

HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 11 September 2013 at the Karalius Suite, Halton Stadium, Widnes

Present:

Board Members:	Cllr Polhill	HBC (Chairman)
	Nick Atkin	Halton Housing Trust
	Simon Banks	Halton Clinical Commissioning Group
	Cllr D Cargill	Cheshire Police & Crime Panel
	Martin Cleworth	Cheshire Police
	Cllr Fry	Community Representative
	Ann McIntryre	HBC Children's Trust
	Mick Noone	HBC
	Eileen O'Meara	Halton's Director of Public Health
	Terry Parle	Halton Sports Partnership
	David Parr	HBC
	Janine Peterson	Job Centre Plus
	Wesley Rourke	HBC – Chair ELS SSP
	Mary Murphy	Riverside College
	Sally Yeoman	Halton & St Helens VCA

Advisors to the Boards	Lisa Driscoll	HBC – Policy and Strategy
	Tim Gibbs	HBC – Policy and Strategy
	Shelah Semoff	HBC – Policy and Strategy

In Attendance: D. Ainsworth (DWP), L Derbyshire (HBC), B. Kennett (HBC/Police Inspiring Families), C. Myring (HBC) S. Doore (HBC) and Dionne McHugh (HHT)

Apologies for Absence: Sarah Boycott (Cheshire Police), Paula Cain (Chamber of Commerce), Leah Corcoran (HBC), Revd Jeremy Duff (Faith Communities), John Dwyer (PCC), Niki Gormston (Cheshire Police), Bethan Kilbane (HBC) and John Rigby (Orminston Bolingbroke Academy).

7 MINUTES OF THE MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2013 having been printed and circulated were agreed as a correct record.

8 SSP KEY MESSAGES

The key partners each gave a verbal update on their areas in respect of: the Health and Wellbeing Board, Environment, Skills and Learning, Children and Young People (Children's Trust), Environment and Regeneration; Safer Halton, the Housing Partnership and Equalities and Engagement.

In relation to the Health and Wellbeing Board, it was reported that the Health and Wellbeing Board were making progress and an action plan had been developed.

The Board was advised that a number of strategies had been developed:-

- The Mental Health Strategy;
- The Drugs Strategy (this was near to completion);
- The Falls Strategy;
- The Cancer Strategy was being progressed; and
- The JSNA was in the process of being refreshed.

It was reported that Halton had the highest falls rate and work was taking place to address this issue.

The Board was further advised that Quarter 1, performance monitoring targets for health had achieved a green indicator, with the exception of life expectancy for women. In addition, more work was required on addressing cancer in the Borough.

In relation to Environment, Skills and Learning it was reported that since the presentation on community budgets at the last meeting, work had taken place looking at opportunities to take the initiative forward. However, it was reported that there were still barriers to the process, as in the economic climate, individual organisations were protecting their resources.

The Board was advised that European Funding would be available from 2014-20. The SSP had given consideration to the thematic priorities, with a more strategic focus on the resources available, together with community budgets with a view to pooling resources. It was reported that this was an on-going process. It was also reported that themes and priorities were emerging from the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board.

In relation to Children and Young People the Board noted the following activities:-

- In July an external Inspector had undertaken a review and it had been a very good process. An Investing In Children's Board had been established and it met on Tuesday's every two weeks at 8 am and the Chief Executive attended. It was reported that it would ensure best services for children in care;
- The Children and Young People's Plan was being reviewed and it would be reported to the Children's Trust Board. The Authority were also looking at each strategic and operational group that sat below the Children's Trust Group;
- The performance had been evaluated for KS2 and KS4 as follows:-

- KS2 – writing – There had been a 3% increase and it was now 5% higher than the national average;
- There had been no change regarding the performance in maths, and it was 2% above the national average; and
- Reading – there had been a 3% drop from 2012 and it was just 1% below the national average.

It was reported that overall, performance represented a very positive picture.

- KS4 – 5A* - C including English and Maths, there had been a 3% increase to 62%;
- The number of young people achieving A* without English and Maths was 87%; and
- It was reported that overall, there had been significant improvements across all the key stages;

Mary Murphy, the new principle at Riverside College reported that A level performance and Level 1 and Level 2 this year had achieved a 100% pass rate. A strategy had also been developed for English and Maths re sits. In addition, it was reported that a student from the College had obtained a place in Cambridge University this year and many students had acquired places in Universities throughout the country.

In relation to Environment and Regeneration, the following was reported:-

- Mick Noone had taken over as the Chair of the SSP from Councillor Gerrard. He took the opportunity to thank Councillor Gerrard for the work he had undertaken as the previous Chair of the SSP. It was reported that Shelah Semoff was the new co-ordinator and the membership was currently being reviewed. In addition, it was reported that representatives from health and Cheshire Police were vacant currently and Partners were invited to join the SSP;
- The SSP considered energy efficiency, carbon reduction, sustainable transport, waste management, aspects of planning, the regeneration of towns and Mersey Gateway; and
- The next meeting would be held on 10 October 2013. The following items were on the agenda; Sally Yeoman, Halton Voluntary Action, Wellbeing Enterprises, Norton Priory Update, Funding Packages, Joint Venture and the Review of the Sustainable Community Strategy. Members of the Partnership were encouraged to attend and become involved in the SSP.

In relation to the Safer Halton Partnership, it was reported that a meeting had not taken place since the last meeting of the Board. However, the key issues, included anti-social behaviour in Widnes and Runcorn. It was highlighted that the reason was due to a high level of mini motor use and Cheshire Police were taking a lot of action to deal with the situation. It was noted that this was a very difficult issue to deal with and an innovative approach was being considered by looking at the options of creating facilities where they could be safely used.

The Board was advised that domestic issues had increased during the good weather from neighbour disputes. Discussions were taking place with Halton Housing Trust to work collectively with tenants to deal with this matter.

The Board was also advised that there had been an increase in serious crime in the Borough and the use of violence from gangs on vulnerable people. It was reported that serious action was being taken on this matter. It was also reported that there had been some arrests and convictions for gun crime in the Borough. A multi-agency meeting would be arranged to develop community assurance, to enable people to report any problems and not be intimidated by violent individuals. All Partners, at a high level, were encouraged to attend the meetings which would be organised via Sarah Boycott. The Board noted the importance of stopping such crime at an early stage.

The Partners were requested to consider the new Hate Crime Strategy, it was noted that Halton did not experience a high level of hate crime. However, it was reported that it was on the increase.

Work was taking place with two Cheshire Authorities and Warrington, taking a strategic approach to a number of key areas of community safety; domestic violence and alcohol victim support. It was reported that subject to agreement, there would be a proposal to increase resources in domestic violence as it had a significant impact on the community. Working with the Authorities, Cheshire Police, the PCC and Health, there would be a focus on outcomes in respect of perpetrators – punishment and treatment and the victim, who would come forward more quickly if they knew that the perpetrator would be punished.

It was noted that there had been a series of armed robberies in Widnes from the border of Liverpool. There had been arrests and charges in relation to the offences.

Information regarding the Creamfields event had shown that there had been an increase in the use of drugs. There had been do deaths or serious injuries and one hundred people had been arrested.

There had been a 20% overall increase in demand for services, in particular Cheshire Police in relation to mental health issues. It was reported that this was a national issue and a lot of work was taking place to address this matter. The question was also being asked on whether this should be dealt with by the Police. It was also reported mental health issues impacted on all

the Partners resources and the Police and Crime Panel would be considering how to sustain the current level of resources in the current economic climate. In addition, it was reported that Wesley Rourke would be taking the strategic lead on welfare reform for the Partnership and a meeting would take place in the near future with Partners to discuss the impact of mental health on their resources and how they could support each other. It was suggested that a Cheshire Police representative should attend the Acute Care Pathways launch.

The Director of Public Health reported that a meeting had taken place with Sarah Boycott, Cheshire Police and all stakeholders to discuss serious organised crime. A list had been developed on the sale of drugs; how to recognise the signs of drug use; how to keep safe and how to report securely to the police if required.

It was reported that SPARK (a charity supporting people with learning disabilities) were working with the CCG on six health related comics and a DVD. It was suggested that this approach could be an effective way to get the message across to the community.

In respect of the Strategic Housing Partnership, it was reported that the Hate Crime Strategy had been discussed as part of the constitution and consideration had been given to the reason why hate crime was under reported and actions had been developed. These actions would be followed through at the meeting scheduled on Friday 13 September 2013. Alternative funding sources for affordable housing and a stock take would also be considered at that meeting.

The focus on welfare reforms continued and a Members workshop would take place in October 2013. As a pilot area for the national project, in respect of real life reform, tracking would take place on the impact of people over the next 18 months in order to offset some of the negative media taking place.

There had been positive signs from the Community's Agency in respect of the allocations and Halton Borough Council were thanked for their support.

It was reported that, research had shown that mobile devices were the most effective way of going on line. However, it was reported that the Universal Credit Portal was not mobile optimised. Several letters had been sent requesting information on when this would be available.

Work was also being undertaken in conjunction with health to identify and support customers in respect of health and wellbeing.

In relation to the Equalities, Engagement and Cohesion Group, it was reported that a meeting had not taken place since the last meeting of the Board. Work was taking place on three key issues; a review of the public sector equalities duty; the partnership engagement strategy and work was progressing in developing an event in November with the faith voluntary sector and community partners, which would focus on the safeguarding agenda.

RESOLVED: That the verbal reports be noted.

9 INSPIRING FAMILIES

The Board received a presentation on Inspiring Families which:-

- Set the scene for Inspiring Families regarding, education, youth offending and worklessness;
- Set out the Inspiring Families infrastructure, looking at the data flow (all the data came from different organisations with different systems which made quality data matching very challenging);
- Outlined the existing response, the complexity regarding systems, multiple overlapping, the high costs, families and staff, disjointed assessments and referrals, families falling through the gap, reactive spend and poor tracking systems;
- Highlighted the escalating costs of intervention;
- Gave a snapshot of the volume of contracts dealt within Halton in 12 months, and that demand outweighed the population size;
- Gave examples of how services were not as joined up or as effective as they could be;
- Set out new and improved ways of working;
- Outlined the performance measures and that quality assurance tools and that a 'rag' methodology had been used against Government categories;
- Gave an example and overview of the departmental performance;
- Highlighted the leadership / strategy; the partnerships, the services, how review sessions had been progressed, the processes and resources performance, families voices and people management;
- Demonstrated case studies A and B, looking at the outcomes and cost avoidance;
- Set out the broad overview of the local impact across the partnership;
- Based on national research, gave a breakdown of Halton targeted and reactive partnership costs per year for 375 Inspiring Families;
- Using national research, estimated the partnership costs and the potential savings as a direct impact of Inspiring Families;

- Outlined the differences between the new delivery models and business as usual in three key areas, culture, organisation and finance;
- Set out the service offered, outcomes and success measures and where Halton were now; and
- Highlighted the challenges and opportunities for the Partnership; what was required to go forward; how to strengthen the partnership arrangements; how to develop a common outcome based approach; the introduction of a partnership whole family assessment; how to ensure that commissioning was at the core of the multi-agency development and how to agree to the future sustainability.

The Chief Executive thanked Officers and practitioners and reported that it had been a very powerful presentation. He highlighted the importance of making a difference and improving life opportunities for a significant number of families in Halton. He reported that funding and savings was the key to creating these opportunities.

10 NEW WEBSITE DEMONSTRATION

The Board received a short presentation on the new website. The presentation sought approval to progress the website and review the SCS to make it more accessible.

It was noted that in respect of Health, the priorities would need to match the Health and Wellbeing priorities as set by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

RESOLVED: That the Board agree the progression and format of the website.

Meeting ended at 11.40 am