



Gateshead Strategic Partnership Steering Group

2 June 2015

Minutes

Present:

Cllr Mick Henry	Gateshead Council
Cllr Martin Gannon	Gateshead Council
Christina Barrett	Northumbria Police
Alison Dunn	Gateshead CAB / Advice Partnership
Geoff Hagon	Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service
Ian Renwick	QE Hospital Gateshead
Vikas Kumar	Diversity Forum
Trevor Atkinson	GVOC

In Attendance:

Sheila Johnston	Gateshead Council
Carole Wood	Gateshead Council
Charlotte Wainwright	Gateshead Council
Gayle Scurfield	Gateshead Council
Rosalyn White	Gateshead Council

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Laura Young, Joan Moon, Ian Atkinson, Jenny McAteer and Helen Matthews.

The Group was advised that Tobyn Hughes will represent Nexus following the retirement of Bernard Garner. Suzi Robson has been replaced by Andrew Sugden as the Economy, Environment and Culture Board representative. There is still currently a vacancy for a Children's Trust Board representative on the Steering Group.

2. MINUTES

9 September 2014

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

25 November 2014 – Vision 2030 Workshop

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. PARTNER UPDATES

- **QE Hospital**

The Group was advised that the Pathology Centre of Excellence has officially opened and will service the South of Tyne and Wear.

The new Emergency Care Centre is up and running and so far positive feedback has been received from patients.

It was confirmed that the QE Hospital has retained its CQC Band 6 status and is one of no more than five hospitals across the country to achieve this. It was noted that hospitals are inspected on the potential risk to patients with band 6 being the least risk.

- **Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service**

It was reported that the Fire Service is no longer responding to automatic alarms in commercial buildings between the hours of 8am and 6pm. This change came into effect on 1 June 2015 and the impact of this is currently being monitored.

Four tactical response vehicles have come into operation to replace some fire engines across the service for class three and four fires, no life or property at risk. These vehicles have been phased in over the last two weeks and are currently based at Washington, Sunderland and Newcastle Central.

An organisational review is ongoing which may see the structure change and districts becoming more joined up. It was also reported that from the Autumn, the Police will co-locate to Birtley and Chopwell Fire Stations. It was agreed that this information should be provided to Councillors.

- **Northumbria Police**

The Police are now based in three areas, Gateshead and Newcastle have a central command. There are no changes to numbers and this has led to efficiencies in terms of where resources are hubbed.

It was reported that over the last year and a half there has been a permanent team working on Operation Sanctuary, dealing with child sexual exploitation across the police authority area. Charges have been brought against a number of people and trials are imminent.

- **GVOC**

It was reported that it was identified that GVOC had serious financial problems going a long way back. A crisis management plan was put in place and now the organisation is going forward with reduced staff. Discussions are ongoing with partners and the Council to look at structures. It was confirmed that there would be more communication about what would be delivered going forward. The point was made that the Gateshead Family need to mitigate the risk as far as possible.

- **Volunteer Month**

The third volunteer month will be held in June, 40 activities are being held and further information can be found on the Council's website and OurGateshead. Information will also be circulated after the meeting.

- **Citizens Advice Bureau**

It was reported that the Big Lottery funding for the Gateshead Advice Partnership will come to an end in June. The Partnership will continue as an unpaid resource to continue with closer working.

The implementation phase of the call centre has been rolled out and is now delivering, this is a two year contract if performance indicators are met in the first year. An organisational restructure has allowed the development of key aspirational posts so more positions are being created than are being lost.

5. VISION 2030 – REFRESH DOCUMENT

The Group received an update report on the Vision 2030 refresh. It was previously agreed that there should be a strategic plan in place to inform the Gateshead Strategic Partnership on priorities and to monitor progress.

Vision 2030 was launched in 2007 and was refreshed in 2010, it contained 276 milestones. In light of changes to the GSP and the organisations involved it was agreed that Vision 2030 should be amended and discussions have been taking place with partners. From these discussions it was established that there was; a shared enthusiasm to work together to link assets and needs, a commitment to look at practical projects to join up services and build relationships.

The long term vision for Gateshead was agreed as: "Local people realising their full potential, enjoying the best quality of life in a healthy, equal, safe, prosperous and sustainable Gateshead".

Following feedback from discussions it was noted that the current aims in Vision 2030 are still relevant. However, it is proposed that the document become more strategic, whilst keeping the 6 Big Ideas but focussing on a few high level measurable ambitions which cut across the ideas.

Draft outcomes for the short to medium term were discussed, and recognising that this was work in progress, the Steering Group was asked if these outcomes broadly captured the issues that needed to be tackled, and were asked for more information around how these can be delivered. It was noted that this is an opportunity for Gateshead to be innovative and partners were asked if this felt right in the context of reduced resources.

It was confirmed that conversations would be started with businesses in Gateshead to increase the business representation on the partnership. It was noted that work with businesses would primarily be around social responsibility.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the comments of the Steering Group around the proposals be noted.
 - (ii) That the Steering Group agreed to the basis for

discussions with the Themed Partnership Boards over the next few months.

6. VISION 2030 – DELIVERY

Partners took part in an exercise to provide thoughts on where the biggest impacts should be made and where the opportunities for joint working are.

It was confirmed that further discussions would be held through the Partnership Boards.

7. GSP ANNUAL REPORT

A presentation was given to the Steering Group outlining the achievements of the GSP over the last year.

It was noted that collectively 27 meetings have been held, considering nearly 200 items of business which have made sure resources are focused in the right areas to make the biggest impact.

In relation to the Big Ideas, City of Gateshead has been progressing with the development of new shopping areas at Gateshead, Blaydon and Birtley town centres. Work has also started in Felling town centre. It was noted that Gateshead is still one of the safest places to live in Tyne and Wear, although there has been a slight increase in crime and anti-social behaviour figures. Over 90% of residents feel safe living in Gateshead and the Fire and Rescue Service have attended 182 less fires over the last year. There is a high satisfaction rate with local public transport and it is hoped that the Quality Contracts Scheme will improve this further. Improvements have been made to give bus priority through congested areas at the Team Valley Trading Estate as well as improved pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities at Oakwellgate.

It was queried whether satisfaction rates around public transport have been drilled down further as there have been issues in rural areas of Gateshead. It was confirmed that this is based on information from Nexus and no further work has been done to identify underlying issues yet. It was agreed that this would be looked into further with Nexus.

It was reported that there are fewer children in poverty than four years ago, yet still remains an issue for Gateshead.

There has been improved ICT connections through Broadband vouchers for local businesses and the scheme is expected to be available until March 2016.

In terms of the 'Global Gateshead' Big Idea it was reported that CASCADE has enabled Gateshead to share knowledge and experience with 19 European cities leading to improvements in local energy strategies and also informed the development of Gateshead Town Centre District Energy Scheme. Gateshead hosted international sporting events such as The Great North Run and later this year the British Transplant Games. Gateshead also provided opportunities to work with communities and projects worldwide, for example; the Thinking Digital Conference was held at Sage Gateshead and the Connecting Classrooms Project

enabled a Headteacher from India to visit Gateshead to learn from schools in the area. Also, delegates from Heworth Grange School have taken part in an exchange programme with Kenya.

In terms of 'Creative Gateshead' it was reported that 90% of schools in Gateshead have been rated good or outstanding and Gateshead is top in the region in relation to pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE's at grades A*-C including maths and English. It was noted that this is higher than the regional and national average. Gateshead College has been rated third best in the country for success rates with a 92% rate, this is 8.2% higher than the average for other colleges. In addition, Gateshead College is in the top 10% of apprenticeship providers for the third year in a row. There are currently 7.6% of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Gateshead, this is a slight increase over the last three years. LA7Youth has worked with 1610 young people throughout the last year, with 1094 completing the programme. Creative opportunities have also been ongoing over the last year, such as; Creative Makings, Happy Healthy Gateshead which is an intergenerational art project completed but Gateshead Jewish Primary School, and also The Secret Streets exhibition which took place at St Mary's Heritage Centre.

Progress has been made around 'Sustainable Gateshead' with Gateshead now having over 5,000 active businesses, which is higher than pre-recession levels. However, there is evidence of the impact of Welfare Reforms. Work is ongoing to increase the number of homes, this is through the Exemplar Neighbourhood, the Joint Venture Project and the Empty Property Leasing Scheme. Through the Economic Growth Reserve, six investment projects were awarded, this created 589 jobs and safeguarded 112. In addition, three funding bids have been successful for projects which will contribute to improving the natural environment, reducing flood risk and protecting our heritage.

In terms of 'Active and Healthy Gateshead' work is ongoing to improve mental health and emotional wellbeing through being a two year Mental Health Employment Trailblazer pilot, this is aimed at better integrating of mental health support. A dementia roadmap page has been developed to act as a one stop shop for local information and to increase the number of 'dementia friends'. Funding has been secured for the redesign of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). Gateshead Year of Walking 2015 was launched to get people active through walking and use of Gateshead's public space. Also targeted health campaigns have been developed such as Books on Prescription, this is where GP's refer patients to specific reading lists available at libraries, as a form of self-help. There is improvement in closing the health inequality gap and it is hoped to sustain this through raising awareness of cancer, alcohol and substance misuse. A new planning policy has also been developed relating to hot food takeaways and their impact on health and wellbeing. It was reported that recent data received shows that the gap in life expectancy for males has reduced significantly, this data will be circulated following the meeting.

In relation to 'Gateshead Volunteers' it was reported that, through the Council's Community Asset transfer policy, 17 community centres have been transferred to local community organisations. A number of volunteer opportunities have been created which are also promoted to students.

The update was noted but it was suggested that more should be done to report on achievements from partner organisations and also more needs to be done with the information once collected. It was felt that more communication was needed and for the GSP to be more proactive.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at 2.00pm on Tuesday 8 September 2015, in the Whickham Room, Gateshead Civic Centre.