

West End Morecambe Big Local August / September 2019

No normal partnership meetings were held in August or September due to issues within the partnership that needed to be resolved. This minute summarises the key points and conclusions to what took place;

Minute to cover discussions and actions taken August and September 2019.

For the public record we need to summarise matters concerning recent months.

- Ongoing friction within the partnership this last year escalated to open argument and also a formal accusation made against staff.
- Attempts to resolve this failed, so on the advice of our Big Local and our LTO, an independent panel was set up to judge the accusation made as well as the behaviour of partnership members.
- At the same time, a partnership member involved, Mr M Barr, acted toward staff in a manner that was completely unacceptable.
- Mr M Barr was suspended but then chose to resign before his actions could be considered further.
- The independent panel found the accusations against staff to be completely erroneous and that partnership members had broken the organisation's own rules of conduct.
- These findings were reported back to the partnership in August. Attempts were made to start rebuilding trust but it became apparent that some involved were unwilling or unable to change.
- Mr S Coghlan and Ms G Taylor were asked to leave the partnership.
- During these difficulties some individuals involved unfortunately chose to talk about and misrepresent these events outside of the partnership and tarnish the reputation of individuals and WEM as a whole. This has left a legacy that, when appropriate, will need to be dealt with firmly.
- Whilst the past few months have been difficult, the partnership has dealt with it to the best of its ability and to the satisfaction of the Big Local programme and our Local Trusted Organisation.
- The partnership is now in the process of strengthening its procedures and recommencing its work.
- Despite these problems, over the year WEM has made wider progress and taken steps forward.