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HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 1 June 2011 at the Council Chamber,
Runcorn Town Hall

Present:

Board Members:	Councillor Rob Polhill	HBC
	(Chairman)	
	Rev. Ray Jones	Faith Communities
	Mike Fry	Community Empowerment Centre
	Councillor Dave Cargill	Police Authority
	Noel Sharpe	Halton Housing Trust
	Richard Strachan	Cheshire Police
	G O'Rourke	Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
	Dimpna Edwards	Deputy Director Public Health
	S Yeoman	Halton & St Helens VCA
	Mr J Wilson	NHS Halton and St Helens
	John Rigby	Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy
	M Hankinson	JCP
	K Fallon	Bridgewater Community NHS

Advisors to the Boards

David Parr	HBC
E Carter	HBC
Shelah Semoff	HBC
Ann McIntyre	HBC
Wesley Rourke	HBC
Hazel Coen	HBC
Alan Graham	HBC
Iain Bisset	HBC
N McSweeney	HBC
L Driscoll	HBC
Lynn Derbyshire	HBC

Apologies for Absence: N Atkin (substitute - N Sharpe), Councillor Hignett, G Meehan (substitute - A McIntyre) T. Parle, B. Edwards, D Sproson, M. Sheehan, A Burgess and P. Cain

1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2011 having been printed and circulated were agreed as a correct record.

2 INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION 2010

The Board received a presentation from Mr N McSweeney which:-

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- Explained the background to the Index of multiple deprivation 2010 and the seven domains as follows:-
 1. Income
 2. Employment;
 3. Health and Disability;
 4. Education and Skills Training;
 5. Barriers to Housing Services;
 6. Crime; and
 7. Living environment;
- Outlined that it was available at a Local Authority Level – 2010 represented 2008 data and 2007 data represented 2005 data;
- Highlighted that there had been a slight improvement in 2007 re the deprivation being ranked at 29th out of 326 as compared to 26th in previous years;
- Outlined the national comparisons of deprivation;
- Gave an overview of each domain and a comparison across the Halton wards; and
- Highlighted the key messages and that Halton's position regarding the data had remained the same.

The following comments arose from the discussion:-

- It was noted that the deprivation data re the Halton Castle Ward had not improved re deprivation even though there had been a significant investment in the area. It was also noted that the IMD compared all output areas and there had been an improvement across the country which could explain the reason for the data in respect of the Halton Castle Ward not showing an improvement;
- It was noted that there had been a slight narrowing of the gap in respect of income and employment since 2008.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation and comments raised be noted; and
- (2) Mr Neil McSweeney be thanked for his informative presentation.

3 NAMED CHAMPIONS

The Board considered a report which presented an updated Action Plan for Future Partnership Working and requested nominations for Named Champions.

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The Board was advised that at their last meeting they had discussed the action plan that was developed after the Development Workshop held in January 2011. This action plan had been developed to help pave the way for a Governance review of the Partnership and had a number of recommended improvement points and “hot topics” for partnership working.

The review which had been undertaken as part of the Development Workshop had shown that Partners felt there were mature and confident working arrangements in Halton, with positive relationships that needed to continue and grow. However it was important to these to ensure the Partnership stayed fit for purpose within the changing environment.

The Board was further advised that Appendix A listed the recommended actions in the following two categories:-

- Strategic Improvements – Revising the focus of the Partnership; and
- Process Improvements – Enhancing the way business is conducted.

Board members were asked to volunteer to act as champions to deliver specific actions within the Action Plan and to take ownership of the work that would be progressed under these actions, with support from appropriate colleagues across the wider partnership.

The Chief Executive of Halton Borough Council had put his name forward for the Resource Mapping action (S2). In addition, the Board was advised that Mr T Parle had volunteered to be a named champion on Priority 3 (Communications Across the Virtual Organisation) or Priority 4 (Community Engagement and Accountability).

The Chairman encouraged the Board Members to nominate themselves for the remaining actions.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The updated HSP Development Day Action Plan as attached as Appendix 1 to the report be approved; and
- (2) Board Members volunteer to be champions with responsibility for improvement.

4 ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP WORKING : LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ADVISOR PROJECT

The Board considered a report which introduced the Enhanced Partnership Working - Local Improvement Advisor (LIA) Project. The origin of the project was the HSP Board’s January 2011 development day and the subsequent action plan approved at the last Board meeting.

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The Board was advised that the project would assist with the delivery of the Strategic Improvement Priorities S2 (Resource Mapping) and S3 (Work Programme) contained in the action plan. The action plan formed the previous agenda item.

The Board was further advised that following on from the development day the general consensus was that the Board should focus on a small number of strategic interventions. Partners felt that Task and Finish Groups could be a means of providing a more targeted approach to specific issues and ensure that activities made a difference in the community. The project moved forward these ambitions by:-

- Commencing a simple resource mapping exercise across the three key cross cutting areas of:- stronger local labour force, reducing alcohol related harm and promoting social responsibility;
- Sharing the learning from the ongoing 'Team around the Family' initiative and other successful collaborative working such as the Housing Partnership. Exploring opportunities to better organise service provision around the 'customer experience' and contact points with 'frequent flyers clients' that regularly use multiple services. Identifying service areas where this learning could be applied; and
- Report on the opportunities for a whole area approach to resource spending and collaborative services in Halton.

Ms Bernie ???? attended the meeting to discuss the Enhanced Partnership Working Project. In order to help guide and scope the project, provide an insight into what was already being undertaken and to find out more about the Partnerships ambition and the objectives of the project the following three questions were asked:-

- Removal of waste / leaner provision – What is the level of support for shared services / integrated working amongst stakeholders (including staff)?
- Community Budgets – Is Halton ready for these? If so, what could be the benefits? and
- A whole area approach for Halton – List 2/3 barriers to moving to a whole area approach to service delivery in Halton.

In response, it was reported that within the partnership there was enthusiasm for exploring shared services and integrated working i.e Children's Services to focus on preventative interventions rather than safeguarding and this could be developed with partners in health to deliver community services. It was also reported that there was an opportunity to lead locally re developing NHS solutions. The Partnership had built close working relationships in all areas and this could be developed further, with innovative thinking and a greater trust to face the challenges of delivering more with less resources.

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The following comments arose from the discussion:-

- In respect of question two – community budgets, it was noted that progressing from the current situation to community budgets would be a challenge. It was also noted that the Partnership was not in a position to consider pooled budgets at the current time but may be in a position to align some budgets in some areas such as alcohol and drugs which would be natural alliances. In addition, it was reported that some budgets were already aligned and there were a number of examples of this such as adaptations which had resulted in improved outcomes and quality of life and cost savings. In addition, it was reported that GP's had a sense of ownership to having aligned budgets and the next steps would be to consider a shared decision making process to be clear what could be achieved for the community and to ensure that it happened;
- It was reported that some budgets did not have the flexibility and it was suggested that the Partnership may need to give consideration to having a pilot scheme in the first instance;
- The impact of the cuts in the Police Authority and the implications of the Localism Bill was noted. In respect of the Localism Bill, it was reported that there was a greater requirement to work with communities and give power to communities which would present a challenge. It was agreed that the Localism Bill be circulated to all Members of the Board;
- It was noted that each community was different with different issues and residents in communities did not always agree. It was also noted that not all communities would want the responsibility of making decisions. In addition, it was also recognised that work would have to be undertaken on identifying the issues and what the public wished to be engaged on; and
- It was highlighted that this change would need to take place over the next few years.

In conclusion, it was reported that the findings would be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the Project Implementation Plan as set out to Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

5 HOUSING SUMMIT AND KEY HOUSING RISKS - FEEDBACK FROM JOINT MEETING

The Board considered a report which gave the Partners an update on the radical housing reforms which were currently being undertaken, and how Halton

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Borough Council together with the main Registered Providers (RPs) were responding to these changes.

The Board was advised that the report provided Members with an update on the impact being faced by housing providers across Halton, following the recent changes to housing policy and some of the actions being taken to respond to these. The key policies were as follows:

- The Localism Bill;
- The Social Housing Reforms consultation;
- The Affordable Homes Framework; and
- The Welfare Reforms.

The Board was further advised that input had been sought from the four main providers working across the Borough (Halton HT, Riverside, LHT and Plus Dane) as well as colleagues within the Council.

It was reported that the attached briefing note set out in Appendix 1 to the report detailed the key emerging themes and how the Council together with the main RPs were responding and working collaboratively to ensure that the needs of Halton's community were met.

RESOLVED: That the content of the report and Appendix 1 be noted.

6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Board considered a report which informed the Partners of the development of the partnership's Community Engagement Strategy and associated action plan and sought to gain board endorsement to commence implementation.

The Board was advised that the strategy was vital in improving the relationship with our residents. Now more than ever there was a need to involve our residents in the running of local services. Senior support was required from across the partnership to make this strategy a success. It was also important to monitor the delivery of this strategy against its objectives to ensure that the strategy achieved its vision.

The Board was further advised that it was also vitally important that a true partnership approach to engagement was undertaken. This meant sharing information, knowledge, resources and practices to ensure waste and duplication were eradicated and quality was assured.

It was noted that information could be uploaded onto the website and there were also plans to make the website available to members of the public in the future

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the report be noted; and

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- (2) the implementation of the Community Engagement Strategy and Action Plan across the Partnership be endorsed.

7 HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL EVENT

The Board considered a report which proposed the evolution of the Halton Strategic Partnership's (HSP) "My Halton" event into a wider, themed event and to enable more partner organisations, both public and private, to become involved and make a difference to the residents of Halton.

The Board was advised that there were two considerations as follows:-

- The current situation

Combining the many changes in the public sector with the removal of Working Neighbourhood Funding, the number of projects on the go was reduced, whilst many partner organisations now had limited resources. The need to work in partnership was stronger than before. It was important to demonstrate to local residents how partners work together and how we make a positive difference in their lives.

- Maximisation of resources

Unlike previous years, there was no budget available to host any event.

In order to keep the momentum of "My Halton" going, "My Halton Foody Fortnight" could offer a new and more innovative way and expand the number of events and the opportunities to promote the work of the Halton Strategic Partnership.

However, to do this, partners were required to commit resources to the event.

The Board was further advised that this year's proposal was to evolve "My Halton" into "My Halton Foody Fortnight."

It was reported that rather than one afternoon of events, the proposal was to widen the event and run it alongside the British Food Fortnight, which ran from 17 September until 2 October 2011. The branding for "My Halton" would remain, and the title of the event would include the words "My Halton" to build on the awareness of the event.

In addition, it was highlighted that the plan would not be solely to focus on the Healthy Halton Partnership (such as food and health aspects) into the fortnight's events. Partnership activities which could be incorporated were detailed in the report. The emphasis would be on delivering events across the Borough in various venues.

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It was reported that some of the events already happened at different times of the year, and making lots of events coincide would help to make efficient use of resources by publicising all the activities at the same time. There would also be reduced costs for these activities which would have taken place at a separate time, and an increase in the impact of the event as a whole in terms of attendance, participation and inclusion. All these events would also happen under the “My Halton” banner.

It was estimated that for the same expenditure that was allocated to the one day event, the two week long event could provide:

- More press coverage and photo opportunities;
- More participation from local residents;
- More partner involvement;
- A higher profile for the Strategic Partnership as a whole;
- Demonstrating that organisations in Halton (both public and private sector) work together; and
- Fun opportunities for the public and a chance to again focus on all the good work that happens in the borough.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the ‘My Halton’ event be evolved into a new ‘My Halton Foody Fortnight’ event.

8 HEALTH JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Board considered a report which presented the process undertaken for the production of the 2010/11 JSNA and its key findings.

The Board was advised that the JSNA pulled together information regarding the current and future health and well being needs of the local population. It provided an opportunity to look into the future so that plans could be made now for likely changes in needs. It was therefore one of the major influences in directing commissioning priorities and planning service development.

The Board was further advised that the draft executive summary attached at Appendix 2, of the report included a summary of findings and priorities.

The following comments arose from the discussion:-

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- It was noted that a considerable amount of work had gone into the document and it was important that this be related to daily activities and that it be used as a core reference document in respect of health, social care and children; and
- Page 112 – death due to specific conditions – it was noted that alcohol and obesity were key priorities in the Borough. It was also noted that there had been 230 deaths in the Borough which were related to smoking.

RESOLVED: That the report and comments made be noted.

9 SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

The Board considered a report which gave an update on the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) key issues and progression on the agenda for the protection of vulnerable adults in Halton.

The Board was advised that Safeguarding issues must be raised within organisations and the report could be used as a reference point or alternatively the Safeguarding Co-ordinator could attend meetings.

The Board was further advised that funding was required to support the service. Currently the Council employed all safeguarding staff from within its Council resources and the PCT contributed £25,000 annually as well as support from Senior Officers.

The Board noted the key priorities set out in section three of the report and that there had been a serious case review and action plan formulated. However, it was noted that the Care Quality Commission had concluded that Halton was performing excellently in safeguarding adults.

RESOLVED: That note the report, in particular the action contained in Section 4 of the report.

10 EMERGING HEALTH ARCHITECTURE

The Board considered a report which outlined the radical reform of the NHS which was currently being undertaken, and how Halton Borough Council was responding to these changes.

The Board was advised that 30 May 2011 was the last day for the public to advise the Government on the reform of the NHS. In addition, it was reported that the Government would announce in mid July how the reform of the health agenda had been influenced and the next steps. It was reported that work was continuing to deliver good health services and prevention was better than treatment.

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The Board noted the new emerging health architecture. Partners, requested that the Chief Executive of the Cluster be encouraged to communicate more effectively with Partners.

In conclusion, the Board noted that the Health and Well Being Board was in the process of being set up and a report would be presented to the next meeting on this matter.

RESOLVED: That the report, comments raised and the Appendix attached to the report be noted.

11 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2010-11 YEAR END PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a report which provided information on the progress in achieving targets contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton.

The Board was advised in considering the report, the Board should be aware that the purpose of the report was to:

- consolidate information on all measures and targets in order to provide a clear picture of progress; and
- as the requirement to undertake a centrally prescribed Place Survey had now ceased the development of a localised perception based methodology was currently underway with a likely implementation date of autumn 2011.

The Board was advised that Pages 151 - 154 outlined a summary of performance indicators. It was reported that overall, progress in achieving targets had been good and there had been an improvement.

The Board was advised that N/A represented targets that had been deleted by the Government. In addition, workshops would be held to look at how these targets could be monitored in the future.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

12 CHESHIRE POLICE - COMPASS STRATEGIC LEAD UPDATE

The Board considered a report which presented an overview of the findings and performance impact that projected under the management of the COMPASS Steering Group have had since commencement of Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) funding in June 2009.

The Board was advised that during July 2008, the Government published the Youth Crime Action Plan. The plan set out a comprehensive package of measures to prevent and tackle youth crime through a triple-track approach of tough enforcement, non negotiable support and prevention. Under the YCAP

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proposal £700,000 had been made available to Halton over two years (2009-11). Following on from this the COMPASS Steering Group had been set up.

The Board was further advised that The Compass Steering Group monitored performance on the following:-

- Operation Stay Safe;
- Reparation Project ;
- Diversion Project;
- Street Based Teams;
- After School Patrols;
- Youth Crime Prevention and ASB Family Intervention Project Under ASB / Partnership Projects;
- Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP);
- Missing From Home;
- ASB Victim and Witness Support Service; and
- Anti-social Behaviour Enforcement Officer.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

13 WNF FINANCIAL SUMMARY UPDATE

The Board considered a report which gave an update on update Board on the year end spend profile for WNF for the two year period of 2009-11 and drew attention to other financial matters.

The Board was advised of the following:-

- That the attached spreadsheet showed WNF project spend for the two years between April 2009 and March 2011;
- That the spend profile showed that out of an allocation of £10,569,745 a total of £9,610,554 had been spent in 2009-11, which equated to 90.9%, with all quarter four invoices having been processed and paid;
- Board Members would be aware that during the course of this financial year, project managers had been asked twice to identity potential slippage. The first time was in July 2010, when the Partnership was notified of a £600,000 in year cut to the WNF allocation, and the second time was in December/January when project managers were asked to return any funding they felt wouldn't be spent by financial year end;
- These exercises allowed a small pot of £1.4m to be used to support some activity in 2011-12 (Board report 2nd March 2011). This funding had now been allocated to 21 projects across the SSPs, and would be monitored throughout 2011-12 in the same way that the larger allocations had been managed, with quarterly spend profiles coming

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to the Board and

- The attached spreadsheet showed an overview of the totals within SSPs, It was reported that if Board Members would like more details on individual project spend, they should contact the relevant Policy Officer for each SSP.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 11.05 a.m.

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