

HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 21 September 2011 in the Bridge Suite, Stobart Stadium, Widnes

Present:

Board Members:	Councillor Rob Polhill (Chairman)	HBC
	Nick Atkin	Halton Housing Trust
	Councillor D Cargill	Police Authority
	Dympna Edwards	NHS Halton & St Helens
	Kate Fallon	Bridgewater Community NHS
	Mike Fry	Community Empowerment Centre
	Rev. Ray Jones	Faith Communities
	Gus O'Rourke	Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
	Terry Parle	Sports Partnership
	Michael Sheeham	Riverside College
	Diane Sproson	Connexions
	Richard Strachan	Cheshire Police
	Jim Wilson	NHS Halton & St Helens
	Sally Yeoman	Halton & St Helens VCA

Advisors to the Boards

Eleanor Carter	HBC
Hazel Coen	HBC
L Derbyshire	HBC
Lisa Driscoll	HBC
Tim Gibbs	HBC
Alan Graham	HBC
Wesley Rourke	HBC
Shelah Semoff	HBC

Apologies for Absence: Beth Bill, Paula Cain, Mariangela Hankinson, Councillor Ron Hignett, Anne McIntyre, David Parr, John Rigby and Steve Spoerry,

15 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2011 having been printed and circulated were agreed as a correct record.

16 VOLUNTARY SECTOR UPDATE (INCLUDING BIG SOCIETY)

The Board received a presentation on the Big Society from Sally Yeoman, Chief Executive Halton and St Helens Halton Voluntary and Community Action (CVS). The presentation:-

- Advised the Members that St Helens CVS and Halton Voluntary Action had merged on 1 November 2010 and covered the two Boroughs of Halton and St Helens;
- Set out quotes on 'The Big Society' which highlighted that there was a general lack of understanding on what it was;
- Outlined the political context of the Big Society in respect of cuts, localism, public service reform and that it was Cameron's big idea;
- Highlighted that in order to achieve the aims of the Big Society there would need to be a localism ethos and decentralisation;
- Detailed and explained what was known at present in respect of:-
 - Communities First;
 - Big Society Bank; (now Big Society Capital);
 - Vanguard; and
 - the Big Society Network;
- Highlighted the potential cost of the Big Society;
- Explained the National Citizens Service
- Highlighted that it would not just affect voluntary sector organisations, as it cut across all areas and other agencies such as health and police would be involved in the Big Society;
- Detailed a number of personal thoughts relating to the following:-
 - Great Brand – no substance;
 - VCS – very negative comments to date;
 - Could abuse the role of the sector, in particular volunteers;
 - VCS could become a Trojan horse for cuts; and
 - There was a need to work with partners.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation be received:
- (2) Sally Yeoman be thanked for her informative presentation.

17 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

The Board considered a presentation which outlined the key findings of the public health annual report. It also provided a commentary on the health of people in Halton and St Helens and an update on a key area of health policy.

The Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2011/12 was circulated at the meeting.

The Board was advised that the key issues of the report were Mental Health and Wellbeing. The presentation included:-

- An outline of the annual report;
- The achievements of 2009/10 as follows:-
 - last years screening and health checks – 13,000 health checks had been carried out and over 1500 people treated;
 - there had been an improvement in the uptake of screening; and
 - a third of young people had been tested for Chlamydia which had improved sexual health and reduced infertility;
- Detailed the main causes of death in Halton and St Helens PCT during 2009 as follows;
 - deaths had been reduced by 70% over the last 10 years;
 - cancer was a bigger cause of death than circulatory disease; and
 - there had been a focus on early checks and cancer was the theme for this year;
- Highlighted that the Partnership would need to build on strengths in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment;
- Explained that mental health and well being covered six areas, all of which had been improved;
- Set out and explained the key issues in community mental wellbeing and resilience;
- Highlighted page 32 of the annual report – the five ways to wellbeing;
- Highlighted the recommendations on Page 24 of the report and asked the partners to consider them; and
- Gave details of deaths by cancer and explained the importance of recommendations 1 and 2 on page 59 of the report in ensuring these were delivered throughout the changes.

It was reported that it was important that SSP's looked at the elements in the report that related to their areas and consider what was being done, how it could be improved so that this information could be used to inform the review.

In conclusion, the importance of ensuring a continuity of focus on community development, prevention and early detection was emphasised. It

was reported that the annual report was a web based document and could be accessed at www.haltonandsthelenstpct.nhs.uk

It was noted that the gap between life expectancy between males and females had been reduced. It was agreed that a summary of these statistics would be circulated to Mr N Atkins, Halton Housing Trust.

RESOLVED: That

- (3) The presentation and comment raised be noted; and
- (4) Dympna Edwards be thanked for her informative presentation.

18 SCS / SSP PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORKS

The Board considered a report on the process for the identification of performance measures and targets for inclusion within the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

The Board was advised that the Sustainable Community Strategy, was a central document for the Council and its partners, which provided an evidenced-based framework through which actions and shared performance targets could be developed and communicated.

The Board was further advised that a corporate template, attached to the report had been designed and brought together all relevant items of performance information that would inform the identification of annual targets for the individual measures contained within the SCS and the Council's Corporate Plan.

It was reported that a summary had been provided in the Appendix to the report of all key measures in the SCS. Details of completed proformas for individual measures were also available on request.

In conclusion, it was reported that a complete list of measures and targets would be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED: That all the measures within the Strategy have appropriately developed annual targets for the period 2011 - 2016 in line with the SCS Delivery Plan be noted.

19 CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY STRATEGY

The Board considered a report which sought the formal adoption of the Halton Child & Family Poverty Strategy.

The Board was advised that since the draft strategy had been reported to the March meeting it had been subject to extensive consultation and had benefited from input from the Children's Trust, particularly the Development Plan. Colleagues had also engaged on drafting the Liverpool City Region Child

Poverty and Wellbeing Strategy and the Halton Child and Family Poverty Steering Group.

The final version of the strategy was circulated at the meeting. In addition, the key changes since the draft strategy in March were:-

- Supporting evidence had been moved from the main body of the strategy to appendices;
- A Vision; and
- A Development Plan.

It was reported that the Development Plan reflected the fact that this was the first time that many of the partners had worked together on this specific topic, and the difficulty in setting concrete actions at this time was highlighted.

Furthermore, the steering group believed that the Development Plan would provide the flexibility needed to remain effective and relevant. One consequence of this flexibility was that there would be a need to undertake further work to integrate the strategy with the emerging sustainable community strategy performance monitoring framework.

In conclusion, it was reported that subject to the strategy securing formal approval and adoption, the next key task for the Child and Family Poverty Steering Group would be to monitor progress against the Strategy and to 'SMART-en' the Development Plan.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the 2011 – 2013 Halton Child & Family Poverty Strategy be formally endorsed and members secure its adoption by their respective organisations; and
- (2) half yearly progress reports be presented to the Board.

20 HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD - UPDATE

The Board considered a report which provided an update on the development of a Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board for Halton and presented the Draft Terms of Reference.

The Board was advised that the Halton Health Partnership (HHP) currently acted as the thematic partnership for the Healthy Halton priority. The Partnership reported into the Halton Strategic Partnership Board as one of the five Specialist Strategic Partnerships (SSPs).

The Board was further advised that the HHP had a strategic responsibility for the Healthy Halton priority and for those elements of work that contributed to the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Local Area

Agreement (LAA). The Halton Health Partnership was currently chaired by the Acting Director of Public Health.

It was reported that health priorities were also addressed by the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board and Children's health issues were included in the work of the Children's Trust and the Children and Young People's PPB.

It was reported that safeguarding was addressed by the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) which reported directly into the Safer Halton Partnership and was a non statutory board. Children's Safeguarding issues were addressed by the Halton Safeguarding Children's Board (HSCB) which was a statutory board that sat alongside Halton's Children's Trust, with each reporting into and providing challenge to the other. The HSCB, in addition also provided an annual report to the Council's Executive Board.

Following an extensive consultation regarding the attached Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 1 to the report, it seemed appropriate to set up a Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board in Halton.

The Shadow Health and Well-being Board would be responsible for guiding and overseeing the implementation of the ambitions outlined in the Health White Paper as well as providing the strategic direction for the Health priority in Halton.

Formal decision making responsibility would continue to rest with the Council's Executive and the relevant governance bodies of the local health services until new legislation was enacted. Transitional governance arrangements were key in establishing the Shadow HWBB, given that Health and Well-being Boards would assume their statutory responsibilities from April 2013. In addition, Overview and Scrutiny issues would remain an integral independent arrangement within the Health Policy & Performance Board.

In conclusion, it was reported that It was proposed that a Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board would be established in October 2011. This would operate in shadow form and a review would be undertaken 12 months after its commencement and a further report to be presented to the Executive on its progress. The current Health SSP would be disbanded and many of their actions embedded into the new Shadow Board.

The Members of the Board welcomed the report and were pleased with the Halton response to the initiative.

It was reported that Noel Sharpe would be the Halton Housing Trust's representative on the Shadow Health and WellBeing Board.

The Board took the opportunity to place on record their thanks to the Health SSP for the excellent work they had undertaken during the last few years. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent on behalf of the Board.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) a new Health and Wellbeing Board will be created in Halton during October/ November 2011;
- (2) the existing Health Partnership will be disbanded with many of it's actions being embedded into the new Health and Wellbeing Board; and
- (3) the new Health and Wellbeing Board will continue the role of the existing Health Partnership in terms of it's relationship to the HSPB and will continue to report into the Board.

21 HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Board considered a report which informed the Partners of progress in undertaking the Governance Review which had been proposed in December 2010 and further refined at the Board Development Day in January 2011.

The Board was further advised that the following areas of governance would be examined and refreshed as necessary as part of the governance review. This would lead to the updating of the Halton Strategic Partnership Constitution and related Terms of Reference for the HSP and SSP Boards:-

- HSPB Governance documentation;
- Specialist Strategic Partnerships (SSPs) Responsibilities;
- Funding & Resource Arrangements to Support the LSP;
- Performance Framework; and
- Partnership Work Programme.

It was reported that Work was already underway in reviewing the Governance arrangements of the HSPB and its supporting partnerships with the intention that the full review would be concluded in the New Year. This would result in a partnership that was robust, fit for purpose and with a defined work programme and strong set of guiding principles.

In conclusion, the Board was advised that the election for the Police Commissioner would now be held in November 2012 and that the returning officer would be David Parr, Chief Executive of Halton Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress made to date on updating and standardising the Governance Documents and comments raised be noted; and
- (2) the proposal to finalise the Review in 2012 when further details of changes in emerging policy are known be endorsed.

22 ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP WORKING UPDATE

The Board considered a report which gave Partners information on the progress being made in undertaking the Enhancing Partnership Working Project in advance of the workshop being held on the morning of 17th October 2011.

The Board was advised that following a bid to the North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (NWIEP), the Halton Strategic Partnership Board had been successful in being awarded 20 days of Local Improvement Advisor advice aimed at assisting the Halton Strategic Partnership (HSP) in improving further how partner organisations share information and work together. The project would provide a focus for support for key themes around leadership, partnership development, service transformation and improved public services.

The Board was further advised that a steering group to oversee the project had been established and a project plan agreed. The project would be completed in October, and the findings, emerging issues and recommendations would be discussed at a practical HSP Board away day in October.

It was reported that some of the key project activities to date included work looking at the Team around the Family approach and the added value it was bringing to support services for children and young people. Findings would be disseminated towards the end of the project in the form of a case study.

Furthermore, a workshop would be convened in September for providers that would map the existing resources and interventions for families with complex needs, and look at how greater collaboration and joined up ways of working might reduce intervention and budgets

The project was also looking at undertaking a Cost Benefit analysis looking at the three key themes of stronger labour force, reducing alcohol related harm and promoting social responsibility. A workshop of partners engaged on the stronger labour force theme had been held in July with a follow up in September. Work was also underway on mapping provision on the other themes.

It was reported that the exercise would not cease in October, but would continue to develop and interventions analysed which would result in a clearer picture of which organisations / services bore the costs and benefits. In addition, it would evolve as a best practice model.

The Board noted the negative impact alcohol abuse had on families from various backgrounds. It was also noted that it would be useful to have an audit of what resources were available and mapping out the issue and associated issues could also be very beneficial.

RESOLVED: That the report and comments raised be noted.

23 HALTON'S RESIDENTS SURVEY

The Board considered a report which informed the Partners inform of the intention to produce a 2011 Resident's Survey.

The Board was advised that the cancellation of the Place Survey by the current Government meant that local authorities would no longer have access to a comprehensive commentary on the views of local residents. The findings from the Place Survey 2008 had been a useful resource for both the Council and its partner organisations and had been used previously to inform performance frameworks (such as the LAA). It was reported that it would be expected that the results would have also informed the new performance frameworks and obtained a better understanding of local resident's opinions on Halton as a place.

The Board was further advised that a re-designed Halton Residents' survey for 2011 would provide a comprehensive picture of what Halton residents thought about the Council, its partners and the services they delivered. In addition, it was hoped that the survey would take place in the Autumn and results available early in 2012.

It was reported that the survey would be sent out the week commencing 26 September 2011. It was noted that Connexions had not been included in section E5 of the survey. In response, it was reported that if it was possible Connexions would be added to the survey.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The proposed content of the survey be noted; and
- (2) when available, a electronic draft survey be circulated to Members of the Board.

24 SUB-REGIONAL UPDATE

The Board considered a report which provided an update on Regional working and recent initiatives that had been announced. The report also focussed on employment learning and skills and regeneration activities which were of relevance to Halton partners.

The Board was advised that section three of the report gave a brief summary of the key policy areas. In addition, it was reported that Halton were being particularly pragmatic in accepting legislation whilst maximising opportunities.

The Board was further advised that Lord Heseltine had taken a key interest in the development of Liverpool City Region LEP. It was reported that the Council were very much involved in the discussions associated with the report that Lord Heseltine was preparing over the next three months on 'non

public cities'. Halton was also instrumental in raising Halton's profile at a region, sub regional and national level.

It was noted that Halton had obtained a significant amount of investment over the last few years which was having a positive impact on the area for local people obtaining employment in the Borough. However, it was highlighted that this would also result in additional people moving into the Borough on a temporary basis, whilst the contractual work was taking place. This, it was reported would put additional pressure on existing resources and consideration would need to be given to reflect the changes. In response, it was reported that consideration would be given to building some of these elements into the Core Strategy.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and comment raised be noted; and
- (2) a further report be presented to a future meeting of the Board.

25 NHS REFORMS: REVIEW OF THE NHS FUTURE FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Board considered a report which provided the Partners with a briefing on the key findings of the NHS Listening Exercise and the Government response.

The Board was advised that on 6 April 2011, the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health announced that they would "Pause, Listen, Reflect and Improve" on plans for reforming the NHS, as set out in the current Health Bill.

As part of this, the Government established the NHS Future Forum- a group of 45 health professionals, patient and public representatives and others with a stake in getting the health reforms right. The Forum was Chaired by Professor Steve Field, immediate past Chairman at the Royal College of GPs.

The scope of the listening exercise was to report back to Government on the following key themes:

- the role of choice and competition for improving quality;
- how to ensure public accountability and patient involvement in the new system;
- how new arrangements for education and training can support the modernisation process ; and
- how advice from across a range of healthcare professions can improve patient care.

The Board was further advised that in their summary report on the listening exercise, the NHS Future Forum indicated that there was universal support for the aims of reform, but the measures themselves had caused deep and genuine concern in NHS staff, patients and the public. In order to address these concerns the Forum proposes a number of changes. As a public service the NHS also required transparency about decision making and expenditure at all levels.

The report recommended changes to address areas of weakness, further clarification where there was a failure to explain, greater safeguards against unintended consequences and further work where there was insufficient evidence for change.

The chair of the forum indicated that it had been a de-stabilising period for the NHS and it was now time to act on the recommendations and move forward to build the NHS of the future.

It was reported that the Forum had made 16 core recommendations, which were set out in the report. The recommendations were widely welcomed by major health bodies and commentators. In addition the report also gave a summary of the key points raised in the Halton Borough Council and Halton & St Helens PCT responses to the listening exercise, the Government's response and the timescale for the changes.

It was also reported that the agenda was changing on a regular basis and the PCT were now operating more and more at a cluster level. In addition, clinical commissioning would be finalised next month.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

26 NORTH WEST FORUM ON AGEING

The Board considered a report which shared the latest minutes from the above forum with Board Members.

The Board was advised that in October 2010, Government Office Northwest had created a new advisory forum looking at issues faced by an ageing population, reporting direct to the relevant minister. Cllr Rob Polhill, as Chair of Halton Strategic Partnership was asked for a Halton representative to sit on the group, to help "form positive relationships".

The Forum was further advised that this request had been handed over to Halton Links who put forward Doreen Shotton. Doreen and other representatives had been asked to ensure they reported back to their strategic groups. The attached minutes are part of that process. Doreen also reported back to the Health SSP.

Furthermore, it was reported that the Forum had only met once before the Coalition Government had decided to close their regional offices, and the Forum was unsure of its position and funding.

They had just recently had confirmation that funding was in place until the end of 2012, and had subsequently held a meeting, the minutes of which were attached as Appendix 1 to the report for the Board's information.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

27 HOT FOOD TAKE AWAYS

The Board considered a report which informed the Partners of a public consultation of a draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): Hot Food Takeaways which was taking place for a six week period from 22 September.

The Board was advised that the comments received at the public consultation stage would be incorporated. The SPD would then be reported back to the Executive Board for a resolution to adopt as a Supplementary Planning Document.

The Board noted that extending licensing operation times had a significant impact on resources. It was also noted that Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service had put up prohibition notices in some establishments as the exit from the accommodation above the premises was through the shop.

RESOLVED: That the report and comments made be noted.

28 LOCALISMS AND OPEN PUBLIC SERVICES WHITE PAPER - UPDATE

The Board considered a report which gave the Partners an update on the legislation currently going through Parliament.

The Board was advised that until the Localism Bill and the attendant Open Public services White Paper were adopted into Law, the exact implications would remain vague. Halton Borough Council and partners were keen to find a sustainable model in which a thriving social enterprise culture could develop and deliver and it was for that reason that preparatory work was well advanced. For example within Halton Borough Council a protocol on how to deal with requests from the 3rd sector for use of Council assets had been agreed, relevant changes had been made to procurement standing orders and training was ongoing for local enterprises to enable them to work through the Invitation to Tender and Pre-Qualification Questionnaire process.

The Board was further advised that Halton and St Helens Voluntary and Community Action had developed the STAR standard which was an externally assessed quality standard that had been designed for anyone involved in delivering services for public benefit and both supports and complemented the developing social enterprise culture.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and

- (2) further reports be presented to the Board as the legislation progresses.

29 LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND

The Board considered a report which informed the Partners of the development of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) and the opportunities and rewards good partnership working could bring.

It was reported that the partnership could contribute and deliver a range of schemes that would encourage and support economic growth, whilst reducing carbon. The Partnership had the next four months to develop the bid before it was submitted. The following were ideas for how Partners could help:-

- LHT, HHT, Riverside, Cosmopolitan, Plus Dane could contribute to a NTT post which would help engage their residents into employment and training opportunities. Also assist in the development of Bike Hubs /clinics for residents;
- BID group – could match fund Cycle Hubs and Travel Planning;
- An opportunity for the Chamber of Commerce to represent the wider Business Community and inform them of the Travel Plan service, and the opportunities to get involved with transport related matters;
- Work in partnership with RSL's to deliver transport information to residents via newsletters and websites; and
- Halton Transport, Arriva, Virgin Northern Rail and Arriva NW Trains to work in partnership to develop Facewatch opportunities in sync with other Facewatch users in the Borough to combat crime and ASB.

The Board was advised that there was a great opportunity to develop the bid application and potentially attract £4.8 million of funding with an estimated match of £2.5 million (total £7.3million) into the Borough. However, it was highlighted that this could not be done in isolation as described in the DfT guidance, it would have to be done in partnership. Partners were encouraged to consider how their organisations could get involved.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) further reports be presented to the Board as the matter progresses.

30 WNF FINANCIAL SUMMARY UPDATE

The Board considered a report which updated the Partners on the spend profile for WNF funded projects for quarter 1 period of the 2011-12 financial year and highlighted a change to the agreed six month review.

The Board was advised that the spreadsheet attached as Appendix 1 to the report showed WNF spend per project for the first quarter of the current financial year, currently showing on the Council's financial system as of 16 August 2011.

The Board was advised that during the summer of 2010, the Partnership had undertaken a full review and evaluation of all WNF funded projects. This had amounted to just over 70 projects running, either fully or partly funded by WNF. The Board had agreed a process and criteria which had been used by all of the SSPs and had resulted in £1.4m being returned to the central pot. The Partnership had then agreed delegated powers to the SSP Chairs to reallocate this funding for the 2011-12 financial year, and this was subsequently done on the 19th January 2011.

The Board was further advised that at the SSPs Chairs meeting in January it had been agreed that the Partnership needed to keep tight control of spend during the 2011-12 financial year and that a full review and evaluation would need to take place after six months.

As part of this process staff who supported the SSPs in terms of finance and co-ordination met on a quarterly basis, and the Partnership Officer had monthly meetings with colleagues from the Council's financial management team.

However, it was reported that it was now felt by Officers that a full review and evaluation of the projects running during this financial year would in fact be a duplication of the work carried out last year, partly because one of the main criteria used to decide what to fund was that it must be an existing project and it was very clear that the process in January 2011 was not a new bidding round. Officers also felt that the results of the review would be too late to be of use in evaluating the overall WNF impact, and that whilst project managers were having to think about possible redundancy notices and termination of their projects, the piece of work didn't seem to be adding much value.

In conclusion, it was reported that it was suggested that rather than a formal review and evaluation of the projects – the tight financial control and overview be continued, which would highlight any slippage that may come back into the central pot, and that this figure be shared with SSP chairs at their next meeting on the 26th October. SSP Chairs may then consider any necessary re-profiling of low performing projects.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 11.10 am