

HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 11 December 2013 at the Karalius Suite, Select Security Stadium, Widnes

Present:

Board Members:	David Parr	HBC (Chairman)
	Dr Elspeth Anwar	Public Health
	Simon Banks	Halton Clinical Commissioning Group
	Sarah Boycott	Cheshire Police
	Cllr Dave Cargill	Cheshire Police & Crime Panel
	Kate Fallon	Bridgewater NHS Trust
	Cllr Mike Fry	Community Representative
	Ann McIntyre	HBC - Children's Trust
	Mick Noone	HBC – Chair E&R SSP
	Terry Parle	Halton Sports Partnership
	Janine Peterson	Job Centre Plus
	Revd Jeremy Duff	Faith Communities
	Wesley Rourke	HBC – Chair ELS SSP
	Noel Sharpe	Halton Housing Trust
	Sally Yeoman	Halton & St Helens VCA
	Sean Henshaw	Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service

Advisors to the Board: Shelah Semoff HBC – Policy and Strategy

In Attendance: L. Derbyshire (HBC), J. Heritage (Bridgewater Trust)
D. Houghton (HBC), J. Bucknall (HBC)
Presentation Authors: S. Bell, J. Fradley, D. Cornes,
K. Woods, J. Collins and B. Williams

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Rob Polhill (HBC - Chairman), N. Atkins (HHT),
P. Cain (Chamber of Commerce), M. Murphy
(Riverside College), E. O'Meara
(Director of Public Health), J. Rigby (OB Academy) and
A. Waller (Fire & Rescue Service)

12 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2013 having been printed and circulated were agreed as a correct record.

13 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, it was reported that good progress had been made in the following key areas:-

- There had been an improvement in breast screening from 18% to 25½%;
- Baby Friendly Status – Level 2 had been achieved;
- Alcohol Hospital Admissions had previously stabilised but there had been a slight increase since last year. However, it was reported that it was still below target;
- There remained some challenges in health mortality in females as it was fluctuating and there had been no overall reduction since 2010, due to cancer in females;
- The target for smoking cessation had failed. It was reported that this was largely as a result of the introduction of e cigarettes and further work would need to be done to address this target;
- The Board noted that the 2 year operational plan would finish in February 2014 and would be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board, who would also be holding a workshop in January before the sign off;
- Urgent Care Centres – acute visiting had been put in place for this winter. Discussions were on going with GPs as to its sustainability as there had been a 25 % increase in demand for services;
- The Board noted the significant challenges over the next 5 years as a result of a reduction in the budget and that radical options for health care services would need to be established. It was also noted that a whole system approach to funding and health care options would be required. The Board were encouraged to feedback any suggestions to Simon Banks or Eileen O'Meara;
- It was noted that the Wellbeing Practice approach was being acknowledged by the National Association of Primary Care and the University of Warwick had undertaken research on its effectiveness and it was reported that it would be rolled out nationally; and
- It was reported that a significant amount of health and wellbeing work was being delivered locally and it was having a positive impact on the community.

In relation to Environment, Learning and Skills (ELS), it was reported that the Task and Finish Group had met in November to review the role and function of the group as attendance had been inconsistent and also to ensure the appropriate decision makers attended. It had been agreed that it was appropriate to meet and the key priorities had been affirmed.

It was reported that at the SSP meeting on Monday, the Terms of Reference would be launched, the key priorities of the group and the shared strategic priorities to maximise economic growth in the Borough would be formulated. It was highlighted that to reflect the structure of the SSP and the linkages to various sub groups, there needed to be a clearer distinction, with a focus on skills task and finish opportunities via a commissioning approach in respect of the work that was undertaken.

It was also reported that there was an opportunity for other partners to contribute to agenda setting and the revised Terms of Reference would develop the social inclusion strand of the next European Programme.

The Board noted the significance of ELS within the Combined Authority, the relationship between local delivery and the wider regional agenda.

It was noted that work was taking place to involve students from the college in the specialisms at Daresbury in order to create future opportunities for Halton residents.

In relation to Children and Young People the Board noted the following activities:-

- The structure had been streamlined and protocols similar to safeguarding had been developed. Priorities had been agreed and services continued to be delivered via a joined up approach which gave high quality whilst being value for money;
- In respect of health and education, the Authority were focussing on vulnerable young people;
- Pupil premium - 900 per pupil, this would rise to 1300 in the next financial year and represented a challenge;
- The Board noted the KS1,2 and 4 performance and the challenge and work being taken with schools to utilise funding more effectively;
- A lot of work was being undertaken in respect of the Children and Families Bill, which supported children and families with special educational needs. An integrated Educational Health and Care Plan would need to be developed and a move towards more personalised budgets for families was being developed by the Strategic Group. Regular updates would be presented to the Board;
- Councillor N Plumpton-Walsh had been nominated to be lead Councillor as a champion and conduit between the various youth groups and the Council;
- The importance of the Partnership undertaking work to identify families and extended families in respect of the early learning agenda was noted.

It was also noted that this was a key priority and would be taken forward, with an action plan in place by September;

- It was reported that a review of maternity services across Cheshire and Merseyside had been undertaken. An event would also take place in February 2014; and
- Youth Involvement – It was reported that work was taking place with the Youth Cabinet and it was hoped they would attend the next meeting of the Board.

In relation to Environment and Regeneration, the following was reported:-

- There had been a review of the membership of the SSP; who was on it and other partners were encouraged to join the group to ensure that the work being undertaken was being captured;
- SCS – It was reported that the objectives for the SSP were very broad and it was difficult as it did not allow all partners to contribute to achieving these. A special SSP would take place on 7 January 2014, to consider all the objectives and how they could be achieved. There would also be more focus on monitoring already being undertaken which would give an opportunity to highlight the significant amount of good work that was taking place and share this across the wider Partnership;
- It was noted that a lot of work was being done in various businesses to achieve carbon reduction. However, it was felt that the partnership were currently not in a position to capture this data;
- It had been agreed that the SSP would meet with the ELS SSP to identify overlaps and share ideas and priorities;
- The LSP Transport Board were meeting this afternoon and had undertaken a considerable amount of good work. Members were invited to be part of the Board by contacting Mick Noone or Shelah Semoff; and
- It was noted that a lot of developments were being established in the Borough; Halton Lea Shopping Centre; a new supermarket on the Polar Ford site in Runcorn; a development near the Brindley; £30m to develop a project at Daresbury; new developments coming out near The Hive and Mersey Gateway.

In relation to Safer Halton Partnership, it was reported that there were challenges in respect of anti-social behaviour. There had been a decrease year on year, but recently there had been an increase which had been identified as a result of off road bikes (2 serious accidents this year) and an increase in neighbour disputes related to mental health and alcohol abuse.

It was reported that there had been significant success in addressing very serious organised crime from Liverpool and a lot of excellent work had taken place at

an early stage to avoid it coming into Halton. There had been significant interventions taken by Cheshire Police and individuals had been caught and punished. However, it was reported that some individuals remained under surveillance. The importance of community cohesion was highlighted and it was reported that addressing this matter was a crucial role and responsibility of the Board.

It was reported that the Police and Crime Panel had completed all their statutory obligations and there had been no issues. However, the protocol on what information was required to scrutinise the PCC was yet to be agreed, but discussions were on going and friendly.

The Board noted that the Chief Constable would remain in post until June 2014, when a new Chief Constable would be appointed.

In respect of the Strategic Housing Partnership, it was reported that a meeting had not taken place since the last meeting of the Board. A meeting had been arranged for Friday 13 December 2013 and discussions would take place on Choice Base Letting.

It was reported that the workplan was being reviewed for the forthcoming year and discussions would take place on the welfare reforms. In the North West Research Project, work was also taking place looking at each registered provider, creating a real life reform report and tracking families via welfare reform. The report would be published on Tuesday 17 December 2013 and a copy would be sent to Shelah Semoff for circulation.

The Board noted the opportunity for housing in respect of the Mersey Gateway Project; where tenants would be best placed to take any employment opportunities and the accommodation requirements of contractors and sub- contractors. It was also noted that there would also be an increase in people using network support and this would impact on health and wellbeing.

In relation to Equalities, Engagement and Cohesion Group, it was reported that the membership and terms of reference were being reviewed and an action plan developed in order to re invigorate the group and identify a key area focus.

It was reported that the Safe in Town Scheme would continue, but would broaden out and increase the type of premises signed up to the scheme, and the type of beneficiaries, which would include people with low level mental health and dementia. Funding was being sought from the CCG and the PCC. It was also reported that the scheme would be linked to the Disability Friendly Kite Mark currently being developed in Halton.

The Board was advised that in respect of hate crime and the low reporting of disability hate crime, which was, a national issue, a sub-regional event was being developed. It was noted that schools had been requested to collate information on prejudice based incidents on a termly basis. It was reported that this was a new approach for schools and the definition had been broadened so that it was not simply racial incidents anymore.

The Board noted that it was too early to identify the implications of the Government review of the Equality Act.

14 CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY PRIORITIES

The Board received a presentation from Steve Nyakatawa and Debbie Houghton on the Partnership's Child and Family Poverty Strategy draft priorities which:-

- Gave a definition of poverty;
- Set out the key statistics from the Liverpool City Region (LCR) needs assessment (Higher in Halton than the north west; Welfare reforms take £162m annual away from children and families; there had been an increase in the use of food banks, more were living in fuel poverty; there was a jobs deficiency and there had been an increase in children in workless homes);
- Detailed the priorities for tackling child and family poverty in Halton (overarching theme was closing the gap) the income gap, the employment skills gap and the health and nutrition gap;
- Set out the issues in relation to the income gap;
- Presented a map showing deprivation levels from the income domain of the IMD 2010 (real pockets of deprivation);
- Gave a breakdown of annual gross median pay for Halton, the north west and England;
- Set out the income priorities and what could be considered i.e. addressing debt/multiple debt; access to affordable credit and loans; improving financial knowledge and understanding welfare reforms;
- Outlined the employment and skills gaps, the unemployment rate in Halton, the North West and England;
- Set out the job seekers allowance rate (August 2013) vs the IMD score 2010 across the various areas in Halton;
- Outlined the no qualification (2011) census vs IMD 2010 score;
- Gave the percentage of all employment, shown by occupation types, Halton and England;
- Set out the percentage of 16-18 year olds who were NEET (there were massive discrepancies across the Borough). Halton were 7%, the North West 6.4% and England 5.7%, which had improved significantly;

- Highlighted that the attainment gap between those pupils receiving free school meals and the rest of their peer group (national data);
- Detailed the employment and skills priorities (to raise skill levels of all ages; matching skills to LCR economy growth areas, highlighted that welfare reforms may widen the gap in health inequalities and was likely to impact on disabled people, including people with mental health problems and for some people, the recession had resulted in worse diets, colder homes and less physical mobility);
- Set out the fuel poverty figures (2011) vs IMDB 2010 scores across the various areas of the Borough;
- Detailed the life expectancy at birth in Halton and the gap between Halton and England;
- Set out information on hungry children – national information outlined that 13m were living in poverty and at least 4m suffered from food poverty; there had been an increase in the use of food banks nationally; 72% of teachers who had been surveyed had stated that they had experienced pupils attending school without provision for lunch;
- Set out the health priorities (Life expectancy at birth; infant mortality; child mortality; excess weight; low birth weight; teenage mothers breastfeeding and smoking); and
- Outlined the approaches to closing the gap in Halton; how Halton were making a difference and set out the numerous successes to date.

The Board were requested to consider the following three key questions and then consider one or two actions that they could progress:-

- The right priorities?
- Partnership experiences of poverty; and
- How could the Partnership actively making a difference?

It was reported that a high number of food banks had been established in different towns. The food banks were only meant to be used as crisis cover and individuals were only allowed to access the food banks on three occasions. Food banks, it was reported, were not able to meet the demand, which was creating huge challenges for the volunteers who worked there.

The following comments arose from the presentation:-

- A focus on access to key employment sectors in specific areas was required, Wesley Rourke would circulate the information;
- A pro-active and targeted approach was required for issues such as drugs and mental health;

- Consideration would need to be given to mental health in young people;
- There were 13m living in poverty, out of the 64m UK population, i.e. 1 in 5 of the population. Partnership action could be to give views and experiences, of one place, what has happened in the Borough in the last 18 months; to have all the data in one place so that partners could consider it and make a real difference;
- It was reported that statistics from Halton's two food bank managers had been included in the figures for the Liverpool City Region;
- It was noted that historically the Council had filled a lot of the listed gaps, but as a result of Government cuts, they were no longer in a position to do so. Voluntary, community groups and individuals would have to take more responsibility as public sector bodies such as the Police and Health etc moved forward in these challenging times; and
- It was suggested that the Partnership would need to look at who else should be involved in the discussion. In response, it was reported that the Board represented a wide membership and information could be co-ordinated via that membership.

In conclusion, it was reported that suggestions/ideas could be sent to Steve Nyakatawa directly.

15 PRESENTATIONS

The Board received a series of presentations related to alcohol issues as follows:-

- Mr Simon Bell and Dr Elspeth Anwar – An overview of the Alcohol Strategy and the alcohol figures for Halton.
- Jayne Fradley and Deborah Cornes on Alcohol Prevention in Halton;
- Branaugh Williams and Jeanette Collins - Alcohol treatment services in Halton. A scenario was also circulated on Client A and their journey through alcohol interventions;
- Kate Woods – Alcohol Related Crime and Disorder; and
- Dry January – The Launch of the event.

RESOLVED: That the presentations be noted.

Meeting ended at 12 noon