



Cllr. Shaun
Osborne
Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT
SAFER HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD
APRIL 2009 – MARCH 2010

“Safety and people’s perception of being safe in all its form remain a major issue in Halton. The Board has, and will continue to focus its energy on making Halton residents feel safe. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Board members who have worked hard to this end.

The Board has had a very challenging programme of monitoring, scrutiny, and policy development, because ‘Safer Halton’ is a truly cross-cutting agenda. I believe it is making a considerable contribution to improving the way the Council and its partners work together to improve the quality of life in Halton. I thank everybody who has contributed to the work of the Board in 2009/10.” I am particularly grateful to Members who have given up their time to serve on Topic Groups.

Councillor Shaun Osborne
Chairman, Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2009/10 the Board comprised ten Councillors – Councillors Osborne, Stockton, M Bradshaw, Edge, M Lloyd Jones, Morley, M Ratcliffe, Redhead, Rowan, Shepherd, Thompson.

The Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to Community Safety and Drugs Team, Bereavement Services, Registration and Consumer Affairs, Risk and Emergency Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Services, Road Safety and Waste Management.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met 5 times during the year.

The main initiatives of the Board’s work for 2009/10 are as follows: -

Community Safety

The Board continued its scrutiny and policy development role in this crucial area, and two Work Topic groups considered anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse in detail, helping to secure a new IT management system for the latter. The board was active in developing alleygating schemes and contributed to the introduction of minimum standards to combat anti-social behaviour, and the development of the Drug Treatment Plan.

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

The Board scrutinised the Annual Report of Halton's Safeguarding Adults Board and briefed Members on the key issues and progression of the agenda for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults. It considered and supported the appointment of a Dignity Co-ordinator, as well as the additional Detective Inspector post and Vulnerable Adults Officer at Detective Constable level appointed by the Cheshire Constabulary. The Anti-Bullying Policy was also considered by the Board.

Road Safety

A significant amount of work was undertaken in this area. The Board contributed to the consultation on making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World; it endorsed the current programme of road traffic, collision reduction schemes and road safety education training and publicity, as well as a range of targeted schemes and programmes to reduce road casualties. The Board also considered a Pavement Conditions Report to understand the problems that broken pavements pose. As a consequence, footpath reconstruction was prioritised within the Highways Capital Maintenance block budget allocation.

Environmental and Regulatory Service Issues

The PPB monitored the performance of waste management, the implementation of a waste management strategy and re-cycling performance. It also made recommendations about the enforcement of the smoke free provisions of the Health Act 2006, commented on a draft Environmental and Regulatory Services Employment Policy document. The Board supported Food Service Initiatives to improve the quality of food sold in the Borough and to combat obesity by making it easier for consumers to make healthy choices. The PPB also supported the implementation of dog control orders.

Trading Standards Service

The PPB monitored the performance and activities of the Joint Trading Standards Service between Warrington Borough Council and Halton Borough Council. The Board endorsed the current activity which was making a difference in Halton.

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2010/11

The PPB proposed the following topics areas for 2010/2011: -

- Alcohol and its Influences (to include Anti Social Behaviour, Domestic Violence and Crime);
- Continue with the Bereavement Working Party in respect of ongoing issues;
- Waste (to include Recycling, Enforcement and Litter);
- Smoking (to include Trading Standards, Issues relating to cold calling, loan sharks, bogus calling and No Smoking Enforcement): and
- Noise Nuisance (to include Air Pollution and Smell Pollution).

Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board or its work please contact Howard Cockcroft (0151 471

