

MINUTES OF THE LGYH MEMBER IMPROVEMENT & EUROPEAN BOARD: 17 JULY 2014

Members in Attendance

Cllr Roger Stone (Chair & Leader of Rotherham MBC), Cllr Jonathan Owen (East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Lead Member on Health and Wellbeing), Cllr Tim Cheetham (Barnsley MBC), Cllr Judith Blake (Leeds CC), Cllr Glyn Jones (Doncaster MBC), Cllr Ray Oxby (North East Lincolnshire Council),

Visitors/Officers in Attendance

Joanne Roney (Wakefield MDC), Mark Edgel (LGA), Hilary Jones (Scarborough BC), Sarah Tyler (LGYH), Paul Cartwright (LGYH)

Apologies

Cllr Derek Bastiman (Vice Chair & Scarborough BC), Cllr Tracy Simpson-Laing (City of York Council), Mayor Ros Jones (Doncaster Council), Cllr John Blackie (Richmondshire & North Yorkshire), Cllr Martin Mancey (Hull City Council), Cllr Tim Swift (Calderdale MBC), Cllr Imran Hussain (Bradford MDC)

1. Welcome, Introduction, Apologies and Minutes

Cllr Roger Stone, Chair, welcomed all to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record. Apologies were noted.

Matters Arising

Cllr Stone circulated an EU flyer promoting his opinion on Roma Integration Strategies. A discussion followed about the importance of education in supporting Roma integration and the significant role that local government can play. Concerns were raised about G4S placing immigrant families in specific areas due to low rents which then become over saturated; and about an upcoming EDL march in Doncaster. It was suggested that South Yorkshire Authorities need to come together to support each other with regards to future marches.

It was suggested that Leaders should have an update on migration at a future meeting of the LGYH Council, and that Police and Crime Commissioners should be involved due to the impact on community cohesion. This should also include an update on what funding is available for local authorities to deal with migration issues.

3. Transformation Challenge Award (TCA)

A document that summarized the known TCA bids from Yorkshire and Humber was circulated. LGYH have supported regional sessions. Mark Edgel (LGA) informed the Board that 165 bids had been received nationally and that the LGA was working with DCLG to support and enhance the bids. It was reported that government ministers are content with the level of interest so far.

Hilary Jones (Deputy CEX, Scarborough BC) gave an update on the TCA bid that has been submitted by Scarborough to provide context for the Board's discussions. Scarborough has submitted a bid for the 2015-16 tranche for a public sector wide approach to place based services, working specifically with the North Yorkshire PCC and North Yorkshire Police. It will provide a coordinated and integrated programme for a cohort of individuals with 'chaotic lives'. The service has now been commissioned to a third sector provider, designating a hostel as a 'community hub' to accommodate the service; and is building a multi-agency approach extending beyond their local authority geographic boundaries.

The service is targeted to save 5% across the board after the third year. There will also be fiscal and public value outcomes by reducing crime and anti-social behavior, as well as identifying safeguarding, independent living opportunities and building a strong and trusted customer experience.

Their programme of asset management is supported by a Public Service Executive, made up of the CEX of all the area's public sector organisations. This has enabled them to work through cultural issues at a high level and ensure that, through communication and organization wide understanding differences and problems have been overcome. They are supporting a third entity model around information sharing and collaboration.

Cllr Jonathan Owen (ERYC) said that a focus on deciding degrees of scale could be beneficial, deciding at what level initiatives are carried out and where services can be either scaled up or down.

It was agreed that sharing experiences and information such as the TCA bids was essential. LGYH will further monitor the TCA bids process and provide information to the Board where appropriate.

4. European Updates

European Election Results

The results of the recent European elections were noted. It was agreed that the Board would engage with all MEPs, and put pressure on the UKIP MEPs to identify their position on European issues that affect the region. Risks were raised about the impact that reduced EU representation could have on key issues. Meetings with MEPs Linda McAvan and Timothy Kirkhope were being planned for interested members.

ACTION:

It was agreed that LGYH would engage UKIP MEPs on key policy issues, identifying what their approach is and what they will be doing to support Yorkshire and Humber. If this approach does not yield results Members agreed to get involved and provide political leadership.

National Programme Agreement Update

It was noted that the discussions on the National Partnership Agreement are still taking place and that representatives from Yorkshire and Humber are participating. LEPs from across the region are fully engaged.

Committee of the Regions (CoR) Open Days

Sarah Tyler (LGYH) updated the Board on preparations for the Open Days in October, where in addition to workshops LGYH will arrange meetings with Director Generals of the EU, MEPs and other relevant bodies for lobbying. The papers were noted and attention drawn to the list of potentially interesting workshops.

Members were asked to identify if they would like to attend the Open Days in Brussels between 6-9th October, and if so to start the self-registration process for workshop attendance. Registration is free but Members are encouraged to sign up for workshops as soon as possible as they become over-subscribed very quickly. Once Members have registered it was requested that LGYH be informed so that meetings can be arranged around workshop commitments.

Cllr Roger Stone informed the Board that Rotherham will be hosting a CoR meeting on 15th-16th October, focused on the Advanced Manufacturing Park. Improvement and European Board members will be invited to attend.

5. Improvement and European Board Activity 2014-15

Feedback from the LGYH AGM

Cllr Roger Stone provided an update to the Board about discussions at the LGYH AGM on the future of the LGYH organisation. It was agreed at the AGM for the organisation to be reconfigured as a regional economic entity, with LGYH to be replaced by a Regional Economic Forum. The Improvement and European Board has been asked to look at how it would like improvement focused activity to continue, post LGYH. This will be revisited as a discussion point in future meetings, once the Regional Chief Executives' Group has worked through options for the new organisation.

Annual Report and Membership of the Board

The Annual Report, summarising activity from the past year was noted.

The list of Members as included in the papers was noted with one exception. Cllr Ray Oxby (NELC) is to replace Cllr Ray Sutton as the Humber Authorities representative.

Recap on Funding Priorities

The document circulated within the meeting papers was noted and agreed. This report provided an update to Members on the previously agreed priorities for funding.

Funding LGYH Improvement Board support

Sarah Tyler informed the Board that, upon its inception they funded LGYH for 2 years to provide support to the Board. This request was for further funds to support the Board ongoing.

It was agreed that LGYH would produce a development plan for the Board to identify what funding is needed to deliver specific actions and provide specific support. It was also agreed that this was not the time to agree future funding due to the CEX review that is to take place and the as yet undecided role of improvement within the new economic forum. This bid was postponed for further discussion at a future meeting.

Bid from Wakefield Council – ‘Inspiring Skills – Skills Charter and Passport’

It was noted that this bid meets the requirements in terms of its focus on skills and young people. It will support the development of a child-focused app for schools to use to identify and collect skills for use in the employment market later in life. It has the support from Leeds City Region and has attracted school and private sector investment.

Following discussion and support from Board Member Joanne Roney (Wakefield Council) this bid was approved for funding, based on the expectation that they will look for opportunities for European match funding.

It was also noted that the initiative has the potential to be scaled up for use across the region and beyond. As a result it was requested that Wakefield Council contact the Regional Children’s Network to present the project and attract pan-regional support. It was agreed that the project coordinator be asked to do this when the funding approval is confirmed.

Health and Wellbeing

6. Cllr Jonathan Owen updated the Board on recent developments in the health and wellbeing agenda, particularly in changes to the Better Care Fund. Areas are being asked to reshape and resubmit their BCF bids for accessing part of a central pot of funding, with any underspend being reviewed and then given to the CCGs. It was noted that £1bn has been earmarked for reducing admissions to A&E, with the other £1bn available for local initiatives.

It was reported that NHS England are being given more freedoms to be locally focused rather than on a single national policy. This will create opportunities for local authorities and support the pooled budgets approach currently being developed.

Cllr Owen also updated the Board on a Public Health England event that he chaired in Leeds, called ‘Moving More, Living More’. With over 180 attendees the event was a great success.

Children and Young People

7. Cllr Tim Cheetham (Barnsley MBC) updated the Board on recent developments within the Regional Children’s Network, and specifically about discussions focused on the future role and vision of the Network. It was noted that there exists strong engagement and drive amongst members around improvement issues and developing a shared vision.

Concerns were raised about how government doesn’t understand how ‘goalposts’ and targets are constantly being moved so it looks like improvement isn’t happening when in reality it is. Greater understanding of progress and local development should be encouraged.

Procurement

8. The procurement update was noted. Sarah Tyler informed the Board that she is due to meet with the Chair of the Procurement Network shortly to discuss progress on the procurement agenda. Feedback will be provided to the Board accordingly.

Dates of future meetings to be circulated.