

Rugby Local Strategic Partnership (Minutes)

23 November 2017

Attendees:	Cllr Emma Crane (EC) (Chair)	RBC
	Adam Norburn (AN)	RBC
	Michelle Dickson (MD)	RBC
	Dave Wortley (DW)	RBC
	Paul Tolley (PT)	WCAVA
	David Gooding (DG)	CAB
	Fran Poole (FP)	NHS
	Hannah Cramp (HC)	WCC
	Phyllis Collins (PC)	WCC

		Action
1.	<p>Introductions and Welcome</p> <p>Introductions were made around the table.</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>Rachel Robinson, Charles Barlow, Cllr Alan Webb</p>	
2.	<p>Approval of Minutes from the Last Meeting and Matters Arising</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved.</p>	
3.	<p>Analysis of Skills and the Labour Market in Rugby</p> <p>Report circulated for information.</p> <p>Need to look at this as part of the sub-group meeting and feed into the Regenerations Strategy and Action Plan.</p> <p>MD to contact Michael Beirne to get him involved.</p>	MD
4.	<p>Update on GP Surgeries – Houlton/Brownsover</p> <p>Houlton surgery - EC attended a meeting on site recently with Urban and Civic – they would like consultation from stakeholders on the temporary provision.</p> <p>Longer term the surgery could be involved in the process for developing what types of services they would like to see at the centre. The assumption is that the GP on site will be an extension of an existing GP practice.</p>	

	<p>Due to the size of the Houlton site the temporary provision could be in place for around 5-10 years.</p> <p>Urban and Civic looking towards planning for this site – going forward with an application mid to late summer 2018.</p> <p>Hoping that a pharmacy will be part of the local shopping centre and can link up to the GP surgery.</p> <p>Brownsover surgery – expect business case sign off by the NHS next week. Established on site in December.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Issues with Universal Credit</p> <p>Hopefully the new budget announced on 22 November 2017 may alleviate some issues.</p> <p>RBC’s journey through Universal Credit (UC) started in 2013 – Rugby were chosen as a pilot area prior to the national rollout.</p> <p>In May 2016 RBC became a UC full service authority – with mass migration to the scheme.</p> <p>UC is administered directly by the DWP.</p> <p>RBC’s role is to provide a universal support service to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - help claimants make a claim (and gain IT skills for their online journal) - provide personal budgetary support <p>Benn Partnership help with support and advice.</p> <p>CAB provide the budgetary support.</p> <p>DG highlighted that it is difficult to get customers to engage regarding budgeting advice – so need to target this.</p> <p>Impact of UC on RBC: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - impact on rent arrears - cost of temporary accommodation - reaction of temporary accommodation landlords - not getting engagement from private housing landlords - housing association being choosy - impact on council tax <p>Rent arrears figures are high - approximately £283,000 in April (approx. 400 people on UC), which has increased to £412,000 in October (approx.</p>	

<p>550 people on UC).</p> <p>There are concerns with the arrears, as so many cases are being chased by Bailiffs. RBC are trying to help with payment arrangements.</p> <p>A new Landlord Portal is being rolled out which will replace the Trusted Partner Scheme – this new portal should allow the council to get information on who is going onto UC in future.</p> <p>Homeless accommodation is now claimed through UC which has caused considerable issues. Although it is expected that temporary accommodation will be taken from UC next year and administered locally.</p> <p>DW to provide EC with detailed information on issues.</p> <p>Impact on council tax collection rates and reduction scheme – between Jan and October 1,000 people were claiming UC. Received 59,000 changes of circumstances for these people from DWP – which has a significant impact on resource. This also has an impact for the claimant as the process takes longer.</p> <p>Claimants who are also in employment can experience considerable difficulties budgeting, as when their pay day is brought forward (due to the pay date falling over a weekend), UC identify this as having two pay days within the same assessment period and don't make a UC payment on this basis (although the monies are readjusted the following month). This also has an impact on the customers council tax reduction. Need to look at how to change this and look at a simplistic scheme that works.</p> <p>Some claimants are having to wait between 6 – 10 weeks for a claim to be processed. There are 2 parts to a UC claim: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - living cost - housing support <p>The new budget changes will remove the 7-day waiting period (although around 70% of claimants are exempt from this already).</p> <p>Advance payments are to be increased from 50% to 100% and the repayment period increased from 6 to 12 months. There are concern's as the default is that unless the customer asks, then the advance payment will be taken out of their first UC payment.</p> <p>DG confirmed that they have a good working relationship and are working in partnership with Job Centre, RBC and Benn Partnership on supporting claimants. Will continue to look at where the UC claim process is not working for the most vulnerable.</p> <p>Working closely with Job Centre and continually striving to get referrals via this route.</p>	<p>DW</p>
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	<p>Evidence shows that claimants are approaching CAB for their advice late in the process of their UC claim, once they are experiencing considerable financial hardship. This is because CAB budgetary advice must be sought on a self-referral basis.</p> <p>CAB have launched a report on 'Delivering on Universal Credit' – used RBC case studies in the production of this report. Would ideally like the rollout of UC halted until the issues are resolved. The report was circulated to the group.</p> <p>Need to look at ways to engage claimants early in the process: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CAB are in the process of producing a leaflet. - RBC are trying to do supporting hand-offs by walking claimants to CAB. <p>It was suggested to offer the claimant some incentive or money if they contact CAB for support.</p> <p>PT suggested holding a 'market place for support event' – and get partners together. Could possibly use an empty unit in Rugby Central shopping centre (formerly Clock Towers) or Swan Centre.</p> <p>All agreed that this would be an excellent idea. To also consider bringing Rugby Credit Union into this event. To look at holding an event in January 2018.</p> <p><i>15:50 JT and DG left the meeting</i></p>	DW
6.	<p>Update from Co-ordinating Group (Paul Tolley)</p> <p>Recommended a discussion at the next meeting about the strategic issues affecting all LSP partners.</p> <p>To focus on UC debt issues and social isolation.</p> <p>Doing a strategy/plan moving forward.</p> <p>Community audits - to encourage community associations to report in live.</p> <p>Future agenda items: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - public space protection order - discuss the January Event (January) - debt issues (January) - youth strategies (March) - issues around hunger - free school meals (May) - community audits – hosted by community associations (September) <p>To allocate/issue the agenda and invite in the relevant people linked/tied in</p>	

	with the Action Plan.	
7.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>MD reported that in February RBC normally host a rural event to inform parish councils of community grants. She asked if there was a driver for holding this event each year? PT recommended that Bill Lowe at WOLK would be a good contact regarding this.</p> <p>HC highlighted that WCC also host this type of event but with a wider audience as it is across county. To consider tying these two events together. To possibly theme, and look at what parish councils can do to increase volunteers in the rural community. MD to liaise with HC.</p> <p>To discuss this further at the January meeting.</p> <p><i>Meeting closed at 16:10</i></p>	MD
8.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will take place on 18 January 2018 at 14:30; CR1</p>	