
Report for the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector

LSP Management Group Meeting 30th October 2008

Signing off Action Plans:

The action plans for each LSP priority were submitted on 30th October. These will not be included in the Sustainable Community Strategy which is due to be launched on 12th December so if you would like to see copies of any of these please contact the LSP Manager: 01524 582588; tjardine@lancaster.gov.uk

It was agreed that any funding from the Second Homes budget required by Action Plans is to be submitted to a thematic group appraisal panel which each thematic group selects. Once the panels have approved the applications they will be signed off by the Chair and submitted to the LSP Manager for circulation by 5.12 for decision at management group meeting 12.12.

Lancashire Locals

LCC is devolving greater budgetary control and strategic coordination to Lancashire Locals. They circulated a document for consultation with these meeting papers for a decision and response by 1st November. Jon Rigby (JR) pointed out that the process is not Compact compliant with regard to the principles of consultation and requested a suitable extension of the timescale or that the process is called in by Overview and Scrutiny. This proposal wasn't seconded. The response letter by LCC on behalf of the LSP is available from LSP Manager. 01524 582588; tjardine@lancaster.gov.uk

NB: The remaining items below, were presented at the meeting as "information only", so members of the Management Group are only allowed to ask questions; none of these items are for discussion.

Performance management framework (The quality assurance system for the LSP).

This will be delivered by the 12.12. meeting which means that the LSP will only enter its performance cycle towards April 09. JR asked, "does the Chair share our view of disappointment and frustration that we are entering the final quarter of the year with no performance in place". He also suggested that this is something that should be discussed. The Chair did not agree on any of these points.

Community Engagement Framework (How the LSP aims to consult with the whole community). The Project Board overseeing this project still aim to have this in place by March 2009. CVS had earlier expressed concern that adequate consultation, involvement and participation of the sector would require more time. JR asked, "having cast doubt on this process being able to be fully inclusive within the timescale will this process still be fully inclusive and delivered on time?". He was reassured that it would.

Membership of Thematic Groups: all Thematic Groups have now undertaken their initial stakeholder analysis. JR asked, "if a particular Thematic Group doesn't include voluntary sector representation, how can that anomaly be resolved?" the reply was that, any group who wishes to be represented should approach the Thematic Group Chair with a

request and this request should be copied to the LSP Manager. JR advised that CVS was aware of one group who had done this and has received no response. He was informed that their request had be forwarded to the Thematic Group Chair. He advised the meeting that the organisation in question had received no reply. He expressed serious concern that this kind of response does not convey the message of partnership working and inclusion that the LSP should be aiming for.

Second Homes Budget:

The budget for 2008/9 stands at £307, 985. This remains for allocation. JR stated that the sector was, “ ..extremely disappointed and frustrated that the fund allocation is so protracted and asked whether as a result, the time scales have now, effectively, become a new criteria?” The Chair did not agree with this. He asked, “what processes are in place to prevent this happening again?”. The answer was that, “once these processes (such as the Performance Management Framework) are in place they will prevent a reoccurrence”.

1.1.2 a) “unused funds arising from the current and earlier years contributions may be carried forward into the following financial year with the proviso that the total carry-forward must not exceed 25% of the latest years contributions”.

b) In special circumstances to be agreed with the contributing authorities, LSPs may carry forward amounts in excess of the threshold if the funds are firmly and specifically earmarked for a purpose in the future.

Tracey Jardine, the LSP Manager, has discussed the definition of special circumstances and has confirmed that as long as at least 75% of the second homes funding available to the Lancaster District LSP is committed, even if unspent or unclaimed, then the LSP should not be at any risk of losing any of its 2008/09 allocation.

Community Grants 07/08

CVS presented an outcomes report. This was welcomed.

Additional questions asked on behalf of the sector

JR asked about the protocol for Work Groups since the voluntary, community and faith sector groups who, following the stake holder analysis have not be invited to join the Thematic Groups have been advised that they will have the opportunity to contribute in Work Groups. CVS is concerned that deadlines for action plans has been too quick to allow the formation of Work Groups to contribute to such action plans. CVS were referred to the constitution which advises that Work Groups will be set up by Thematic Groups.

Jon Rigby
Vice Chair, LSP Board.
