

**Minutes –Unconfirmed
The Central Area Partnership Board
27th September 2012, 4pm
Education Centre, Junction Road, Stockton.**

Members: Paul Thomas (Chair, Tilery Residents Association), Suzanne Fletcher (Vice Chair, Voluntary Sector), Verna Pickering (Roseworth Residents), Cllr Michael Clark (SBC), Marilyn Surtees (Elm Tree Community Centre), Josie Bailes (Over 50's Assembly), Jim Fenwick (Community Partnership), Victoria Cooling (NHS Stockton), Tina Williams (Community Partnership), Anne Howard (Primrose Hill & Dales Residents Association), Gareth Rees (Thorpe Thewles Residents), Neville Anderson (Trade Union Council),
*Members are representing their nominating body.

Advisors: Sarah Upex (SBC), Julie Thornton (SBC), Linda Stephenson (SBC)

Observers:

Apologies: Janet Stubbs (Job Centre Plus), Jill Anderson (SBC), Insp Suggitt (Cleveland Police), David Headland (Salvation Army), Cllr Jim Beall (SBC), Cllr David Coleman (SBC), Cllr N Wilburn (SBC), Alex Bain (Parkfield Residents), Cllr Nigel Cooke (SBC),

ITEM/ISSUE	ACTION
<p>1. Welcome and Apologies The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	No
<p>2. Declarations of Interest DOI procedure was noted</p>	No
<p>3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th July 2012 The minutes were agreed. SR fed back on the latest position with the A Board Policy. It has currently been sidelined due to the current economic climate. The Board will be kept informed of any further developments with this.</p>	Agreed
<p>4. Local Council Tax Support Scheme Consultation – Linda Stephenson, Stockton Borough Council The Board were informed that the Government is abolishing the current Council Tax Benefit (CTB) scheme and all Councils in England and Wales must replace this with a new 'Local Council Tax Support Scheme' (LCTS) by April 2013. In addition to the move from a national to a local scheme the budget to fund the scheme has been cut by at least 10%. The Council has developed some ideas about how it can do this best and has developed a draft LCTS. However before the Council makes any final decisions it is asking everyone who is either interested in or likely to be affected by the new system to feed in ideas. The Council will then consider these views when agreeing the final scheme. In developing a draft of the new scheme the following principles have been followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All people of working age should pay some Council Tax - Council Tax support should be targeted at those who need it most - Council Tax Support should be targeted at people on low incomes - Every working age adult in the household should be expected to contribute to Council Tax payments - The new LCTS should help encourage working age people to work - The new LCTS scheme should be based on the key features of the present housing benefit scheme 	Noted

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<p>- LCTS should not be paid to those with relatively large capital or savings</p> <p>The consultation commenced in August and to date over 1000 questionnaires have been returned. All responses will be collated and will be presented to Cabinet in November, with the final scheme presented to full Council on 23rd January 2013.</p> <p>The following discussion took place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What efforts will be made to get money from those who do not pay? Payment arrangements are put in place and encourage people to get in touch so that help can be provided. A payment plan needs to be established so that debt is not carried forward. - It was noted that those who are the poorest seem to be getting hit with cost increases and feel that they are being pushed further into poverty - It was suggested that there needs to be based on individual circumstances - It was commented that the proposal that everyone of working age in the household should contribute may be difficult for those parents who do not get money from young people towards council tax. - The consultation has been a good model and reflects the seriousness of the issue 	<p>Noted</p>
<p>5. VOICE BOX AND YOUTH PROVISION UPDATE – Julie Thornton, Stockton Borough Council</p> <p>The Board were informed that a report has been presented to Cabinet for approval for changes to be made in terms of youth voice in the area. Hard work has taken place to prepare for the change and to make it a democratically elected process with elections to ensure that all young people have the opportunity be become involved and it is believed that this will be a positive way forward. The implications of these changes will mean that the area youth forums will no longer exist and need to recognise how this will be delivered in the future. The British Youth Council have assessed the proposal and have completed a report which should be published towards the end of November.</p> <p>The following discussion took place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anne Howard noted that the Youth IAG want young people on the board - How will young people engage with the area partnership boards in the future? It was noted that it would be good suggestion for the young people to ask the board for views on topics - The whole of the borough will be represented on the youth assembly <p>Youth Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the summer youth action zones have been taking place across the borough with a range of activities on offer including skate parks and an acoustic tent. Approximately 200 families attended each of the 10 events. • 100 Young people have visited a skate park in Leeds 	<p>Noted</p> <p>JT to inform PS</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban games road shows held at Elm Tree and John Whitehead Park • Have worked with Tees Active and Tees Barrage • Over 100 young people attended a 'pool party' at Splash <p>A video is to be produced to highlight the varied activities and events that took place over the summer.</p> <p>The following discussion took place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did the Olympics have a positive impact on the young people in the borough? Sports Development did see an increase in membership. Elm Tree did see an increase in young people going to the centre after school to play sports and have taken it upon themselves to do this. 	<p>SR to contact JT/PS to add as an agenda item</p>
<p>6. Feedback from Other Partnerships from Board Members</p> <p>Update circulated.</p> <p>Suzanne Fletcher provided a verbal update from the Housing and Neighbourhood Partnership Board – following suggestions from members of the board fuel poverty will now be included in the SCS as something to be monitored. An update was provided on the Asylum Housing and Jomast. SF has been nominated to sit on the multi agency forum for this. It was noted that there are still ongoing issues, however there is support from the Partnership. There was an item on loan sharks and the need to get the message out to people to be aware and inform people of alternatives such as the Credit Union.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>7. Any Other Business</p> <p>The Board congratulated the Elm Tree community centre for receiving the Catalyst award for best building. Following the recent floods, GR noted that there was no information on the Stockton Borough Council website on where to obtain sandbags from.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>SR to follow up</p>
<p>8. Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>25th October 2012, 10am, Education Centre – Room E, Junction Road, Norton</p>	<p>Noted</p>