

## **Social Inclusion Partnership South East (SIPSE)**

### **Minutes of Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> February 2004**

**Venue:** Community Fund, Guildford

**Present:**

Paul Abey	Housing Corporation
Mark Bilsborough	GOSE
Abdul Chaudhary	SEREN
Philip Craig	The Assembly
Pat Dark	GOSE SE Public Health Group (alt for Mike Gill)
Robert Jones (Chair)	West Sussex VOLG/RAISE
Pam McHale	SEEDA
Charles Freeman	Cultural Consortium
Angela Hammond	GOSE
Garry Hunter	Legal Services Commission
Kevin Mansell	Social Services Inspectorate SE
Hilary Omissi	GOSE
Yvette Örtel	SIPSE Project Manager
Diane Ruban	SIPSE Secretariat
Phillippa Saray	Community Fund
Nigel Smallbone	RAISE
John Stevens	Community Development SE

**Apologies:**

Naomi Alexander	Funding Forum
Mike Gill	GOSE SE Public Health Group
Janet Novak	GOSE
Ron Turner	Health Development Agency

### **2. Minutes of last meeting**

Page 1 – Attendance by members to be monitored over the next year as previously agreed.

Page 4 – 5(i) £25,000 from GOSE/ODPM has been divided between 3 bids:  
£18,000 to Naomi Alexander of the Scarman Trust; to research community groups' involvement in securing funding.  
£5,000 to Exclusion through Disability Group; for consultancy work.  
£2,000 to Business Link Kent; to look at older persons issues.

Minutes approved.

### **3. Feedback from Action Groups**

#### **(i) Abdul Chaudhary - BME Group**

The groups' Action Plan Nov 2003 – Nov 04 was previously circulated. Abdul addressed the Main Committee on the contents of the Action Plan. Up to 3 seminars are planned, showcasing good practice around influence and leadership. Measurement is an issue for the Group. Stronger, robust measures are needed, so that outcomes are clearer. Membership is also a

question, i.e. should the Group expand, costs involved, risks associated and time scales? It was suggested that key partners could be brought in for specific tasks only. This way the agenda would remain manageable.

Phillippa Saray said that Community Fund is interested in groups who need to access services not already available to them, and will consider funding those groups. This could be a positive outcome for the Action Group.

### **Action Plan endorsed by Main Committee.**

**Action: Kevin Mansell offered SSI statistical information to the Group.**

#### **(ii) Nigel Smallbone - Older People**

Catherine Johnston was appointed as Chair of the Action Group on 10<sup>th</sup> February 04. Expertise has been brought in from outside of the Main Committee e.g. Help the Aged and Age Concern. The Group aims to have an understanding of what is happening in the region. It will focus on:

- (i) Affordable/attainable warmth
- (ii) Active citizenship for older people

The Assembly is working on the South East Plan; it proposes to age proof the draft document and to inform planners of the issues associated with an ageing population.

Mark Bilsborough and GOSE are looking at community strategies, funding etc.

Once the focus of the Group has been examined and dealt with, a new focus would be identified.

Dissemination approach re the work of the Group has not yet been decided. The Older People Action Group has a desire to work with the other Action Groups and is considering possibilities of shared seminars.

Kevin Mansell referred to Kent LA having the lead on Older People nationally and suggested that the Group makes contact.

#### **(iii) Hilary Omissi - Exclusion through Disability – a focus on children & young people in the South East**

Hilary explained the contents of the circulated paper. A consultant\* has been appointed to assist with the production of an awareness raising presentation pack to use to influence regional and sub regional plans and strategies.

Hilary requested the Main Committee agree to the principle that they assist/commit to taking the Action Group's message forward.

The Main Committee expressed some concern that the Social Inclusion Statement specifically referred to young people leaving care as being particularly at risk of exclusion. Hilary agreed this could be a possible future

focus for the group when it had completed its work on Exclusion through Disability.

**Action: Main Committee members to provide the Action Group consultant with any information they think relevant to the presentation pack.**

\*Consultant details: Hazel Plastow, e-mail: [hazel@hazellanne.com](mailto:hazel@hazellanne.com)

Tel: 01737 225835

**For all Groups/Members:**

All of the Groups will struggle with capacity and resources; therefore it was agreed that initially they need to focus on a couple of key areas.

The BME Group had circulated a template asking each SIPSE member what their organisation is doing round BME Leadership & Influence. It was agreed that, in our need to secure continuing funding and to recognise everyone's contributions to the social inclusion agenda, a template identifying what members are broadly doing around social inclusion would be very valuable for each of the Action Groups and for SIPSE as a whole.

The template should include sections to provide information for the Action Groups, and information about what members are contributing to SIPSE e.g. funding, time, etc.

**Action: Using BME template as a guide, Yvette to complete one combined Template covering all the Action Groups & SIPSE and circulate to Partners.**

**Action: Older People & Exclusion through Disability Action Group Chairs to provide a 2-page summary of their groups' focus and plans (to be used for publicity/updates) as BME Group had done.**

**4. SIPSE Work Programme/Business Plan**

4.1 The Chair introduced the previously circulated paper with its aim of building a business plan/work programme for SIPSE and its members and highlighting key areas that needed attention & decisions.

Examples were that: SIPSE needed to be visible & proactive in regional & national agendas, development & consultation; the Sustainable Development Framework (now becoming the Integrated Regional Strategy) had been weak on social indicators and that SIPSE should ensure that it wasn't; SIPSE should be visible in inclusion-proofing regional documents/policies/strategies & in assessing the SE social inclusion impact of national policies/strategies. SIPSE had had no involvement, for example, in the Regional Transport Strategy which had significant social inclusion implications and omissions.

**Action: Where known, members to ensure that SIPSE/Action Groups are notified in advance of forthcoming papers/consultation that**

**we may need to contribute to. Papers to be distributed through Yvette.**

**Discussion followed on the following areas:**

4.2 The **SIPSE Mission Statement** is to be reviewed and updated. The updated version should be short, sharp and to the point; jargon free and with explanatory text where needed (i.e. explaining what social inclusion is, what championing means).

**Action: Yvette to circulate the original mission statement plus comments already made by Rob Jones.**

**Action: Following the receipt of any suggestions, the new Mission Statement is to be agreed upon via e-mail and incorporated into the draft business plan.**

4.3 It was asked whether SIPSE would be having a **2004 conference** as part of the annual programme. Holding a conference was seen to: raise the profile of Social Inclusion; give the 'people on the ground' opportunity to speak to SIPSE; give an opportunity to share good practice, etc.

It was suggested that we look widely for examples of good practice, etc. and invite speakers from within the region, other regions and Europe on the varying subjects. Funding information was identified as a key issue at the last conference.

It was felt that having the Action Groups focusing on smaller areas could pose a problem: the broader vision of the Social Inclusion Statement might appear to be lost. If a conference was held later in the year, that would perhaps allow time for the Action Groups to have examples of what they had achieved and give SIPSE time to get its business plan underway & demonstrate what we've done since the last conference.

**Action: Yvette to (re)circulate the 2003 Conference papers.**

**Action: Members to consider planning the next SIPSE conference once:**

- **Business Plan is in place**
- **actions can be identified in response to what SIPSE was asked to do by delegates at the last conference.**

**Action: To review Conference at next Main Committee meeting in May 04**

4.4 The need to **update the existing Action Plan** was discussed. For example, the Action Groups are not part of it. It was agreed that a Business Plan was required, drawn from updating the existing Action Plan and incorporating the Action Groups, delegates' feedback from the last conference, information from the SIPSE Away Day, as well as being responsive to and proactive with other regional agendas.

**Action: Yvette, Nigel Smallbone and Rob Jones (if possible) to meet to draft business plan.**

- 4.5 **Membership:** Several requests to join SIPSE had been received by the Chair. SIPSE had previously agreed that membership needed to remain static to allow the group to gel (there had been frequent changes with each meeting). **It was agreed** to continue to keep to this a bit longer until SIPSE (in the business plan) addresses membership (i.e. roles & expectations of members and commitment to Social Inclusion agenda).

However, where an existing member/sector was leaving SIPSE, a replacement member from that sector would be sought.

- 4.6 **Main Committee:** Because of the volume of work required by members between main committee meetings (action groups, sub committees) **it was agreed** that we would continue to meet quarterly.

## 5. AOB

A 'Social Inclusion/National Action' Conference is on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb, held by The Local Government International Bureau/Local Government Association. Pam McHale is to attend and will forward any Conference papers or comments to Yvette.

**Action: Yvette to circulate any comments/papers/feedback resulting from the event.**