

**BOARD MEETING****20 APRIL 2021****SDP/28. PRESENT****Local Authority Sector**

District Councillor Kevin Richards (Chairman), District Councillor Trevor Southerd, Allison Thomas (South Derbyshire District Council), County Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton (Derbyshire County Council), District Councillor Lisa Brown (South Derbyshire District Council).

Other Public Sector

Dave Beris (Derbyshire County Council – Children's Services), Vicky Smyth (Derbyshire County Council – Public Health), John Beaty (Burton and South Derbyshire College), Brenda Nolan O'Shea (NHS Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group), Inspector Richard Keene (Derbyshire Constabulary).

Private Sector

Colleen Hempson (East Midlands Airport), Julie Langley (Toyota Motor Manufacturing UK Ltd), John Everitt (National Forest Company).

Voluntary/Community Sector

Roger Moors (South Derbyshire CVS).

Also in Attendance

Mike Roylance, Chris Smith, Donna Foster, Sally Cope (South Derbyshire District Council), Kay Simcox (Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service).

SDP/29. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from:

Stephanie Marbrow (DALC Representative).
Rev Mike Firbank (Churches Together in Swadlincote).
Vivien Sharples (The Pingle Academy).
Matt Butler (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust).
Justin Holford (Derbyshire County Council).
Kim Coe (Swadlincote & District Chamber of Trade).
Lena Ratcliffe (Derbyshire County Council).
Claire Teeling (Grow Outside CIC).
Maria Picken (Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust).

SDP/30. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUES

The Chair of the SDP, Councillor Kevin Richards thanked everyone for their attendance and welcomed the partners to a different virtual format of the Partnership Board meeting.

County Councillor Linda Chilton informed the group that this would be her last meeting, due to not standing in the May elections. Sincere thanks were expressed by the Chair and by Councillor Lisa Brown.

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Introductions took place.

Apologies noted.

Substitutes noted.

SDP/31. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were noted.

SDP/32. MINUTES OF MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 October 2020 were taken as read and approved as a true record.

SDP/33. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

SDP/34. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Roger Moors (South Derbyshire CVS) was appointed to the role of Vice Chair, to deputise for the Chairman of the Partnership.

SDP/35. OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Allison Thomas provided the Partnership with a brief overview of the Covid-19 response and recovery. Following the latest update (19.4.2021), South Derbyshire is turning a corner - current statistics shows 20 cases per 100,000 population, which is a significant 40% improvement from where it was some months ago.

Excellent progress has been made on the vaccination programme since the last Board meeting. Although many of the impacts of Covid have been dreadful, some were noted as positive, such as the environmental benefits of cleaner air quality, a reduction in energy use, the appreciation of the natural and physical environment and open spaces, less need to travel and shorter commuter journeys, with the opportunity to work smarter. Services that have been successfully adapted in the light of the pandemic may well stay as partners plan for the future.



Allison felt that the last six months had enhanced our positive partnership working across the District. Theme group representatives have met every fortnight to discuss areas of collaboration, which has worked well, enabling the partners to respond positively to the local intelligence and build on an already strong partnership working in the District. Partners will also continue to meet regularly at a County level where needed and engage on arrangements being put in place to aid recovery.

Allison handed over to the Theme Group leads to elaborate on their respective areas:

SDP/36. THEME UPDATES**Healthier Communities**

Vicky Smyth gave an overview of the work of Healthier Communities during the pandemic. The latest data can be viewed in more detail in the surveillance reports which can be found on Derbyshire County Council's website. The statistics put South Derbyshire below the Derbyshire average, which is positive news, with low case numbers in hospital, allowing some resumption of other services. Intensive surveillance continues to identify issues and specialist support is available for workplaces.

An overview of ongoing community response and recovery work was provided to the Board.

The Community Testing Centre at Midway remains open until at least June, after which its continued operation will be reviewed. Partners were asked to spread the word and encourage local residents to get tested on a weekly basis.

There is currently a focus on vaccination inequality work to identify which communities in the District have a lower uptake of vaccinations. The Community Response Unit can support booking appointments for those that have no access to digital means or can provide help with transport (financial provision is in place to help with transport). Those struggling to get to a vaccination centre are encouraged to contact the Unit and access the support available.

Some highlights of joint working undertaken this year were provided. This included a leaflet enclosed with Council Tax bills providing details of key information/support services. This has now been distributed to every household throughout the District.

Vicky identified some of the key issues that might impact on health and wellbeing in the coming year. These will be some of the priorities for Health and Wellbeing, working alongside the Place Alliance partners moving forward.

An overview of the Group's budget was provided along with details of the approved projects: Digital learning project outputs were provided following the pilot project; Details were shared of the support for emotional health amongst children and young people - a community-based approach focusing on early intervention - and the three priority areas for the South Derbyshire Mental Health Partnership; Details were provided of the proposed 'Beat the Street' project which creates opportunities for active community participation in an area; Together with an overview of Green Social Prescribing, a collaborative approach to joining up the health system with 'green' providers, such as Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.



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A question was raised regarding the Covid contact and trace service: Who takes responsibility and what is the response when initiated from the public? Response from Vicky - her understanding is that this operates on a national basis, with Derbyshire having employed an enhanced system of contact tracing locally, so that when there is an area of concern, they can request enhanced coverage. The last incident in South Derbyshire had a good response with 80% being picked up – Vicky to check this figure and report back. **ACTION: VS**

A question was raised regarding how public health promotes the Testing Centre facilities? Vicky will feedback comments from Julie Langley to DCC's communications team. There is regular promotion on social media by the comms team along with lamp post flags around South Derbyshire which are a reminder to go for tests, plus electronic signage messages. DCC's Communications Team also looks at where there are peaks in cases and will target the communications on those areas.

Safer Communities

Chris Smith gave an overview of the impact that Covid-19 has had on crime and disorder in South Derbyshire. Details of the increases and decreases in measures were provided.

There has been an increase in domestic-related incidents of 8% (figures to end of March 2021) which equates to 100 incidents. Anti-Social Behaviour has seen the biggest increase at 121% - the Police having an additional 2,000+ calls. The reasons for this are mainly due to breaches of Covid rules, groups meeting in parks, etc, which have been recorded as incidents of ASB. Hate crime incidents increased by 81%. Conversely, there has also been a reduction in burglary and vehicle crime and town centre ASB. Total crime in South Derbyshire has seen a small decrease of 0.5%.

Weekly meetings are being held involving the Police, District Council and Covid Wardens to ensure parks are regularly patrolled. The Safer Homes scheme is back up and running. No issues of cuckooing have been discovered over the last 12 months, with police tasking meetings continuing to check this on a monthly basis, and action plans in place.

Crime and ASB figures for South Derbyshire were provided.

The Safer Communities Partnership Plan priorities remain the same: (1) Organised Crime (2) Anti-Social Behaviour and (3) Supporting Vulnerable People, with the addition of hate crime as a specific focus under supporting vulnerable people.

A question was asked about pet thefts? The response was that two incidents had been reported in South Derbyshire, though it is believed to be a bigger issue outside of the District. Chris to go back to the Police Inspector to see whether there is any further communication that can be employed to ease people's fear of this crime. Inspector Richard Keene representing Derbyshire Police reiterated that the theft of dogs issue had been overblown by social media recently and that the public should not be terrified about walking their dog. **ACTION: CS**



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Stronger Communities

Roger Moors updated on the Stronger Communities position at the current time. In April 2021 Rev. Mike Firbank stood down and Roger Moors took over the role of Chair. Following the change, a review of the Group's objectives was undertaken to reflect the move from Covid response to recovery.

Going forward, the Group will be reviewing how it engages with local organisations, aiming to broaden representation, ensure representation of all communities of interest and expand the scope of the Group. This will focus on the value of representation in informing and influencing decision making by partner organisations.

The Food Hub has relocated to Hill Street Baptist Church, principally due to the amount of space available and facilities. A grant has been secured of £20,000 to support the infrastructure and to aid other activities going forward. Data for April – December 2021 revealed that the Food Hub had supported 1,063 adults and 773 children with 16,524 meals provided.

A Social Mobility 'Action Group' has been set up to support the work currently being undertaken in and around Newhall.

The South Derbyshire Volunteer Force, which has been newly rebranded, recruited 300 volunteers to support the roll-out of the vaccination programme, many of whom have continued volunteering.

The Covid Information Connectors are a system-wide approach across Derbyshire aiming to enhance residents' awareness of restrictions and wellbeing guidance. A network of 21 Connectors has been created across South Derbyshire. Information is provided to the Connectors on a fortnightly basis, those connectors then send this out through their own networks - currently the network reaches some 50,000 people. A variety of sources have been built up to ensure people are aware of all the advice and guidance available. The aspiration is to enlarge the network from 21 to 30 or more.

A substantial amount of funding is available to local communities, clubs and groups. This is currently being promoted to local groups, to encourage uptake, to help them re-engage and get up and running and ready to open. Partners were asked to promote the funding opportunities to their local communities. **ACTION: ALL**

In order to recognise volunteering communities, this year's community awards will be in a virtual format - the South Derbyshire Community Heroes Roll of Honour. This is a chance to thank those volunteers who have contributed during this challenging time. The roll of honour will be announced in June during Volunteers Week and heroes will receive a certificate, celebration badge and be credited. Three films will be produced to highlight how South Derbyshire communities have responded.



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Sustainable Development

Mike Roylance provided an overview of the recent developments in Sustainable Development.

The most high-profile is the East Midlands Freeport bid - the Chancellor announced eight locations around the country, with the East Midlands the only inland location and only one based around an airport. The bid encompasses a number of sites in close proximity - East Midlands Airport/Gateway in Leicestershire, Ratcliffe on Soar power station in Nottinghamshire, and land to the south of the Toyota Plant at Burnaston in South Derbyshire, alongside the existing railway line. The East Midland Freeport proposal is based on logistics and advanced manufacturing, with a strong environmental theme, and aims to contribute to job creation, private sector investment and climate change measures, moving road freight onto rail. The Freeport will be a designated area within which companies can operate using simplified customs procedures and suspensions on duties relating to goods. Further guidance on the incentives to be offered will be released in the coming months.

There was a landmark celebration for the National Forest Company which has now reached nine million trees planted across the Forest area. This was accompanied by a Government announcement of an extra £2.26 million pounds from the Nature to Climate Fund which will allow the National Forest to double its tree planting aspirations for the current year. The Company will also be supporting the woodland economy, arts and culture, outdoor learning, tourism and visitor accommodation, in order to assist the green recovery.

The District Council has been distributing Covid-19 business support grants for almost 12-months and has now provided in excess of £10 million pounds to local businesses in South Derbyshire.

ShopAppy is a joint project with Derbyshire County Council focusing on supporting town centre businesses. It provides an online retail platform which allows small independent business to promote and sell their products online, to offer click and collect, and to arrange home deliveries in towns across Derbyshire. About 40 retailers have signed up in Swadlincote and some 300 across the County.

Woodville Regeneration Route has been on site for 5-6 months and construction progress has been very rapid. The Route links Woodville to Swadlincote and opens up an extensive area of former industrial land for new development. Earthworks have been completed on the former Dyson site, which will then join an upgraded Kiln Way through to Derby Road. Three new roundabouts along the route are currently under construction.

Amongst a number of positive developments are Mercia Park at Appleby which is under construction and will become Jaguar Land Rover's global distribution centre and the announcement by the MEG Group of an investment at Dove Valley Park, Foston. The Company has committed to build a new bottling plant on the site, which will supply soft drinks and mineral water to Lidl supermarkets, across the UK and Ireland, creating around 150 new jobs.

The South Derbyshire Business Advice Service, which is funded by the District Council, has delivered some 340 advice session to businesses, benefiting around 190 individual businesses.



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A Green Entrepreneur Programme has been launched by Derbyshire County Council, assisting businesses and employees to enter new areas of work linked to carbon reduction.

A discussion took place on the potential impact on local residents if the East Midlands Freeport bid were to lead to an increase in flights, or night flights. Colleen Hempson briefly outlined the Airport's Noise Action Plan and highlighted that, nationally, the Department for Transport was undertaking a night flight restrictions consultation and that the Government was remobilising the Airspace Change Programme (enabling Airports to take advantage of new technology and make changes to the flightpaths).

A question was asked about how 'in control' we are going to be locally of the planning process and the business planning for the Freeport. With regards to the Business Plan guidance from Government is currently awaited. In terms of planning, public consultation and timing, Mike undertook to pass on Cllr Brown's comments to Steffan Saunders (Head of Planning and Strategic Housing). **ACTION: MR**

The importance of securing infrastructure investment in advance of developments was highlighted.

Children and Young People

Dave Beris gave an overview on behalf of Children and Young People. The Locality Children's Partnership has been very active, meeting every two-months, with good representation from agencies, schools and other partners. All agencies have contributed to a new plan that links with public health to ensure no duplication of projects.

The partnership has identified a need to support the emotional wellbeing of young people and their families within the area. Another priority is school readiness, targeting family support on socially isolated parents who have young children to help them prepare their children for school.

Activity in terms of operational duties has continued, providing support to the most vulnerable families. Plans are underway to enable staff to move back into their offices. Virtual groups have provided a range of support along with parenting and online exploitation courses, little learners and youth preventative services. A youth programme is currently being devised involving two schools in Swadlincote.

Issues affecting young people are expected to increase over the next year as the effects of the pandemic unravel.

SDP/37. BUDGET UPDATE

The Board agreed the end of year (2020/21) financial position of the Partnership.

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The Board:

- (a) ratified match funding for the ALICE Project (£1,500).
- (b) supported funding for the South Derbyshire Community Heroes: Roll of Honour project (£2,026.86).
- (c) allocated match funding to support a bid for a Beat the Street project (£3,000).

SDP/38. FEEDBACK AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No items were raised for future Agenda Items.

The Chair thanked everyone for participating and closed the meeting at 11:57am.