

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

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Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford Community Legal Advice Service Partnership Board held on 4 February 2009 at City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 1800
Concluded 1915

PRESENT

Members of the Board

Lindsey Johnson	Bradford Law Society	Private Sector
Lynette Kirk	Advice Network & Training Partnership	Voluntary Sector
Shakeela Lal	Labour Group	Bradford Council
Zahida Mallard	Voting Co-opted Member	Bradford Council
Howard Middleton	Liberal Democrat Group	Bradford Council
Dave Preston	Community Funding Unit	Bradford Council
Malcolm Sykes	Conservative Group	Bradford Council
Andy Taylor	Bradford CAB	Voluntary Sector

Also present

Sikander Hussain	Key House Project	Voluntary Sector
Andrew Illingworth	Revenues & Benefits	Bradford Council
Alice Percival	Revenues & Benefits	Bradford Council
Julie Robinson-Joyce	Community Funding Unit	Bradford Council
Claire Tomenson	Secretary	Bradford Council

201. MINUTES

It was agreed:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2008 and the notes of the inquorate meeting held on 12 November 2008 be accepted as correct records.



202. MATTERS ARISING

- (i) Dave indicated that representatives of the Legal Services Commission (LSC) would need to be invited to Board meetings at regular intervals in order to keep Members updated on issues. (Minute 197 – CLACs and CLANs).

ACTION: *Julie*

- (ii) Zahida reported that letters had been sent out and registration had to be completed by March. The cost would be £1,000 for 2 years. (Minute 197 – Quality Mark).
- (iii) It was suggested that the LSC be invited back just before the commencement of the bid rounds. (Minute 197 – Bid Rounds).

ACTION: *Julie*

203. HOUSING STRATEGY

It was noted that Housing Strategy would be discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION: *Julie/Secretary*

204. COMMISSIONING

Dave informed the Board that work with the Primary Care Trust to link advice provision alongside the Council's base budget had now been completed. He then reported that the Council's Executive had approved approximately £1 million of Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) funding for financial inclusion work including advice provision for 2009 to 2011. The Stronger Communities Partnership was responsible for the allocation of money and a proposal would be submitted to them in relation to how much money would be spent over the next two years. Work would be undertaken with existing agencies to cover gaps in the provision.

Julie tabled a report that outlined the underlying principles, tiered approach and areas of work in relation to the allocation of the WNF funding for 2009 to 2011 which was discussed by the Board.

During the discussion Members highlighted issues with regard to the definition of areas of deprivation and the wording of the funding proposal. Dave confirmed that these areas would be amended prior to the submission to the Stronger Communities Partnership.

ACTION: *Julie*

Howard Middleton questioned how the Credit Union's proposal tied in with some of the smaller credit unions. Julie explained that Bradford and District Credit Union was the only one with a common bond which covered all the Bradford District and many of the smaller credit unions were not looking to develop their services further.

Dave confirmed that the proposal would be submitted to the Stronger Communities Partnership on 6 February 2009 and that details of the commissioning for the next year would be presented to the next meeting on 18 March 2009. Malcolm Sykes then requested that the Board be informed of the outcome and that the issue be presented to a future meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities Improvement Committee.

ACTION: Julie

205. REVIEW OF ACTION PLAN TARGETS – UP TO END DECEMBER 2008

Julie tabled a document that detailed the work undertaken up to the end of December 2008. The Board went through the targets and additional points are noted below:

CLASP Directory

Lynette confirmed that the Advice Network and Training Partnership (ANTP) had some funds available that could possibly be used to pay for the printing of the Directory and she undertook to contact Julie in regard to this.

ACTION: Lynette

Board members acknowledged the amount of work involved in compiling and updating the Strategy and congratulated those involved in the work undertaken.

As an associated issue, Malcolm Sykes queried whether the Board could research impending planning changes in relation to permitted development rights. In response Dave indicated that investigations as to whether people could be signposted could be undertaken.

ACTION: Julie

In conclusion it was noted that the review of the Strategy would commence once the Commissioning process had been completed.

206. REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The amended current Constitution of the Board was approved.

ACTION: Secretary

207. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Stronger Communities Partnership

Dave reported that Andy Taylor attended meetings of the Stronger Communities Partnership as a representative of the CLASP Board and requested that his representation was formalised by Members. This was agreed.

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Board.