Student Community Partnership Board Minutes

14th December 2021

9.30-11.00am – via Zoom

Present: **Chair:** Meg Crossman (SU Community Officer, **University of Bath Students' Union**)

BANES: Cllr Dine Romero (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture) Cllr Shaun Stephenson-McGall (Member Advocate for Engagement with Students)

Bath Spa University: Becky Schaaf (Pro Vice Chancellor, Student Experience)

Bath Spa University Students' Union: Sian Bentley (Vice President Welfare and Community)

Norland College: Dr Janet Rose (Principal), Alex Fereday (Facilities Manager)

University of Bath: Peter Lambert (Professor)

In attendance: Mandy Wilson-Garner (Deputy Chief Executive, University of Bath Students' Union:) Caroline Dangerfield (Deputy Chief Executive, Bath Spa University Students' Union), Dave Dixon (Community Engagement Manager, BANES), Katrina Kelly (Head of Community Engagement, **University of Bath**), Ghika Savva (Community Liaison Co-Ordinator, **SCP**), and Kathryn Jones (Administrator, **SCP**).

1. **Welcome, Introductions, and Apologies**

MC welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Jon Domaille (Assistant Principal, **Bath College**), and Caroline Jarosz (Student Participation Officer, **Bath College**).

2. **Civic Engagement Partnership**

KK gave an overview of recent changes at the University of Bath including the appointment of the new Vice Chancellor in 2019, the creation of the Community Engagement role and the

launch of Our Shared Future in 2020. which aims to bring together skills, knowledge and expertise from the University, BANES and across the city to tackle local challenges.

She mentioned support of NHS, BANES Council, and local organisations throughout COVID-19 pandemic and the work to develop Civic University Agreement in 2020.

The main objectives are to support BANES Councils' objectives and establish better ways of working with local partners. These include six principles of data and ethics, partnership development, consultancy, academic research, student activity, and critical friends.

Collaborative projects currently include the decarbonisation of Bath domestic buildings, digital twin project, support through COVID-19, food waste consultancy, evaluation of the Community Wellbeing Hub, green prescribing research, green equity work, healthy later living network, and highstreets/retail projects.

The Civic University Agreement (see notes) came from a national push for universities to work with local communities. The Partners in the Agreement include BANES Council, Bath Spa University, Royal University Hospital, Bath College and 3SG.

The Civic University Agreement strategy includes strong partnership, with a focus on local community, and fostering an outstanding and inclusive community for both students and long-term residents to benefit all.

She mentioned the Climate Action Framework and the aim of knowledge sharing. Objectives are sharing the University's Climate Literacy course, collaborative research for the local community's benefit, looking at organisational behaviours in conjunction with carbon goals, and regional University group working together to share knowledge.

DR commented on the usefulness of this work and the collaborative projects and asked about plans for tackling more difficult issues in the local community. KK explained that the project is in the early stages and constrained by funding currently, but more projects are planned and on radar to complete.

SSM suggested researching other cities to source solutions. He also suggested involving Norland College in recognition of its positive contribution to the community. He raised apprenticeships and the potential for channelling them into civic projects.

BS explained that the feedback from employers is that the bureaucracy of apprenticeships is too complicated, and digital skills boot camps on campus may be a better route.

SSM raised the scope for working with schools. KK mentioned the return to working with schools in the area. She suggested that the widening participation team could elaborate on this work, and recommended contacting Andrew Ross and Colin Mathers. It was agreed to arrange a joint presentation by both Universities and invite input from the Colleges.

Action: GS to contact the HE partners and arrange for a widening participation presentation at a later meeting.

PL emphasised that the strength of the Student Community Partnership is equal partnership and expressed concern for the idea of being separate from the local community. After

discussion BS suggested a joint presentation on how both Universities are handling community engagement.

Action: BS and PL to present jointly on how the Universities are tackling community engagement.

3. Actions from previous meeting held on 8th October 2021

Actions	Person(s)	Status
DD, DR and GS to meet to discuss matrix message boards.	DD/DR/ GS	Ongoing-see notes
The Group to send comments about SCP Working Groups' objectives and members list to GS before next meeting.	All	In Agenda
Universities and Students' Unions to investigate what more can be done in relation to student noise.	MC/PL/MWG/BS/CD/SB	Incomplete – See notes

4. Personal Safety Working Group – highlighting Drink Spiking and #NeverOK

SB explained cancellation of latest SCP Personal Safety Group and mentioned feedback from drink spiking boycott – Big Night In on 26th October 2021. She explained campaign worked across Bath Spa University Students' Union and University of Bath Students' Union and is a good example of collaborative working. She mentioned the Students' Union bar was closed and space utilised for boycott.

She referred to the upcoming Night-time Economy meeting and following up on reports of V Cars not picking up drunk students. She mentioned work with Licensing to include sexual harassment and spiking in licensing conditions.

AF mentioned issues with taxis in Bath currently. He explained taxis booked for staff are not showing up and commented the night-time service must be worse.

MC commented that 1800 students attended boycott and an open letter had been sent to 23 bars asking about their anti-spiking measures.

DR commented on the clarification of spiking as tests provided are limited to detecting external drugs rather than extra alcohol volume. She asked if this messaging around what spiking constitutes is circulated to students. She asked if it would be useful to combine SCP Personal Safety with SCP River Safety as they discuss similar topics. GS explained decision would need to be considered with the Working Groups, respectively, and against the SCP's aims and objectives.

5. Environmental Volunteering

Item to be moved to next meeting.

Action: KJ add Environmental Volunteering to next meetings' agenda.

6. B&NES Member Advocate for 'Engagement with Students' Progress Update

SSM explained that his role is to investigate how BANES Council engages and communicates with students in Bath. He mentioned recent meetings with Council Officers discussing how BANES Council website can provide information to students at the start of the academic year as part of welcome plans. He referred to the investigation into social media presence, and exploration of where services align with students. He mentioned exploration of long-term funding of Student Community Partnership and community projects, and the desire to build long-term links with Cabinet Members, Student Community Partnership, and Students' Unions for comms and development.

7. SCP Report

GS mentioned that the Moving In Campaign had been extended to six weeks and covered 56 streets in five wards. She explained that 76% of all residents had reported a positive experience whilst living in the local community, compared to 6.2% of negative experiences. This indicated that the vast majority of all residents are happy, and figures bring balance to the Student Community Partnership's recorded complaints data.

She reflected that the academic year had begun calmly, but during, and after, Moving In Campaign complaints spiked which was considered to be due to more residents having the SCP contact details. Complaint levels are now falling to December 2020 levels.

Interestingly in 2020, there were four times the complaints for University of Bath students compared to Bath Spa University, but now only double which is proportionate for the number of students at each institution. There was a high occurrence of anti-social behaviour complaints across November and December in 2020, but currently a broader variety of types of complaints, indicating the pattern of issues raised is returning to pre-COVID-19 levels.

PL commented on the success of the magnetic business cards handed out during the campaign and congratulated the Student Community Partnership Team for the success of the campaign.

BS mentioned timing difficulties and inability to volunteer but suggested next year's campaign be scheduled earlier during August/September for higher numbers of volunteers across all Partners and students. GS mentioned the planning meeting in January where this will be discussed, and Partners can be contacted soon about availability throughout September to volunteer.

CD said having a full list of dates in advance of the campaign would be useful to organise volunteers and representatives.

SSM mentioned the campaign should be core work and occur each year as it is proactive and dials down the anti-student rhetoric, however, the work should not be relying on volunteers but paid team members. GS mentioned this element of work is incorporated into the Community Warden role.

8. SCP Aims and Objectives for 2021/22

GS referred to the action plan draft that had been circulated and asked for comments or additions to the draft. She explained it expands upon Student Community Partnership aims, objectives, Groups and timescales. Comments and additions would be appreciated and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: The Group to add comments or additions to draft action plan by next meeting. GS to discuss at next meeting.

9. AOB

SSM wished to discuss the annual accommodation survey but he was unsure at which Group to. DR suggested SCP Housing Group where the Group can discuss comparable cities and create solutions.

Action: SSM bring annual accommodation survey to next SCP Housing Group meeting.

PL congratulated all Partners on the success of the British Heart Foundation's Pack for Good Campaign and congratulated GS on success of raising awareness and money.

MC thanked the Group and closed the meeting.

Date of next meeting: 17th March 2022, 1.00-2.30pm.

Actions:

Action	Person(s)
GS to contact the HE partners and arrange for a widening participation presentation at a later meeting.	GS
BS and PL to present jointly on how the Universities are tackling community engagement	BS/PL
From Notes: PL to send SSM figures relating to increase University of Bath Security.	PL

KJ add Environmental Volunteering to next meetings' agenda.	KJ
The Group to add comments or additions to draft action plan by next meeting. GS to discuss at next meeting.	All
SSM bring annual accommodation survey to next SCP Housing Group meeting.	SSM

Notes:

Agenda Item #2. Civic Engagement

KK explained Civic University Agreement to be renamed Civic Agreement as the Universities will not own the agreement but work in conjunction with it.

Agenda Item #3. Actions from previous meeting

Action #1 - DD, DR and GS to meet to discuss matrix message boards GS explained WECCA control the matrix boards and so unable to update messaging for welcoming students but meeting set in January to discuss other plans for welcoming students to local community.

Action #3 – Universities and Students' Unions to investigate what more can be done in relation to student noise.

MC mentioned student housing forums included information about minimising noise in the local community and Q&A article circulated included the importance of keeping noise to a minimum.

SSM mentioned real time response to complaints and how institutions can help address this. GS mentioned University of Bath Security and Environmental Protection Team. SSM commented understanding was if Security Team had capacity as they would prioritise campus. PL mentioned work to increase Security capacity meaning more staff on campus allows for more staff in local community. He explained he can bring the figures around increasing staff to next meeting or can circulate to SSM.

Action: PL to send SSM figures relating to increase in University of Bath Security.

Agenda Item #4 - D Personal Safety Working Group – highlighting Drink Spiking and #NeverOK

Article with more information from Bath Uni SU:
https://www.thesubath.com/news/article/thesu/Drink-Spiking-Safety/