

Councillor Shaun  
Osborne  
Chairman

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**SAFER HALTON**  
**POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**  
**APRIL 2007 – MARCH 2008**



“Safety, and people’s perception of being safe in all its form remain a major issue in Halton. The Board has, and will continue to focus its energy on making Halton residents feel safe. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Board members who have worked hard to this end.

The Board has had a very challenging programme of monitoring, scrutiny, and policy development, because ‘Safer Halton’ is a truly cross-cutting agenda. I believe it is making a considerable contribution to improving the way the Council and its partners work together to improve the quality of life in Halton. I thank everybody who has contributed to the work of the Board in 2007/08.”

Councillor Shaun Osborne, Chairman Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

### **MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

During 2007/08 the Board comprised eleven Councillors – Councillors Osborne, Stockton, Edge, M Lloyd Jones, Morley, Murray, E Ratcliffe, M Ratcliffe, Redhead, Swift, Thompson.

The Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to Community Safety and Drugs Team, Bereavement Services, Registration and Consumer Affairs, Risk and Emergency Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Services, Road Safety and Waste Management.

### **REVIEW OF THE YEAR**

The full Board met 5 times during the year. A special Board meeting considered budget implications for 2008/09 and gave consideration to Service Plans for the same period.

The specialist working groups covering Waste, Bereavement, Anti-Social Behaviour, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults and Domestic Abuse have all met throughout the year. The Chairs of these groups Councillors Thompson, Morley, Stockton and Osborne thank all the Members who have contributed to a considerable work programme.

The main initiatives of the Board’s work for 2007/08 are as follows: -

### **Environmental and Regulatory Service Issues**

The Implementation of the Smoke Free legislation was an early issue for the Board. Its implications were fully discussed, with a focus on the possible problems of enforcing it.

Throughout the year, the Board monitored the performance of waste management, and the development of a waste management strategy. A presentation on the strategy will be given to the Board at its first meeting in the new Municipal Year.

### **Road Safety Issues**

The Board scrutinised the Business Plan for 2007/08 of the Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership, which set out the vision, strategy and objectives of the Partnership and detailed a range of challenging targets. Progress on these are regularly monitored by the Board.

### **Community Safety**

This was a particular focus for the Board in 2007/08. The Board contributed to new Alcohol and Drugs Strategies and to the Strategic Impact Assessment on community safety that was a requirement of the Home Office. New Working Groups were set up to consider Halton's approach to protection for vulnerable adults and domestic abuse.

The Multi-Agency Problem Solving Working Party (MAPS) reported in 2007/08, setting out a vision for the future delivery of community safety. This is an on-going piece of work that will come to a culmination in 2008/09.

The Board made a significant contribution to the debate over the future of Halton's Fire-work Festival.

### **Bereavement Services/Consumer Protection/Registration Service**

Two major issues emerged in 2007/08. Cemetery provision for 2015 and beyond was considered by the Working Group and the full Board on a number of occasions, including full options appraisals. This is an important issue for the Board and consideration will continue in 2008/09.

Illegal money lending was identified by the Board as a problem in Halton, and a partnership with Birmingham Trading Standards was developed throughout the year to combat this. The results of this delivered over £2million in debt written off, over 1500 victims being helped, 12 guns removed from the streets and prison sentences issued totalling 26 years.

### **Presentations**

It was a policy of the Board to encourage presentations from external bodies related to the Boards work, to be given. These included

- The Youth Inclusion and Support Panel, with the Board seeking ways to ensure its long-term survival.
- The Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, monitoring its work in Halton in 2007/08.
- Community Safety and Cheshire police, as above.
- Night-Stop; and organisation supporting single homeless persons between 16-25 years old.
- Halton Credit Union, understanding its aspirations to expand.

- The partnership with Birmingham Trading Standards to combat illegal money lending in the Borough.
- Students from Fairfield High School, who attended the March meeting and raised their issues about community safety.

### **WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2008/09**

It is proposed that the working groups established in 2006/07 continue their on-going work. These are: -

Environmental Health and Risk Assessment  
Waste  
Bereavement

The Anti-Social Behaviour group is currently dormant pending the outcome of the review of Community Safety.

The recently formed Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, and the Domestic Abuse Working Parties will produce a final report in 2008/09.

Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board or its work please contact Howard Cockcroft (0151 471 7461) or e-mail at [Howard.cockcroft@halton.gov.uk](mailto:Howard.cockcroft@halton.gov.uk)