

HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 4 March 2015 at the Karalius Suite,
Halton Stadium, Widnes

Present:

Board Members:	Councillor R. Polhill	HBC (Chairman)
	N. Atkin	HHT
	S. Banks	Halton Clinical Commissioning Group
	G. Batchelor	DWP
	M. Bushell	Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
	Councillor D Cargill	Community Safety Portfolio Holder
	B Dutton	Cheshire Police
	J. Duff	Faith Communities
	K Fallon	Bridgewater NHS Trust
	M. Fry	Community Representative
	E. O'Meara	Public Health
	M. Murphy	Riverside College
	D. Parr	HBC
	C. Pollard	Community Representative
	W. Rourke	HBC (Chair of ELS SSP)
	S. Yeoman	Halton & St Helens VCA

Advisors to the Board:	S. Semoff	HBC Policy and Strategy
	L. Derbyshire	HBC

In Attendance:	M. Mustata	(HHT)
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Apologies for Absence:	S. Henshaw and A. Waller (Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service), M. Noone (HBC Chair E&R SSP), A. McIntyre (Childrens Trust), T. Parle (Halton Sports Partnership) and J Rigby (Orminston Bolingbroke Academy)	
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10 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman of the Board welcomed Superintendent Bill Dutton, Cheshire Police, to the meeting and took the opportunity to thank Chief Superintendent Sarah Boycott for the work she had undertaken during her time with the Board.

The Chairman also reported that it was Kate Fallon's last meeting and also thanked her for her contributions during her time with the Board.

RESOLVED: That the Board place on record a vote of thanks to Sarah Boycott and Kate Fallon for the work undertaken by them during their time with the Board and also gave their best wishes to them for the future.

11 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2014, having been printed and circulated were agreed as a correct record.

12 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:-

- A conference had taken place in June - speakers from all over the country had attended and it had been well attended by Halton delegates; HHT had arranged a speaker on housing and the impact on welfare reforms and Dave Sweeney and Chris Carley from Halton Voluntary Action had delivered a workshop on social value. Copies of the slides were available on request;
- A campaign would be launched across the Borough in the near future on the new Alcohol Strategy, encouraging women not to drink during pregnancy;
- The Primary Care Strategy was being presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board which included a very good model and all providers had signed up to it;
- The new Suicide Prevention Strategy, which sought to lower the rates of suicide had been published. An Action Plan was attached to the Strategy; and
- The Commissioning of Community Pharmacies had been delegated back to the CCG and pharmaceutical assessments were taking place and consideration given to how they would be operated and organised. It had been recognised that they could have a much greater role over the next three years and could undertake a lot of low level prevention work including offering supervised methodone consumption and the morning after pill. It was reported that it was out to tender and most pharmacies in Halton had expressed an interest.

In relation to ELS, the following was reported:-

- Liverpool City Region (LCR) – ELS had a link to a number of initiatives being presented there and a lot of work had been created from the establishment of the combined authority and the growth plan and growth deal;
- A considerable amount of work was taking place on developing skills for the growth plan. Consideration was being given to how there

could be a more streamlined approach to business support services, both in the local and wider community and working with the Chamber of Commerce;

- A workshop had taken place on 24 October 2014, preparing for the adults agenda – the employment pathway. Key areas had been considered; an action plan for the day had been implemented and leadership had been consolidated. Key considerations had been raising aspirations in young people and families with a focus on helping young people into work in order to make them much more employable in the future. The Action Plan would be presented to the ELS SSP on 16 March 2015, outlining mapping work on how resources would be deployed and how the action plan would be delivered;
- There had been significant delays on the introduction of the new European Programme in the City Region and how this impacted on Halton, influencing particularly youth employment; and
- Future considerations – Business Charter for Social Responsibility and Business Enterprise and Start Ups.

The Board noted the benefits of the Mersey Gateway bridge for businesses in respect of consistency and better journey times. It was agreed that information highlighting the numerous benefits of the Mersey Gateway bridge be circulated to all Members of the Board.

In respect of Children and Young People (Children's Trust), the following was reported:-

- Post 16 – 16-18 , there had been a significant increase in the number of students, including students from out of Borough;
- The Department of Education League tables in January – Riverside College was the top college in the country out of 183 colleges on four of the performance measures. In respect of 'A' level performance, the college was second in the country. A strong partnership had also been formulated with St Peter and Pauls Catholic College regarding Post 16 provision;
- Raising Aspirations – The Social Mobility Fund charitable organisation had delivered a presentation to the 11-19 Partnership; and
- The Skills Funding Agency had announced a 24% cut to adult funding and it had not been widely advertised. Lobbying was taking place as it represented a significant cut for Post 16 providers in the country. The Board noted the significance of the cut.

The Chief Executive gave the Board an update on the Children's Services inspection by Ofsted. He reported that the inspection had concluded that Halton's Children's services was probably the best in the North West. It was reported, that the conclusion highlighted that children were safe and were looked after in Halton. He reported that it was a good result for the Borough and partnerships across the Borough who had responsibilities for protecting children. In respect of CSE, he reported that it was a serious issue and Halton's approach to this issue was good; work had taken place with Cheshire Police and a strategy had been created, with a focus on prevention and early intervention. The Board noted the z cards and that a campaign had been undertaken by Cheshire Police raising awareness of CSE. It was agreed that the campaign be circulated to members of the Board.

In respect of Environment and Regeneration, the following was reported:-

- The SSP were working towards finalising the revised SCS indicators. Discussions at the last meeting had included a facilitation role in bringing together different colleagues who deal with fuel poverty issues (including the reduction of CO2 emissions), trying to understand who had responsibility for what, where it was reported, how partners could work together and possible funding opportunities;
- The SSP had received a presentation about recycling activities carried out within Halton and the financial savings that could be made by working with communities and encouraging more recycling and better waste management. The group had agreed to look at the work that each Partner currently undertook with its workforce and service users, looking for best practice and opportunities for joint working. The presentation and report would be presented to the June meeting of the Board;
- Transport Plan for growth had been passed by the Combined Authority Transport Board and would be released in early April;
- The maintenance on the Silver Jubilee Bridge had been agreed and would ensure that it stayed in a steady state of maintenance;
- Halton Curve was currently having its business case developed and Partners included the Welsh Assembly, Merseytravel, HBC and Cheshire West and Chester;
- Green Belt Consultation – a consultation was ongoing regarding the future use of green belt land in Halton. Information was available from the planning pages of the HBC website; and
- There was additional information on the HBC website on a number of ongoing consultations regarding planning matters and it was reported that Partners may find it useful to visit the site or may wish to contact Mick Noone or Shelah Semoff who could direct them to the relevant information.

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

- Legal Highs – it was reported that it was a very difficult area to address as they were not regulated and there was a lot of activity on the High Street with serious consequences i.e. laughing gas in canisters was legal but could have long lasting health issues and even result in death, particularly if mixed with alcohol. The Safer PPB Working Group were undertaking a review on this matter;
- There had been some very high profile stabbings recently, particularly in Widnes, which represented a different crime trend to what the Borough had previously experienced;
- There had been some very good convictions relating to drugs in which perpetrators had been caught and sentenced to two years in prison. The operation had been undertaken in partnership with Trading Standards;
- The Alcohol Licensing Policy was due for renewal in the summer. The three year policy would now include health relating issues. Training sessions would be available on the new policy for Members of the Regulatory Committee; and
- Work was taking place with the PCC on developing an approach to victim services, including developing a victim services portal. It was highlighted that a request for information that maybe useful to victims would be sought from Partners in the near future.

In respect of the Housing Partnership, the following was reported:-

- The Group was due to meet on Friday 6 March 2015 and discussions would take place on how to relocate asylum seekers; better joining up of environmental maintenance regimes; the better care fund; an update on the Halton Living Well Project; joint work from the Health and Wellbeing Strategy in relation to dementia, falls, prevention and loneliness; and
- It was reported that if any significant issues were raised at the meeting the information would be circulated via Shelah to all Members of the Board.

A discussion took place on the implications of the Right To Buy and how the supply of affordable housing had been reduced because of this option. It was noted that Halton had led a campaign to amend or remove the Right to Buy Policy.

In relation to Equalities, Engagement & Community Cohesion, it was reported that the next meeting would be held on 18 May 2015. At the meeting the group would consider a progress report to SCS on how to encourage

equality; the opportunity to share – critical friends; hate crime and look in more detail at some of the challenges of the bisexual and trans gender community in the Borough

RESOLVED: That the verbal updates be noted.

13 PRESENTATIONS

The Board received a verbal update from David Parr giving feedback on the meeting which had taken place in November 2014 with the voluntary faith and community sector, as agreed at the last meeting of the Board. He reported that there had been a general consensus that the voluntary faith and community sector could be empowered to enable them to add greater value in the future. Consideration had been given to how groups in small geographical areas or in specific types of work could work more effectively across the Borough to benefit the whole community. It had been noted that it would require barriers to be broken down and for public sector organisations to work differently to enable greater benefits moving forward together into the future.

The Board also received a presentation from Sally Yeoman, Chief Executive, Halton & St Helens Voluntary and Community Action which gave details on:-

- Developing a collaborative agreement between local government and local communities, which included an update on the Social Value Procurement Framework for Halton; and
- Highlighted key LCR research into the sector – information regarding the scale and scope of the local sector and initial thoughts concerning the development of an agreement on their new way of working.

The Board had a discussion regarding points raised in the presentation in respect of communication and how information could be shared by the numerous groups within the voluntary sector; the diverse range of skills and ideas from people employed in the voluntary sector and the importance and benefits of everyone agreeing to common/shared goals with clear outcomes.

RESOLVED: That the presentations be received and noted.

Meeting ended at 11.35 am