



## Student Community Partnership Board Minutes

30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – via Zoom

**Present:**

**Chair:** Cllr Dine Romero (Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council)

**BANES:** Cllr Shaun Stephenson-McGall (Oldfield Park)

**Bath College Students' Union:** Hayley Hayward-Boyle (Student Participation Officer)

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

**Bath Spa University Students' Union:** Caroline Dangerfield (Deputy Chief Executive), Megan Robertson (Vice President Community)

**Norland College:** Alex Read (Head of Finance and Chief Financial Officer)

**University of Bath:** Professor Peter Lambert (Pro Vice Chancellor)

**In attendance:** Dave Dixon (Community Engagement Manager, **BANES**), Ghika Savva (Community Liaison Co-Ordinator, **SCP**), Kathryn Jones (Administrator, **SCP**)

### 1. Introductions and Apologies

DR welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr June Player (Westmoreland), Janet Rose (Principal, **Norland College**), Jon Domaille (Assistant Principal, **Bath College**) Freya Jackson (Community Officer, **University of Bath Student's Union**), and Mandy Wilson-Garner (Deputy Chief Executive, **University of Bath, Students' Union**).

### 2. Actions arising from the previous meeting held February 2021.

The Group confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting were an accurate reflection of the discussion.

The following matters arising were reported on if not included elsewhere on the agenda:

Action	Person(s)	Status
Send contact information for Bath Live to GS in order to invite them to a future SCP Committee Meeting.	DR	Removed
Invite Bruce Laurence (now Becky Reynolds) in his capacity as Director of Public Health to attend and report to SCP meetings. This will be a standing item on SCP Committee agendas for the duration of the pandemic.	GS	Removed – see notes
DR/DD to consult Ward Councillors and incorporate their views into the Councils submission.	DR/DD	Completed – see notes
All to forward GS the data protection contacts by 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2021.	All	Completed
PL and MWG to find out position of eligibility to vote for students who are currently not residing in Bath. <b>To be included as a yearly item agenda.</b>	PL/MWG	Completed
BS to speak to ONS contact.	BS	Completed
DR to explore who to lobby regarding students being absent from Bath during the Census and GS to distribute information.	DR/GS	Covered in item above
DR to send MR and FJ the contact information for Minister of Universities and Secretary of State for Communities.	DR	Completed – see notes
GS to circulate the date of the next meeting.	GS	Completed – see notes

### 3. Local Outbreak Engagement Update

DR explained that she no longer Chairs the group, but case numbers have increased fractionally to 12/100,000, equating to 24 case in Bath and North East Somerset. She commented that the vaccine programme is going well and a few students may have received their first dose, but the majority will not have yet.

She mentioned that there are two prominent vaccination centres: Bath Racecourse and the Pavilion. The Pavilion needs volunteers to assist with the vaccination process and asked if students would be interested in participating. She asked DD to create a message to circulate to Higher Education partners.

**Action: DD to create a message to circulate to Higher Education Partners regarding Pavilion vaccination volunteering.**

### 4. Student Community Partnership Agreement Review

DR explained that the comments were in the process of being collated and a report will be given at the next meeting.

**Action: Student Community Partnership Agreement Review to be reported on next meeting.**

## **5. Student Community Partnership Action Plan**

SSM thanked GS for her work on the Review and the Action Plan. He mentioned that any outstanding comments will be reviewed shortly.

## **6. Student Community Partnership Report and Issues in the Community**

GS had drawn attention to the significant increase in complaints during the current academic year and recent analysis of their nature and occurrence. She showed the PowerBI charts to provide further detailed and comparative data. She mentioned in previous years the category 'Other' included anti-social behaviour, parking, and complaints that cannot be easily grouped. Complaints have been categorised by Ward as requested, and data can be grouped to show by year, type, and University. She noted this data will aid in planning campaigns throughout the coming years.

DD asked who the 'Other' category refers to in relation to complainant details. GS explained this to mean complaints referred by other than residents, e.g. the Council or Universities.

GS explained statistics regarding student complaints about long-term residents are also being considered.

DD noted in the report that legal action is being threatened and asked for clarification. GS explained that there are areas of the city where complainants are more likely to threaten legal action as solution to unresolved, or cases that take longer to address.

DR mentioned landlords could be encouraged to improve sound insulation to address issues of EPC and noise. GS noted the process of including landlords and letting agencies has begun.

AR asked if PowerBI map could be circulated and SSM explained DD&T at University of Bath may not allow it.

SSM clarified students are residents of Bath and for the Group to use the terms 'other residents' or 'long-term' and 'short-term' residents when discussing students and neighbours. He noted that the PowerBI maps are a great step forward and he can help with the coding of the Ward data as boundaries have changed in recent years. He asked when complaints are categorised from and GS confirmed within the academic year from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. SSM wished to clarify if Oldfield Park complaints were double that of Westmoreland and if regular complainants had been in contact and GS confirmed.

PL asked what can be learnt from second stage meetings. GS explained that in the current academic year one in four complaints are now going to second stage and this has partly been due to the increase in anti-social behaviour complaints. These have mainly related to

misunderstanding around COVID-19 guidelines from long-term residents, particularly around social bubbles, and only a small proportion of complaints have been referred to disciplinary due to this. She mentioned that meeting students provided an opportunity to check their understanding of the SCP, get feedback on communications and every meeting ends by discussing student's wellbeing and experience and students are signposted on to Wellbeing Services and other services as necessary.

SSM noted to be aware that over time, with the help of the Community Wardens, different patterns may emerge including an increase or decrease in complaints.

## **7. British Heart Foundation Pack for Good Campaign**

GS explained that the British Heart Foundation team was furloughed until recently, so discussions and planning were delayed. She mentioned the meeting with Tim Reeves from British Heart Foundation, Bath Spa University, and University of Bath that decided a limited campaign will run this year with social media comms and local collection points to be organised replacing the metal bins in the community. She explained Norland College has been invited to participate also. She mentioned the Moving Out Campaign will run as normal with social media comms in May and door-knocking in June.

DR mentioned the Reuse Campaign and asked if there were ways students could repackage old items for new students to use. GS explained Tim Rawlings at the Council is keen to run a pilot scheme where letting agents help students create boxes of kitchen equipment to pass on to new students.

DD mentioned previously extra collections have been organised by the Council with funding from Universities and asked if these were still needed. PL confirmed extra collections would be needed as 70-80% of students are on campus and in the city. DD mentioned he could liaise with Waste Team.

**Action: DD to liaise with Waste Team about extra collections.**

## **8. Welcoming Students to Bath**

DR mentioned electronic road signs could not be used for welcome messages for students as they are utilised for Clean Air Zone and COVID-19 comms. She noted that banners and signs on historic buildings would be challenging as they are listed buildings and asked for other suggestions on how to welcome students in September. DD mentioned using the Council website and the potential for banners on the Guildhall and cross points in Southgate and Milsom Street, but this would have a cost aspect.

Action: DD to investigate and check costs.

MR mentioned student volunteers could welcome students in City Centre. DR explained BID ambassadors could be involved and liaise specifically with students with badges and t-shirts. DR mentioned that comms should be focused on student-dense social media such as

Instagram. HHB agreed ambassadors are a good idea and to gather testimonials from long-term residents and organisations explaining they are excited for students to return, and also second and third year students explaining why they are excited to return. SSM mentioned Community Wardens can help focus on Oldfield Park and Westmoreland to aid relationships between students and Resident's Associations.

CD asked if an open letter can be submitted to a local newspaper expressing excitement. DD mentioned the Bath Chronicle and Bath Echo papers are less likely to post positive student stories but instead to try Richard Wyatt at the Bath Museum as there is a big reach that is then shared wider via social media. BS mentioned the Group should be wary of artificial news and instead focus on good news stories should be to promote actions and events students are participating in around September.

## **9. Working Group Update**

GS referred to the update in the Student Community Partnership Report but noted Personal Safety has not met this year due to Charing issues, but Sgt. Daniel Hatcliffe from Avon and Somerset Police has now taken this post and the group will meet in early May. She mentioned that Norland College has been invited to participate in all working groups, so representation of all partners is consistent within all groups.

She explained it would be good for the Board to have a stronger sense of what the Working Groups are up to and Working Groups will be added to future agendas to report and update the Group, starting with the Green Group at the next meeting. DR explained community safety is topical and could be discussed. She mentioned following the Sarah Everard case the Women's Councillors Group gathered to discuss how to be and feel safe in Bath. GS explained Annie Willingham, University of Bath Students' Union, and Emily Casey, Bath Spa University Students' Union, had discussed collaborative Student Safety projects and an informal meeting was held including Bath College and Norland College and subsequently an interactive map has been created and circulated to students to pin-point areas of the city students feel unsafe. She mentioned that this will be followed up by liaison with the police and the Council to explore solutions and funding to improve safety.

DR asked if Mental Health has been discussed in the Working Groups. GS explained it currently comes under the remit of Personal Safety and River Safety and has been discussed at the latter recently. DR mentioned it is important to discuss particularly after the effects of the pandemic for both students and long-term residents and suggested that a separate Working Group was created

**Action: Mental Health/Wellbeing Group to be created.**

SSM mentioned transportation needs to be discussed more as transport and housing are the two biggest emitters of carbon. He explained perhaps a wider partnership is needed to promote Active Travel and the Scooter Scheme.

**Action: Transportation Group to be created.**

BS wished to clarify the purpose and achievements of the Mental Health Group as lots of work is already being done in the Universities and wished to reduce duplication of work and groups. DR asked if BS would be a part of this new group to define the purpose. CD agreed and explained Mental Health and Transport are needed but raised concerns over the number of Working Groups now in the Partnership and asked if the Groups could be combined.

## 10. AOB

SSM mentioned contact with Jane Wildblood regarding the Climate Emergency and proposed she be invited to the next meeting to present on The One Shared Vision work to help give focus on next step in climate action.

**Action: Invite Jane Wildblood to next meeting. Add The One Shared Vision to agenda.**

KJ mentioned Mental Health is on the Personal Safety agenda for May and asked if a report to the next Board meeting would be of use to the Group. DR asked for a Personal Safety report to be included in the Mental Health Group, which would meet before the next Board meeting.

**Action: SCP to report to Mental Health Working Group once created.**

MR explained this would be her last Board Meeting and thanked the Group.

HHB explained this would also be her last Board Meeting and noted that going forward Friday meetings would be hard to attend for Bath College.

DR thanked the Group for all their work during the pandemic and closed the meeting.

### Actions:

Action	Person(s)
DD to create message to circulate to Higher Education Partners regarding Pavilion vaccination volunteering.	DD
Student Community Partnership Agreement Review to be reported on next meeting.	GS
DD to liaise with Waste Team about extra collections.	DD
DD to investigate and check costs.	DD
Mental Health Group to be created.	GS

Transportation Group to be created.	GS
Invite Jane Wildblood to next meeting. Add The One Shared Vision to agenda.	KJ
SCP to report to Mental Health Working Group once created.	GS

**Notes:**

Actions from previous meeting held February 2021:

1. **Invite Becky Reynolds from Public Health:** DR suggested inviting Becky Reynolds to future Board meetings to discuss the wider aspects of Public Health and student participation in addressing issues. BS mentioned Student Wellbeing at Bath Spa University are already in contact with Public Health and is conscious if the correct people are in the Group to facilitate meaningful discussions. PL agreed. DR concluded this would be left to the working groups.
2. **DR/DD to consult Ward Councillors and incorporate their views into the Councils submission:** SSM contacted several Cllrs and received a few replies which were included in the submission.
3. **DR to send MR and FJ the contact information for Minister of Universities and Secretary of State for Communities:** DR received responses from a variety of Ministers explaining it was down to the individual Universities. The Group confirmed they all received the letters.
4. **GS to circulate the date of the next meeting:** The Group agreed dates would be set yearly in advance and substitutes for members would be considered in the organisation process.