

Community Budgets Group

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 5 April 2011

Those present:	Apologies:
<p><u>Members</u></p> <p>Lord Michael Bichard (Chair)</p> <p>James Binks HMT (for Edward Twiddy)</p> <p>Anne-Marie Carrie Barnardos</p> <p>Angela Donkin CO (Allen Review team)</p> <p>Mike Farrar SHA</p> <p>Mark Fisher DWP</p> <p>Tom Jeffery DfE</p> <p>Sir Bob Kerslake DCLG</p> <p>Jo Killian Essex</p> <p>Andrew Larter DH (for David Behan)</p> <p>Geoff Little Manchester (for Joyce Redfearn)</p> <p>Lucy Makinson DCLG</p> <p>Mike More Westminster</p> <p>David Prout DCLG</p> <p>John Sinnott Leicestershire</p> <p>Rob Whiteman LG Group</p> <p><u>Other</u></p> <p>Neil Brettell DWP</p> <p>Sean Hilditch DfE</p> <p>Philip Mind LG Group</p> <p>Elizabeth Whatmore DCLG</p> <p>Justin Vetta DCLG Secretariat</p> <p>Kevin Davies DCLG Secretariat</p>	<p>David Behan DH</p> <p>Kim Bromley-Derry NFISB</p> <p>Richard Crompton Lincolnshire Police</p> <p>Nick Lawrence DfE</p> <p>Matthew Nicholas JCP</p> <p>Joyce Redfearn Wigan</p> <p>Stephen Rimmer HO</p> <p>Laura Roberts Manchester PCT</p> <p>Jonathan Slater MoJ</p> <p>Edward Twiddy HMT</p> <p>Steve Wyler Development Trusts Association</p>

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

1.1 Lord Bichard welcomed those present, (including Neil Brettell who was shadowing Mark Fisher). He informed the Group that Peter Makeham had retired and that Stephen Rimmer would take his place on the Group. He also noted that it was Elizabeth Whatmore's last meeting; she will be succeeded by Nick Dexter.

1.2 A number of apologies had been received (see above).

Item 2: Actions from meeting on 17 March 2011

2.1 The revised minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

2.2 All the actions from the last meeting were either completed, actively ongoing or on the agenda.

Item 3: Update on First Phase

3.1 The good progress areas had made in relation to the number of families with multiple problems they are seeking to support (currently over 10,000 families) was noted as was the ongoing need for challenge and support to areas.

DfE

3.2 DfE confirmed that letters will issue shortly on investment and innovation funding and on schools ability to collaborate on Community Budgets to all 16 areas; DfE will post the schools letter on their internet.

3.3 The meeting between interested CB areas and Eileen Munro had taken place and reached a good understanding of the issues. CB areas were to clarify their ask and meet again to feed into the Munro review report coming to DfE at the end of April. These CB areas will be 'journey authorities' enjoying the further flexibilities identified in the Munro review.

3.4 DfE, MoJ and CB areas have had a discussion on speeding up court care proceedings and are taking forward a project on how this could work. DfE will provide an update to the next meeting.

ACTION DfE to provide an update on the court proceedings project to next meeting.

DWP

3.5 The DWP workshop agreed by Ministers on 24 March will take place on 13 April, led by Chris Grayling MP. It was agreed that LG attendees needed to be well briefed on the key issues for discussion to make the best use of this event.

ACTION: LGG to ensure CB areas receive appropriate briefing.

3.6 The notion of a 'virtual pot' mentioned by the DWP Minister was clarified as referring solely to the ESF money due to the particular audit requirements attached to it. Work Programme providers (announced preferred bidders attached) would be able to pool funding.

ACTION DWP to write by close 8 April to Work Programme contractors making clear their expectation on Community Budgets as agreed at last meeting.

DH

3.7 Work is in hand to circulate to all CB areas information on cluster working during the transition. DH reported progress made with Blackburn with Darwen on their specific issues.

3.8 The DH workshop agreed by Ministers on 24 March has yet to be organised. DH will liaise with DCLG on timing and scope. It was agreed that this needed to take place quickly.

ACTION DH to arrange workshop for the first phase areas.

3.9 A positive meeting had been held between DH and Leicestershire on de-ring-fencing drugs and alcohol funding.

ACTION Leicestershire to report on progress at next meeting.

HO

3.10 HO had informed DCLG they will use their regular governance arrangements to emphasise the importance of CB. The Group agreed it was important that HO should communicate this message quickly.

ACTION HO to communicate quickly with police.

Item 4: Community Budgets: Next Steps

4.1 In discussion, the Group agreed there were four main points:

- Maintaining momentum by focusing on successful implementation by the 16 first phase areas.
- Planning for national coverage of Community Budgets for Families with Multiple Problems.
- That Baroness Hanham's Group is to tackle key issues that will enable all areas to develop ambitious Community Budgets.
- Ensuring that the next steps fit with other, related approaches as well as broadening the CB model to cover other services.

4.2 The Group agreed that by continuing the current engagement between areas, LGG, Champions and CBG momentum can be maintained as the 16

areas implement their Community Budgets. The ambition of these places would flush out barriers enabling other areas to rapidly develop CBs.

4.3 DCLG to lead in developing a route map to the 2013 milestone of national coverage of Community Budgets for Families with Multiple Problems as a means of achieving a clear, shared, ambition on CBs. The Group noted the importance of supporting the national programme for Families with Multiple Problems and using the current stocktake to inform planning for national coverage. LGG to support, & disseminate learning from, the 16 Community Budget areas.

4.4 The Group noted that Baroness Hanham's group will be tackling 4 or 5 key issues while it would address any new barriers and issues identified by the 16 first phase areas as well as those that could be expected to be raised through the application of CBs to other policy issues.

4.5 In planning for the wider application of Community Budgets, the Group will ensure compatibility with other related approaches such as LIS and Early Intervention places as well as the broadening the CB model to cover other services, such as services for older people. It was agreed that LGG would include these areas in the support they are providing the 16 first phase areas. The Group will also continue to take emerging opportunities to shape policies, for example, in health.

4.6 The Group also noted that resolution of barriers emerging on Community Budgets could benefit wider policies such as payment by results.

4.5 The Group discussed what support might be required and possibly provided for areas beyond the 16 first phase areas was discussed. It was noted that disseminating the learning for the benefit of all areas would be key as well as developing a strong narrative around the benefits of operating a Community Budget including the benefits from CBs enabling:

- better outcomes through:
 - community (including VCS) engagement
 - radical system reform and service redesign
- access to innovative funding approaches – the Graham Allen review will refer to this.

4.6 It would also be important to be clear how CBs fit with other initiatives impacting at local level.

4.7 The Group agreed that it should continue with its current membership with a meeting schedule appropriate to maintaining momentum in dealing with critical issues. Its agenda would complement that of the Ministerial/Leaders group.

ACTION Lord Victor Adebawale to be invited to the next meeting of the Group.

ACTION DCLG to draw up an initial route map for national coverage of Community Budgets.

ACTION DCLG to arrange next meeting for May.

Item 5: Evaluation of Community Budgets

5.1 The recommended national overarching evaluation to supplement and support local work was agreed. The Group agreed that progress should be reviewed as and when material is available rather than waiting for scheduled reports.

ACTION The Evaluation Working Group to feed emerging material to the Group.

Item 6: Any Other Business

6.1 No other matters were raised.