

HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 9 September 2015 at the The Halton Suite - Select Security Stadium, Widnes

In Attendance::	Councillor Rob Polhill	
	Terry Parle	Halton Sports Partnership
	Nick Atkin	Halton Housing Trust
	David Parr	
	Shelah Semoff	
	Councillor Dave Cargill	Police Authority
	Hitesh Patel	Citizens Advice Bureau
	Cleo Alonso	Parent and Carer
	Simon Banks	
	L Driscoll	
	Jeremy Duff	Faith Representative
	Nicola Goodwin	
	Ann McIntyre	Children and Enterprise
	Mick Noone	
	Eileen O'Meara	Public Health
	Wesley Rourke	
	Sally Yeoman	Halton & St Helens VCA
	Phil Deegan	DWP
	Sean Henshaw	Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
	Christine Samosa	Halton & St Helens PCT
	Gareth Woods	Cheshire Police
	Mary Murphy	Riverside College

Apologies for Absence: M. Fry

7 Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2015, having been printed and circulated were agreed as a correct record. The Board noted that Colin Scales - Bridgewater NHS Trust was present (not Christine.)

8 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, Regeneration and Transport; Safer Halton Partnership; the Housing Partnership and Equalities, Engagement and Community Cohesion.

In relation to the Health and Wellbeing Board, the following was reported:-

- The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) had approved new Healthy Living Pharmacies, that would provide a range of services. The Board noted that publicity would be given to the initiative;
- There had been a number of Health Needs Assessments made in order to plan ahead and gain profiles for certain groups in the Borough;
- There had been a reduction in Public Health Funding, with an in-year budget reduction made of £650k or 6.4% for Halton.

In conclusion, the Board noted the excellent progress that had been made on the Health Agenda in Halton and the good news items that had been reported.

In relation to ELS, the following was reported:-

- The Mersey Gateway had received positive publicity; the Volunteer Programme was progressing well, with another open day being held on 15 September at Kingsway Learning Centre. Forty volunteers had been recruited to support the Visitor Centres. A second visitor centre was being opened in Halton Lea in the new two months. Partners were continuing to deliver pre-employability programmes – two had been held with two more being held during the financial year;
- Work experience sessions totalling 16 weeks had been provided to date;
- The Timebank had provided 49 days of professional support during the year – 16 apprentices had been recruited to the scheme;
- A business breakfast would be held on 23 September, with the focus on a procurement workshop;
- Funding had been received to deliver a Youth Employment Gateway Programme - £143k in year 1 and £296k in year 2. This would provide support to 18 to 24 year olds who had been unemployed for 8 weeks or more. It would offer bespoke support, with Phase 1 already underway. Halton was the best performer in terms of job outcomes, with 37% of customers gaining employment with 47 jobs to date;
- The Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship Hub had allocated £150k to Halton to allow 2 full time co-ordinators to be employed until March 2016;
- A bid had been made for a business support initiative to provide funding to businesses that had gone beyond start up, but needed

ongoing support during the critical first phases. The focus was on systems, people planning, productivity and business planning;

- Access to employment and ways to work offered bespoke support to help people into work. In Halton this would become a more tailored approach for individuals linked to employer needs, offering high quality advice, guidance and skills development;
- With DWP partners, there had been a recruitment drive at Halton Lea for around 80 jobs. Work was ongoing with the leisure and hotel sectors to develop a Hospitality Recruitment Programme;
- DWP reported that recruitment open days had been arranged with the Mersey Gateway Project and for HGV goods drivers. Open days would be held in Runcorn and Widnes Job Centres on 23 and 30 September, with several partners attending the days to help identify skills gaps and training;
- Digital Inclusion was a challenge for the 50 plus age category. The opening of digital hubs was one example of the challenge being met locally;
- The Board discussed the reduction in Adult Learning Funding in relation to the 40 plus age group. A flexible support fund was available in Halton, offering a 20 week programme for lone parents/carers who needed support to fit around childcare, followed by an 8 week work placement;
- MIND offered a 10 week placement with 35 places taken from Halton residents;
- The Board noted that Adult Learning and Support was important and all partners aimed to cross subsidise to enable this to happen.

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

- There had been a 25% total cut in budget, with Adult Learning Funding being affected. The change in provision would require closer partnership working to ensure that provision was not duplicated;
- Multi-Agency early intervention was discussed to support vulnerable children and adults in Halton, with £550k being allocated to support Widnes and Runcorn cases;
- Special Education Needs - Young People with SEN's could request a personal budget. A policy and procedure would be implemented for this;

- Performance information was reported for all Key Stages in Halton. The unofficial initial news was very positive from Early Years provision to Key Stage 4;
- For Key Stage 5, Riverside College A 'Level scores were 3.1% ahead of the national average, with BTEC courses providing outstanding results. An OFSTED Inspection of the College was expected in 2015/16;
- The "Four Beginnings" report had mentioned Halton's progress made in areas such as child development/ tooth decay/ school age obesity. Whilst some areas had improved, there was room for continued improvement.

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

- Waste Management – questionnaires had been issued to key partners requesting feedback with a limited response. The Board agreed to broaden the questions asked to encourage feedback;
- Street Lighting - 20,000 columns in Halton would require replacement to LED, bringing a 70% reduction in costs. There was also a community safety benefit, with more grant being available if certain targets for replacement were met;
- Halton LCR Combined Authority – The "My Ticket" initiative provided reduced travel for 16-19 year olds for all-day Merseyside combined travel. This initiative would be publicised by Merseytravel publicity team, to be rolled out to schools and colleges in the Borough. The success of the initiative would be monitored with a view to roll-out if it proved popular;

In respect of the Safer Halton Partnership, the following was reported:-

- Policing in Halton had been re-organised to 2 local policing units in Widnes and Runcorn. The 2 units would be strategically managed, by Chief Inspectors Richard Reece in Widnes and Debbie Hooper in Runcorn. The needs based policing model would benefit Halton by a number of centralisations and partnerships making the units more effective. Widnes station had moved into new premises (previously John Briggs House) and Runcorn station had been refurbished;
- Recent incidents regarding use of firearms and also increasing road traffic incidents on the M56 had resulted in reassurance being given to local residents regarding safety in these areas;
- Creamfields Festival had attracted 60 – 100,000 people with few incidents reported;

- Pub Watch - Pubs/Clubs had few incidents reported;
- A North West Courts consultation was ongoing with proposals for closures to Warrington and Runcorn which would affect family court services, which would be resisted;
- The Board discussed enhanced policing, support to the public and partnership working around mental health issues such as dementia.

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

- The Board noted the current strategic and budget issues, and the impact that rent deduction had on housing providers. Further changes would be expected in line with Government policy and Right to Buy, which the Government had said would change to a 1 to 1 replacement, rather than the current 1 to 5 (sale of 5 RTB's for 1 new build);
- HHT now operated two teams of Tenancy Support and Tenancy Enforcement.

In respect of Equalities, Engagement and Community Cohesion, it was reported:-

- Addaction would offer a Human Rights Act event at the CRMZ Widnes on 4 October;
- The issues surrounding those seeking asylum in the UK was discussed, and the necessary Multi Agency response. This was a complex and emotive issue, with Manchester City Council currently taking a North West lead to discuss the provision of a structured approach to areas such as funding, health, faith, dietary and educational requirements to those seeking asylum. There was a role for all involved in the partnership to raise understanding and enable integration into new communities;
- Devolution was discussed, and the proposal to give the Liverpool City Region (LCR) devolved power. This proposal would enable a number of key priority areas to be controlled locally, that were currently controlled by the Centre. This would not mean increased spend, but would mean greater control. A number of key decisions would be made by the six authorities involved, with all partners being consulted on future proposals.

RESOLVED: That the verbal update reports be noted.

The Board considered a report that sought endorsement of the Halton Social Value Charter (Appendix to the report.) The Board was advised that in June 2015, HSPB received a presentation on how legislation under the Public Services (Social Value) Act was being used to generate social value in Halton. The Halton Social Value Charter built on this work, and asked partners to sign up and continue to actively embed and promote social value principles within their own organisations.

The Public Services (Social Value) Act introduced a statutory requirement for public authorities to have regard to economic, social and environmental well-being in connection with “public services contracts” at the pre-procurement stage of the procurement cycle. The legislation required this for certain contracts above the £172,514 threshold. Halton would apply the approach to contracts above the value of £1000 where it was assessed as relevant to do so.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The Halton Social Value Charter attached as an Appendix to the report be endorsed;
- (2) The Board encourage their own organisations, and others they engage with to sign up to the Charter; and
- (3) The proposals for further development of the Social Value approach in Halton, as set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report, be approved.

10 Information and Advice Centre Partnership Review

The Board considered a report that provided an update of the review of local partnership arrangements to ensure that in the current climate of reduced resources, they were fit for purpose, had clear objectives and provided a productive utilisation of local resources.

Halton had a number of frontline partnership meetings for the information and advice sector that were well represented by public services and voluntary sector agencies, for example:-

- Halton Community Practitioners Forum (HCPF)
- Halton Information and Advice Partnership (HIAP)
- Housing Providers Partnership

The meetings provided a platform for information exchange and sharing of best practice, but sometimes were attended by the same officers or representatives, given the size and geography of Halton.

The CAB were currently progressing the lottery Funded Advice Services Transitional Fund (ASTF) project which had gathered data on the local information and advice sector. This project provided a mechanism to support the review and a working group was established. The results were attached to

the report in an appendix. It was suggested that the HCF, HIAP and Housing Providers Partnership Groups be disbanded and instead have one meeting each quarter with a key theme. Each meeting would have a Lead Officer to take responsibility for agenda setting, and the process would be reviewed after 12 months.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The content of the report be noted; and
- (2) The Board confirm its support towards consolidating and streamlining partnership meeting arrangements where appropriate.

11 Waste and Recycling Presentation

The Board were given a presentation which gave them an overview on waste and recycling in Halton. The benefits to waste reduction and increased recycling were reported. Halton had three less collection crews, and the Board discussed how it could work to tackle those who disregarded waste management. The Board noted the difference between those who couldn't recycle and those who chose not to, and discussed ways in which both groups could be targeted. The Board noted that those with complex needs were provided with a flexible service. Communication was key to promoting the benefits of the service and recycling to the wider community through cost savings to enable resources to be used elsewhere.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

Meeting ended at 11.50 a.m.