



STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

<http://community.stroud.gov.uk/lsp>

Meeting held on Friday 5th June 2015
Museum in the Park, Stroud

Present:

Apologies and absent:

Les Haines (Chair)	Voluntary & Community Sector Forum	David Hagg	CE, Stroud District Council
David Miller	Stroud Hospital League of Friends	Dr Claire Mould	OPENhouse
Russell Warner	FSB	Helen Edwards	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Rob Fountain	Age UK Gloucestershire	David Tate	Silverwood UK Ltd
Martin Wright	National Farmers Union	Cllr Geoff Wheeler	Leader, Stroud District Council
Mark McShane	Stroud District Schools Partnership	Barbara Pond	GRCC
David Nairn	Fluid Transfer	Margaret Willcox	Gloucestershire County Council
Libby Powell	Stroud District Youth Council	Oliver Catchpole	Stroud District Youth Council
Sergeant Kirk Harrison	Gloucestershire Constabulary	Geoffrey Beckerleg	Chamber of Commerce, Stroud

Kevin Hamblin (Vice Chair)	South Gloucestershire & Stroud College (SGS)	Martin James	Job Centre Plus, Gloucestershire & West of England District
Dr Stuart Wilson	Stroud District Schools Partnership	Charlotte Bignall	Stroud District Youth Council
Catherine Green	Stroud Businesswomen's Network	Beth Whittaker	Stroud Businesswomen's Network
Mary Hutton	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	Dr Hein Le Roux	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Elin Tattersall	GRCC	Max Comfort	Social Enterprise & WCCG
Dr Claire Feehily	Healthwatch Gloucestershire	Geoffrey Head,	Job Centre Plus, Gloucestershire & West of England District
Acting Chief Inspector Andy Poole	Gloucestershire Constabulary	Brian Oosthuysen	Gloucestershire County Council
Sir David McMurtry	Renishaw Plc	Kim Bedford	GAPTC
Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	MP for Cotswolds Constituency	Neil Carmichael	MP for Stroud Constituency
Jane Ball	Mayor of Dursley	Pamela Tawse	Gloucestershire Older Persons Association

Guests & Support Officers:

Hannah Gorf, NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	Steve Miles, Stroud District Council	Jackie Godwin, Stroud District Council
Fiona Hammond, Stroud District Council		

1. Welcome, introductions & apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. A number of apologies had been received.

2. Notes of the previous meeting

Accuracy of these was agreed.

3. Agriculture Update

Martin Wright, Senior Agent and local National Farmers' Union Mutual (NFU) Group Secretary, delivered an extremely informative and topical local farming update. Points made and subjects discussed included:

- The recent pilot badger cull in Gloucestershire proved to be highly emotive. Further consultation is due as instances of bovine tuberculosis (TB) are still high and increasing - but there are no plans for a cull in this area
- Dairy farming is very important to the District's local economy but nationally the sector is in crisis: since the abolishment of the Milk Marketing Board, the free market has become very volatile. 10 years ago there were 20,000 dairy farmers – now there are 10,000 but still the same number of cows. Currently farmers are paid only 18p per litre for milk
- Milk quotas have been removed and this will impact on the market – the consequence may be that we import more milk. Smaller units may be swamped by the larger ones and farmers will need to diversify and reinvest so that local farmland is not left empty
- There will be implications for the agriculture sector if we leave the EU in the future, as farmers' incomes are supported by direct payments
- The NFU is putting together a food and growth plan to halt the backward slide in UK food production self-sufficiency: levels have dropped from 75% in 1991 to 60% in 2014
- We need to encourage consumers to buy British and to improve nutrition as there is a big gap in the education process of what is good quality food. A major campaign to deal with this, working with schools and the NHS is planned. Buying local in-season goods is always extremely beneficial
- There is a 10% - 15% exposure to farming technology in this area. Robot milking machines are costly, at around £100,000
- It is difficult to source and retain dairy farm employees as the work is manual, not well-paid and working hours are long. The local labour force is supplemented by East European workers but they are very efficient
- Some tenant farmers renting land owned by Gloucestershire County Council can no longer make a living. County policy is to sell some of these assets to generate income and reduce the authority's debt
- There is concern for the emotional wellbeing of some local farmers and the NFU plays its full part in supporting farmers through difficult times

4. Stroud District Council's Work Experience Charter

Fiona Hammond, Learning and Development Officer, SDC, gave a brief overview of the new Skills for Stroud Work Experience Charter. For several years SDC has run a successful Work Experience Programme and the new initiative builds on this, linking up with schools and local businesses to ensure the provision of valuable opportunities for pupils. By achieving the charter mark, schools and businesses will underline their commitment to, investment in and delivery of work-readiness programmes for young people. Discussion points included:

- Improving employability skills has long been a focus of the LSP

- SDYC members remain committed to raising awareness of the value of work experience
- There are agencies that support community-based placements for vulnerable students

Full details of the Work Experience Charter, including how to get involved are available via http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/work_experience.asp

5. The Stroud and Berkeley Vale Test & Learn & Social Prescribing

Helen Edwards and Hannah Gorf, NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), provided a progress update of the development of the integrated teams within Gloucestershire via a PowerPoint presentation which is available on the LSP website: <http://community.stroud.gov.uk/lsp/new/meetings.html#meeting>
Subsequent discussion included:

- NHS IQ was established in 2013 to drive forward improvement across the NHS
- The CCG will be liaising with Parish Councils and other community groups to further develop partnerships
- Social prescribing works best with certain groups, including vulnerable people
- Although Glos. Constabulary cannot make referrals to the scheme at the moment, a meeting is planned for later in the year to discuss involvement
- Only those aged 18+ can be referred at present: however the need to assist younger people is recognised, especially around mental health issues
- There is a great strength of partnership working in the Stroud district – with particular support from SDC, Age UK and the VCS Alliance

6. Partners' Update

- OPENhouse, in collaboration with the Marah Trust, is participating in a 'Rough Traders' initiative on 5th November. Participants will sleep rough in Stroud on the Thursday night, then go to work on the Friday. Financial donations are welcome from individuals and organisations
- Cam and Dursley Youth Forum is working with local organisations to raise awareness and provide support to young people affected by self-harm
- SDYC's current projects include Votes @ 16, Health and Employment & Training
- Although District crime levels remain historically low, there has been an upward trend in acquisitive crimes such as burglary and shop-lifting
- Gloucestershire Constabulary will be maintaining 24-hr response teams in Stroud and Dursley
- A safe-driving campaign was launched by Glos. Road Safety Partnership on June 1st
- Age UK has recently launched a Stay Safe, Stay Smart initiative
- Age UK Gloucestershire and the CAB run a project for older citizens to help with benefit claims and Attendance Allowance
- Representatives from the Stroud District Schools' Partnership have met with local MPs expressing concerns over funding
- Domiciliary Care is an agenda item at Gloucestershire County Council's Cabinet meeting, 10th June due to concerns that 80% of home care is currently carried out by one agency. A decision to seek authority into new contractual arrangements will be made, with a view to encouraging smaller, local companies to work in this sector
- The Minor Injury Unit remains open 24hrs at Stroud General Hospital
- Stroud Hospital League of Friends will attend a service-review in October
- Following a tendering process, Lloyds Pharmacy was awarded the contract to provide medicines at Stroud General Hospital: however the long-established on-site pharmacy has now closed. Lloyds will operate from existing local pharmacies and from a central distribution point 7 days a week
- Stroud Chamber of Commerce is currently looking at traffic delivery restrictions and car-parking issues in the town centre
- Local businesses are encouraged to get involved with the GrowthAccelerator programme, now part of the Business Growth Service

- FSB Cotswold Branch is supporting Stroud Show, July 18th
- Fluid Transfer International supports the STEM initiative and recently participated in an event at Bussage CofE School
- Stroud VCA is merging with Cotswold Volunteers to create a more resilient organisation providing community transport services and support and encouragement for volunteering

The Chair thanked all for their contributions to a very informative meeting and asked that suggestions for future agenda items be forwarded to Jackie.

Future meeting dates

2015

Friday 11th September

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Friday 4th December

Conference Room, SGS College, Stroud

2016

Friday 4th March

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Friday 10th June

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Friday 9th September

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Friday 2nd December

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill