



STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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

Meeting held on Friday 6 September 2019
Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Present:

Geoff Beckerleg	Chamber of Commerce, Stroud	Helen March	Stroud District Youth Council Chair
Max Comfort	Social Enterprise & WCCG	Kathy O'Leary	Chief Executive, Stroud District Council
Cllr Doina Cornell	Leader, Stroud District Council	Barbara Pond	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
John Colquhoun	Chairman Uplands Care Service	Ben Stone	Stroud District Youth Council Principal Member for Health and Wellbeing
David Drew	MP for Stroud Constituency	Carol Stubbs	Job Centre Plus, Gloucestershire & West of England District
Emily Gravestock	UK Space Agency	Dr Roma Walker	Stroud Hospital League of Friends
Kevin Hamblin	South Gloucestershire & Stroud College (SGS)	Russell Warner	Federation of Small Businesses
Anna Hurbert	CEO Openhouse	Beth Whittaker (Chair)	Stroud Businesswomen's Network
David Nairn	Fluid Transfer	Kirsty Young	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group

Apologies and absent:

Sue Bailey	Sue Bailey Consulting	Neil Grecian	Mayor of Dursley
Janice Banks (Vice Chair)	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council	Mary Hutton	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Inspector Sarah Blake	Gloucestershire Constabulary	Richard Kerry	Station Manager, Stroud District Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service
Eilis Cope	Cope Sales & Marketing	Will Mansell	The Grace Network
Cllr Stephen Davies	County Councillor and District Councillor	David Owen	Chief Executive, GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership
Helen Edwards	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	Chris Pockett	Renishaw PLC
Ben Falconer	Corporate Communications Manager, SDC	Alison Robinson	Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils
Rob Fountain	Age UK Gloucestershire	Margaret Wilcox OBE	Gloucestershire County Council
William Frazer	National Farmers Union		

Guests & Support Officers:

Barry Wyatt, Director of Development, Stroud District Council	Rachel Brain, Carbon Neutral Officer, Stroud District Council
Emma Keating Clark, Community Health and Wellbeing Manager	Sue Tomlinson, District Team Leader, Independence Trust
Hannah Emery, Stroud District Council	Cynthia Kerr, Independence Trust

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies and Terms of Reference

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill and made the following announcements:

- Ali Russell has recently left Longfield to be CEO of a National Benevolent Charity and we hope to welcome Simon Bernstein the new CEO of Longfield at the next LSP meeting in December.
- Pamela Tawse is handing over representation for the Uplands Care Service to their new Chairman John Colquhoun who was welcomed to the meeting.
- Les Haines has announced his retirement from the LSP. Les has been a member of the LSP since it was founded in 2002 when the LSP was made up sub groups and he was a member of the Creating Wealth sub group. Les contributed to the work done on youth unemployment, the creation of the very successful Ambitions event and was also Chair of LSP.
- The Chair thanked Pamela and Les to their contributions of LSP wished them well in the future.

The LSP [Terms of Reference](#) were introduced by the Chair for LSP members' approval. There were no comments received from members and the Terms of Reference 2019 were adopted.

2. Carbon Neutral 2030 (CN2030) Board update – Barry Wyatt

At the previous LSP meeting in June 2019 Barry Wyatt, Director of Development at Stroud District Council (SDC) set out a proposal to create a CN2030 Board with the aim for LSP to be involved in the board membership. The following progress had been made:

- A renewable energy resource assessment has been commissioned and work to advise on how far the Council could push the standards in new builds has now been completed.
- A proposal has been circulated to other Gloucestershire Authorities to suggest that the Carbon Neutral Agenda would be best addressed through a county-wide approach hosted by Stroud District Council
- Successful bid for a Government-sponsored opportunity to explore business rates and council tax incentives for energy efficiency in homes and businesses.
- Working with Severn Wye Energy Agency and Transition Stroud to make the most of existing sustainable energy delivery relations and avoid duplicating efforts.
- Working with Gloucestershire Energy Co-operative and the Council's Tenant Services to explore the co-operative's concept for a funded project for a business case for PV and battery storage scheme.

Rachel Brain SDC's new Carbon Neutral Officer, outlined her role and aims which included:

- promoting the importance of visible action and developing motivational messaging
- developing an increased understanding of existing community key actors
- positioning the District Council as the enabler of the District to meet the CN2030 challenges from the bottom up.

The development of a formal communication and dissemination plan is being discussed so the Council can maximise its emerging status as a transformational lead on carbon neutral and climate change emergency responses, and encourage new opportunities and partnerships to further the Council's CN2030 aims.

3. Stroud District Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2022

SDC's [Health and Wellbeing Plan](#) was presented by Emma Keating Clark, the Council's Community Health and Wellbeing Manager.

The plan was formulated on the District's data::

- Stroud has an aging population with people living longer with long term conditions. By 2036 over 30% of the population will be over 65.
- Young people growing up in the District either leave because there are not enough affordable housing opportunities or because there are not enough jobs.
- Stroud has the highest rate of carers in Gloucestershire because of the aging population and support for carers is not always available.
- 11% of children are growing up in poverty which is a surprising statistic in an affluent district. The online pupil survey (self-reporting wellbeing) indicated that 12% have very poor mental health.
- The Sport England Survey showed that 68.7% of people in Stroud are active which is good when compared to other local authority areas but this is predominantly made up of some very active people alongside some very inactive people.
- Stroud has a very high level of homes which are difficult to make fuel efficient and 16% of homes are off the gas network and this has implications on health.

What does the Health and Wellbeing Plan do?

SDC is trying to ensure that health and wellbeing is at the heart of the work of the Council. The aim of the plan is to support healthy lifestyles, develop stronger communities and provide community mental health support.

Health starts with your DNA but SDC is trying to work on improving all the other aspects related to health and promote what help is available.

The 5 priorities shaping the Health and Wellbeing Plan are:

1. Supporting healthy lifestyles
2. Developing stronger communities
3. Improving housing
4. Protecting the public and our environment
5. Partnering the statutory, voluntary and community sectors

Examples of what SDC is doing already

- SDC is the only district in Gloucestershire that has its own Council housing stock. It also supports private rental housing with grants for disability adaptations and is planning for healthy new homes
- Supporting GPs to navigate issues, providing data and information and holding GPs to account to take the information on board
- Using county safeguarding systems to identify and support vulnerable people
- Working with SDC Youth Council to support vulnerable young people
- Issue and enforcement on a number of licensing and health and safety issues to keep public safe so that businesses can run smoothly
- Providing food safety advice for businesses

SDC is running a 'Know Your Patch' network which helps frontline services know and access the support available in the community. Contact Emma if you want to join.

Emma Keating Clark

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Discussion points included

- Improving housing should include access to housing and affordable housing.
- The Council has a duty of care to find accommodation and the local plan focuses on developing communities and guiding new developments.
- Does the Council work with community groups or put in bids to Homes England for community-led housing? SDC supports GRCC to provide that support on behalf of the Council and the Local Plan team spends time supporting housing initiatives across the district.

- David Drew spends time visiting the Schools across the district and highlighted the issues Schools face providing some children with enough food during the school holidays and the impact this can have on a child's health. Schools have to feed children and used to do breakfast and pop up cafes during the holidays when the funding was available. They have felt unsupported by mental health services as resources have reduced but things are gradually improving; there is now a dedicated mental health worker for each School. The restrictions put in place by GDPR mean that services can no longer talk to each other about children they are supporting.

4. Independence Trust

Presentation by Cynthia Kerr, Senior Operation Manager, Independence Trust for Gloucestershire and Sue Tomlinson, District Team Leader

Independence Trust is one of a number of Community Wellbeing providers in Gloucestershire. The service is free and confidential for anyone over the age of 16. It aims to connect people to local services, organisations and groups to help them improve their general wellbeing and meet wider social needs.

Community Wellbeing Agents work to build up community capacity and to provide short and sharp positive intervention and referrals to other organisations. There are support groups for people who are socially isolated and lonely or with physical disabilities, promoting self-management to encourage people to take responsibility for their own mental health and wellbeing by providing support at an early stage. The Trust is working in GP surgeries to signpost individuals to other support groups to reduce regular visits to their GP.

A comprehensive list of up to 150 activities, chosen by clients, is produced three times a year. The programme is open to anyone, and help break down social isolation. The peer-led support groups encourage people to meet others in a similar situation and offer various trips and activities. Within 2-3 weeks of referral to the support groups, action plans are put in place and there has been a decrease in those attending GP surgeries as a result.

The Wellbeing Agents also aim to tackle the stigma of mental health on the street, with peers and families by explaining what mental health is.

The Trust runs a number of projects including the Recycling Project which helps people to build their self esteem, make friends and then become a peer volunteer. The Garden Project, supported by Stroud Hospital's League of Friends, has opened up a piece of land at Weaver's Croft near Stroud Hospital providing a safe space for adults with mental health issues to take part in productive and educational activities, growing food and gardening. The Weavers Independence Project won Community Project of the Year 2019 at this year's Pride of the Cotswolds Awards (27/09/2019).

The Trust is also working with the Community Autism Support & Advice (CASA) which supports individuals who have been diagnosed with autism.

Independence Trust relies on volunteers and has won a Pride of Cotswolds Award .

www.independencetrust.co.uk/

5. Partners' updates

The partner updates were focused on reducing carbon emissions.

Stroud Businesswomen's Network

- The Network supports all women in business, and particularly start-ups .The group helps women build confidence in their businesses, contributing positively to their wellbeing.
- Beth also volunteers to provide transport for those who are socially isolated and has taken a lady shopping for a number of years and they have since formed a friendship. Beth commented that it's easy to take other people for granted when you have someone at home to talk to and bounce ideas around with but lots of people don't have that so it is important to help your community and check on your neighbours wellbeing.

Stroud District Council

- Vision 2050 – is a project working with young people to find out what they need to live and work in the district.
- The Council is also involved in bringing together public and private sector representatives from both the Stroud District and the Forest of Dean District to form the new Severn Vale Board. Emerging work is looking at the potential of a new River Severn joint rail/cycle/footpath crossing (including installing energy generation technology in the bridge itself), and at improving digital communications across the rural areas.
- GFirst LEP is consulting with young people about the Local Industrial Strategy.
- Museum in the Park recently won an award for its accessibility. Since injuring her Achilles heel Doina Cornell, Leader of Stroud District Council, has experienced first-hand the challenges of limited accessibility and has found Stroud Town Centre particularly difficult to get around. This needs to be taken seriously as it can have a negative impact on those with limited accessibility.

Stroud District Youth Council

- SDYC are currently working with the [Eddystone Trust](#) and rolling out the C-Card scheme so young people can sign up to receive free condoms in GP surgeries and sexual health clinics.
- They are also rolling out a survey for GP surgeries with the aim to provide feedback from young people to make visiting the doctor a more positive experience

South Gloucestershire and Stroud College

- The College is developing a 14 to 16 centre for those with social and mental health conditions. Sometimes schools are not the right place for individuals and this can lead to exclusion. The alternative provision is not coping with volumes and it is important to keep the child in the mainstream so they don't have to go through social provision.
- Laughing gas is a considerable issue which the College is keeping a close eye on.
- In relation to carbon reduction, Kevin commented that 95% of Colleges are not new buildings so they are difficult to make efficient.
- The College will be introducing Construction modules to its prospectus. This will include plastering, bricklaying, multi skill construction and how to retrofit.
- The College is also involved in the £36m Active Building Centre (ABC) project - a national collaboration of leading universities and companies including Swansea, Cardiff and Imperial University. The aim of Active Buildings is to design buildings which produce more energy than they use
- The College is managing the Stroud Growth Hub on behalf of the GFirst Growth Hub Network. The Hub is based at SGS Stroud Campus facility and will open in January 2020.
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Stroud Social Enterprise and WCCG

- The wellbeing of the planet is important and Max commented that Extinction Rebellion and Ecocide groups were started in Stroud. The Friday climate strike is important and should be supported.
- It is Stroud *Communiversities*'s 20th anniversary this year and a celebration event is being held in October. The *Communiversities* offers the opportunity to learn from a range of innovative land, food, farming, sustainability, social enterprise and housing projects in the Stroud area.

Stroud Federation of Small Businesses

- Support in employment and small businesses with the opening of the new Stroud Growth Hub which was supported by GFirst LEP.

Fluid Transfer

- The company has been under new ownership for 12 months and has seen a recent turnover of staff.
- A small profit has been made this year.
- Recently recruited a full-time HR Manager whose main remit is recruitment and the health and welfare of staff. The HR Manager has been trying to establish reasons for absenteeism and most of the time it is for personal reasons. The company has been working with the employees to try and accommodate any adjustments to working hours. Staff morale has improved as a result and a reduction in time off work has been noted.

Job Centre Plus

- There is a very big focus on understanding what is going on the Health and Wellbeing calendar, with strong team support.

- Currently assessing how the Job Centre is perceived by those who have autism and establishing whether it is friendly and approachable and provides a non-stressful environment.
- Encouraging mentoring circles for employers, so far, Waitrose and Firstbase have undertaken three sessions.
- Encouraging disability-confident employers to sign up to provide work experience.
- Stroud College is providing a course on building self-esteem.
- The Stratford Park Parkrun is a good opportunity for people to run together and good for small workforces to encourage health and wellbeing of staff. Stroud Athletics Club do a beginners running course for free and currently 40 staff and Members of Stroud District Council take part in the Parkrun which was set up to improve mental health and wellbeing and is very inclusive for people of all ages and disabilities.

NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group

- Stroud and Berkeley Vale GP practices have set up 3 primary networks and the CCG is establishing an integrated county partnership.
- New data shows that dementia, frailty, carers/care homes, young people and mental health are the priorities.
- Newly commissioned service to support carers and how we can make things easier for people locally.
- Providing feedback is very important, especially case studies.

Chamber of Commerce

- Recently conducted a survey of Street Traders to establish views on business rates, empty shops and the decline in the High Street. Results of the survey can be found [here](#)
- A list has been added to the website for who to contact about helping the homeless, graffiti and vandalism.
- The multi-storey car park at Merrywalks (now called Five Valleys) is not currently meeting the disability access thresholds.
- Cycle racks are now available at the train station and there is a dedicated cycle track from Chalford to Stroud.
- <http://www.stroudchamber.org.uk/>

David Drew – MP for the Stroud Constituency

- An issue of concern is the lack of acute mental health facilities for young people if they are unwell and this delays treatment. In some cases, patients are in Wotton Lawn for months before they are even assessed. Contributions and funding are needed for more facilities.

UK Space Agency

- Invested £15m in health and wellbeing such as air quality monitoring and remote health diagnostics using applications through satellites. Voice recognition technology has also been used to test astronauts stress levels whilst in space and this technology can be used more widely.
- The UK Space Agency has funding available to help with mental health initiatives and carbon reduction initiatives and Emily encouraged Councils and organisations to tap into this support. Contact Emily Gravestock, Head of Applications Strategy artes@ukspaceagency.gov.uk

Open House

- Take health and wellbeing seriously and have specific focus group to involve staff. The focus group has given staff a voice and allowed them to contribute in discussions about pension contributions, gym membership scheme, health care and dental schemes. They also make sure that there is a healthy choice at meetings such as fruit.
- Staff are encouraged to work flexibly and this has received a positive reception from staff.
- A Counselling service is also offered to staff.

Uplands Care Service

- John Colquhoun has taken over from Pamela Tawse as Chair of the Uplands Care Service, Pamela will leave quite a gap.
- Currently concentrating on strategy and setting up a sustainable business model and what care advice they can provide whilst focusing on the importance of continued community engagement.
- It is important that carers and those who are unwell have a good quality of life and are able to get involved beyond the day centre.

