

Out and about with SAVS



Every day I am attending meetings to represent the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Southend. In order to keep our members up to date with what is going on I am producing a monthly report which gives information about which meetings I have attended, their purpose and key points of note to the VCS. Some of the information will be relevant to you and I hope it will all be of interest. If you want further information about any of the meetings or have something to contribute please contact me on 01702 356001 or asemmence@savs-southend.co.uk. I would love to hear from you.

Unless stated otherwise all the meetings are attended by me. However some meetings are attended by other members of staff. If you are attending any strategic meetings to represent the VCS it would be great if you could share this with us so we can include in this report.

Meetings attended January

Prevent Board

Purpose

Prevent is one part of the UK's Counter Terrorism Strategy. It aims to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Locally, Southend has developed its own strategy so we have a local approach based on our needs in Southend. The Prevent Board aims to 'take a co-ordinated partnership approach to Prevent and associated counter terrorism matters in Southend'. It will strategically manage the development and implementation of Prevent priorities and objectives.

Points to note

The main area of discussion was about training and raising awareness within the wider community, voluntary sector, council members, and relevant staff within the statutory partners' organisations.

Next steps

SAVS is arranging for Simon Ford from the Community Safety Partnership to run a workshop which will include information about Prevent, Gangs in Southend, Child Sexual Exploitation and an update on crime in Southend. This is likely to be April/May 16.

As more information regarding training sessions emerges, we will circulate this to members. If anyone is particularly interested in this issue due to the people they are working with please contact me.

Marat (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Team)

Purpose

The Marat will co-locate under single management, a team of professionals from partner agencies to jointly assess risk, plan, execute and review safety interventions to reduce risk, build resilience and increase safety for referred cases. This is for children, adults, parents/families and perpetrators/high risk individuals, in Southend, affected by high level risk of domestic abuse, and/or high level risk of child sexual exploitation, and/or missing and/or vulnerable to terrorism.

Points to note

The meeting was mainly focused on processes and procedures for the partners directly involved in developing and delivering this service.

Next steps

A briefing paper will be circulated giving an outline of what is involved and inviting anyone working within this area to feed in any comments and/or meet with those responsible for developing the service.

Essex Compact Steering Group

Purpose

The Compact is a voluntary agreement which aims to underpin and support better joint working between statutory agencies, such as local councils, and the voluntary and community sector in working together fairly and productively to improve the well-being of people living and working in Essex. It sets out principles and standards for a good, open, fair relationship between statutory and voluntary agencies. In Essex there is Compact working on a national, county and in many cases district compacts basis.

I have joined the Essex Steering Group recently as many of our members receive funding from Essex County Council, and Southend Borough Council. The Southend Compact Group has not met for some time so I am hoping the Essex group will help refocus us on the importance of the Compact.

Points to note

The meeting was mainly about Essex County Council (Public Health) talking about the changes they will be making to commissioning services with more focus on outcomes. They wanted to ensure it was in line with the Compact.

Next Steps

The Compact Steering Group developed some guidance notes/top tips for commissioners a while ago - this will be updated with a view to sharing this with commissioners across ECC and other local authorities. I will share this with you as and when it's ready.

Prevention Strategy Working Group

Purpose

Southend Borough Council and the Southend Clinical Commissioning Group are developing a Prevention Strategy to ensure prevention is embedded across all systems in Southend.

Points to note

One of the key issues discussed is that of trying to change behaviour, whether of Southend residents, health and social care professionals, commissioners, etc. in the way we look after health and social care needs. It is about preventing or delaying the time when people need support from health and social care either through personal resilience, supporting each other, education, improved knowledge about services and signposting, etc.

Next steps

We will be sending out our State of the Sector Survey very soon and will include in this some questions about how our members are contributing towards prevention in the work they do. Please complete the survey to ensure we capture all we do in the VCS in this area - which is vast!

CCG PPEIG

Purpose of meeting

The Patient and public engagement and involvement group is one of the ways the Southend CCG engages with the wider community.

Points to note

The meeting mainly focused on the financial position of the CCG and the savings it needs to make between now and the end of March in order to reach a break even financial position. We discussed some areas where savings could be made but they were not able to share details of exactly what they intended to do due to timings.

Next steps

Details will be shared via various routes including the local media.

Recovery College Steering Group

Purpose of meeting

The development of a Recovery College for people with mental health issues across Southend, Castlepoint and Rayleigh has been going on for some time. This meeting discussed more details about what courses could be run through the college, etc. and how it would work in practice. A host organisation was due to be appointed very soon and they would be working to co-ordinate the activity with a view to the Recovery College being launched on 1 April 2016.

Points to note

Next steps

A stakeholder event will be held in the near future for anyone interested in contributing to the college. For example, if your organisation runs courses for people with mental health issues you would benefit from getting involved.

Special scrutiny - Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service

Purpose of meeting

The EWMHS has replaced what was known as the CAHMS service (for children and young people with mental health or emotional problems). NELFT (North East London Foundation Trust) took over the service which was previously provided by SEPT, on 1 November. This was a briefing to members of the council's People

Scrutiny Committee which I attend.

Points to Note

NELFT plans to develop a new model of delivery which will be implemented from 1 June (currently staff consultations are taking place) across Essex, Southend and Thurrock. The plan is to have more equal delivery of services across the patch so wherever you live you will benefit from the same level of service.

Next steps

Don't expect to see changes for a while. I highlighted the good work that is done in the VCS and encouraged them to avoid any duplication of services but to commission local VCS organisations to deliver on their behalf. Once the restructured team is in place we will meet them to reiterate this.

Southend Vulnerable Adults Exec

Purpose

The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a statutory body created under the Care Act 2014. The main objective is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area who:

- have needs for care and support, and;
- are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and;
- as a result of those care and support needs are unable to protect them from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

The Executive sits under the Board and oversees various subgroups who carry out specific pieces of work, for example, community, learning and development and quality and monitoring.

Points to note

The long and varied agenda looked at many issues; a presentation regarding gangs in Southend; a report on the complex needs pilot project which is supporting adults with issues such as homelessness, substance misuse, mental health issues, worklessness etc. who do not fit into the usual services on offer; skin integrity campaign; elder abuse reporting line; an update on Prevent; hoarding protocol, etc.

Next steps

We are looking for a lay rep on the Board if anyone is interested - please see advert that has previously been circulated or contact us for further info. Next meeting will be held in April.

SBC Budget Briefing

Purpose

SBC met with people from the business community and then held a briefing for the Voluntary Sector later in the morning (the presentations were the same) to tell us about the proposed budget for 16/17 and changes that are coming in the next few

years as central government stop certain funds to local authorities meaning they have to raise more funds locally to enable them to deliver services.

Points to note

- Since 2011 SBC has had to make savings of £55.6 million
- Council Tax up 1.99% - equates to 44p per week for a Band D property.
- Social Care precept of 2% - equates to 45p per week for a Band D property (Raises £1.3m but £1.1m adult social care grant deleted plus a need to find an additional £1m to deal with the increased demand for social care services).
- Southend's Revenue Support Grant is down by 28% from 2015/16 = £8.43m
- Introduction of the Better Care Fund - budgets rising with inflation plus extra £1.25bn by 2019/20. Phased and tapered from 2017/18
- 100% business rate retention by 2020 - but with consequent added responsibilities
- Abolition of revenue support grant by 2020
- Review and phased reduction in New Homes Bonus
- Public Health budget still ring-fenced but further 3.9% cuts p.a. up to 2019/20
- The budget reductions proposed for 2016-17 are: corporate services, £1.408 million; people £5.311 million, place £3.367 million and public health £0.381 million = total of £10.467 million (see budget on SBC website for further info re these cuts, e.g. £33k from Healthwatch, £61k from Stop Smoking, £140k from drug and alcohol grant.
- Further reduction in staff numbers - 59.6 Full time equivalents.

Next steps

19 January - Cabinet debated the budget

25th, 26th & 28th January - debated in scrutiny Committees

11th February - Cabinet will consider the budget again following input from the Scrutiny Committees and business and voluntary Sector consultation

25th February - Council will formally set the Council Tax and the Budget

Southend Disabled People's Network

Purpose

For Disabled People in Southend to have a voice.

Points to note

First meeting of the wider network to take place on Monday 14th March at SAVS from 10am-12noon.

Next steps

Await outcome of first meeting.

Displaced Communities Partnership

Purpose

This is a partnership group between SBC, Southend Welcoming Refugees, CAST, Mosque and us to initially support the governments' Syrian resettlement programme.

Points to note

There are a series of requirements that need to be met before we support the arrival of Syrian refugees. There is a lot of support from the community on various points but housing is the most important and biggest gap still to fill.

Next steps

To continue to look at the gaps in the requirements, until all requirements are met we will not allow any Syrian refugees into Southend as part of the resettlement programme.

Southend LSCB and SAB Community Sub Group

Purpose

This is a sub group of The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) the group carries out specific pieces of community work.

Points to note

- Push to increase awareness of Private Fostering - often issues not picked up until crisis point.
- Bullying - body image is the top reason for bullying amongst youth
- Working to raise community awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) - Campaign and Champions training supported by a Forum.
- Fraud Prevention awareness - postal scams and online dangers being carried out.
- Adult Safe guarding Promoting Ask SAL - Elder Abuse Line not going forward
- Police conducting work around trafficking and building relations with local businesses.

Next steps

- CSE Champions to be trained
- Contacts to be explored at Airport

Success for All Children

Purpose

The Success for All Children Group co-ordinates services across Southend-on-Sea to meet identified local need in order to improve outcomes for children.

The purpose of the group is to act as the delivery arm of the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to priorities relating to Children and Young People.

Points to note

The agenda comprised updates on NELFT and the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service; an update on the MARAT; a verbal update on the Community Paediatric Services and a presentation from the YMCA re their new project, Youth Space which will provide a range of activities/services for young people to help them build skills through social action and effective advice and guidance.

We had a discussion about the children's chapter in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The priorities for the Children and Young People's plan 2017/17 will be informed by this. The chapter will come out for consultation with the VCS once it has been signed off internally.

There was an update on the progress being made towards a new Early Help Service

and discussion about the formation of Governance Group to oversee the new service. The VCS will be represented on the group by Maureen Longley who is the Chair of SAVS and has many years experience of working in the children's field.

Next steps

The Children's Chapter in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment will be coming out for consultation shortly - SAVS will circulate this.