

HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 5 March 2014 at the Karalius Suite,
Select Security, Widnes

Present:

Board Members:	Councillor Rob Polhill	HBC (Chairman)
	Simon Banks	Halton Clinical Commissioning Group
	Sarah Boycott	Cheshire Police
	Paula Cain	Chamber of Commerce
	Simon Clough	HBC – Halton’s Children’s Trust
	Rev. Jeremy Duff	Faith Communities
	Sean Henshaw	Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
	Mick Noone	HBC Chair E&R SSP
	Eileen O’Meara	Director of Public Health
	Mary Murphy	Riverside College
	Terry Parle	Halton Sports Partnership
	David Parr	HBC
	Janine Peterson	Job Centre Plus
	Noel Sharpe	Halton Housing Trust
	Wesley Rourke	HBC – Chair ELS SSP
	Christine Whittaker	Bridgewater NHS Trust
	Sally Yeoman	Halton & St Helens VCA

Advisors to the Boards Shelah Semoff HBC – Partnership Officer

In Attendance: M. Andrews (HBC), M. Carney (Sefton MBC Chief Executive), L Derbyshire (HBC) and D. Gordon (Cheshire Police)

Apologies for Absence: N. Atkin (HHT), K. Fallon (Bridgewater NHS Trust), J. Rigby (OB Academy) and A. Waller (Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service)

16 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2013 having been printed and circulated were agreed as a correct record.

17 SSP KEY MESSAGES/ISSUES

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, the following was reported:-

- In May 2013, Newcastle City Council had passed a declaration setting out their commitment and action plan to tackle the harm that smoking caused within our communities. This had become known as the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control;
- The new Dementia Strategy had been signed off;
- The Board had received an update on the Autism Self Assessment Framework (SAF). It was noted that the submission would be jointly owned by both the Local Authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group and would be monitored via the Autism Strategy Group;
- The number of Falls in the Borough were reducing as a result of the progression of the Falls Strategy Action Plan;
- Halton Children's Trust had been restructured and new priorities identified. The priorities from 2014 for Halton Children's Trust, were:
 - Integrated Commissioning;
 - Early Help & Support; and
 - Closing the Gap;
- The Board had considered the Halton's Integrated Mental Health and Wellbeing Commissioning Strategy 2013 – 2018.

In relation to Environment, Learning and Skills (ELS), it was reported that the last meeting had been held on 24 February 2014 where consideration had been given to the following key areas:-

- Raising the Participation Age;
- The Advice Service Transition Fund;
- Changes in the Welfare Reforms in respect of work commitment;
- Received a presentation and update on Job Centre Plus changes;
- Received a presentation on the introduction of the Local Support Framework; and
- A European Structural Funds Update.

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

- The specific Joint Strategic Analysis was in its final stages and a number of key themes had emerged that would require exploration. The analysis had shown that Halton had maintained good results across many of the indicators. It was reported that there had been some resistance to change i.e. breast feeding. However, it was reported that the target for breast feeding had been exceeded and Halton had been awarded the Baby Friendly Status Level 2;
- Halton's Children and Young People's Plan 14-17 was in its final stages of drafting. The plan was user friendly, with an interactive

web base technology. It was anticipated that children and families would be involved, particularly in the art work and design. Mark Grady was leading on this matter and details of the Plan would be appended to the minutes of the meeting;

- A Joint Halton Trust and Safeguarding Board event was taking place on 1 May 2014 at 4.30 pm in the Select Security Stadium and Partners were encouraged to attend;
- The Board noted the excellent success of Riverside College's Performance, being 4th in the North West at 'A' level and overall were 23rd out of 318. The Board congratulated Mary Murphy on the excellent achievements;
- It was noted that teenage pregnancies had reduced; and
- The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) had been circulated to all Partners and the Chairman encouraged send their comments to Shelah Semoff by no later than 30 May 2014 so that they could be included in the report that would be presented to the next meeting of the Board in June.

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

- A Special SSP had been held on 7 January 2014 to refresh the SCS as the role and responsibilities of the partners had become outdated. All the objectives had been reviewed and the wording changed slightly to set out how the Partnership could contribute to the objectives. The listed activities had also been considered and refined and now focussed on achievable outcomes;
- At the 26 February 2014 meeting the SSP had considered the following:-
 - Received a presentation on the Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust from the Project Team. An interesting debate had taken place. Stobarts were also keen to consider how they could be involved in it;
 - The European Funding Programme, a priority for the SSP;
 - Received a presentation on Affordable Housing SPD; and
 - Received a presentation on the Regeneration of Runcorn and Widnes.

In relation to Safer Halton Partnership, the following was reported:-

- Widnes Street Pastors had been very successful in providing support to Cheshire Police and issuing people with flip flops and warm

blankets and clearing up glass etc. The scheme had removed some of the pressure from Cheshire Police services. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) had also identified additional funding for the street pastors;

- The new Chief Constable for Cheshire, Mr Simon Byrne had been appointed by the PCC after being approved by the Police and Crime Panel. The Board looked forward to working with him in the future;
- The number of incidents related to anti-social behaviour in the Borough had decreased. The increase previously, had been primarily as a result of neighbour disputes and motor bikes;
- The Local Authority Alcohol Area bid had been approved and it made Halton one of twenty Authorities in the country to receive the additional support for dealing with alcohol issues. An update report would be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Safer Halton Partnership and this Board in the future;
- The White Ribbon Campaign relating to domestic violence had proved to be successful;
- The Pilot involving the police and mental health (mental health nurses were present in patrol cars to deal with mental health issues more effectively) had proved to be an enormous success. The pilot had enabled the police to make a financial saving which would be re-invested back into the service. The pilot had been presented to the Leaders Group and it had been decided to roll out the scheme across the whole of Cheshire;
- A private company had been appointed to address dog fouling and litter throughout the Borough. They had issued in excess of 100 notices to date and the service was being funded via the fines;
- There had been some good joint campaigns – drug dogs had attended pubs and clubs and a number of people had been apprehended, visits had been undertaken with the Gambling Commission and illegals working in accommodation in Halton;
- A strong working relationship had been established with the PCC who it appeared had most of the same priorities as Halton. He was also considering how he would fund the partnership in the future. It was reported that the PCC was looking to develop a needs based approach to funding based on criminal activity. It was reported that the Authority would continue to work very closely with the PCC; and
- Consultation was taking place on the re-location of the Police Station at Widnes to the Select Security Stadium, in the sports bar area. This would replace the police station in the heart of the community, would enable a financial saving and represented a win win situation.

In relation to the Strategic Housing Partnership, it was reported that they had recently reviewed their structures and there would be two main groups. The Housing Partnership would become the Operational Group and the Visioning group would take the strategic lead and report to the Board.

It was reported that a sub group had been formed to look at the early stages of dementia, falls and loneliness. A pilot would be launched in April/May for the next 12 months.

In relation to Equalities, Engagement and Cohesion Group, it was reported that the group had met on 24 February 2014 where a debate had taken place on whether it was worthwhile for the group to continue to meet or not. There had been a dramatic fall in attendance over the last few months and it had been decided that whilst the information sharing was useful, consideration would need to be given as to whether it could be done differently. It was reported that a meeting had been scheduled to take place on 19 May 2014 and a more detailed debate would take place on how it could be put into action reflecting on the Terms of Reference.

It was suggested that the very important aspects of what the group undertake could be incorporated within each SSP rather than having it as a separate meeting. Each SSP would need to have a regard to equalities, engagement and cohesion, if each Chair of the SSP was comfortable with adding it as a separate agenda item in their meetings. It was agreed that the group would establish a template for a standard agenda item and when necessary, specific issues could be raised under the SSP key messages/issues item on this Board.

18 PRESENTATION: SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME

The Board received a presentation from Margaret Carnery, Chief Executive of Sefton MBC, the Merseyside Lead Chief Executive on Serious Organised Crime. The presentation:-

- Detailed the background to the gun crime problem in Sefton - (Spring/summer 2012 – the problem had exploded, could it have been predicted?) A partnership approach was very important as it was a whole community issue;
- Detailed Sefton's comparative performance in respect of firearm discharges and highlighted how fragile the situation was;
- Set out the trend of firearm discharges 2011 – 13 and reported that the spikes had been due to interventions;
- Explained the where, why and when – high levels of deprivation, families were known to all partners, early risk factors, low level anti-social behaviour and low level criminal activity;

- Highlighted it was important to understand why the situation had occurred – sense of belonging, power, respect/identify, unstable family background, previous family members – gang links, boredom and drugs etc;
- The question that was considered – Gangs or Business with Apprenticeships?
- Early community intelligence – a feeling of unrest, the atmosphere had changed, racial graffiti, feeling vulnerable, welcome visible police presence, asking for community meetings, incidents happening frightening communities. Community leadership had proved to be the key;
- Set out a Group Offending Continuum chart highlighting that a lot of research on the issue had been undertaken;
- Detailed the issues that Sefton MBC had faced – there had been only two main gangs with a fluid membership and territory, youths/young offenders 13-15 years of age, drug dealing especially cannabis, a top tier gang which was very complex, young people dealing drugs, a smaller urban street gang float, old disputes which split the bottom tier of the gang i.e shared girlfriends and the community had a lack of confidence that anything would change;
- Set out how they had addressed the issue by establishing three key principles – reduce violence by gangs, increase the communities sense of pride and confidence and helping to keep issues in context and retain Sefton's reputation as a place people wanted to live work and visit;
- Explained what they had done – securing leadership and commitment from the Council and Partners, including the community, identified community leaders, targeted particular areas and individuals using a relentless strategy approach of stem, strength and safeguard. A South Sefton problem profile in conjunction with Merseyside Police and the PCC had also been produced and was updated daily. Work was also taking place with North Liverpool to discuss border working and progress had been made;
- Highlighted that detailed work had taken place with partnerships and roles and accountabilities agreed. Some of the following actions had been taken / developed - Culture clashes had been reconciled, high visibility policing introduced, community leaders established, consistent community assurance undertaken, critical incidents had been effectively managed and developed, a critical incident protocol had been developed, interventions had been commissioned, there were informal volunteer mentoring of gangs and gun crime in and out of prison to provide alternatives to gang and gun crime, an analysis and problem profile intelligence had been undertaken to identify

vulnerable localities and people and individualised packages of support had been developed; and

- Detailed the lessons learned i.e. partnership work, community reassurance, strong leadership, respond to incidents, was essential. It was also essential to target those who engaged in gun crime and target them in partnership with the police who were on the cusp of gun and gang crime.

In conclusion, the Board was advised that gun crime was a national and international issue and it was important to learn lessons and establish long and short term local solutions.

It was noted that specific wards had been targeted and clarity was sought on whether this had resulted in a negative effect in the remaining wards. In response, it was reported that a strong leadership had been developed and excellent community partnerships were in place, with a strong infrastructure of voluntary organisations. Community messages had been developed which brought people together and who had access to information and data and personal support enabling individuals providing the support to be protected.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The presentation and comments raised be noted; and
- (2) Margaret Carney be thanked for her attendance and informative presentation.

19 PRESENTATION: THE LOCAL PICTURE

The Board received a presentation from Sarah Boycott (Cheshire Police), Mike Andrews and Dave Gordon (Community Safety Team – HBC and Cheshire Police) on the current situation in Halton in relation to serious organised crime.

The Board was advised that serious organised crime did not only incorporate gun crime. It was reported that in 2010 a loan shark had been operating in Halton resulting in a suicide. It was highlighted that illegal money lending also destroyed the community.

The presentation:-

- Set out the Government's definition of Organised Crime;
- Detailed the serious organised crime types i.e. drugs, fraud, organised acquisitive, organised immigration crime, counterfeit currency and human trafficking;
- Outlined the national strategy which had been launched in October 2013 by the Home office and which had coincided with the newly

reformed NCA, 4 main principles based on counter terrorism contest work and based on strong partnership;

- Set out the key aims – pursue, prevent, protect and prepare and circulated the serious organised crime strategy chart;
- Explained the definition of success;
- Gave some practical examples of what happened in Halton i.e. benefit frauds, loan sharking, violent debt collections, commercial robberies, cash in transit metal theft, immigration offences, late night refreshment houses, child sexual exploitation (isolated cases) and the cultivation and distribution of drugs;
- Detailed the 2013 organised crime hits in Halton and showed photographs of an incident of gun crime that had occurred, detailed the police response, set out the early partnership support and how the crime had been addressed and gave a summary of the seizure;
- Set out the lessons that had been learned from the incident; and
- Detailed what was required in respect of disruption, enforcement, prevention and intelligence and communications.

The following comments arose from the discussion:-

- It was noted that the Partnership could learn from the experiences of Sefton MBC and the importance of community engagement. It was also noted that a considerable amount of work undertaken in Halton had been built on the lessons learned from surrounding authorities;
- It was noted that the Partnership would need to focus on voluntary and faith sectors and identify community leaders. The importance of all partners being involved and utilising all partners skills, tools and information was also noted;
- The college was supportive of a partnership approach to addressing the issue as it was recognised that some of the young people attending the college could be part of a gang. It was reported that there would be an opportunity to work with the students, including the use of performing arts in schools to get the message across to the young people;
- It was suggested that SPARC could have a role in getting the message across in the Borough as they would be producing several comics, the early draft was titled 'Crime' and could focus on a case study and be accompanied by an animated film, The young group met every Monday evening and were also developing an APP;

- A Health and Wellbeing magazine was being produced on a monthly basis for schools and information could also be incorporated in the magazine; and
- It was noted that Level 1 agreements were in place in respect of sharing information between the Partnership.

In conclusion, it was agreed that the Chief Executive and Sarah Boycott look at a partnership approach to taking the issue forward. It was noted that the partnership would be involved in the development and delivery of the actions/proposals to address serious organised crime.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The presentation and comments raised be noted; and
- (2) Sarah Boycott, Mike Andrews and Dave Gordon be thanked for their informative presentation.

Meeting ended at 11.45 a.m.

To be confirmed as an accurate record