentchoices4u.co.uk

8. Any Other Business

It was suggested that the need to promote fostering opportunities should be examined at the next meeting of the LSP in December.

The Chairman drew attention to the formation of 'Locality Boards' across Kent and confirmed that this was being investigated for Tonbridge and Malling. The LSP would, however, remain as a key partner body as well as other existing arrangements including the Joint Transportation Board and Parish Partnership Panel.

It was confirmed that Henry Swan had been nominated and the KCC locality representative for Tonbridge and Malling.