



Barnstaple Place Partnership board

Friday 10th October 09.30am – 11.00am

Guildhall, Barnstaple

1. Welcome and introductions

Attendees: - Jess Foy, Jon Rodney Jones, Alison Mills, Hannah Harrington, Matthew Brown, Jude Jeal, Lee Baxendale, Naomi Laurenson, Rob Ward, Syed Yusef, David Clayton, Jane Petch, Ella McCann, Katherine Allen (Online), Louise Flagg, Louisa York

Notes from previous meeting agreed.

2. Apologies

Apologies – Cllr Malcolm Prowse, Janet Coates, Mike Matthews, Helen Bone, SJ Mackenzie-Shapland, Andy Wills

3. Development of Neighbourhood Plans

The board received a presentation from Katherine Allen, Director of Strategy (Royal Devon University and Health Care Trust) with regards to the development of Neighbourhood Plans. The presentation is available on the website.

The following points were raised and discussed:

- Neighbourhood teams is on the government agenda.
- It is a 10-year plan policy.
- Intention is to work as a team – create a team around the person. 50% of patients are staying in hospital longer than needed due to other complex needs.
- There are lots of people in our community who get distressed at not being able to access digital services. Will there be help put in place for these people? - many currently cannot access the 24/7 helpline and volunteers are supporting the customers that go to the library. KA replied that this is being planned for and to make sure everyone is digitally inclusive. It was noted that the board could help tap into local resources that already exist.
- The geographic area of the Neighbourhood Team will be based on existing boundaries.
- How will NHS judge the success of the scheme. KA – data shows that accessing emergency services is not always appropriate for certain individuals and that services need to be built around those individuals and their needs. Data will continue to be monitored.
- Trips and falls in Barnstaple town centre due to the state of the pavements are a real burden on the NHS and probably contribute to a number of accident and emergency visits. Is there is a role for the board to collate such data along with the associated costs and present to Devon County Council as a lobbying tool to get the pavements repaired and properly maintained and ease the burden on the NHS.

- There is a key role for the board to play in both collating and disseminating information as the project progresses.

4. One Barnstaple update - Jane Petch (Chair of One Barnstaple) and Ella McCann (Community Developer-Barnstaple Town Council)

Jane and Ella gave an update on the work being done by One Barnstaple.

- The network was set up about 6 years ago. The meetings are informal and relaxed with 37 members attending the last meeting.
- They cover the same patch as the Primary Care Network and have 235 unique signups. The network is invaluable in knowing who is doing what in town and helping to connect people.
- Library has Arts Council funding for a programme of events in the library. EM said that all their members are problem solvers. They are hoping to do more employment workshops in the market.
- They will be holding a Revitalising Volunteers 12th January in Green Lanes, in conjunction with NDVS.
- HH suggested that we work collaboratively to give feedback to the community on the work of the board

5. Development of Women's Centre in Barnstaple - Hannah Ashford (NDADA)

The board received an update on the Women's centre.

- They have secured 95% of funding needed. In April they got the contract for the domestic abuse support with DCC as part of a group.
- Brave spaces sit within the alliance. The need for accommodation has increased.
- The centre will have 2 group rooms and a health suite with access to a nurse. NDC offered the Watering Hole and they saw the potential in the building. The lease with NDC will be signed shortly.
- Planning has been applied for and approved. Clothworkers have just awarded £100k. they wanted to raise £185k and with grants – the project will be going ahead. Project manager and volunteer coordinator interviews are in the next 2 weeks.
- Hopefully the centre will be up and running by the end of next summer.
- Probation and housing are part of the discussions and team setting up the centre. The name of the centre is still to be decided.

6. Public Consultation on the future of Devon's library service

Jude Jeal gave an update on the public consultation.

- Libraries are one of the only free public spaces still available to people. – please complete the consultation when it opens. It runs for 12 weeks.
- In September they introduced blood pressure monitoring and a Comicon event where 1100 people attended. The soup kitchen starts in November.
- RW asked if the library have data of where people come from to visit the library? JJ replied there is and will share.



7. Place Making Action Plan Tracker

Hannah shared and explained what the new tracker will look like.

- Feedback was asked for on the Barnstaple Place Making action plan tracker to make the meetings more efficient. The tracker will be updated prior to the meetings and we are trialling a new system called Monday that can be updated live, and 'read-only' access given to all members of the board.
 - The intention is to set up a work programme for the next year.

8. DONM

- 12th December 2025