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Social Inclusion Partnership South East (SIPSE)

Minutes of Meeting Monday 6th February 2006

Venue: Berkeley House, Guildford

Present:

Rob Jones (Chair)	RJ	West Sussex VOLG/RAISE
Sonia Howe	SH	Big Lottery Fund
Philip Craig	PC	Regional Assembly
Claire Hamilton	CH	Regional Assembly
Julia Pitt	JP	Housing Corporation
Sally Anne Floyd	SAF	CSCI
Anne Morrison	AM	Regional Public Health Group / GOSE
Jenny King	JK	Legal Services Commission
Vicky Westhorp	VW	GOSE
Tina Thompson	TT	Citizens Advice South East
Allan McColgan	AMc	Jobcentre Plus
Charles Freeman	CF	Culture South East
Hilary Omissi	HO	GOSE
Jon Thompson	JT	LSC
Marisa McClelland	MMc	RAISE
Simon Plummer	SP	SIPSE

Apologies: Catherine Johnstone CJ RAISE
John Stevens JS Community Development South East

Action

1 Welcome, introductions & Apologies

RJ welcomed everyone to the meeting and members introduced themselves.

Apologies received ahead of the meeting are recorded above.

2 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings subject to the following amendments:

Present: David Sheehan DS Public Health Group
Vicky Westhorp VW GOSE

Apologies: Alison Rowe does not attend SIPSE

4 SIPSE Policy/Development Officer recruitment Line 5 should read Alison Milson-Smith.

5.4 Community Development should read: JS discussed the report which had been sent out with the agenda and asked members for any comments. Members agreed that the work of the group should proceed.

3 Matters Arising

Website SP advised members that the contact details on the SIPSE

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website have been updated. The information on the website about the action groups is not up to date but will be updated in due course.

Action: Members to provide any changes or information for the website to SP.

All / SP

European Social Inclusion Network VW said that she is meeting with Councillor David Kirk on 7th February 2006, SP is also going along.

4 Updates from Action Groups

4.1 BME Communities and Asylum Seekers

Pam McHale was not present to be able to give an update on the action group. Pam is due to be changing roles soon and a decision needs to be reached about who will chair the group. Concern was raised that the group would not be able to achieve what it had planned in the timescales e.g. a conference by March.

Action: SP to meet with Pam and update members on current position of BME action group

SP

4.2 Financial Exclusion

JK informed members that the group had last met in December 2005 where they had agreed to also operate as an e-mail group. Two bids have been made to the DTI. The first, if successful will reach right across the region and a broad range of areas will get a share of the funding. The second is part of a national bid to support Community Banking Partnerships and will bring another debt worker to Portsmouth and Hampshire.

JK said the action group plans to have a regional seminar with housing providers and advice and credit providers to see what they should be doing on financial exclusion. There are offers of funding for this seminar but the group needs some support with organising this.

TT advised that the CAB had sent out a survey on the availability of money advice in the region. Because they had a low response they will be carrying out a monthly snap-shot which will give information on money advice provided by CAB during the month.

There was a discussion around the problems people can experience if they are unable to open a bank account, for example, many employers will only pay salary into a bank account. TT advised that being able to provide evidence/ documentation was a problem for some people e.g. Asylum seekers, people from BME backgrounds.

4.3 Community Development

A copy of the Community Development action group report had been circulated with the agenda and papers for the meeting. Members stated that they would like to know the current status of the three pilots. SP said that he was due to meet with JS later in the week and would update the group on current progress.

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Action: SP to meet with John Stevens and update members on current progress of the Action Group **SP / JS**

4.4 Rural

VW informed members that there is not at present a specific SIPSE Rural action group. A decision needs to be reached as to whether SIPSE wants its own rural group. There are a plethora of other groups working on the rural and social inclusion agenda and we need to ensure that whatever work is done fits in with the existing groups. There has been an offer of a chair from the Commission for Rural Communities and VW said she is looking for guidance and discussion on group.

There was discussion around whether SIPSE can sustain more than three action groups especially as all action groups are needing to continue for longer than the estimated twelve months. VW said that for a rural action group to set up it would need confirmation from SIPSE that the group is needed and the link should be made.

JT, SH, CF, AM & JP said they would consider joining a group if one was established. RJ suggested that members who have an interest link into the rural groups that already exist. VW agreed to consider terms of reference for a Rural Action Group.

Members discussed the possibility of action groups emerging from the review of the social inclusion statement. The review of the social inclusion statement will help to shape priorities for action groups in the future.

The Terms of Reference for the action groups needs to be reconsidered in the light of timescales of the groups as it is not always possible to complete the work within the timescale.

Action: Consider Terms of Reference of Action Groups for the next meeting **RJ / SP**

5 Regional Assembly Select Committee Report – Challenges

RJ said he felt that SIPSE should be taking action on many of the recommendations that came out of the select committee report. The most powerful message to come out of the report was the need to make links locally.

PC said that this had been different to previous select committee scrutiny reports. The need for a review of the Social Inclusion Statement was referred to in the report and it had been recognised that the South East was the first region to have a Social Inclusion Statement. In order for the statement to have an impact, it needs to be looked at with a fresh mind and should recognise the changes since it was written e.g. Local Area Agreements.

6 & 7 Review of Social Inclusion Statement / SIPSE Conference & Awayday

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The group decided to discuss agenda items 6 and 7 at the same time. SP introduced the outline proposal paper for the social inclusion statement. Some of the key issues for discussion are:

- The key reasons for reviewing and updating the statement:
- Who is the audience, and;
- What does the group want the statement to achieve?

RJ said it was the role of the social inclusion statement to promote and update on how the ground has changed since it was first published. It is important that the statement is written by local partnerships.

There was discussion about the content of the statement. It needs to take account of what has been done e.g. by using examples of best practice, and it needs to include references to research evidence. Members felt that there should be a strong evidence base for the statement. This can be done through making use of information that is already available e.g. work done for RES, work by GOSE, National Statistics, Neighbourhood Renewal, GIS Maps. A discussion followed about the best way for members to provide links to all the relevant documents in their field.

Action: Develop a pro forma for organisations to use to identify relevant documents for reference in the Social Inclusion Statement

SP

Action: Organisations to collect evidence of deprivation in the South East and forward to SP

All

Other thoughts on the review of the social inclusion statement were:

- Need for an Impact Assessment;
- Need to think about language e.g. pockets of deprivation, as this affects how the south east is portrayed;
- Because the region is seen as prosperous, there may be unwillingness to accept large levels of deprivation.

A sub-group of SIPSE members volunteered to meet to discuss how to take forward the Review of the Social Inclusion Statement: PC, CH, SH, JT, AMc, RJ, CF, SP. The group can discuss how to involve other organisations e.g. local authorities.

Action: SP to arrange meeting of sub-group to discuss statement during Feb/Mar

SP

RJ said a conference needs to be part of the process of the review of the social inclusion statement. MMc said the conference can be linked with the RAISE annual conference on 12th October 2006, the focus of the conference is on social inclusion. JT said SIPSE can also link in with Action for Communities. There was a general discussion about linking with conferences being held at a sub-regional / local level and it was felt that SIPSE could piggyback onto other conferences. RJ suggested developing a presentation which any SIPSE member could use at an event. A SIPSE stand could also be developed promoting SIPSE products.

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A suggestion was made to develop a questionnaire to send to people asking them about work they are doing on social inclusion in the south east.

Once SIPSE has made the link with other conferences in the region, the consultation can be brought back into one event, a SIPSE conference.

8 SIPSE Response to RES

A draft response to the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) on behalf of SIPSE had been e-mailed to all members with a request for comments. SP said he will be sending off the final response on 10th February and members agreed to e-mail final comments to him by 8th February. Members requested to receive a copy of the final response submission.

Action: Members to provide comments to SP on draft response to RES by 8th February 2006 **All**

Action: SP to make suggested amendments to RES response and submit final response to SEEDA on 10th February 2006 **SP**

9 Any Other Business

JP tabled copies of 'Working for the South East' which is a review of the Housing Corporation's work over the last year.

AM said that the former Older People group is continuing and proposing to have a conference in early spring. In addition, the Social Exclusion Unit has published a report on the Social Exclusion of Older People and the White Paper 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' is out.

JT said that there had been an ESF under spend in the South East. The LSC will put out tenders for the Action for Communities work in March, a lot of the work is around older workers and employability.

HO said that GOSE has now got a Director of Children and Learners and will have much greater interest in safeguarding the health of children.

JK said that GOSE, Shelter, Legal Services Commission and Community Legal Service are holding a Housing Conference 'Sharing Best Practice in Homelessness Prevention' in Brighton on 15th March 2006.

RJ made a suggestion that if anyone had information to share with the group outside of meetings, they forward to Simon to be included as an e-mail update.

Action: Members to forward information to SP for distribution **SP**

10 Future Meeting dates

Thursday 18th May 2006
Thursday 3rd August 2006

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Thursday 2nd November 2006

All meetings in the Winston Churchill Room, Berkeley House 1030am – 1230pm with lunch at close of meeting

Actions	By Whom
Members to provide any changes or information for the website to SP	All / SP
SP to meet with Pam McHale and update on current position of BME Action Group	SP
SP to meet with John Stevens and update members on the current progress of Community Development Action Group	SP
Consider Terms of Reference of Action Groups for the next meeting	RJ / SP
Develop a pro forma for organisations to use to identify relevant documents for reference in the Social Inclusion Statement	SP
Organisations to collect evidence of deprivation in the South East and forward to SP	All
SP to arrange meeting of sub-group to discuss statement during Feb/Mar	SP
Members to provide comments to SP on draft response to RES by 8 th February 2006	All
SP to make suggested amendments to RES response and submit final response to SEEDA on 10 th February 2006	SP
Members to forward information to SP for distribution	All