

Sheffield City Partnership Board (SCPB)
“working together to build a Sheffield that works for everyone”

Notes Minutes of the meeting held on: Friday 14th May 2021 via Zoom

Present:

- Lord David Blunkett, Chair
- Neill Birchenall, Director, Ask4 (Vice Chair)
- Paul Bragger, Station Manager, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
- Andy Buck, Chair, Voluntary Action Sheffield
- Sandi Carman, Assistant Chief Executive, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS FT
- Maddy Desforges, Chief Executive, NAVCA
- Angela Foulkes, Chief Executive and Principal, The Sheffield College
- Lou Harrison-Walker, Interim Director, Sheffield Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Supt Mark James, South Yorkshire Police
- Kate Josephs, Chief Executive, Sheffield City Council
- Martin McKervey, Director of AESSEAL plc
- Debbie Mathews, Chief Executive, Manor and Castle Development Trust
- Halima Mohamed, African Women’s Health Group
- Lesley Smith, Accountable Officer, Sheffield CCG
- Helen Steers, Interim Chief Exec, Voluntary Action Sheffield

In Attendance:

- Dan Spicer, Interim Strategy & Partnerships Manager
- Professor Chris Dayson, Principal Research Fellow, Sheffield Hallam University
- Catherine Pritchard, Policy & Improvement Officer, SCC
- Cat Arnold, Policy & Improvement Officer, SCC
- Kay Kirk (notes)

	Agenda Item	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p> <p>Apologies were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Buttery, Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Police & Crime Commissioner • Brian Hughes, Director of Commissioning, Sheffield CCG • Alexis Krachai, Managing Director of Counter Context, Sheffield Chamber of Commerce • Supt Simon Verrall, South Yorkshire Police • Sarah Want, Director-Partnerships & Regional Engagement, University of Sheffield 	
2.	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>The Board congratulated Martin McKervey on becoming the new High Sherriff of South Yorkshire.</p>	

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	<p>Following the local elections Sheffield City Council is now a hung council. A meeting will take place at lunchtime today with the leaders of the 3 main parties re leadership of the Council. Once named, Lord Blunkett will schedule a discussion with the new Leader of the Council.</p>	DB
<p>3.</p>	<p>Partnership Updates & Hot Topics Dan Spicer, Partnerships Manager</p> <p>Vision (statement of intent) for the future of Sheffield: we are proposing to hold a set of facilitated workshops to build on existing and ongoing work (including the Inclusive Economy Framework and State of Sheffield 2019 engagement work). Workshops will be scheduled so feedback can be presented at the next Board meeting.</p> <p>Data Observatory: work has started and is focused on joining up with city partners.</p> <p>State of Sheffield: we won't be publishing a SoS Report this year, but we will hold a summit in conjunction with Sheffield City Council.</p> <p><u>The Financial Cliff Edge – next steps:</u> The Financial Cliff Edge Group was established following the March Board meeting. The working group has been meeting to consider actions we can take collectively. The Group is proposing a 9-point plan of action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a fund for crisis • Improve Council debt recovery processes • Use the collective potential of the housing network to address poverty drivers created by housing • Address the rate of benefit take up • Increase the capacity of VCS organisations • Ensure Council procurement of VCS doesn't add to burden of demand on organisations • Better communications to ensure people are aware of what support is available to them • Undertake a systems review to examine what happens to people, to identify where parts of the system are exacerbating people's problems and creating undue demand • Campaigns and interventions to stop people falling into homelessness and debt <p>This is not just a VCS and SCC issue – we are thankful for support from the business community. The Group might look at strategies to tackle as we need a city-wide collaboration on this, and this is a powerful way to draw people together to offer solutions. Sheffield Property Association has links to the Estates Gazette. The Association has put forward a submission to the Gazette highlighting the work of Sheffield Together which is doing lots of good work.</p> <p>The Group is asking the Board for endorsement to go forward to implement actions and build partnerships.</p> <p><u>Discussion/Comments</u> The specifics in the 9-point plan are really helpful and SCC hopes to incorporate some of them into its planning but would be helpful to prioritise further.</p> <p>The issues around benefit take up are worth exploring further and it would be useful to have someone from DWP on the Board and involved in the work. Communities</p>	

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	<p>have a big role to play in explaining the system around benefits and employment. Communication at the right time is really important.</p> <p>We used to have CAB workers sat in GP Practices but the funding ran out. We don't need to re-invent the wheel as we have done some of these things before.</p> <p>There are things we can do working with local business to address issues.</p> <p>We need to level up locally as the divide is getting worse.</p> <p>Agreed: To order and prioritise the list of actions ahead of the next phase of work beginning. Once agreed the Board and Working Group will take forward the actions as rigorously and comprehensively as possible. <i>Board members who sit on the Financial Cliff Edge Working Group are: Martin McKervey, Helen Steers, Debbie Matthews, Lou Harrison-Walker and Halima Mohamed.</i></p>	<p>MM HS DM LHW HM DS</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Sheffield during the pandemic, and beyond Helen Steers & Andy Buck, VAS and Chris Dayson, Sheffield Hallam University</p> <p>Researchers from Sheffield Hallam University are working with key partners in Sheffield to understand the value and contribution of the Voluntary Sector during the COVID-19 pandemic and inform policy debates and developments about the future role of the sector in the city.</p> <p>There are three broad overlapping phases; absorbing the shock of lockdown, adapting and adjusting provision and putting plans in place to resume core provision. Overall, the voluntary sector in Sheffield responded swiftly and effectively to the pandemic and ensured that thousands of people across the city received essential support.</p> <p>38% of voluntary sector organisations reported an increase in demand during the pandemic. 90% had to close or put on hold all, or part of their services. 75% anticipated some reduction in income during 2020-21. Local data mirrored national studies. Findings raise questions about how to foster local ecosystems of providers capable of absorbing, adapting and contributing to transformational change.</p> <p>Factors that contribute to VCS resilience are financial resources, human resources, digital readiness & inclusion, understanding needs and leadership. The levelling up agenda seems certain to prioritise capital investment in physical infrastructure. What if small proportions of capital investment are ringfenced, through a community infrastructure levy, to be spent on local voluntary sector resilience and development?</p> <p>The study continues until July 2021. Interviews with key stakeholders will be undertaken in May and June and Board members are invited to contribute to the discussion.</p> <p><u>Discussion/Comments</u> None of this is new and there is lot of learning and good practice that can be drawn on. Some groups will need mentoring to bring about change.</p> <p>The University's work is extremely helpful and could be used to embed voluntary sector thinking into the two big SCC strands of the blueprint and recovery plan. Community infrastructure should be included in the blueprint. The fragility of the VCS is of concern and we need a better way to identify at risk key organisations for support</p>	

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	<p>to help them survive. SCC will have organisational challenges around this. We need an articulated vision to build relationships going forward and we need to create a framework for feedback and build relationships around commissioning.</p> <p>The CCG is keen to take part in interviews about shaping policy as voluntary organisations are key parts of partnerships. There is a worry around timescales that we may lose key components in the meantime. We could consider the notion of bridging finance, capital, revenue etc. Keen on long term policy with a short-term bridge. As the Integrated Care System further develops VCS organisations will be a critical part of the jigsaw.</p> <p>We need to recognise where the VCS brings value to inform policy development.</p> <p>As an organisation Manor & Castle Development Trust has done everything it can to diversify funding and not be grant dependent. VAS is important and there is an issue with political attitudes towards VAS.</p> <p>Digital exclusion will have been highlighted during the pandemic, yet some people are now more competent and job ready than ever.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Sheffield City Council: development of priorities Kate Josephs, Chief Executive</p> <p>In order to have a meaningful City Vision we have to have political backing for it. The current situation offers both challenges and opportunities. All parties are keen to engage in discussions on the future of the city. Whatever version of leadership emerges we will have a Leader and Cabinet at the AGM next week.</p> <p>The Council will need a prioritised Recovery Plan for next year and a commitment to start conversations about the longer-term blueprint for the City. SCC Officers are getting ready to facilitate discussions. By the July Board meeting we should have more information and content to enable this to happen. Alongside this, discussions are ongoing with academics on a piece of work (funded by JRF and led by Paul Collier) to support Sheffield to have participative, open discussions with communities and businesses to build that blueprint – no other city has done this.</p> <p>Re the Data Observatory – the LEP and Universities are also looking at data and no-one wants to be in competition at a Sheffield City Region level. There is recognition that it would be transformative to open up data for everyone to use and in some ways, it makes sense to do that at a regional level. The key point is that we are talking to the LEP about what everyone is trying to do and to work together to join this work up. Discussions with the universities are also about to begin. A big piece of work will be undertaken via the Local Resilience Forum to build links in this space.</p> <p><u>Discussion/Comments</u> There is a big piece of Comms work to do with communities around confidence in Sheffield as a city. People seem fearful and focussed on the city centre so we need optimistic communications around what we're doing and what plans there are to address issues. This is where the one-year recovery plan is important.</p> <p>It is important not to lose the good work SCC were doing in early 2020 working with the business community, Ford Consultancy Group and Richard Wood Associates. We also need to look at who does data well – Manchester, Leeds and some of the digital platforms London is working on.</p>	

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6.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Education: Angela Foulkes and Halima Mohamed to discuss online working and sharing knowledge to inspire via Sheffield College.</p> <p>Sheffield Business Together is now part of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce family.</p>	
	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>Friday 16th July 2021, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm: Joining details to be confirmed.</p> <p>Please send any apologies for this meeting by contacting Kay Kirk via email kay.kirk@sheffield.gov.uk</p>	