

Covid 19 - Recovery Management Work Streams - Community Impact
Minutes
21 July 2020 @ 1pm – 2pm

Attendees:

Apologies:

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| Jane Greer (JG) | Jemma Mindham |
| Rory Davies (RD) | |
| David Watts (DW) | |
| Christine Howard (CH) | |
| Julie Houston (JH) | |
| Viv Hales (VH) | |
| Lisa Whiting (LW) | |
| Angela Street (Minutes) | |

| Item | Actions agreed | Action by: |
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| Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising | <p>The minutes from the meeting held on the 7 July were agreed to be an accurate record</p> <p>Matters arising</p> <p><u>Summer School Proposal</u> Meeting notes to be circulated to group</p> <p><u>Housing/Homelessness</u> Draft Plan to be circulated to group</p> <p><u>Food Poverty</u> Changing Lives' Holiday Hunger event agreed at SMB with a number of caveats including that the total number of participants does not exceed 30 and subject to satisfactory RA</p> <p><u>Rainbow Services</u> Still waiting on some Third Sector responses to the request to share information</p> <p>JG still to speak to Simon Freeman regards linking in with Donna Beechener for information.</p> | <p>RD</p> <p>LW</p> <p>JG</p> |
| 2. Feedback from sub-groups | <p>Arts and Culture RD gave an update on the work of the group to date. Noted / agreed that:-</p> <p><u>Summer School Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the Summer School Project continues, with a number of activities and providers having been identified. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bookings for the activities to be actioned via Harlow Playhouse booking system. • Activity organisers to ensure Risk Assessments in place <p><u>Playhouse</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studio space re-opening next week • Livewire to provide a Summer School, with other groups returning in September • RD to speak to Will Hales regarding possible studio space in other buildings and a steer to be sought • RD has offered support / assistance to arts groups at risk of closure. • Panto – report currently being drafted, with a final decision expected on the 3 August <p><u>Events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report outlining and providing recommendations on upcoming events had been endorsed at SMB. The next major event to be considered is Bonfire Night. • One of the events approved was Black History Month, with the venue being Harlow Museum. Currently looking at transport, using the previously agreed budget. <p>Third Sector CH provided a summary of the aims and work to date of the group. It was noted / agreed that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently working with Jokey to support the Holiday Hunger project:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Activities to include picnics, in small groups, outside ○ Working with West Ham Foundation and Sporting Lives on the sporting aspect ○ Aim of the project is to support mental health wellbeing and encourage activity. • Met with Active Essex regarding their proposed scheme, but it had been decided that this was not viable due to expectations. | RD |
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Data Group

JH gave an update on progress to date. It was noted / agreed that:-

- Progressing work on data, mainly through an opportunity presented by the Town's Fund
- Drop in income for families – there was a question around whether or not this is an area that this group could look at. Following discussion, it was agreed that this issue be picked up by this group

Housing / Homelessness

Homelessness

- Working with Streets2Homes on the Recovery Plan
- Of the 35 people accommodated, 14 are still in a hotel and 3 are sleeping rough with support from Streets2Homes
- Main issue around securing accommodation would appear to be income.
- Currently working with Ministry on a bid for funding in the longer term.
- Advice has been received from PHE that there should be no multiple accommodation sites through the winter (e.g. St Paul's Church, Chocolate Run Haven). LW is currently in discussion with Streets2Homes
- The expectation is that numbers will remain low with the funding issues relating to those picked up due to Covid-19
- It was subsequently agreed that rough sleepers / cold weather accommodation be added to the Action Plan

Supported Housing

- Risk Assessments around the re-opening of common areas / visits in place
- Visits to re-start after the beginning of August when shielding eases.
- Rainbow to start visits with those who attend their regular coffee mornings. LW to discuss with Jemma
- Common rooms – entry control difficult to manage. Will work on Risk Assessments to ascertain what can be opened.

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| | <p><u>Tenancy Support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decline in demand as furloughed families have been supporting. Demand is likely to increase as time goes on. There will be a need to look at capacity within the Tenancy Support Team. | |
| 3. Mortgage Rescue Initiative | <p>JG gave feedback from a meeting held with Simon Freeman and John Phillips (HTS), where it had been agreed that the Council, in partnership with HTS, would look to undertake pre-emptive action in order to mitigate an increase in home-owner evictions, possibly resulting from Covid-19.</p> <p>There was discussion around a previous initiative whereby a Housing Association would purchase a property from the owner, who would then become a tenant within the property. LW advised that there had been very low take-up of this provision.</p> <p>LW further advised of a scheme whereby the Council administered a "Repossession Prevention Fund", meeting monthly costs for a period to enable the home-owner to clear any mortgage areas.</p> <p>There followed discussion around other initiatives and it was agreed that LW would forward details of the previous scheme to JG and that the group would also forward any suggestions.</p> | LW |
| 4. A.O.B | <p><u>Overarching Action Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Template, drawn up by Simon Hill, to be circulated and populated. Plan to be underpinned by the various Working Group plans Member Recovery Group scheduled to meet tomorrow <p><u>Income Support / Advice</u></p> <p>LW reiterated the need to start early on this work, with a peak in respect of evictions expected September / October (when furlough scheme ceases). Agreed that DW and NC to research web publications and that group members would forward any suggestions to DW.</p> <p><u>Event Capacity</u></p> <p>There was discussion around the Government guidelines around event capacity and it was confirmed that currently, this states that groups within a defined space must not exceed 30. Agreed that RD would speak to Environmental Health for advice in respect of some</p> | <p>JG</p> <p>DW / NC All</p> <p>RD</p> |

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| | planned activities and feed back to group. | |
| 5. Date of next meeting | Tuesday 21 July 2020 | |