

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

### **Minutes of Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> September 2004**

**Venue:** Government Office for the South East, Guildford

**Present:**

Mark Bilsborough	GOSE
Abdul Chaudhary	SEREN
Philip Craig	The Assembly
Pat Dark	SE Public Health Group
Charles Freeman	SE England Cultural Consortium
Angela Hammond	GOSE
Garry Hunter	Legal Services Commission
Catherine Johnson	RAISE
Rob Jones (Chair)	West Sussex Volg/RAISE
Hazel Long	Small Business Service
Pam McHale	SEEDA
Hilary Omissi	GOSE
John Stevens	Community Development SE
Jon Thompson	Learning and Skills Council
Yvette Örtel	SIPSE Project Manager
Diane Ruban	SIPSE Secretariat

**Apologies:**

Paul Abey	Housing Corporation
Ian Bainbridge	Commission for Social Care Inspection
Mike Gill	SE Public Health Group
Mike Holdgate	SE Funders Forum
Janet Novak	GOSE
Phillippa Saray	The Big Lottery Fund
Ron Turner	Health Development Agency

### **3. Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes agreed as accurate and approved.

### **4. Matters arising not on the agenda**

As part of the development of the South East Plan, Matrix Consultants have been commissioned to study and develop the Assembly's understanding of three key social issues: the implications of an ageing population, reconfiguration of health services and the utilisation of community infrastructure. This work will complement existing initiatives, including the joint 'culture proofing' of the Plan. Matrix have considerable experience in these fields, having worked with the Milton Keynes South Midlands Health and Social Care Group. Matrix will be seeking interviews with stakeholders across the region. Details of SIPSE and other key stakeholders have been forwarded and Matrix are likely to approach certain members of the group for interviews.

## **Mark Bilsborough – Regional Housing Strategy**

Background:

In the past the LAs were not obligated to spend any funding on housing, which was realised as not being conducive to improved housing. In February 2003, the ODPM published 'Sustainable Communities: building for the future', which led to the formation of the Regional Housing Board, (RHB). The Board's members are: The Housing Corporation, English Partnerships, The Regional Assembly, SEEDA and GOSE, whose Regional Director Paul Martin is the Chair of the Board. Funding is now available from a single source (rather than the LAs). In the past the Government has provided £350 million to support housing initiatives, but this looks likely to increase as developers are currently being encouraged to invest in housing as well.

In Autumn 2003 an interim Regional Housing Strategy was produced. The RHB is now looking to produce the next round of Strategies, which are to be submitted for May 2005. Consultants are at present pulling together existing Housing research, to produce an overall coherent report and consultation events have been/are to take place.

A sub-group of the RHB is the Regional Housing Forum, which has three relating task-groups looking at: affordability and supply; quality and decency; social sustainability. Each group has a key role, in feeding into the Strategy.

MB would like SIPSE to Social Inclusion proof the draft Housing Strategy, so that a formal response can be forwarded by SIPSE to the RHB.

SIPSE's comments on the Regional Housing Strategy:

MB invited views on what could be considered within the strategy.

CF asked about the linkage between the Sustainable Community agenda and the Housing Strategy. MB saw the Housing Strategy as a philosophical extension of the Sustainable Community agenda and agreed that quality and design not just about the design of houses, but also about the environment surrounding the houses.

HL saw transport and the pressure on trunk roads as an issue.

The question was asked as to where does housing fit into the SE Plan? MB stated that the lead for the Strategy was the SE Plan.

CJ commented that RAISE had given a robust response to the Green Paper and would like the V&C sector included again. MB would like to hold 1 or 2 V&C sector seminars around the forthcoming Nov or Jan time.

MB highlighted the danger of the Strategy being pushed forward by the Government Agenda – i.e. housing numbers.

Homelessness; poor quality Landlords; existing areas of run down housing; older people living in properties that they were no longer able to maintain; and the short supply of social housing were discussed. As were the Sport England development model for varying population sizes and the Groundworks model on how an area would look, as to the amenities it provided.

MB mentioned that the Strategy will have a regional focus and then within this a sub-regional focus.

It was suggested that when Social Inclusion proofing the Strategy, such topics as homelessness, should be dealt with separately.

HO highlighted the need to incorporate the subject matter of the 3 Action Groups into the Strategy. It was suggested that perhaps one of the Groups could take on this subject matter as its focus.

**Action: MB will occasionally circulate an issue to SIPSE members for them to consider and advise on**

**Action: CJ to put the Housing Strategy on the Regeneration Network Agenda for their next meeting**

**Action: Social Inclusion proofing of the Regional Housing Strategy to be an agenda item for next SIPSE Main Committee meeting**

## **6. Updates from Action Groups**

### **(i) Abdul Chaudhary – BME Group and Asylum Seekers**

The Main Group has 2 pathway sub-groups. The first of which is looking at a charter/commitment; the document is to put together strategic guidelines. The completed draft is to be circulated to SIPSE members, together with guidance notes on how to complete it.

The second pathway group is planning a small pilot event for 10<sup>th</sup> December. Over 80 nominations were forwarded, from which a short list of 12 individuals were gathered. These individuals will now be invited to see if they able/willing to meet and talk on how their careers took shape, what pathway it took, what helped them along the way, etc. From this the Action Group will produce guidance for agencies about how they can encourage and nurture individuals into positions of influence and leadership.

**Action: November agenda item – AC to talk SIPSE through Charter at meeting and perhaps outside of meeting**

## **(ii) Catherine Johnstone – Older People**

See attached paper and notes.

As well as the paper, MB discussed PSA targets; health for example has a National Service Framework on how to deal with older people. The second generation of PSAs (Public Service Agreements) are now being negotiated in the region. Kent and Surrey are already well advance as they were pilots under first round. The other authorities in the South East are coming forward on a rolling programme that should allow second Local PSAs to flow on when the first generation conclude. If a county/unitary authority reaches its PSA target, it receives a percentage reward grant from the government in addition to the pump-priming grant it receives at the start of the agreement.

As part of the PSA process county and unitary authority are required to show that they have worked with partners in reaching the targets. Accordingly, there are opportunities to influence, especially through LSP networks and partners can enter into agreements to help deliver the targets for an element of the reward grant. It was acknowledge it can sometimes be difficult for the community sector to get involved. GOSE will be better placed to help the community sector have a voice in these sorts of discussion when they take forward work on Local Area Agreements (LAA) that will be piloted somewhere in the South East for 2005/06.

## **(iii) Hilary Omissi – Exclusion through Disability**

Slide-show presentation. The pack is to be presented/used as appropriate to the audience; it isn't necessary to present the slide show in its entirety.

HO acknowledged the input of Lesley Taylor (GOSE), Design and Web Team (GOSE), and (Consultant).

What next?

A marketing and communications strategy needs to be developed so that the pack can be 'sold' to relevant networks. A follow up evaluation of the impact of the pack also needs to be conducted. An evaluation form will be provided, for which SIPSE members will have to take ownership – it is too big a task for the Action Group members to have sole ownership of.

HO asked that SIPSE members now take ownership of the pack. She emphasized the need for effective dissemination of the pack and the important role that SIPSE members would play in that.

HO asked if SIPSE members could pledge any further funding for the printing of the packs. PD pledged £1000 from the Dept. Health.

JT stated that Nick Wilson, ED Surrey LSC, is looking at inclusive learning, 'Mind the Gap', for which the pack maybe a useful tool and therefore all local LSCs could be a source of funding.

It was suggested that there could be spin off themes arising from the data within the pack, for example working mothers, housing accessibility, etc.

AC questioned the language of the pack (both literally and culturally), and how the pack could be presented to members of the BME community. It was suggested that perhaps, if funding allowed, the consultant could work with SEREN. AC was invited to attend the next Exclusion Through Disability Group meeting, so that he could discuss this area further.

The Main Committee felt that before it could take ownership of the pack, some training was required on how to present it. It was agreed that that the training should take place after the next Main Committee meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> November. The training would be open to SIPSE members and 'key' people who could help deliver the pack to relevant audiences.

CJ suggested that the formalisation of the training of SIPSE members, could be a method of evaluation, e.g. how often a member presented it, how many hits the website had, etc.

**Action: HO to distribute slide show**

**Action: Offers of funding to be forwarded to HO by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

**Action: YO to send JT information about the pack**

**Action: HO and JT to liaise over funding from LSC**

**Action: Guidelines on how to present pack to be issued**

**Action: DR to arrange room and lunch for training on 18<sup>th</sup> November**

**Action: SIPSE members to let YO know who will attend the training session**

**Action: SIPSE members to send their commitment template to YO by 30 September**

**Action: YO to inform AC of the date of the next Action Group meeting and put him on the agenda**

**Action: SIPSE members to propose further suggestions about which networks/organisations they can present the pack to and suggestions for the distribution list – to YO**

## **7. SIPSE Business Plan**

The draft Business Plan was discussed. Leads are still missing, members/organisations to identify areas they can lead on. The Business Plan is a living document, which will evolve with time.

Clarification of funding and spending is being lead by CJ. Though before any further work can be completed in this area, SIPSE overall vision needs to be confirmed.

Membership: SIPSE to approach those organisations that have previously showed interest in joining the Main Committee. Some organisations are able to contribute to Social Inclusion through the Action Groups. The Main Committee should remain at its current size.

Chair job description agreed. 'Bridging the gap' election process to be adopted.

Communications Strategy and SIPSE Resource Audit papers were circulated for comment. See attached.

**Action: SIPSE members to identify lead members/organisations**

**Action: YO to e-mail papers to SIPSE members for comment**

## **8. SIPSE's Future**

RJ introduced this:

- outlining the current funding from SEEDA for officer support
- with SIPSE's Business Plan & aspirations taking shape, the actions, lead roles and level of officer support needed by SIPSE & members
- the likely resource implications of the above.

From the discussion it was agreed that a subgroup would be formed to develop proposals that respond to SIPSE's needs and bring recommendations back to the main committee.

**Action: RJ, MB, PC, CJ to develop the proposals.**

PM confirmed that SEEDA is aware of SIPSE's Business Plan & continuing resource needs.

**Action: MB and PC each agreed to discuss SIPSE funding with their respective agencies.**

## **9. Any Other Business**

None

## **10. Next Meeting Dates**

**Next Main Committee meeting is to be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November, at the Winston Churchill Room, SEEDA, Berkeley House, Cross Lanes, Guildford GU1 1YA, from 10:30 – 15:30 including lunch.**