

SAFER HALTON PARTNERSHIP

At a meeting of the Safer Halton Partnership Tuesday, 23 February 2010 Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present	M. Andrews	Community Safety
	S. Blackwell	Cheshire Police
	D. Cargill	Police Authority
	A. Collins	Police Authority
	S. Eastwood	HBC Health and Community
	C. Frazer	Riverside Housing
	D. Houghton	HBC Policy and Partnerships
	J. Hulme	Halton & St Helens NHS
	D. Parr	Chief Executive
	H. Patel	Citizens Advice Bureau
	N. Sharpe	Halton Housing Trust
	M. Simpson	HBC Committee Svcs
	H. Slater	HBC Community Safety Team
	R. Strachan	Cheshire Police
	K. Thornden	Cheshire Probation
	L. Weston	Cheshire Immigration Team - UK Border Agency
	Cllr Wright	HBC

Action

SHP19 WELCOME

Richard Strachan welcomed everybody to the Group and introductions were made.

SHP20 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Dwayne Johnson, Nick Mannion, Collette Walsh, Councillor Osborne, Richard Forest and Norman Oldham.

SHP21 MATTERS ARISING - FROM MINUTES 17 NOVEMBER 2009

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

SHP22 PRESENTATION - PLACES SURVEY

The Partnership received a presentation from Debbie Houghton – Policy Advisor which outlined the following:-

- the Places Survey was a mandatory requirement from Government;
- the LSP had received the presentation and all SSPs were due to receive it;
- in essence the survey demonstrated how satisfied or dissatisfied residents were with Halton – the results from the Places Survey showed that 71% of Halton residents were fairly satisfied;
- people felt that the areas in Halton that needed to improve were anti-social behaviour issues, teenagers, drugs and rubbish;
- the key priorities for improvement in the Borough were crime, clean streets and activities for teenagers;
- it was noted however that the perceptions of anti-social behaviour had improved over time ranging from 38% in 2006 to 24% in 2008 of people that thought anti-social behaviour was a problem in the area;
- the surveys showed that levels of confidence in local agencies was low, 21% of people in Halton agreed with this statement;
- the key associations to satisfaction with the local area were outlined in the representation;
- the slides detailed people's views on the negatives and positives in Halton and ideas for the best possible future in Halton;
- residents also felt that they had no influence in local decision-making and wished to be actively involved;
- community cohesion was an important factor in relation improving the local area;
- the slides detailed the barriers and enablers in combating the issues raised;
- the key themes from the workshops were that, overall, people were happy living in Halton. The anti social behaviour issues were inter-related and residents needed to feel that they were being involved in and communicated with, which would improve perceptions of what was being done to improve the area which, in turn, would engender more trust of politicians and officials;
- the Partnership viewed a chart which showed the cycle for the Joint Working for Change and what this meant for the partners.
- the slides detailed the hot spot mapping which was evident through the Places Survey; and
- the Partnership was informed of campaigns that other Local Authorities had used.

Arising from the presentation the Partnership discussed the size of the data set, and it was noted that 1,450 questionnaires had been received. The questionnaire's were sent out as a postal survey across the Borough. The mapping exercise was carried out from the postcodes taken from the questionnaires.

The Partnership also discussed the potential of using the data in parallel with other questionnaires that had taken place. In response, it was noted that this would be difficult to do as the questionnaires were all sent out at different times using different methods. However this data could be used as purely complimentary. It was further noted that all the Registered Social Landlords were completing surveys and this information could also be sent to the Partnership to provide more information and another data set for informative purposes.

The Partnership was advised that the presentation could be found on the partnership website: www.haltonpartnership.net.

The Chairman thanked Debbie Houghton for an informative presentation.

SHP23 UPDATE - SAFER HALTON PARTNERSHIP COMMUNICATIONS

The Forum received an update from Helen Slater - Communications Officer for the Community Safety Team. Tabled at the meeting were various press releases in the form of brochures and leaflets which had been created by various agencies which all portrayed a similar message regarding the work being carried out in relation to Community Safety.

The Partnership was informed of the "You said we did" campaign which was carried out as a response to a number of surveys that had been delivered locally, the results of which outlined peoples concerns. .

The Partnership was advised that the Communications Team were to look at more targeted work with an achievable aim in relation to co-ordinating more effectively with partners and agencies and having a consistent brand and message. The Partnership was asked if they had any ideas on how this work could be branded and how it could be carried out effectively, they were to contact Helen Slater with ideas.

It was further noted that the Communications Team was looking to spread the message more broadly for example placing messages on bin lorries and Council vehicles and within other venues in the organisation. Members also queried the use of flat screened televisions in the Direct Links that could be fed with a DVD presenting the message.

The Board was also notified of a Partnership Newsletter which delivered joint messages from all the partners to increase members of the public's confidence. It was also suggested that PCSOs could report the good work being carried out at local meetings. The whole aim of the Communication Strategy was to improve perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Partnership was advised that an amount of budget would need to be put into this exercise which would benefit all the partners involved.

The Chairman thanked Helen Slater for an informative update.

SHP24 TASK GROUP UPDATES

The Task Groups provided updates for the third quarter which were circulated and taken as read. In particular, it was noted that:

- in relation to Performance Management it was noted that indicators NI39 would not be met due to the time lags involved. The report outlined what the Performance Management Team were doing to meet various targets;
- in relation to NI40 the Partnership was advised that this target was set by the Home Office for the amount of heroin and crack users that should be in treatment. It was reported that Halton had 85% of heroin and crack users in treatment and it was doubtful there were many more users in the Borough that were not in treatment. Therefore it was difficult to meet this target;
- there was a Partnership Away Day planned for the 19th March to discuss what the Partnership could do collectively over the year to address any issues and develop a Partnership Action Plan;

- in relation to anti-social behaviour, people were encouraged to report this and the expectations were raised of what people should and shouldn't tolerate in communities;
- with regards to alcohol there was generally a good picture across the Borough and a number of operations had been carried out, the key issues were highlighted in the report;
- the Crime Action Group had facilitated days of action for car crime and burglary in Windmill Hill and were continually promoting the preventative measures and ongoing awareness of community safety issues;
- concerning domestic abuse, it was reported that there were improved outcomes in terms of the courts hearings. There were a number of repeat offenders as 12 – 14 cases kept returning to the system, this would be investigated further;
- there was a stepped change for the Drugs Task Group in terms of performance which illustrated they were the currently at the leading edge for safeguarding children. There was a Job Centre Plus Advisor working within Ashley House to encourage users into work;
- in relation to engagement, cohesion and liveability, the group was monitoring emerging trends of hate crime and there were no exceptions to report;
- as of 1st April 2010 locality working arrangements would take over from Neighbourhood Management. Debbie Houghton agreed to seek an update from Rob MacKenzie and attached as an appendix to these minutes was a locality working report. It was further noted that an item regarding this subject would be placed on the agenda for their meeting in May;
- positive operations had been carried out using Community Payback improving the Halton Lea area and a Dispersal Order was in place in Sunningdale in Upton, Widnes;
- in relation to POPO it was noted that the team had identified a number of individuals whose offending behaviour was influenced by their addiction to gambling. A provider was being used for gambling

support and early indications showed that offending behaviour had reduced. The set target reduction in re-offending was 19% and it was noted that the group were on track to meet this target;

- with regard to reducing re-offending, it was noted that in terms of the framework there wasn't a "Halton specific" approach. However, this had been devised and particular reporting mechanisms were implemented. The group also considered the Re-offending pyramid and the Reducing Re-offending Governance structure was included in the report.

SHP25 WNF ALCOHOL PROJECTS

The Partnership considered a year to date report of the Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) for Alcohol Projects which outlined that, for the period 2008/09 to 2010/11 £1,130,000 of WNF was agreed to support a range of projects and interventions to address alcohol related harm. The nine projects were outlined in the report for consideration. It was reported that the Alcohol Intervention Team were in the process of receiving a tender for a Tier 2 alcohol service which was due to close on the 22nd March, there were currently 5 interested providers.

In relation to preventative services for harmful drinkers there was a 6 to 13 week intervention scheme where advice was provided.

It was further noted that nurses in A and E were specifically focussed on alcohol harm and reduction which would speed up the waiting times for A and E and free up valuable doctors' time.

The Partnership was advised that the team had secured funding of £3,500 funding from the Home Office in order to implement a responsible retailer awareness scheme and make retailers socially aware of the responsibility for sale of alcohol.

The future output and outcome measures were outlined in the report in addition to a spend profile which the Partnership agreed.

It was further noted that all Project Managers were responsible for providing evidence of impact on target on a quarterly basis.

SHP26 SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Partnership received a report detailing the key issues and progression of the agenda for the protection of vulnerable adults in Halton. It was reported that Dwayne Johnson, Strategic Director had taken over the Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) to increase the level of leadership, link in more firmly with related forums and take forward the portfolio.

The SAB's Annual Report for 2008/9 had been published and was available in easy read and regular version at the website which was detailed in the report.

It was further noted that an inspection of Safeguarding would be undertaken in 2010 and further details would be reported when confirmation was received.

SHP27 CROSS GOVERNMENT HATE CRIME ACTION PLAN

The Partnership considered a letter from the Government Office for the North West (GONW) which outlined the need to improve efforts to prevent hate crime and to provide hate crime victims with a consistently high quality service, the Government had launched a new Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan which was appended to the report for information.

It was further noted that the Home Office had provided comprehensive guidance for Crime Reduction Partnerships and Halton needed to implement a Hate Crime Action Plan and consider delivery of this. The Partnership was advised that there were meetings being held in order to discuss improving the awareness of this in addition to crime reported.

SHP28 SHP FINANCE 2009/2010 & 2010/2011

The report outlined the allocated resources that the Partnership received from the Halton Strategic Partnership Board for 08/09, 09/10 and 10/11. It was reported that each of the Project Managers and Chairs of the Safer Halton Task Groups had been asked to identify the various likely financial position at the end of this financial year 2009/10. In particular they were asked to identify any underspend or overspend that had occurred and any carry over from their

projected spend for this year. Appended to the report was a table which set out the spend profiles as they were currently projected at the 09/10 year end.

It was further noted that it was fundamental to have a process in place for monitoring the funds and to spend the money. The Group would be looking at what WNF was available and the LPSA Reward Grant Scheme based on the Partnership being able to spend what had already been given. The Partnership considered a summary of carry over requests which would be taken to the LSP to seek authorisation to carry over the monies. Following consideration of the request from Project Managers to carry forward funding from 09/10 to 10/11 the Partnership agreed to approve the requests.

SHP29 JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Partnership considered a report which outlined what a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment was. It was noted that there was a statutory duty upon Crime and Disorder Partnerships to produce a strategic needs assessment, to help identify priorities for the Partnership and inform Partnership action. This assessment had to be produced on an annual basis and work was currently under way in compiling information. All partners were reminded to send information to Mark Riley, the Partnership Analyst as soon as possible as this data was vital to the production of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

The Partnership was advised that the statutory framework required Partnerships to include components in the Strategic Assessment which were outlined in the report for information.

It was further noted that at the Away Day on 19th March key actions would be pulled together to ascertain what could be done to make a difference in the key areas.

The Partnership was reminded that the aim was to finalise the JSNA document by the end of March 2010.

SHP30 AOB

At the close of the meeting the Chair wished to note the massive amount of commitment and hard work and remarkable success carried out by the Partnership including

frontline staff and the Officers responsible for reporting.

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Meeting ended at 4.15 p.m.