



Bath & North East Somerset Student Community Partnership Minutes

Thursday, 5th September, 2019
Level 3 Staff Conference Room, Manvers Street
Virgil Building Bath

Present at the meeting	Representing
Megan Robertson	Vice President Community, Bath Spa University, Student Union
Caroline Dangerfield	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Bath Spa University, Student Union
David Dixon	Community Engagement Manager, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Mandy Wilson-Garner	Deputy Chief Executive of the Students' Union University of Bath
Councillor Ruth Malloy	Bath and North East Somerset Councillor (Weston Ward)
Mark Hayward	Community Engagement Officer, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Professor Peter Lambert (Chair)	Pro Vice Chancellor, University of Bath
Kalyn Mallard	Community Liaison Co-ordinator for the Bath Student Community Partnership
Rebecca Schaaf	Pro-Vice-Chancellor Student Experience Bath Spa University
Beth Earlam	Administration Support, Student Community Partnership
Alisha Lobo	Community Officer, Students' Union, University of Bath

Apologies from	
Councillor June Player	Bath and North East Somerset Council (Westmorland Ward)
Councillor Shaun Stephenson-McGall	Bath and North East Somerset Council (Oldfield Park)
Councillor Dine Romero	Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council
Hayley Hayward-Boyle	Student Participation Officer, Bath College
Theresa Hallett	Student Welfare and Participation Manager, Bath College
Dan Ball	SU President, Bath College

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

PL welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their attendance. Apologies were recorded.

2. Report from Chair / June 2019 Meeting Actions

PL explained that this meeting is his final one as chair of the partnership. PL highlighted a number of points that have shown real success during his time as Chair:

- The redesigned website makes a fantastic difference as a tool for communicating work that the partnership undertakes
- The campaigns have proved to be really successful
- Never OK has taken off in just under a year, this is now present in clubs and the universities
- The 'Pack for Good' campaign was shortlisted for a EAUC Green Gown Award
- The introduction of the extra waste collections proved a success
- The approach to complaints has improved and we now have a more accessible approach that closes down the issues more quickly
- The Good Neighbour campaign has had a positive impact
- River safety and #GotYaBack have both been delivered through this partnership
- Councillor Goodman provided a positive approach from the Council that changed the relationship for the good

PL explained that the students are being encouraged to register to vote in the light of possible upcoming elections.

RM added that the students should also be made aware of the option for postal voting when registering to vote.

PL asked for an update on the actions that were recorded at the meeting which took place on 3rd June 2019.

Actions		Status
Student articles to be shared through a greater number of channels (Bath Echo, newsletters, etc.) so that they appear in more local newsletter and publications.	KM	Ongoing- currently student news stories on circulated on social media
The SCP will provide a response to the Bath Chronicle in regard to the anti-student rhetoric issue.	CD	There has been no response to the letter that was sent to the Bath Chronicle. TBA – follow up required
The SCP will invite the local press to attend a future SCP meeting.	KM	
Include press coverage of students as a regular item on the SCP agenda.	KM	To include when news stories occur in the local press

Share ideas about what the Best Neighbour Off Campus Scheme should comprise of and what prizes could be offered.

TBA
All to send KM ideas for the scheme (incentive, etc.)

Organise discussions for taking forward the review of the SCP arrangements

KM / DD

Progressed over the summer

3. SCP Action Report 2018-19

KM explained that all of the items that were included on the Action Plan 2018-19 were either completed or ongoing with the exception of two items:

- It had not been possible to hire community ambassadors to assist with campaigns as the funding had not been provided.
- Working in partnership on food waste challenges was not jointly pursued.

The Co-ordinators Objectives 2018-19 were either completed or ongoing with the exception of two items:

- To hire a casual contract communications assistant had not been completed due to lack of funding
- To hire and train community ambassadors was also not completed due to lack of funding

KM made available copies of the complete action plan and Co-ordinators Objectives 2018-19 at the meeting.

An overview report showing the partnership's activities was made available at the meeting.

Points included: -

- The Bath College and their SU now sit on the #GotYaBack river safety group
- The Fresher's Fair at all Students' Unions took on a different approach that will be replicated again this year, one activity that was included was a 'throw line rescue game' run by Avon Fire and Rescue
- The Pack for Good Campaign achieved a shortlisting for the Green Gown Awards. This scheme has proved a success with students and with residents also using the collection bins. £200K was raised last year and a similar sum is expected to be announced for this year's campaign. This year saw no complaints being received about the campaign.
- The SCP community fund will improve the guidance notes in order to support applicants in completing the form
- The #NeverOK Campaign is in clubs and posters, badges and contact cards are in place. The training video is very close to being ready and should be available in about two weeks.
- Local community newsletters are being distributed wider and now includes all of the Bath Councillors.
- The finances for the partnership are to be reviewed and line items will be adjusted from year 2020-21 in order to better tailor them to the workings of the SCP.

ACTION – KM to provide a report that shows what complaints have been closed and a timeline for how the complaint numbers come in throughout the year.

4. **SCP Action Plan**

KM explained that the Chair for the next year will be Megan Robertson. Suggestions for items for future agendas will be welcomed from the committee before the meeting in November.

Bath College are planning to promote personal safety, including knife crime and road safety.

The SCP will look to develop its communication plan, which includes social media channels and the SCP newsletter.

KM explained that she has looked at what Birmingham University are doing through the Community Wardens scheme that uses student volunteering to deliver peer to peer messages through door knocking. An idea that has also been trialled in Birmingham was the handing out of 'shhh slushies' to try to lower the noise levels from after exam parties. Further ideas will be explored with the SCP student staff members this year.

KM explained that there are also plans to link in with other South West partnerships for a networking day which will be a forum to share best practice and ideas.

It was agreed that the campaigns that have been running this year should all continue:

- Green Issues – working wider in B&NES and following the Councils climate emergency priorities
- Housing
- River Safety
- #NeverOK will continue
- An additional area needs to look at the scope for working on international student issues

It was suggested that one area to work on this year is the opportunity to look at how to fund and run three community wardens.

5. **Welcoming Students to Bath**

KM explained that this agenda item follows the discussion that took place at the last meeting about the negative press and social media comments around student issues.

The plan is for the SCP to look at ideas around what the city can do to make students feel they are welcome.

An example would be how Cardiff uses 'welcome back to Cardiff' banners when students are due to return. How could the Council in Bath look to do something that delivers a similar message from residents to the student population?

Points that were discussed:

- When there have been student bus route issues in the past, why did the students not feel their local councillors were there to help them? It needs to be made clearer that the students are able to access their local councillors with issues.
- How can the Council include in their communications a welcoming message to students? (concentrate on areas such bus routes / bus & railway stations / study buildings and areas like Oldfield Park)
- Student representatives to be invited to be part of the Bath City Forum and to sit on groups that help the Council hear views from its residents.
- It was felt that whilst there are benefits for the community, using PR around students volunteering in the community as a way of offsetting residents' concerns about students is not why students give back to the community. The Council and Universities need to move forward with positive validation of these efforts and not use them in order to offset town and gown tensions.

ACTION – DD/KM to look into getting an item on welcoming students to Bath onto a Liberal Democrat Group Meeting agenda.

ACTION – DD to discuss with the street work / highways team what is involved in using the Council VMS signs to show a welcome message.

ACTION – KM to add this item to the next SCP agenda to review progress

5. SU Officer Updates

MR provided an overview of the work that is taking place at Bath Spa University –

- Door knocking
- Safer taxi scheme
- Never OK training
- Homelessness care packages
- RAG Team started
- River Safety – new building is situated close to the river in Locksbrook Road so there are some concerns.

AL provided an overview of the work that is taking place at The University of Bath –

- Taxi scheme roll out
- Best Neighbour Off Campus scheme being discussed
- Alisha is working on a Muslim community event in the city

6. AOB

DD explained that the Council are committed to the SCP. There are outputs from the partnership that the Council would like to see. There are ideas that are being discussed by Cllr Dine Romero and the university representatives around how to best achieve more whilst maintaining the good will of the partnership.

Ideas such as funding for an enforcement officer or community wardens are suggestions.

DD explained that the Council had declared a climate emergency which has now become one of its highest priorities. There are plans to hold a conference style event at The Guildhall in Bath in late January or early February 2020. There will be the opportunity for the universities and the students to be involved in this event.

DD explained that the Bath City Forum is presently being developed with broader involvement of a wider range of participants including younger people. Once the review is completed there will be a relaunch to deliver effective community engagement for Bath next year.

KM thanked Peter Lambert on behalf of the partnership for his stewardship of the Chair duties over the last two years.

MWG explained that there has been contact with Norland College about the prospect of them joining the partnership.

Actions	Person/s
Provide a report that shows which complaints have been closed and a timeline for how the complaint numbers come in throughout the year.	KM
Investigate the opportunity for student officers to speak at a Liberal Democrat Group Meeting	DD / KM
Discuss with the street work / highways team what is involved in using the Council VMS signs to show a welcome message.	DD
Include Welcoming Student to Bath to the next SCP agenda to review progress	KM

Next Meetings:

Wednesday 6th November 2019 3.00-4.30pm, Virgil Building, Bath

Thursday 6th February 2019 3.00-4.30pm, Virgil Building, Bath