

HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 1 December 2010 at the Bridge Suite,
Stobart Stadium

Present:

Board Members:	Councillor Rob Polhill	HBC
	(Chairman)	
	Colin Billingsley	Job Centre Plus
	Dympna Edwards	NHS Halton & St Helens
	Mike Fry	HBC
	Rev. Ray Jones	Faith Communities
	Chris Koral	Northwest Development Agency
	Councillor Morley	HBC (Substitute for Cllr Hignett)
	Terry Parle	Halton Sports Partnership
	Richard Gorst	Cheshire Fire Service
	Noel Sharpe	Halton Housing Trust
	Richard Strachan	Cheshire Police
	M ????	PCT (for A Burgess)
	Jim Wilson	NHS Halton & St Helens

Advisors to the Boards

David Parr	HBC
T Gibbs	HBC
A Graham	HBC
Rob Mackenzie	HBC
W Rourke	HBC
Shelah Semoff	HBC
L Derbyshire	HBC

Apologies for Absence: N Atkins, A Burgess, P Cain, D Dalby, B Edwards, Councillor Hignett, J Lappin and M Sheehan.

33 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2010 having been printed and circulated were agreed as a correct record.

In respect of Minute No: 22 – Annual report from the Director of Public Health – be amended to read “It be noted that alcohol harm reduction remained a high priority and had been included in last years annual report”.

34 4 11 10 DP LETTER TO SSP CHAIRS RE 2010 SPENDING REVIEW - WNF (2)

The Board considered a letter to the SSP Chairs from the Chief Executive on the 2010 Spending Review – Working Neighbourhoods Fund. The SSP chairs were each requested to report back on the following items:-

- WNF Funded Projects – the amount of committed funds remaining until the end of the financial year;
- The amount of funding not committed and which could be returned to the Partnership fund;
- The number of staff at risk; and
- To share what areas of priority the SSP's were going to proceed with post March 2011 and how they would be funded.

The SSP chairs each gave a verbal report on their respective areas of Healthy Halton, Children and Young People, Safer Halton, Employment, Learning and Skills and Urban Renewal. At the end of the discussion, the impact the loss of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund from April 2011 would have on services was noted.

The Partners noted the reasons and the importance of not committing any additional funding at this time. It was also noted that there would be a clearer picture of what funding would be available early in 2011.

The Partners were advised that a half day workshop had been arranged on 19 January 2011 to consider the best way forward in the future for the Partnership in order to benefit the residents of Halton.

It was reported that Job Centre Plus offered a redundancy support service for anyone likely to be at risk of redundancy. Therefore, Job Centre Plus should be the first point of contact.

RESOLVED: That the verbal reports and impact of the loss of the Working Neighbourhood Fund would have on services from April 2011 be noted.

35 GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Board considered a report which explained that the context in which Halton Strategic Partnership operated was changing. An evolving financial and policy position required that the Partnership adapted its governance documentation to remain current and fit for purpose. In order to achieve this, the report proposed a formal refresh of appropriate governance documents. The report also asked the Partners to comment on the framing questions set out in Section 4 of the report.

The Partners were advised that the Governance Refresh 2011 offered all partners the chance to influence the format of the Partnership so that it continued to benefit all partner organisations and delivered improved services for the people of Halton. In conducting the refresh the principles set out in the

[Working Better Together](#) guide to managing local strategic partnership will be followed and the [The Good Governance Standard for Public Services](#) (supporting the [Nolan Principles of Public Life](#)) would be adhered to which would:

- Focus on the organisation's purpose and on outcomes for citizens and service users;
- Perform effectively in clearly defined functions and roles;
- Promote values for the whole organisation and demonstrating the values of good governance through behaviour;
- Taking informed, transparent decisions and managing risk;
- Develop the capacity and capability of the governing body to be effective; and
- Engage stakeholders and making accountability real.

In order to help the debate, partners were asked to reflect on the following questions:-

- Why do we need the Halton Strategic Partnership;
- How should the HSP work in the future; and
- What would you like to bring to the HSP.

It was reported that a morning workshop would be held in January 2011 to examine the drivers for change and the Partners response to them as a partnership. The outcome of the workshop would guide the Governance Refresh. The updated governance documents were set out in Table 1 to the report and would be available for review and comment at the January workshop. The invitation to the workshop was extended to all Members of the Board.

In addition, the draft agenda comprised of the following items:-

1. Update on government announcements and public sector architecture;
2. Role and purpose of the HSP;
3. Partnership funding and resource arrangements;
4. Performance and accountability framework to deliver the Sustainable Community Strategy; and
5. Partnership Work Programme for 2011-2016.

It was noted that there was an opportunity to develop the format of the Partnership in order to achieve the best for Halton and its residents.

It was suggested that additional questions could be added to the list for consideration as follows:-

- What motivations kept the Partnership together?;
- What barriers were there to keeping the Partnership together?; and
- What would the Local Authority be like without the Partnership?

The Partners were encouraged to consider the questions and send their thoughts into the Partnership Team before the workshop in January 2011. This would enable the team to commence with an initial structure for the day.

In conclusion, it was reported that the Governance Refresh 2011 would report back to the Board in March 2011 with a view to the updated arrangements being implemented by April 2011.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the commencement of the Governance Refresh 2011 be endorsed;
- (2) the comments made on the framing questions in Section 4 and the attached HSP Governance Refresh 2011 Principles set out in Appendix 1 to the report be noted;
- (3) Board Members attend a workshop to be held in January 2011 to consider strategic drivers for change and the Partnership response to these drivers; and
- (4) The Board receives the updated governance documents at its meeting in March 2011 and gives consideration to their adoption.

36 MY HALTON: FEEDBACK FROM 2010 EVENT, DECISION FOR 2011 EVENT

The Board considered a report which gave feedback to partners on the "My Halton" event which took place on Friday 29 October 2010.

It was reported that there were two considerations. Firstly the feedback that had been received to take into account for any future event and secondly the budget for running such an event.

For the event, a budget of £22,000 had been made available from Halton Strategic Partnership, compared to a £26,000 spend in 2009.

The Partners were advised that the main focus of the day was information and fun activities which took place at the Stobart Stadium Halton. Outreach took place in both Runcorn (at Trident Retail Park) and Widnes (at Greenoaks / Morrissons). The event took place from 12pm until 4pm on Friday 29 October 2010 during the half-term week. In addition, it was reported that the event had also been used for public consultation for the Strategic Partnership's new Sustainable Community Strategy (and the Local Transport Plan 3 and Core Strategy).

The Partners were advised that the event had been co-ordinated by Halton Strategic Partnership and the Council's Communications & Marketing team, alongside the support of a range of colleagues from across the partner organisations.

Feedback was taken from members of the public, both about the event and about life in Halton. Stallholders also gave their views on the event.

It was reported that the total number of people attending the event during the afternoon was 594 and public feedback was as follows:-

- “What was the worst thing about the day?”

Most people left this blank or said “Nothing.” Individual responses included: “not enough time”, “too hot” and “noise from the DJ”.

- “What was the best thing about the day?”

Popular responses included: the Children’s entertainment and/or balloons, the fashion show, the variety of stands and information, face painting and the recycling stand.

The stallholder feedback was as follows:-

Unpopular aspects of the day:

- Their stand’s location (too noisy/too quiet);
- Parking;
- Timings (12pm until 4pm) including lack of a lunchtime;
- More families than adults/older people;
- No food; and
- Relatively quiet outreach at Widnes.

Popular aspects of the day:

- The entertainment (Halton’s Got Talent, fashion show, face painters);
- It was free;
- Networking opportunities with other services;
- The turn out;
- The informality;
- Well organised (both before and during);
- Stadium as a venue; and
- Face-painters at the Runcorn outreach site.

In conclusion, it was reported that if the decision was taken to run an event, an early agreement of a set budget would be necessary to allow planning to start as soon as possible.

This year’s allocated budget was £22,000 from the Partnership Core budget, drawn from the Working Neighbourhoods Funding. However, it was felt that the Halton Strategic Partnership’s work had been showcased well and at a cost of just under £19,000 in total. This represented an under-spend by at least £3000.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and comments made be noted; and
- (2) the Board place on record their congratulations to everyone that had been involved in the organisation of the My Halton event for their excellent achievement.

37 DATA SHARING AND A CUSTOMER CENTRED APPROACH

The Board considered a report which provided partners with an update on the progress of adopting a customer centred approach to partnership work in Halton, based on the Total Place concept.

The Board was advised that the Total Place approach looked at the way in which the whole range of public service delivery bodies used public money to deliver services in a particular area, with a view to identifying ways of improving services and making savings by working together to improve outcomes and eliminate duplication. The approach started from the viewpoint of the citizen or service user in assisting to break down organisational and service silos, removing confusion and duplication. It required strong collective leadership from the service delivery bodies acting together.

The Board was further advised that by taking this approach savings could be made. However, Halton was not starting from scratch, as there were already many examples of joint working, pooled budgets and user centred services.

The approach, it was reported would require address level data from partners so that there could directly focus work around individuals. However, there were likely to be data protection issues to be considered in sharing data across partners. Examples of the types of data that partners may want to consider providing were as follows:-

- Council Tax/Housing benefit data - full address data;
- Care First - Vulnerable children - full address;
- Care First - Adults receiving services - full address;
- Pupil database - free school meal eligible pupils by address;
- Job Centre Plus data - addresses of long term unemployment claimants, will require business case to DWP;
- Police offender data - full address data;
- Youth Offending data - full address data;
- Alcohol Admissions - Collette Walsh to provide frequent flyers data;
- Drugs and domestic abuse- addresses of individuals in treatment;
- Connexions - NEET addresses; and
- Fire Service - Home safety check addresses.

The importance of the Total Place approach and that it was already happening in Halton at a low level was noted. The difficulties in overcoming the data sharing barriers was also noted.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and work that has been taken to date be noted;
- (2) the data sharing and the way forward be agreed; and
- (3) Partners identify a data lead within their organisation.

38 CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY UPDATE

The Board considered a report which gave details on the progress and developments since the previous report in September 2010.

The Board was advised that since the last report in September 2010, a multi-agency Child & Family Poverty Group had been established to oversee the development of the Halton Child & Family Poverty strategy.

It was reported that receipt of the needs assessment was slightly delayed and a brief summary of its key findings would be circulated to all Members of the Board.

It was also reported that anyone not represented on the Group could leave their details at the end of the meeting.

The Board was further advised that a strategy development workshop was being arranged with the purpose of taking the findings of the needs assessment to help shape what the key priorities in the strategy should be. Invitations had already been sent out to relevant key partners.

In addition, it was reported that the key milestones over the next six months were as follows;

- Publication of the full Halton Child & Family Poverty Needs Assessment - December 2010; and
- The drafting and adoption of Halton Child & Family Poverty strategy - spring 2011.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

39 WNF FINANCIAL SUMMARY UPDATE

The Board considered a report which gave an update on the latest spend profile for WNF and to draw to their attention to other financial matters.

The Board was advised that the attached spreadsheet (Annexe A) showed SSP WNF spend up to 16th November 2010. It showed expenditure for Quarters 1 and 2 of the 2010 -11 financial year. It was noted that not all of the Q2 expenditure was currently showing, because of the time lag in processing retrospective invoices.

The Board was further advised that at the moment the spend profile was showing 44.55% of the 2010-11 revised allocations. A previous item on the agenda had considered how much of the remaining 55.45% of funding was actually legally committed.

It was reported that Board Members may wish to consider an electronic update for Quarter 3 spend at the end of January 2011, as the next Board meeting (2nd March 2011) was particularly close to the end of the financial year.

In conclusion, it was reported that at the moment spending was according to profiles and monitoring would continue to ensure it stayed as such. This, however, was subject to any further decisions regarding de-committing or a re-profiling spend.

It was suggested that when the Partnership had a clearer picture of what funding would be available it may be necessary to hold a 'special meeting' of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 10.45 a.m.