

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EAST ESSEX AREA FORUM HELD AT
THE VENTURE CENTRE LAWFORD ON 22 JUNE 2010**

Membership

County Councillors:

A Brown Vice Chairman	* J Jowers
* K Bentley	J Lucas
* L Barton	S Mayzes
R Callender	L Mead
S Candy	* M Skeels
C Griffiths	* M J Page (Chairman)
* Mrs M Fisher	* D Robinson
Mrs T Higgins	Ms A Turrell
	* Ms J Young

***present**

Also Present Councillor J Pike

Partner Organisations:-

Tendring District Council

Neil Stock	Leader
John Hawkins	Chief Executive
Mike Badger	

Colchester Borough Council

Ian Vipond,	Executive Director
Cllr Tim Young	Cabinet Member

Essex Police

Jason Gwillim	Superintendent Essex Police
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Essex Fire & Rescue

Essex County Council Officers:

- * Jane Gardner, Area Co-ordinator for East Essex
- * Louise Albright, Committee Assistant
- * Janet Mills, Committee Officer
- * Ray Smith , District Manager Highways
- * Alison Anderson Policy Analyst

Parish & Town Councils

- * C. Abnett Fordham PC
- * D. Winter Langham PC
- * M. Brown Frating PC
- * J Chinnery Myland PC
- * L. Lay-Flurrie Harwich TC

Tendring E.A.L.C (Essex Association of Local Councils)

- * Dave Halsey

Other Bodies Represented

* Pat Barker	T.H.I.A
* Cllr Nick Turner	Tendring District Council
* Caroline Blackler	Tendring CVS
* Dr. T. Rogers	Dovercourt Resident

19. Welcome and Introductions, Members Officers and Invited Representatives of Partner Organisations

The Chairman welcomed those present and set out a summary of the business for the meeting.

20. Apologies

The Committee Officer reported apologies and substitution notices as follows:

Apology	Substitution
Cllr A. Brown	
Cllr A. Turrell	
Cllr C. Griffiths	
Ian Vipond	
Tim Young	Pamela Donnelly
John Hawkins	John Higgins

21. Declarations of Interest

None recorded

22. Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 17 March 2010 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

23. Variation in the Order of Business

The Chairman proposed a variation in the order of business taking Item 5 Public Questions as the next item of business, followed by Item 7 Mumps Measles and Rubella Scrutiny –Update followed by Item 6 Safer Colchester Pilot and then Item 8, 9,10 and 11. The proposal was agreed by the Forum.

24. Public Questions

The Chairman invited questions from the public on matters within the Terms of Reference of the Forum and not related to substantive agenda items. The following questions and responses were made:

- Dr. T. Rogers a resident of Dovercourt raised questions in relation to tourism.
 - (i) With regard to the Harwich International Port (HIP) Website, Mr. Rogers advised the Forum that the information upon the website was four years out of date. Dr. Rogers put forward that in terms of tourism, the out of date information could represent lost opportunities for local businesses. Local business could benefit from knowing when vessels were scheduled to arrive and the nationality of the visitors. Dr. Rogers called upon Members of Essex Council and Tendring District Council to actively encourage organisations such as the Port and others that impinge upon the tourism industry, to ensure that misinformation is erased from their websites.

With regard to the information on the HIP website Councillor K Bentley advised the Forum that he would raise the matter in his capacity as the Vice Chairman of the Haven Gateway Partnership Board.

Jane Gardner Area Co-ordinator, noted the information from Dr. Rogers and advised the Forum that the Coastal Regeneration Board was currently working on a new Tourism Strategy.

- (ii) With regard to the Blue Flag beach award, Dr. Rogers advised the Forum that it was a requirement of the responsible authority, to undertake to display regular water quality updates on the beach notice boards. Until recently at Dovercourt water quality information was displaying 2008 and then 2009 information. Dr. Rogers called upon Tendring District Council to urgently update this information and properly maintain it throughout the season.

John Higgins Tendring District Council (TDC) agreed to raise the matter with the Head of Leisure Services at the TDC.

- (iii) In relation to the Blue Flag award where launching facilities for jet skis and other craft were available, the beach was supposed to have buoyed channelled to separate jet skis and other craft from swimmers. Dr. Rogers advised the Forum that no such channel was in evidence at Dovercourt and called upon TDC to ensure the safety

of swimmers by indentifying such a channel. The Forum was advised that whilst there was yellow outside limit buoys these did not constitute channel buoys, these marked the limit outside of which jet skis and other craft may use the area.

John Higgins Tendring District Council (TDC) advised the Forum that repairs were currently being carried out at the boating lake in time for the summer season and agreed to raise the matter with the Head of Leisure Services at the TDC.

- (iv) Dr. Rogers questioned why it was left to private citizens to check on the quality of work undertaken by the councils and put forward that this work should be undertaken by council officials.

John Higgins Tendring District Council (TDC) advised the Forum that the TDC ran reality checks and undertook sampling, members of the public also advised the council regarding their observations related to quality issues.

Ms Barry from Manningtree raised a question regard residential parking.

- (i) Concern was raised that a local resident was continuously parking and leaving a large 4X4 vehicle with a trailer then filling the trailer with rubbish over three to five week period, with no regard for neighbours. The vehicle was considered by residents to be an eyesore and a nuisance because it took up at least two car parking spaces. Ms Barry questioned whether anything could be done to prevent this happening.

Ray Smith District Highways Manager advised the Forum that there was little that could be done about the situation unless the vehicle was deemed to be an obstruction, after which it could be removed. Ray Smith agreed to look in to the matter further and respond more fully outside the meeting.

26. Mumps Measles and Rubella Scrutiny - Update

The Forum received a presentation from Debbie Saban, Health Improvement Specialist Screening and Immunisations, advising of the outcomes of the introduction of a mobile immunisation unit.

The background to the project was outlined, the Forum was advised that the 2007 Ofsted Annual Performance Assessment of Services had identified that the take-up rate for Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) immunisations in the Colchester borough were worryingly below average.

The East Area Forum set up a Task and Finish Group which included members from the Local Primary Care Trust to look into the matter. The Group gathered evidence from a number of sources, looked at General Practitioner (GP) contractual obligations and convened a number of local focus groups to gain views from parents. The Primary Care Trust also wrote out to 15,000 families in the area. The evidence gathered revealed the following information:

- That 15,000 young people under the age of 18 years had received only one of the required course of three vaccinations or no MMR vaccination what so ever.
- The high incidence of low uptake was not necessarily linked to areas of deprivation. In this case low uptake was linked to pockets of residents. There was a particularly low uptake in the Garrison area and university area of Colchester. Consultation with local focus groups had revealed that families from the Garrison area often moved within a short time of arrival. In the university area, consultation had revealed that some international students had language difficulties.
- Evidence from Family Focus Groups revealed that parents had not been given sufficient information upon which to make a choice, and there was not enough support for families due to the lack of Health Visitors in the area and that clinic appointments at GP surgeries were not held at convenient times.

The Group prepared a final report making the following recommendations:

- Commission a Mobile Immunisation Unit
- Review the communication channels used to promote the MMR immunisation
- Share with GPs the parents views regarding clinic sessions and time to talk to health professionals
- Share parents concerns about the lack of Health Visitors with the Service Review where the MMR is available and ensure adequate stock control
- Look at ways to increase the MMR uptake at GP practices
- Look at ways to increase the knowledge of the Early Years providers

Outcomes of the Project

- A mobile Immunisation unit was commissioned and strategically deployed for 6 days per week between the hours of 9.0 am and 5.0pm taking appropriate staff, information leaflets and the vaccines to 14 locations in the community. The unit would then return to each location one month later to provide second stage vaccinations and start courses for new patients. The unit had been deployed at a

supermarket car park on Saturday's this seemed to be the most popular location for parents.

- The campaign was extremely successful at the university site, on one occasion staff needed to source additional vaccines to meet the number of students wishing to take up the immunisation.
- Approximately 350 children received vaccinations, with more than 160 of these being MMR immunisations.
- Approximately 2000 people called in to seek advice and guidance on the MMR immunisation.
- The project had been reproduced in South West Essex and shared with all Primary Care Trusts in Essex.
- The project was deemed to have been very successful and received a highly commended notification at the Centre or Public Scrutiny Awards in June 2009.

The Impact of the Project

The PCT's had been set a very challenging task as the Department of Health had raised the national immunisation target for 2010 and 2011. There was now a requirement for PCT's to ensure that 95% of the eligible population received the MMR immunisation.

Since undertaking the project, there had been a 4% increase in the number of five year olds and a 1% increase in the number of two year olds having had the immunisation in the visited area.

The uptake rate across North East Essex area was now 80% (for five year olds) and 86% (for two year olds). The Forum acknowledges that there would always be some parents/guardians that were strictly opposed to the MMR immunisation.

The Way Forward

- A domiciliary immunisation team, which would provide information and advice and promote the immunisation, was to be set up.
- The Mobile Unit would be visiting Colchester and Clacton on Sea on Saturdays from August and the unit would be trialled in Harwich next March.
- The Mobile Unit would be sited at the Colchester 2020 event

The Forum was advised that more work was needed to underpin the successful project. In particular information currently provided to schools and universities needed to be reviewed and developed so as to ensure it was 'child focussed'. Leaflets also needed to be developed for use within Accident and Emergency Departments. Currently patients attending Accident and Emergency Departments were not being routinely asked whether they have had their vaccinations. Work was also required to look at the requirements of GP contracts and to look at the services provided by Health Visitors.

Further to general discussion the Forum agreed that the Task and Finish Group be reconvened for two meetings to undertake the work required.

The following questions and responses were made:

- Councillor Fisher suggested that the Tendring Show which received up to 10,000 visitors each year would be an ideal location for the mobile unit.
- Caroline Blackler, Tendring CVS suggested that secondary school aged children should be targeted in future.
- Jane Chinnery Mile End PC suggested that Parish council's notice boards could be used to display MMR information.
- Councillor Bentley suggested that the mobile Library Service could be used to carry information into rural areas, and raised a question regarding why schools themselves did not undertake a yearly immunisation programme.

Pamela Donnelly, Colchester Borough Council suggested that PCT's and the Borough Councils could share social economic information some of which could be used to produce MMR information for those attending Universities.

Debbie Saban welcomed the suggestions, in particular the suggestion that CBC and the PCT's could work in partnership to provide information to university students.

- Councillor Nick Turner, Tendring District Council questioned why, to save the spread of MMR, schools did not accept new children if they have not had their MMR immunisation and raised a question regarding the targeting hard to reach groups, pre-school play groups and children looked after by Child minders.

With regard to hard to reach groups pre-school play groups and children looked after by child minders, Debbie Saban advised the Forum that pre-school play groups would ask parents if the child had received the MMR vaccination and leaflet could be given, regrettably, having the immunisation was not mandatory.

With regard to schools undertaking a yearly immunisation programme Debbie Saban advised the forum that schools were reluctant to offer the vaccinations to students as they were not confident to do so. This could be overcome by the provision of a training programme for school nurses.

- Mike Brown, Frating PC questioned how the figures were collected if parents gained advice from those on the Mobile Unit and then went to the GP for the vaccination.

With regard to parents gaining advice but having the immunisation at their GP surgery, Debbie Saban advised the Forum that the figures were not lost as these would be recorded by the GP and would be included in the national data collection process.

- Councillor Robinson commended the project however, in light of the current economic climate questioned whether the outcome (350 children vaccinated) outweighed the cost/continued cost of the scheme.

Debbie Saban was unable to give specific cost details at the meeting and agreed to send details of the cost of the project to Councillor Robinson. Debbie Saban confirmed that Essex County Council would not incur any costs involved in the production or distribution of the new information.

25. Safer Colchester Project

The Forum received a presentation from Steve Scott-Haynes Essex Police and Jane Gardner East Essex Area Co-ordinator on the work undertaken, the lessons learnt and successes of the Safer Colchester Pilot Project.

The presenters hoped to be able show a DVD recording containing comments and the views of local people; regrettably, due to incompatible technology the DVD could not be shown. The presenters therefore gave an oral presentation of the outcomes of the work undertaken by the Safer Colchester Project. Jane Gardner advised the Forum of her involvement with the project as being the Chair of the Project Board.

Steve Scott-Haynes and Jane Gardner jointly advised as follows:

The main aim of the project was to reduce crime and their fear of crime in the Colchester area.

The work force consisted of two Parish Councils, two other agencies and two Police Community Support Officers. One benefit of multiagency working was that it could bring small amounts of funding together to finance larger projects

The project group worked in partnership with local residents 'on the ground,' to bring about solutions to the problems in the various areas.

The following four areas were targeted; each area had different specific problems to be tackled.

Monkwick

The project began in the Monkwick area where one housing estate had problems with illegal substances. Local residents assisted the project to deal with the problems. Since that time there had been a 16% reduction in anti-social behaviour and a 26% reduction in the crime rate in that area.

Tiptree

The main issue in Tiptree was perceived to be associated with young. Upon further investigation and consultation it was established that the real issues was that young people felt they had nothing to do.

Local people came forward to provide a facility where young people could meet on Friday nights. The project group worked the integrated Youth Service who provided a small investment on a toilet facility. The response was overwhelming with over 100 young people attending the Friday night venue. There had been a similar project undertaken in Wivenhoe which had also been very successful.

There had been a 42% reduction in the rate of anti-social behaviour and a 46% reduction in the crime rate since the project had been introduced.

Given the overall success of the project in Tiptree it was suggested that this type project should be rolled out across the whole of Essex.

Colchester New Town

Colchester New Town was considered to be a transient community with one half being bedsit land for students the other half being starter homes for young executives, for this reason it had a transient population. There had been a 'drinking culture' which had led to abusive behaviour and lots

of graffiti. In this area local people considered that anti-social behaviour was more of an issue than actual crime.

With a minimum investment the Colchester Borough Council Police Special Community Officers undertook work on the ground to develop a community spirit amongst the local people, on one occasion they helped residents to repair fences which again helped to build good relationships.

The successful projects had impacted on the district crime figures which showed that overall there had been a 6% reduction in anti social behaviour and 5% reduction in the crime rate across the District.

The main challenge for the future was to ensure a sustainability of community cohesion within the successful projects.

The following questions and responses were made:

- Councillor Fisher raised questioned whether the project could be rolled out across Essex.

Jane Gardner advised the Forum that there was no doubt that the individual projects had been successful but, were yet to be formally and fully evaluated by the Safer Essex Partnership Board.

Steve Scott-Haynes advised the Forum that the success of the Colchester Pilot Project had relied upon the interactions and involvements of the Colchester Borough Council, other agencies, voluntary workers and special constables. With regard to rolling out the project, the Project Board had recently held its first meeting in the Tendring district last to see if the project could be extended. The rollout would depend upon the outcome of the formal evaluation and depend upon gaining support from the other agencies and partners involved.

- Chip Abnett, Fordham PC raised a question regarding the roll out of the project and how the next areas to receive the project would be chosen.

Jane Gardner advised the Forum that there would be a mainstream evaluation of the pilot areas by the Safer Essex Board. The Board would then agree whether and how it should be rolled out. The criterion for selection of the new areas was likely to include high crime figures, environmental issues, youth education figures, priorities and necessities. Information from Colchester Borough Council could be used to assess problematic areas. The Local Action Panels and Neighbourhood Action Panels could also be asked to play a key role.

- Mike Brown Frating PC raised a question whether the reduction in the crime figures would be sustainable and wondered if the figures had been reduced during the high profile projects because there would have been high visibility policing or because the problems had been displaced.

Jane Gardner advised the Forum that there had been some high visibility policing, however the exercise was more about engagement with local people rather than making formal arrests.

Steve Scott Haynes Essex Police advised the Forum that there had been recognition within the Police Force that policing from a distance had not been the best strategy. The future policing strategy was based upon the police engaging with local communities, listening to them and resolving their concerns.

27. Area Forum Budget

The Forum received report EAF/02/10 and a presentation from Councillor Mick Page, Chairman of the Forum, giving details of the East Essex Area Forum Budget. The Chairman outlined the main details of the report to the Forum and emphasised the process by which organisations could apply for funding and the closing dates for applications. The Forum approved the process for the allocation of the £50,000 budget.

Councillor J Jowers Cabinet Member for Communities and Planning advised the Forum that in light of the current economic downturn, the Essex County Council would need to manage a £350M shortfall in its budgets over the next year. For that reason it would need to find efficiency savings and target its resources carefully. Everything undertaken by the council was being evaluated in order to find efficiency savings. The Forum itself was being audited in terms of its function and usefulness. At this stage the provision of a Forum budget was welcome news. Devolving funding locally provided a more efficient, less bureaucratic process and provided the opportunity for local people to decide what the money should be used for in their communities.

28. Date of Next Meeting

Members noted the next meeting was scheduled for 2.00 pm Tuesday 7 September 2010 the Venture Centre Lawford.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 3.50pm.

Chairman