

SAFER HALTON PARTNERSHIP

At a meeting of the Safer Halton Partnership Tuesday, 7 September 2010 Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present	M. Andrews	Community Safety
	S. Blackwell	Cheshire Police
	D. Cargill	Cheshire Police Authority
	A. Collins	Cheshire Police Authority
	S. Eastwood	HBC Health and Community
	C. Frazer	Riverside Housing
	D. Houghton	HBC Policy and Partnerships
	N. Sharpe	Halton Housing Trust
	R. Strachan	Cheshire Police
	J. Sutton	Resources
	K. Thornden	Cheshire Probation
	C. Walsh	Halton & ST Helens PCT

Action

SHP12 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Inspector Richard Strachan welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table.

SHP13 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from David Parr- HBC, Lorraine Crane – HBC, Dwayne Johnson – HBC, Rosie Lyden – HBC, Richard Gorst – Cheshire Fire & Rescue, Norman Oldham – Halton Magistrates, Liz Weston – UK Border Agency and Kim Thornden – Cheshire Probation.

SHP14 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES - 11.05.10

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

SHP15 THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The Partnership received a report which updated Members of the progress of the new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2011-2026 and presented the emerging vision, key objectives and long term priorities that the plan sought to deliver upon.

The drafting of a new SCS offered the opportunity to

revisit the high level objectives under each of the current five key priorities and reflected the current public priorities and needs. There was a multitude of changes proposed for the public sector and uncertainty over financing mechanisms, but these factors would not change the long term challenges the Borough faced. It was important the overarching priorities for the Borough were scrutinised so that decisions about the allocation of resources could be made when organisational architectures and funding mechanisms became clearer.

Section 6.17 'A Safer Halton' was referred to and discussed. In conclusion, the members of the Partnership were asked to pass any comments they may have to Debbie Houghton within the next week, so that the approval process could progress.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Partners consider and comment upon the five overarching priorities for the emerging SCS 2011-2026.
- 2) Partners consider the suggested vision, strategic objectives and challenges contained in Section 6.0 and their alignment with their knowledge of local needs.

SHP16 HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD WNF AND LPSA2 FUNDING CUTS

The Partnership received a report regarding Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) and Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) Allocations Review, which provided an update on the reward grant allocations.

Since the recent change in Government, the HSPB were notified of cuts to the LPSA reward grant (LPSA2) and WNF funding that was currently being received. In order to manage this process, David Parr, on behalf of the HSPB, had asked each SSP to identify cuts to projects. Safer Halton project managers were asked to make the difficult decision of identifying cuts to put forward to the HSPB and the Council's Executive Board. These cuts had since been agreed by the Council's Executive Board on 15th July 2010.

RESOLVED: That the Safer Halton Partnership noted the revised allocations of WNF and LPSA2 funding to projects.

SHP17 SAFER HALTON PARTNERSHIP DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Due to the absence of an agreed Terms of Reference document for the Partnership presently, the group reviewed the Draft Terms of Reference which had since been proposed and were attached to the report for reference.

The group were asked to review the document and forward any comments to Debbie Houghton. They would then be sent out in final format with the minutes of this meeting.

RESOLVED: That subject to any comments or changes agreed by Partners, the Safer Halton Partnership adopt the Terms of Reference, as set out in the attached document.

SHP18 SAFER HALTON EVALUATION OF PROJECTS

The Partnership considered a report on the evaluation of the Safer Halton projects, since the WNF along with a number of other funding sources was due to end in March 2011.

The October Spending Review may announce extensions to these funding streams or indeed provide alternatives; however, it was commented that it would be sensible at this time to work on the basis that the funding would end. As partners were aware, the SHP had utilised this funding to support a number of projects including Blue Lamp, work on domestic abuse, alcohol and anti social behaviour. The HSPB had requested that all projects currently funded by WNF across all SSPs be evaluated and wrote to SSP chairs in this regard in July.

At the SHP Chairs' meeting on 22 July 2010, it was agreed that for Safer Halton, all projects in receipt of other funding sources, which are also due to end next year, should also be evaluated, not just the WNF projects. This included the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund, LPSA 2 Reward Grant etc.

As part of the evaluation process project managers were asked to complete a project evaluation form. These completed proformas would then be shared with members of each relevant SSP at the next meeting. A member from

another SSP would be invited to the SSP meeting as part of a 'Peer Review Process', with this person acting as a critical friend. Partners would be asked to review the evaluation proformas for each project to determine if the business case was robust and would stand up to scrutiny by Partners. Once the number of projects had been reduced to a manageable number, these would go forward to a special SSP chairs meeting on 15th September.

Project managers who were present gave a brief overview of their evaluation/s. Due to time restraints and the amount of time needed to dedicate to prioritising the projects, it was agreed that all would take the evaluation documents away and revert to Debbie Houghton with any comments and opinions. One member queried whether there was a prioritising framework system in place for this exercise. In response it was noted that the SSP and LSP chairs would be meeting to discuss the outcomes and would use a prioritising system when making their decisions.

RESOLVED: That the Partnership:

- 1) Reviews and challenges the completed evaluation proformas provided by project managers to determine if there was a robust business case for the project to continue; and
- 2) Prioritises the SHP projects, so that should funding be made available partners were agreed on which projects they would most want to see continue.

SHP19 HSPB RISK REGISTER

The group reviewed the Halton Strategic Partnership Local Area Agreement Risk Register which was attached as Appendix A. The register had been produced using a simple four-step approach to the risk assessment process (Identify, Evaluate, Treat and Monitor and Review), which was used by the Partnership's Accountable Body – Halton Borough Council.

It was noted that the main focus should be on the achievement of objectives rather than the assessment process itself. Too little awareness and control could damage the performance of any organisation, but an obsessive level of involvement in the fine details of risk could easily overwhelm the organisation. Between these two extremes was a turning point, a balanced area of high performance, which was the status to aim for.

The report covered the scoring system of Low, Medium and High and scored each risk accordingly. The register was split into 6 sections as follows:

- Section 1 : Strategic Risk 2009-11
- Section 2 : Children & Young People in Halton (SSP)
- Section 3 : Safer Halton Partnership (SSP)
- Section 4 : Employment Learning & Skills (SSP)
- Section 5 : Healthy Halton (SSP) – 2009-11
- Section 6 : Halton's Urban Renewal (SSP) 2009-11

RESOLVED: That the Partnership notes and comments on the Risk Register document.

SHP20 POLICING WHITE PAPER

The Partnership reviewed the consultative white paper '*Policing in the 21st Century: reconnecting police and the people*' which set the Government's vision for policing. Responses were relevant to the legislation in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill to be considered before the bill's introduction in Autumn 2010 and for future policy development. It was noted that it was important that the group respond to this consultation and make views known. The consultation period will run from 26 July 2010 and end on 20 September 2010.

Public comments could be made online on the Home Office website. The Partnership should forward their comments to Debbie Houghton who would coordinate a reply on behalf of the SHP.

RESOLVED: That the Partnership notes and comments on the white paper.

SHP21 JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Further to a report that was put to the last Safer Halton Partnership meeting on the statutory duty to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and guidance on what was to be included, it was agreed to set up a small steering group chaired by Dwayne Johnson, which would pull together the relevant data and intelligence from partners.

The steering group had since identified five draft priorities, which were brought to the May SHP meeting for comment, they were: anti social behaviour; alcohol misuse and its impact on crime and communities; tackling drug use; safeguarding vulnerable adults and children; communication

and community engagement, and domestic abuse.

The final draft of the JSNA was attached to the report for any final comments from the group.

RESOLVED: That the Safer Halton Partnership:

- 1) Approves the final draft of the JSNA summary, subject to any final comments from partners; and
- 2) Agrees that action/delivery plans be prepared by the relevant SHP task group, to deliver improvements to performance targets for the JSNA priorities once approved, with a timescale to be agreed.

SHP22 TASK GROUP UPDATES

The group received task group updates from the respective manager for the following areas:

- a) Alcohol Enforcement
- b) Domestic Abuse
- c) Drugs
- d) Partnership Tasking & Coordination
- e) Prolific & Other Offending
- f) Reducing reoffending

RESOLVED: That the task group updates be noted.

SHP23 HATE CRIMES

The Partnership received a paper on hate crimes in Halton which stated that during the period April to June 2010 there had been a total of 19 race hate and one disability hate incident reported to the Police, with no homophobic incidents.

Of these 20 incidents, 11 had been found to meet the 'hate crime' criteria. All crimes were being progressed satisfactorily and were monitored by the Diversity Team within the Safer Halton Partnership. It was noted that there was no evidence of a link between the crimes and the night time economy.

It was also reported that there had been an increase in the number of threats made to the traveller community within the Daresbury area, a site which does not have the appropriate planning permission. Although there was still no evidence of threats made, the Police and the HBC were in

dialog with both Daresbury residents and the traveller community.

RESOLVED: That the Partnership notes and comments on the report.

SHP24 HALTON'S SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

The Partnership received Halton's Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Annual Report for 2009/10 together with a report updating them on the key issues and progression of the agenda for safeguarding vulnerable adults in Halton.

It was noted that the Report would be presented to a number of forums, including the Safer Halton and Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Boards, the People's Cabinet and the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board. The Safeguarding Adults Board also recommended that partner agencies present this to their respective bodies.

Any comments regarding the Annual Report should be forwarded to Steve Eastwood, who offered to respond to queries on behalf of the SHP.

RESOLVED: That the Partnership notes and comments on the report's content.

SHP25 THE STIGMATISATION OF PROBLEM DRUG USERS

The Partnership received a report advising them of recently published research by the UK Drug Policy Commission into the stigmatisation of problem drug users. The full report could be found at www.ukdpc.org.uk.

The report stated that the coalition Government were signalling a significant shift in drug policy towards a more abstinence based approach to treatment. Proposals were being put forward to withdraw benefits from drug users who do not access treatment, so tackling the extreme prejudice about addiction in society would be essential if Partnerships were to succeed in getting people who were recovering from drug dependency off benefits, back into work and playing a full role in society.

It was commented that the research highlighted a number of possible areas for action, particularly with regards to service user and advocacy groups becoming more active and challenging the way drug addiction is reported in the media which provides fuel for public perception. Additionally

the group agreed that some work would need to be done around helping people back into employment through voluntary work placements etc and speaking to the public, employers and service users for innovative ideas.

RESOLVED: That the Partnership notes and comments on the report.

SHP26 CONSULTATION ON THE NEW UK DRUG STRATEGY

The Partnership received a report advising them of the consultation currently being undertaken by the Coalition to inform the new UK Drug Strategy. The Consultation Paper was attached for information.

The Consultation would be aimed at a wide audience, from charities to enforcement partners, drug workers and voluntary and community sector organisations. This would provide an early opportunity for a range of partners to contribute to the development of this new strategy.

The group were requested to read and comment on the attached consultation paper away from the meeting. Any queries should be forwarded to Steve Eastwood by 21 September 2010 so that he could forward them to Government for response by 30 September 2010. It was anticipated that the new strategy would be produced by December 2010.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The SHP notes and comments on the report by 21 September 2010; and
- 2) The SHP supports the process by which a coordinated response could be provided to the Coalition.

Meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.