

HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 10 June 2015 at the Karalius Suite,
Halton Stadium, Widnes

Present:

Board Members:

Councillor R. Polhill	HBC (Chairman)
C. Alonso	Community Representative
N. Atkins	HHT
S. Banks	Halton CCG
P. Cain	Halton Chamber of Commerce
Councillor D Cargill	Community Safety Portfolio Holder
J. Duff	Faith Communities
B. Dutton	Cheshire Police
S. Henshaw	Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
D. Houghton	Children's Trust
M. Murphy	Riverside College
E. O'Meara	Director of Public Health
T. Parle	Halton Sports Partnership
W. Rourke	HBC (Chair of ELS SSP)
C. Scales	Bridgwater NHS Trust
D. Sweeney	Halton CCG
S. Yeoman	Halton & St Helens VCA

Advisors to the Boards

R. Rout	HBC
S. Semoff	HBC Policy and Strategy
L. Derbyshire	HBC

In Attendance:

N. Renison	HBC
L. Driscoll	HBC
L. Thompson	NHS HALTON CCG OBSERVER
E. Roberts Smith	HBC
N. Goodwin	HBC

Apologies for Absence: M. Fry (Community Representative), A. McIntyre (Children's Trust), M. Noone (HBC Chair E&R SSP) and D. Parr (CX HBC).

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2015, having been printed and circulated were agreed as a correct record.

3 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:-

- The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) had held a development day on The One Halton Programme. The One Halton Programme was an overarching framework to deliver a collective mandate for joint action across Halton against a jointly agreed set of strategic priorities. With a focus on primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, it created a holistic way of working in which all local organisation, both statutory and non-statutory, co-ordinate their approach and services to managing the health and well-being needs of local people;
- There had been a new health summary for Halton from the Department of Health which had wider implications;
- Child Poverty had slightly reduced in the Borough. However, the number of statutory homelessness and violent crime had reduced slightly;
- Long term unemployment had reduced by 4 % but this could be due to the change in the way it was measured;
- Smoking Prevalence - Halton was now at the National Average at 18.4% which was having a positive impact on heart and cancer rates; and
- The next HWBB would look at priorities in the Borough; accelerate work that was progressing well and cease things that were not working in order to meet the financial challenges and the increased demand on services.

In conclusion, the Board discussed the excellent progress that had been made on the Health agenda in Halton to date and recognised that it was as a result of excellent partnership work.

In relation to ELS, the following was reported:-

- Two bids had been submitted on behalf of Partners; The European Social Fund The Ways to Work (WtoW) Programme (Approximately £1m ESF) and the Business Support ERDF (Approximately £500k);
- The Halton Business Awards were now well established and highly regarded as part of the business scene in Halton. It was organised annually by Halton Chamber of Commerce in association with Halton Borough Council and were a hugely positive statement of support for the local economy and aimed to recognise and reward excellence in business. The Awards process had culminated in a glittering gala dinner and awards presentation held on Friday 24 April 2015. Each of the Awards were highly sought after. The numbers of applications

from businesses and the number of guests at the gala dinner had both increased significantly over the last three years and 270 had attended this year an increase on 240 last year;

- Mersey Gateway Project: Working Groups and SLA's – The Board noted the employment and skills update;
- Information on road closures/progress was available on the www.merseygateway.co.uk/down-your-street/ website and it was reported that this could be circulated to Members of the Board on request;
- A Halton Work Skills & Enterprise Event was taking place on 26 June 2015, at the Select Stadium, Widnes, at 9.30 am – 14.15 pm. All schools were being invited to attend and display stands from HEP Members were welcomed;
- Children in Care: Care Leavers EET – Education, Employment and Training was currently at 65%; 9 young people were classed as NEET Care Leaver Apprentice Scheme, 4 apprentice placements had been paid for and delivered by Children's Social Care;
- Volition Project – This was a 10 week programme based at Liverpool Cathedral and enabled a wide variety of opportunities for volunteer placements;
- Princes Trust – Business Start Up Support for Halton Residents – involved a 4 day intensive course. Funding had been reviewed/discussed for business start-up loans of £500-£7,500 which was repayable over three years or seven years for the higher amount;
- Get Started Programme – Work had taken place with employers to provide short courses that developed young people's skills in specific sectors and supported them into jobs; and
- A4e – Business Start Up Support for Halton residents – support was available to under 19's who were unemployed.

The Board discussed the 24% cut in the Adult Learning Funding and the significant impact it would have on adults in the Borough.

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

- There had been a presentation on One Halton from the CCG regarding the transformation programme;
- The Child and Family Poverty – Closing the Gap – A proposal had been taken forward with the Director of Public Health to form a newly

combined group. If approved by all relevant bodies, it would sit under the HWBB to ensure full representation from Adult and Children's Services;

- Ofsted Single Inspection Framework – Halton had been subjected to a rigorous inspection involving 11 Inspectors. Halton had received three 'good' judgements and two that required improvement, giving an overall grading of 'requires improvement'. The final report was published on 3 February 2015 which noted a number of key strengths and areas for development. The key elements from the Action Plan were highlighted and noted. All priority actions would also be cascaded out to all Partner Organisations to ensure the changes took place. Gerald Meehan had met with an Inspector from Ofsted regarding the Action Plan and at the next meeting, the Council must demonstrate that their comments had been addressed;
- SEND Reforms Update – SEND high needs had re-tendered on all short break services in Halton to give more short breaks for more young people whilst reducing costs. Successful providers had been Halton Play Council. Core Assets and Halton Speak Out;
- Children & Young People's Plan Annual Review 2015 – It had been agreed and was available on the Children's Trust website;
- The Board had received a presentation on the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) Outcomes; and
- A Halton Young Carers Strategy had been developed.

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

- The SSP meeting in March had been postponed until May 2015;
- A visit to the Bridge had been organised for 24 June 2015;
- LCR – There had been four cycling and walking schemes approved. Two would be completed this year (A56 to Junction 11 on the motorway) and Ditton Roundabout to 3MG then on to the Jaguar Plant;
- The Local Sustainable Transport Plan had come to an end and had been very successful. The 200 bus service would continue as funds had been identified;
- At the last SSP meeting they had received a presentation from Isabelle Mason regarding air quality in the Borough. It was suggested that this be presented to a future Board meeting; and
- The SSP had also received a presentation from Wesley Rourke on Daresbury; the history and the current joint venture approach.

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

- Alcohol Harm - Enforcement Actions - An Action Plan had been issued regarding The Royal, Runcorn following an underage drinking incident;
- Formal Premises Closure Orders – A three month suspension had been issued (Carlos Pizza, Runcorn) for employment of illegal workers. The appeal had resulted in a requirement for the premises to close at 11pm;
- Pub Watch – both schemes were actively participating;
- Halton Alcohol Enquiry – A presentation had been given and questions answered on licencing enforcement. An event had been held on 4 June and the recommendations had been based on the residents feedback;
- More prevention activity had taken place which had been delivered through Public Health in Education settings;
- Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour had improved significantly on the same quarter last year and was the lowest for five years;
- There had been one unauthorised encampment which had represented a small disruption;
- ASB and Victim and Witness Support Services – 35 individuals were receiving support and 21 clients support cases had been closed;
- Domestic Abuse – There had been an increase in the number of domestic abuse incidents reported in the Borough. This was viewed as a positive as it represented better reporting and more accurate data;
- Substance Misuse – Halton had an effective engagement rate of 97.6% for problem drug users;
- Legal Highs – A CRI workshop had been delivered. The Board discussed the challenges of Legal Highs and the number of fatalities and incidents that had been reported as a result of their use. The Board noted that they were widely available on the internet and in shops and new ones were being produced every month. It was reported that the Council had banned legal highs in all Council venues and areas and that the Safer Policy and Performance Board had established a Topic Group to consider ways of dealing with this issue.

The Board noted the excellent work that had been undertaken by Cheshire Police in respect of anti-social behaviour and burglary in Halton.

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

- The Housing Associations had met in May 2015 to look at the opportunities of the Mersey Gateway Project and how to link communities into these opportunities;
- Universal Credit – HHT had started to see the impact of Universal credit and discussions had taken place on how this would impact on the Borough along with the reduction in the benefit cap;
- Better Care Fund – Front Line Housing Staff had received force prevention and dementia training and how to engage with customers in their homes in order to ensure people take up services that they require;
- There had been a general review of Housing Group works as only three landlords regularly contributed;
- A discussion had taken place on the extension of the right to buy scheme and it had been identified a 5:1 ratio on a new build after a house had been sold under the scheme. It had been noted that replacement was not a reality and there would be a rapid depletion of quality affordable rentable housing in the Borough;
- HHT were one of ten piloting a new regulation. A report would be presented to the Board at a future meeting; and
- The impact of the 'Bedroom Tax' was discussed and it was noted that larger properties in some areas of the Borough were hard to let and some families were moving into smaller properties.

In relation to Equalities, Engagement & Community Cohesion, it was reported:-

- The group had met on 18 May 2015 and the main issue had been regarding challenging the information provided in the SSP Progress Reports concerning how and what engagement activities Partners said they were doing. There was no evidence that this was happening and the Group had agreed to update the Engagement Toolkit which was available on the Partnership website;
- The group had received an interesting presentation regarding the survey that the Youth Cabinet had undertaken regarding Homophobic Language in Schools. Results were yet to be finalised and shared, but starting to show that teachers felt that they needed more support in how they challenged the language used. The Youth

Cabinet were working with LGBT NW to develop some training resources;

- The Stand Up 2 Racism project had developed some excellent training resources for staff, and the principles could be shared across the protected characteristics. Once the survey results were ready, a further report would be brought back to the Board;
- Hate crime reporting was increasing, which was actually a positive step forward as it demonstrated an increase in the confidence to report. In the first quarter of this calendar year, for Northern BCU (Warrington and Halton) there had been 5 Disability, 6 Homophobic, 52 Race and 14 other (Religion and Transgender). It was reported that approximately 35% of reported incidents led to a criminal conviction. Cheshire Police were also working, with Partners, towards an event in October aimed specifically at schools and increasing awareness of what constituted a hate crime and what should be done about it; and
- HBC and Halton's Youth Cabinet were involved with planning an LGBT Hate Crime Conference on the 30 July in Liverpool, which had been sponsored by Merseyside's PCC and the Crown Prosecution Service which covered both Merseyside and Cheshire.

RESOLVED: That the verbal update reports be noted.

4 DIGITAL ECONOMY AND INCLUSION STRATEGY

The Board considered a report and presentation which explored the opportunity of developing a shared and complementary approach by partners towards digital economy and inclusion in Halton.

The Board was advised that in July 2014, the digital skills charity, Go-ON UK (the successor to Race Online) with support from a number of public, business and third sector partners launched a 6 month campaign in North West England. Go-ON identified that 1 million adults in the North West (1 in 5) lacked basic online skills such as how to send and receive an email, use a search engine and complete online forms. Additionally Go-ON identified that 38% of small businesses and charities also lacked an effective online presence.

The Board was further advised that to coincide with the Go-ON campaign, the Council had undertaken a review of its own approach to the digital skills agenda.

It was reported that the Council had established an internal 'Digital Economy and Inclusion Virtual Team' to further develop, coordinate and deliver the Council's contribution to the digital skills agenda in Halton. The structure together with its drivers and its governance was set out in Appendix A to the report. In addition, it was reported that to better understand the 'digital offer' a

mapping exercise had been undertaken of existing Council provision and facilities which was set out in Appendix B to the report.

Partners were requested to acknowledge the shift to a digital society; agree a co-ordinated cross-sector approach to digital economy and inclusion in Halton; to inform a 'digital safety net' infrastructure mapping exercise via a Partner Asset Review and adopt the Go ON Digital Charter. The discussed and supported the Council's approach to digital economy and inclusion in Halton.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The shift to a digital society, accelerated by central Government's digital by default agenda, presents both challenges and opportunities to local public service delivery and our customers be acknowledged;
- (2) A co-ordinated cross-sector approach to digital economy and inclusion in Halton is progressed through the Employment, Learning and Skills Partnership Board be agreed;
- (3) Through the Partner Asset Review, partners inform a 'digital safety net' infrastructure mapping exercise; and
- (4) The Go ON Digital Charter be adopted.

5 PRESENTATION

The Board received a presentation from Dave Sweeney, Elaine Roberts-Smith and Lisa Driscoll which gave details on Social Value and Procurement Framework.

The Board was advised of the following:-

- The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012;
- The Health and Social Value Programme (HSVP) and its objectives;
- The successful journey so far;
- How social value would be embedded in procurement practices and achieved through procurement opportunities;
- The Social Value Procurement Framework to date and how it was measured;
- Social value outside of procurement; and
- The next steps which would ensure a clear standardised procurement process.

The Board had a discussion regarding points raised in the presentation and supported the Social Value and Procurement Framework. It was noted that Halton were the national lead in this area and the excellent work that had been undertaken to date.

RESOLVED: That the presentations be received and noted.

Meeting ended at 11.50 am