

## HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

### Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 19 September 2012 at the Karalius Suite, Stobart Stadium, Widnes

<b>Board Members:</b>	Cllr Rob Polhill	HBC (Chairman)
	Nick Atkin	Halton Housing Trust
	Simon Banks	Halton Clinical Commissioning Group
	Cllr Dave Cargill	Cheshire Police Authority
	Mike Fry	Community Representative
	Ann McIntyre	Childrens Trust Representative
	Eileen O'Meara	Director of Public Health
	Terry Parle	Sports Partnership Representative
	Richard Strachan	Cheshire Police
	David Parr	HBC
	Wesley Rourke	HBC
	Alex Waller	Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
	Ged Timson	Bridgewater Trust – health care providers representative

<b>Advisors to the Board:</b>	Mick Noone	HBC – Operation Director
	Alan Graham	HBC – Marketing and Communications
	Lisa Driscoll	HBC – Policy and Strategy
	Shelah Semoff	HBC – Partnerships
	Lynn Derbyshire	HBC – Democratic Services

**Apologies for Absence:** Paula Cain (Chamber of Commerce), Kate Fallon (Bridgewater Community NHS Trust), Councillor John Gerrard, Janine Peterson (Job Centre Plus), John Rigby (Orminston Bolingbroke Academy), Michael Sheehan (Riverside College) and Sally Yeoman (Halton & St Helens VCA).

## 8 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2012 having been printed and circulated were agreed as a correct record.

### Minute No: 5 – WNF Financial Summary Update

It was reported that the SSP Chairs had agreed to reallocate the £170,000. However, to date only £85,000 had been reallocated as further information on project outputs, was required before a decision could be made. It was also reported that the final decisions would be made on 31 October 2012.

### Crime Beat

It was reported that Crime Beat had approached the Council for funding support. Historically the Council had supported them with small amounts

of money. However, the funding in the future would be via the Police and Crime Commissioner and there had been an indication that this type of activity might not be supported. The Leader and Councillor D Cargill had requested that consideration be given to supporting this group and it was proposed and agreed that under delegated powers, £2,000 be granted to Crime Beat.

## 9 PARTNERSHIP ASSET MANAGEMENT GROUP

The Board considered a report and presentation which gave an update on work that had been undertaken with a small group of Partners. The report suggested that the establishment of a Partnership Asset Management Steering Group should be undertaken, and provided information on the intended role and remit of the group.

The Board had recognised the importance of sharing information between partners which would enable the Partnership to better understand the needs of the community and improve services to meet these needs.

The Board was advised that a workshop on the potential implications of the Localism Act had produced a discussion which concluded that a group would need to be set up to not only better understand the respective land and property portfolios of partners but to agree where there would be common areas of interest.

The Board was further advised that colleagues from HBC, Halton Housing Trust, The Primary Care Trust and the Clinical Commissioning Group had determined that there was real value in holding these meetings and felt that other partners would benefit from joining the group and by inviting other key partners, they could develop a 'Halton Asset Management Plan.' This would allow consideration to be given to the appropriateness of sharing assets, or if assets were deemed to be surplus to requirements, to dispose of them in a co-ordinated and strategic manner.

It was reported that there were benefits from sharing buildings i.e. the police, medical services and the fire service could all be situated in the same building. Multi use buildings, it was reported, would benefit the community. In addition, all organisations had individual databases, and if amalgamated, it could result in the reduction of overheads and resources. Members of the Board were asked to agree, in principle, to the development of a pilot area for mapping partners' land and property assets.

Board Members were also asked to consider the implications in terms of resourcing this particular piece of work, and whilst HBC were happy to share the Prince 2 Management System, the working group would need to consider how Partners would contribute resources to this initiative and the building of a Register of Community Assets.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Membership of the group is extended to include other interested parties, i.e. the police and fire colleagues, Riverside College;
- (2) The progress to date be noted; and
- (3) The development of a pilot area for mapping partners' land and property assets be endorsed.

## **11 CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY UPDATE**

The Board considered a report which gave an update on the work of the Halton Child and Family Poverty Steering Group.

The Board was advised that the Steering Group had been reviewing and updating the Development Plan with the twin objectives of making it SMART-er and aligning it better with other plans and strategies, especially the city region Child Poverty and Life Chances Strategy. It was reported that the work was almost completed. The Strategy would last until 2013, however a further needs analysis was going to be undertaken and this would ensure the Policy would be for a five year period.

It was reported that work on improving the Strategy's performance management framework had recently been completed. It used a suite of indicators already in use by other Halton and city regions strategies and plans.

The Board welcomed the report and it was noted that with the Welfare Reform projections indicated that there would be many families that would fall into poverty and the scale of the challenges should not be underestimated. The Board also noted the future activities set out in paragraph five of the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The report and comment raised be noted; and
- (2) Progress reports on the development of a new needs assessment and strategy be presented to the Board at future meetings.

## **12 SSP CHAIRS (OR REPRESENTATIVES) TO GIVE VERBAL UPDATES**

The key partners each gave an update on their areas in respect of Health and Wellbeing, Children and Young People, Safer Halton, Employment Learning and Skills and Environment and Regeneration.

In particular the following points were noted:-

- In relation to Safer Halton it was noted that against the same period last year of crime and anti-social behaviour there was a reduction of 12% and 3.6% for anti-social behaviour. Alcohol related anti-social behaviour was also down by 12.7%;

- There had been significant progress in reducing the risk to vulnerable people, particularly in the area of missing persons with a 39% reduction (this included partnership work in respect of Children in Care where the service demand and risks had been significant).
- There had been an increase in demand in mental health related incidents and work was ongoing with partners to understand and work more effectively in this area;
- A large scale drugs supply investigation had been concluded. The investigation had been focussed on the organised supply of cannabis centred around Halton View and surrounding areas in Runcorn. Community information had indicated the organised supply of cannabis which was causing intimidation, anti-social behaviour and increasing crime such as shoplifting and burglary of garden sheds in the area;

On 5 September 2012, three hundred Police Officers had conducted a strike operation and searched twenty five properties in Runcorn. Thirty one offenders had been arrested and all had been charged with conspiracy to supply controlled drugs. Five people had already pleaded guilty and had been sentenced, the remainder were in custody pending a trial and five had been released on bail;

The investigation had been in operation for over twelve months and had also identified approximately one hundred drug users in the area. A multi-agency operation was being conducted to intervene with all these people and pursue diversionary/ treatment pathways. Feedback from the community had also been very positive;

- Preparation was taking place for a change in structures regarding the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections. On 15 November 2012, everyone would have the opportunity to vote for the PCC and David Parr had been designated as the Police Area Returning Officer. It was reported that the PPC role changed the way the Community Safety Team received funding. A welcome pack for the new PCC had been established so that there would be a better understanding of the challenges in Halton. In addition, it was reported that the PCCs would be scrutinised by the Police and Crime Panel. It was noted that there were currently four candidates; Councillor J Stockton – Labour, Councillor J Dwyer – Conservative, Councillor Ainsley Arnold – Liberal Democrat and Sarah Flannery – An Independent Member;
- In relation to Health, the Health and Wellbeing Board had been working on the development of a Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Halton. This process had involved gathering and analysing information and intelligence from a variety of sources including the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Area Health Profiles and consultation exercises with partners, Elected Members, the public, school children, including special schools and representatives from the Council and PCT

workforce. The emerging priorities from the Clinical Commissioning Group Commissioning Plan had also been considered.

It was reported that the analysis had produced a comprehensive list of health and wellbeing needs for Halton. The Board had agreed an initial set of five priorities which would be reviewed after a 12 month period and either continued or changed depending on the progress. The five key priorities were as follows:-

- Prevention and early detection of cancer;
- Improved child development;
- Reduction in the number of falls in adults;
- Reduction in the harm from alcohol; and
- Prevention and early detection of mental health conditions.

Since the last Board meeting in June, a draft Strategy had been developed around the above five priorities.

- Work was being undertaken in the Locality Health Areas which formed part of the area forums footprint in order to empower local people to be involved with improving their own health;
- Progress had been made on the immunisations/vaccinations, but as yet it had not met the target, but was expected to in the near future;
- Consideration was being given to the progress of the Clinical Commissioning Group who would be authorised by December 2012.
- In relation to Environment and Regeneration it was reported that in partnership with the Environment Agency a draft 12 month programme had been established which incorporated; climate change; solar panels; new technology regarding savings and efficiency; fuel poverty and the Council's Draft Low Carbon Strategy would inform the work of the group over the next 12 months; and
- The next meeting would be in Castlefields Community Centre and they would be undertaking a tour of the Borough;
- There were future plans for sites and further bids to re-furbish 140 properties;
- In relation to Children & Young People, it was reported that Troubled Families had now been renamed as Inspiring Families. A model had been developed, themed around the family service that increased support to families. Commitment had been given from Partners, the Police, The Youth Offending Team and Educational Welfare who had agreed dedicated support into the intensive family support scheme. Work was also taking place with other partners regarding the level of support and they would be engaging with the identified families in October 2012;

- The attainment in schools had been very pleasing but had still not been verified. KS2 Level 4 – English and maths last year was 76.7 % and was now 82.9%, which was well above the national average. The national average for this year was yet to be determined, but the Authority's results were expected to be above it;
- The Children's Trust had undertaken an analysis of the best 25 Early Help programmes and what was most appropriate for Halton. The Trust had now established some recommendations which would help to support the development of health and wellbeing;
- It was noted that, in respect of the media coverage regarding English GCSE results, Halton would not be undertaking a judicial review, as other local authorities are looking to do, as it was felt it would create uncertainty and was not an appropriate way to proceed;
- In relation to Equality, it was reported that sign up sessions would be taking place in the next two weeks for the Safe in Town Pilot Scheme. This safe haven in town centres scheme differed than others operating across the country as Halton had increased the number of beneficiary groups. These were noted as adults and young people (14+) with learning and physical disabilities and anyone over 60 years of age. It was a six month pilot and, depending on the evaluation to be undertaken by the Steering Group, would be rolled out across shops and other premises across the Borough;
- The group were looking at Partners public sector equality objectives to identify how they could possibly work better together, in a more joined up way and to identify gaps;
- An annual review of the Hate Crime Reduction Strategy was taking place;
- In relation to Housing it was reported that the main providers had come together with the Local Authority to undertake a rationalisation exercise. This had involved sixteen providers working in the Borough who managed 14½ thousand homes. The meeting had been very positive. Discussions had taken place on the contribution of more resources and who would take the lead in each particular part of the Borough;
- It was reported that the main concern for housing providers was the Welfare Reform. Lots of discussions had taken place, particularly with those customers directly affected by the reforms;
- The biggest assets, it was reported, were the biggest liabilities as the number of people who under occupied a home currently created significant challenges. However, it was reported that there would also be some opportunities;

- In relation to Employment, Learning and Skills, it was noted that they usually have Partner updates as part of the meeting, so the feedback covered a range of issues. Discussions had taken place on how the markets were becoming very competitive in relation to skills and some providers were taking advantage of the freedoms and flexibilities to seek contracts on a national basis, however some were looking to sub contracted part of the work to local providers; Partners were conscious that they need to make sure that the local “offer” had the capacity and resource to deliver and meet the needs of the employers.
- Work was being undertaken in respect of the Mersey Gateway contract, as it was reported that each submission had to have a Delivery Plan regarding employment and skills development. Work was being undertaken with them to ensure the presentation reflected the Local Partnership; and
- Partners were undertaking the next steps regarding the Halton Employment Day; and it was reported that the DVD which was played at the Employment day would be circulated to all Members via a link. Members of the Partnership were encouraged to watch the DVD.

RESOLVED: That the verbal updates be noted.

### 13 INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received the following items of business for information only and which were not discussed by the Board:-

- Liverpool’s Mayoral Arrangements;
- Enhanced Partnership Working;
- Priority Mapping and Future Work Programme;
- After the Riots – Recommendation Report;
- Liverpool Fairness Commission – Final Report;
- Employment Day – Follow Up; and
- HBC’s People’s Plan.

RESOLVED: That the information items be noted.

### 14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor D Cargill reported that the Police Authority would cease to exist in 60 days. He added that everyone was continuing to work and structures had been put into place to accommodate the new PCC when they had been elected. He congratulated everyone on their professionalism and on the work that had been undertaken to ensure a smooth transfer.

The Board took the opportunity to place on record its sadness to the Chief Constable of Manchester on the loss of two young Police Officers who had been killed whilst carrying out their duties.

RESOLVED: That the comments raised be noted

*Meeting ended at 10.30 am*