



STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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

Meeting held on Friday 25 November 2022

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Theme: Employment skills and support

Present:

Carole Stubbs (Chair)	Job Centre Plus, Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire District	Geoffrey Beckerleg	Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Stroud
Russell Warner (Vice Chair)	Gloucestershire Area Lead, Federation of Small Businesses	Kerrin Cocks	Strategic Support Officer, GAPTC
Anna Herbert	Chief Executive Officer, OPENhouse	Lisa Ferneyhough- Moss	Deputy Director Care Operations, Lilian Faithfull Care
Cate James- Hodges	SDYC Leader	Cllr Natalie Bennett	Deputy Leader of Council
Cllr Catherine Braun	Leader of Council	Paul Cruise	Stroud and Dursley Inspector, Gloucestershire Police
Chris Pockett	Head of Communications, Renishaw	Steve Elliott- Mead	Trustee, OPENhouse
		Cllr Symon Ackroyd	Mayor, Dursley Town Council

Apologies and absent:

Adele Kendall	Head of HR, Ecotricity	Katie Jarvis	Group Secretary Gloucestershire, National Famers' Union
Alison Robinson	Chief Executive Officer, GAPTC	Kevin Hamblin	Group Chief Executive Principal, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College
Alison Truphet	Executive Director, New Ventures Trust	Mark McShane	Head, Stroud High School
Barbara Piranty	Chief Executive, GRCC	Matt Amey	Stroud Station Manager, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service
Beth Whittaker	Stroud Businesswomen's Network	Matt Fellows	CEO, Age UK Gloucestershire
Brandon Watkins	SDYC Chair	Max Comfort	Director, Stroud Commonwealth
David Owen	CE, Gfirst Local	Dr Roma Walker	Stroud League of Friends

	Enterprise partnership		
Eilis Cope	Director, Cope Sales and Marketing Ltd	Sarah Scott	Executive Director Adult Social Care, Gloucestershire County Council
Elizabeth Hall	CE, Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswolds	Simon Bernstein	Chief Executive, Longfield
Fred Barker	Director, Transition Stroud	Siobhan Baillie MP	MP for Stroud
Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP	MP for The Cotswolds	Cllr Stephen Davies	Leader of the Opposition, Stroud District Council and Gloucestershire
Helen Edwards	Deputy Director of Primary Care and Place, NHS Gloucestershire	Steve Miles	Senior Youth Officer, Stroud District Council
Kathy O'Leary	Chief Executive, Stroud District Council	Will Mansell	The Grace Network

Guests and Support Officers

Anna Reeves	Community Projects Manager, Creative Sustainability	Georgia Spooner	2030 Community Action Officer, Stroud District Council
Michaela Elliott	Hub Broker, Gloucestershire Employment and Skills Hub	Tom Mayo	Hub Broker, Gloucestershire Employment and Skills Hub
Hannah Barton	LSP Co-ordinator, Stroud District Council		

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone and noted the apologies.

2. Creative Sustainability: supporting young people – Anna Reeves, Community Projects Manager, Creative Sustainability

Anna explained that Creative Sustainability had several projects involving young people including Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group, the Access Bike project, the Digital Inclusion project, Community Hubs and in particular the 3rd Space Project.

3rd Space is a space for 18–25 year olds which can be accessed via referral only. Referrals to 3rd Space can come from professionals, a family member, or a self-referral. The reason for being referral only is to ensure that the project can meet the needs of the person before they are accepted. Amongst the young people Creative Sustainability works with are those not in employment or education and those who have some level of disability who are about to leave or have just left education.

3rd Space is an inclusive and supportive project that offers a wide range of activities including textiles, gardening, music, cooking and photography. The space is driven by the young people who attend, with the activities being co-produced.

The space often receives referrals from the job centre in Stroud when a young person is not work ready or is struggling with other barriers such as social anxiety, a lack of confidence or mental ill health. 3rd Space focusses on building young people's confidence in a variety of ways and encouraging them to recognise the existing skills they have. One example of this is by the young people at 3rd Space shopping for food, cooking it and then sharing it with the group. This breaks down barriers and allows the young people to share their learning and show they can do good things.

Job coaches from the job centre visit 3rd Space once a fortnight so attendees can be seen at the space rather than at the job centre. One of the job centre's disability advisors has also started to visit 3rd Space.

3rd Space encourages young people into volunteering roles, further education, and employment. Young people can build their confidence and develop their social skills and ability to work with others as part of a team by attending the space.

Cllr Braun asked how many young people 3rd Space have helped so far, and what have they gone on to do. Approximately 30 young people attend per week and the average per day is around 10 young people (this is in addition to young people attending the Access Bike Project). Anna gave examples of two young people recently moving into employment with Gloucestershire Services, while others have moved into employment elsewhere or into volunteering roles, or are looking at short courses at Stroud College.

3rd Space are also keen to link young people into other community groups such as Paganhill Community Group.

Anna Herbert provided an example of a young lady from OPENhouse who attended 3rd Space, and it was the only thing she was able to do on her own in five years. This is testament to how welcoming the space is.

Creative Sustainability are holding a drop-in for other organisations at 3rd Space on Monday 28 November at 2pm. Anna encouraged anyone interested in attending to email her and come along.

3. Gloucestershire County Council Employment & Skills Hub Review – Michaela Elliott and Tom Mayo, Gloucestershire Employment & Skills Hub (presentation attached)

Michaela and Tom have an update on Gloucestershire County Council's Employment & Skills Hub which is open to everyone in Gloucestershire with any employment status. The Hub's vision is to connect the skills of residents with the needs of employers, and their mission is to empower every resident regardless of age, background, or culture to live a meaningful life through the achievement of their employment aspirations.

The Hub has been running for a year and has been steadily growing, with the recent employment of two new job brokers. They work closely with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). They offer an assessment and action plan for career paths, and link into adult education and alternative skills.

When the Hub first started, they were helping a lot of people aged over 50, but they have slowly started to get a broader range of ages coming in. They have also had a lot of employed people attending who want to make career changes post-Covid.

The Hub offers a tailored service for those with different needs including mental illnesses and learning disabilities. This includes learning disability and autism job groups, a mental health job broker and an autism job broker. They also work closely with the NHS and other partners to ensure they receive a tailored service.

The Hub monitor where referrals come from, which pathways are chosen, and other data so that patterns can be identified, and bespoke job clubs can be created. A careers café drop-in service has also just been set up. They also recognise that sustainable employment is important and therefore continue to support people for a year or sometimes longer.

To show how the Hub has helped its users, they have created videos that include the experiences of users. The short version can be viewed [here](#), and the extended version is available [here](#).

There are some upcoming challenges for the Hub including the instability of the economy, recruitment into posts within the Hub, capacity to cover the whole county, preconceptions and myths regarding barriers to employment and the benefits system, and temporary funding streams.

The next steps for the Hub include a new website and increasing social media presence, increased employer engagement and targeting anchor institutions, and the Employment and Skills Hub Outreach (ESHO) Project, which is the replacement of GEM.

A question was asked regarding funding streams, as almost all of the Hub's funding streams are temporary so it is important to keep on top of this. Cllr Braun noted that it would be good to see some more sustainable funding for the Hub as they are clearly doing really valuable work.

4. Interview clothes rail at Stroud library – Georgia Spooner, 2030 Community Action Officer

Stroud District Council (SDC) staff have donated second hand clothes to a clothes rail based at Stroud library. These are for anyone who would like smart clothes for an interview, who might not otherwise be able to afford or have access to them. All the clothes are free, clean, and pressed and are to have, not to borrow. Anyone can take the clothes and it is completely anonymous, however each item of clothing has a QR code on the tag so people can scan this and leave feedback. SDC would like to know if people have been successful at getting a job whilst wearing any of the donated clothes.

The clothing and textiles industry uses a lot of water and causes emissions so second hand clothes are more sustainable than buying new, and using them also diverts clothes otherwise destined for landfill.

The clothes rail is a trial and will be at the library until mid-December. Stroud library is then moving so other ways to continue the clothes rail will be explored and established in the new year.

5. Partners' Updates

Kerrin Cocks, Strategic Support Officer, GAPTC:

- Following the last LSP meeting, GAPTC hosted an online networking session on food and fuel poverty with the same speakers as the LSP, and an additional speaker from GL11 Community Hub. This went very well.
- A third networking session on climate action was held at the end of October. This was very well received, and all participating councillors asked for more regular sessions.
- The next topic GAPTC are covering is youth, with some representatives from Stroud District Youth Council joining them, so today's topic is fortuitous.
- Although Stroud district does not have any local elections in 2023, the other districts in Gloucestershire do, so this is a big piece of work for GAPTC. They are encouraging members of the community to stand to be a parish or town councillor and change people's perceptions of what they do. This is one of the reasons behind the networking sessions GAPTC have been running, so councillors understand what they can do, and even if they do not have the power to act on something they can be the voice.

Chris Pockett, Head of Communications, Renishaw:

- Renishaw is 50 next year. Although they started in Chepstow, their first commercial premises was in the Stroud district.
- As part of this, Renishaw are looking at holding a lot of community-focused initiatives including opening up their key Gloucestershire sites in June and July (exact dates TBC).

Cllr Symon Ackroyd, Mayor, Dursley Town Council:

- Dursley Town Council's business initiative came to an end in May. It has been difficult to get businesses going in Dursley, but they will try again next year.

Anna Herbert, Chief Executive Officer, OPENHouse:

- OPENhouse is a 10-bed unit offering supported accommodation for rough sleepers.
- They are always full so they are looking at setting up a direct access Hub where someone who is rough sleeping can have direct access into accommodation. This is really needed in Stroud so they are planning for where to put it and what it might look like.
- Boredom is one of the biggest barriers to their clients moving on as they slip back into addiction or dysfunctional living.
- Some of their clients have gone to other projects including volunteering or working in the community, and this has helped them to move on from

OPENhouse. They have had nine people move on in the last year so turnover is quite high.

- OPENhouse are hoping to reduce the amount of time people are living with them, and they are also looking at fundraising.

Paul Cruise, Stroud and Dursley Inspector, Gloucestershire Police:

- Violence and intimidation against women and girls is one of Gloucestershire Police's highest priorities at the moment. They are focussing on the canal paths in and around Stroud, and proactively monitoring other sites to gain information about individuals who are causing violence and intimidation. This includes a man at Woodchester Lakes who was reported by Stroud Wild Swimming and arrested shortly after.
- The male who was charged with the rape at Dudbridge roundabout has been released after the charges were dropped. Another male has now been arrested and investigations are continuing.
- The Police are working closely with Safe Space – an initiative that business premises can sign up to in order to provide refuge and a safe place for women to go to if they are feeling unsafe in public. Many shops in Stroud have signed up, there is a county-wide commitment from McDonalds to make their restaurants a Safe Space, and Stagecoach have also signed up to make all their buses a Safe Space.
- The Police will be attending Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre's annual Reclaim the Night March starting at Stratford Park on Friday 25 November at 6.30pm. The Police are there both to facilitate the march and to show solidarity.
- In August the Police held a meeting on the topic of violence and intimidation against women and girls at the Subscription Rooms in Stroud. They have planned a follow-up meeting on 24 January on the same topic and are hoping for another good turnout. They are also seeking feedback on what the Police could do better.
- There was a murder recently on Chapel Street in Stroud. An investigation was launched quickly with several suspects identified and one charged. The Police are confident there is no further danger to the public regarding this.
- The Police are also focussing on anti-social behaviour in communities. This includes a focus on specific addresses on Chapel Street and two partial closure notices have been issued so far. These notices make it unlawful for anyone other than the owner to be at the address, and the reason for partial closure rather than full is because often the owner is vulnerable in some way. The Police have seen real success with this.

Stroud District Council:

- In the 2030 team they are working together to think about small projects that can be implemented across the community. If the interview clothes rail trial goes well, they will be matching up with local organisations such as libraries and other public places. The team have had a big focus recently on retrofitting homes, including how heat and energy can be prevented from escaping old or less efficient homes. Some tips include:
 - Finding out where the draughts are and blocking them;
 - Adding lagging around hot water tanks; and

- Turning down the hot water boiler so cold water does not need to mix with hot water for showers.
- The cost-of-living crisis is top of SDC's agenda. The team is doing a lot of work to support warm spaces in the district.
- SDC are in the middle of budget planning for the next financial year and will not find out about the local government settlement until just before Christmas, therefore need to think carefully about future funding commitments.
- The Strategy and Resources Committee meeting on Thursday 24 November focussed on some of the themes within the Council Plan, including items on the Rural England Prosperity Fund submission, the canal project, and work with the Regeneration and Investment Board to develop a new Place Prospectus and to consider a Strategic Outline Business Case that has been prepared to support the potential reopening of the rail station at Stonehouse Bristol Road.
- Brimscombe Port redevelopment is progressing and SDC will hear more in the new year regarding their planning submission.
- SDC's Economic Development Officer has been working with the Growth Hub to do some more outreach.
- There are a range of updates in the Strategy and Resources Committee [papers](#) if LSP members are interested in further details.

Geoffrey Beckerleg, Stroud Chamber of Trade and Commerce:

- Stroud Chamber of Trade and Commerce support individuals with skills and training and can provide employment training.

Lisa Ferneyhough-Moss, Deputy Director Care Operations, Lilian Faithfull Care:

- Uplands Day Centre is being used as a warm space on Wednesdays to help people who are struggling with the cost of living. This can be anyone, not just older peoples.
- Lilian Faithfull have opened a charity shop in Tewkesbury which is going well.
- Martin Hughes, CEO, is leaving therefore they are actively looking for a new CEO.

Cate James-Hodges, Leader, Stroud District Youth Council:

- When someone applies to join Stroud District Youth Council (SDYC) they receive an information pack which includes the benefits of being a youth council representative. This includes help with employment skills and support.
- Cate has had the opportunity to undertake work experience with SDC and this option is open to people not involved with SDYC as well. It is a comfortable work environment, and it helps build confidence.
- SDYC have been part of the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Panel Audit this year.

Russell Warner, Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Gloucestershire Area:

- Renishaw are sponsoring one of the categories at the FSB's South West Awards.
- They recently met with the Bank of England who are trying to get a better understanding of what is happening outside London.

Carole Stubbs, Department of Work and Pensions:

- If someone is a job centre client, they can have interview clothes bought for them by the DWP.
- Holding monthly jobs fairs and hoping to step this up in January.
- Stroud are one of the top areas for getting people into work.
- The job centre are happy to work with any organisation wanting to offer work experience.
- The job centre in Stroud is a Safe Space.

The Chair of the LSP wishes everyone a relaxing Christmas and Happy New Year.

Please send any requests for future agenda items or suggestions for future meeting themes to Hannah Barton, hannah.barton@stroud.gov.uk

Next meeting

Friday 10 March

2023 meeting dates

Friday 10 March

Friday 9 June

Friday 8 September

Friday 1 December

The meetings are 9:00am for a 9:15am start, with meeting end by 11:30am.