

Rotherham Together Partnership (RTP) meeting
5.00-7.00pm, Wednesday 16th January 2019
Voluntary Action Rotherham, The Spectrum, Coke Hill, Rotherham

Draft notes and action points

Attendees:

Austin, Jason
Carlin, Tony
Chambers, Andrew
Chapman, Steve
Cullen, Dr Richard
Dexter, Adrian
Havenhand, Martin
Kemp, Sharon
Morris, Steve
Ramzan, Mohammed
Read, Cllr Chris
Roche, Cllr David
Scholey, Chris
Whittle, Sarah

Sector/Organisation:

Further Education
South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
Business Representative
South Yorkshire Police
Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
VCF Sector Representative
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
Chief Executive, RMBC
Business Representative
VCF Sector Representative
Leader, RMBC (Chair)
Chair, Health & Wellbeing Board
Business Representative
Voluntary Action Rotherham

Supporting officers:

Hall, Justin
Leach, Simeon
Wiltschinsky, Jacqui

Reed in Partnership
RMBC
RMBC Public Health

Apologies:

Bussey, Nick
Cowles, Cllr Allen
Freeborn, Jackie
Hoddinott, Cllr Emma
Luqman, Khalida
Mallinder, Cllr Jeanette
Pater, Lawson
Pogson, Lisa
Ridsdale, Matthew
Swales, Mark
Watson, Cllr Gordon

Sector/Organisation:

VCF Sector Representative
RMBC
Business Representative
Chair, Safer Rotherham Partnership
VCF Sector Representative
RMBC
RDaSH
Business Representative
Business Representative
Sheffield Hallam University
Chair, Children and Young People's Partnership

Rotherham Together Partnership:

Holmes, Michael

	Agenda item	Action
1.	<p>Opening, welcome and introductions Cllr Chris Read welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were noted as above and introductions were made.</p>	
2.	<p>Notes and actions from the previous meeting and declarations of interest No declarations of interest were made at the start of the meeting. The notes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.</p> <p>Matters arising <i>Game changer: Skills and employment</i> On today's agenda.</p> <p><i>Performance overview</i> The next Indices of Multiple Deprivation results are due to be published in the summer of 2019. A delivery plan update is on today's agenda.</p>	
3.	<p>Skills and employment plan Simeon Leach delivered a presentation on the developing skills and employment plan. The presentation summarised key issues highlighted by the SHU research and outlined a number of potential aims/objectives. The aims of the plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local people have access to employment that is stable and decently paid, enabling them to plan confidently for the future • Strong links between businesses, education providers and other key partners underpin a skills system that builds aspiration and supports economic growth <p>The next steps include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the remaining time with SHU to further explore key issues for Rotherham • To ensure the plan fits with SCR employment, skills and education plan • Identify short/medium and long term actions • Plan to be approved in March 2019 • Governance arrangements to be agreed (including 	

council, business growth board and RTP)

Questions/comments followed.

Martin Havenhand asked for the reasons behind the need for a specific Rotherham skills and employment plan (when the SCR already has a plan). Simeon responded that Rotherham has its own unique local issues, and the plan would ensure that these are addressed, in addition to the more generic SCR-wide issues. Tony Carlin asked whether the debate at the Wentworth Woodhouse event (hosted by Wayne Hemmingway) had been fed into the plan. Simeon confirmed that the issues raised at the debate would be picked up within the plan (and also in the town centre masterplan).

Reed in Partnership presentation

Justin Hall from Reed in Partnership delivered a short presentation on the delivery of the government's work and health programme (Better Working Futures) across South Yorkshire. Justin explained that Reed in Partnership was awarded the contract for 5 years (to 2022) and referrals to the scheme are via Jobcentre Plus. Questions/comments followed. Sarah Whittle suggested that there may be potential links to social prescribing and volunteering that could be explored. Richard Cullen asked if GPs were able to refer to the programme, and if it could work alongside 'Working Win' to provide more intensive support.

The board broke into four separate discussion groups to look at the following questions:

- Are the identified issues correct?
- What activity is needed to tackle them?
- How do we judge success?

Feedback from the groups was as follows:

Discussion group 1 – Affordability and security of employment

- Average wages need to increase to the national level – encourage employers to adopt a living wage policy
- Lots of zero hours contracts (fast food outlets) – need to convince employers that this type of contract offers little stability for either the employer or employee
- Links to voluntary sector – healthy voluntary sector has a knock on effect on GDP

- Recruitment crisis in the care sector - care workers paid less than a supermarket cashier
- More needs to be done in schools re: work experience, and preparing for the world of work
- Apprenticeships/vocational training route is important
- Employers should be incentivised/encouraged to take on a certain number of young people to experience work before they go to university (like in Germany)
- Higher ranking employers should create a market of competition
- Currently a serious lack of construction workers in the country, and there is a need for these skills to be highlighted as a gap within schools when students are making career choices
- Lack of employment amongst BME women is likely to be a cultural issue.

Discussion group 2 – Barriers to employment for specific groups

- More data needed to understand how to further break down barriers whether they are language/culture/skills (ICT)
- 500 asylum seekers in Rotherham who are not able to work (but many are highly-skilled)
- Employee led projects for each group to identify routeways, build confidence, enhance skills and create work placements
- Use role models.

Discussion group 3 – Young people, careers and employment

- The current ranking of schools by academic performance hinders the promotion/attractiveness of alternative routes for students to the job market
- Some reluctance amongst schools to allow pupils time off from academic studies to attend careers/apprenticeship fairs
- Publicise the wide range of apprenticeships and training that is available
- Perceived disparity between A-level qualifications and apprenticeships
- Structural issues with partnerships – secondary education providers not engaged with the Rotherham Plan, need to engage at a strategic level. The academy system has pushed schools further away from the local authority

<p><u>Agreed</u></p> <p><u>Agreed</u></p>	<p>agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential issues with the apprenticeship levy • Ensure that the message is communicated to students that large employers are actively looking for apprentices • Lack of life skills – although expectations are high, but young people are often not equipped with basic skills such as interview technique/letter writing or completing application forms. <p><i>Discussion group 4 – A workforce for sustainable economic growth</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vital to promote apprenticeships to young people, and also to look at companies such as Liberty Steel who are best examples of using the apprenticeship levy • More work required with schools to deliver enterprising, skilled young people into the workforce (national leadership is lacking in this area) • Schools could work with the VCS to place young volunteers and offer placements within the community • Need to take a strategic overview of the long-term growth of the Rotherham economy • Sub-groups to focus on the town centre and employment and skills. <p>The board <u>agreed</u> to send any further comments to Simeon Leach.</p> <p>Simeon <u>agreed</u> to circulate a copy of the draft plan to the board.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Simeon Leach</p>
	<p>Theme board updates</p> <p>The theme board chairs gave a quick overview of their respective boards (for the benefit of the new members present) and highlighted key points from their updates as follows:</p> <p>Safer Rotherham Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful £1.25m South Yorkshire-wide bid to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for a project focussing on improving the response to child criminal exploitation • A further reduction in the number of children with three or more missing episodes • Successful application for central government funding to deliver over £100k additional support and service improvement around LGBT ‘plus’ victims of domestic 	

	<p>abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception/fear of crime levels remain high, it is hoped that this can be addressed by the re-introduction of neighbourhood policing. <p>Business Growth Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking for new private sector members, Chair and Vice Chair • Muse appointed as development partner for Forge Island • Rotherham’s employment rate of 78.5% now matches that for England • Developing a bid to the government’s Future High Streets Fund. <p>Health and Wellbeing Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action plans have been developed to deliver on each of the four aims within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy • A board sponsor has now been identified for aim 3 of the strategy • The JSNA is to be redesigned following a period of consultation with partners to ensure it’s fit for purpose for all stakeholders. <p>Performance updates – Rotherham Plan annual delivery plan Michael Holmes briefly updated the board on each milestone in the delivery plan and its relevant RAG rating. Michael highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milestone 8 – on target for January 2019 • Milestone 12 – this milestone will change over the next few months • Milestone 13 – delayed – now expected May 2019 • Milestone 16 – will also be a Rotherham Health app where people can book appointments and tailor services. 	
7.	<p>AOB <i>Ambition Rotherham</i> Martin Havenhand gave a brief update on Ambition Rotherham and its two main workstreams, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambition Rotherham campaign – to proactively promote Rotherham as a destination • Proud to be a Rotherham Pioneer drive <p>Martin asked whether the board would be agreeable to receiving an Ambition Rotherham update on a regular basis</p>	

<p><u>Agreed</u></p>	<p>(similar to a theme board update). He also suggested that theme board updates highlight two or three key messages that board members can take away and disseminate within their own organisations / boards / sectors.</p> <p>Michael Holmes <u>agreed</u> to circulate information on Ambition Rotherham to the board.</p>	<p>Michael Holmes</p>
<p><u>Agreed</u></p>	<p><i>RMBC health check</i></p> <p>Sharon Kemp thanked the board members who had been contacted in regards to the RMBC health check which is taking place in February. Sharon <u>agreed</u> to report back to the board with any feedback arising from the health check.</p>	<p>Sharon Kemp</p>

Next meeting:

- Wednesday 17th April 2019, 5.00-7.00pm, Voluntary Action Rotherham