

8th August 2017

Dear Health & Well-Being Board Members,

Following the cessation of the Local Strategic Partnerships and the creation of the HWBB, the Place & Communities Partnership was developed in 2013 to become the platform of engagement for the Board in relation to the wider communities and organisations operating within the Wokingham Borough.

The objectives of the partnership were set out;

1. Objectives

- 1.1 To inspire and promote a sense of Wellbeing for the Place and Community of Wokingham Borough by working to:
 - ensure local communities are capable and sustainable;
 - support local communities, particularly communities of disadvantage (communities of interest, geographic communities);
 - shape new communities and places.

- 1.2 To support the Vision of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy of “healthier lives for everyone in Wokingham”, with a focus on:
 - Empowering communities through interventions to prevent ill health;
 - Promoting personal and neighbourhood responsibility for wellbeing.

The partnership has broad representation from multiple agencies and initially had a clear plan in place. During the last 4 years limited guidance or initiatives for the partnership to act upon have been forthcoming from the HWBB and as such the partnership has been persistent in aiming to meet its objectives but without having a clear message to convey.

In Dec 2016 Stuart Rowbotham asked the partnership to develop a proposal which would meet the objectives and be creative in engaging residents and partners in interacting to raise the profile and awareness of the HWBB whilst reaching out to communities. Such a proposal was presented to the HWBB in March 2017 but was declined.

The dedication of the partners has been tested over time, whilst they offer their own time and enthusiasm to deliver key messages which support the objectives there is little enthusiasm in the partnership continuing without the support from the Board and without a clear and defined purpose.

In the tracking document produced from June 2017 for 2017/18 period it was noted in section 5;

- Judith Ramsden proposed that a communication strategy be developed and that the Board agree when during the year particular messages should be amplified.

The P&C partnership have a wealth of skills and understanding of their local communities needs and valuable services and support to offer during the challenging times we all are faced with and saw their proposal as a stepping stone for 1 year to engage and interact with residents and groups to raise awareness of the HWBB's priorities and messages and to explore and share the vast and valuable contribution from the communities and voluntary sector to support people in their well-being and health related issues using the findings to strengthen the HWBB's position for the coming years.

The Place & Community Partnership would now like to reintroduce the proposal made in March to be reconsidered as part of this new strategy. There is great passion from the partnership to continue to be of value to the Board.

In the longer term the partnership would like to be better integrated into the strategic planning and delivery of the HWBB. The individual partners already successfully deliver a vast range of services and activities and as that partnership request to be viewed as other partner groups in terms of potential contribution. We are very happy to meet with any board members to discuss our work with the genuine intention of better serving the wellbeing of our community.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Sharpe', is centered within a light blue rectangular box.

Jeremy Sharpe
Vice-Chair
Place and Community Partnership