

REPORT TO: Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board

REPORTING OFFICER:: Strategic Director Corporate and Policy

DATE: 9th September 2008

SUBJECT: Neighbourhood Management Update

WARDS Appleton, Castlefields, Halton Lea, Kingsway, Riverside, Windmill Hill

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Board on progress in developing neighbourhood management in Halton.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Board notes the report.

3. BACKGROUND

Since 2006 Halton has received to develop neighbourhood management in those areas of the Borough that fell within the 3% most deprived under the 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation. Since April 2008 this has been part of Halton's Area Based Grant allocation, and continues until March 2010.

Work is being focused in three pilot neighbourhoods, each of which fell within the above category; Central Widnes, Hallwood Park & Palace Fields and Castlefields & Windmill Hill.

Neighbourhood management is designed to help close the gap between our most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the Borough, with regards to health, education, employment and crime. A strategic partnership board made-up of key local service providers, elected members, resident representatives and the voluntary sector, currently oversees the development of neighbourhood management in Halton. The board reports directly to the Halton Strategic Partnership Board.

In addition to the 'strategic board', there are well-established neighbourhood boards working in each of the three neighbourhoods. The three neighbourhood boards include local residents, key local service providers, local stakeholders and ward councillors.

4. SUMMARY OF KEY DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE PAST QUARTER

The Halton Neighbourhood Management Board has met twice since your last meeting; on 3rd June and on 15th July 2008. The board also had an 'awayday' at Norton Priory on 8th July 2008 (See section 5)

(a) Key issues at the June meeting were;

- Councillor John Swain was re-elected chair and Windmill Hill resident Clare Nelson, vice-chair for the 2008/9 municipal year.
- A presentation and review of the partnership's service agreement with the Borough Council's Community Development service was received. The agreement is currently scheduled to end in March 2009.
- The board also received a report outlining the partnership's delivery of its 2007/8 Action Plan. Overall, progress in the delivery of the partnership's first action plan was satisfactory, with 10 (77%) out of the 13 key objectives being assessed as 'green' by the year end. An analysis of each of the those objectives and milestones that attracted a 'red' light highlighted shared key factor across all of them as to why progress has been slower than planned or had stalled. Briefly, pressure on staff resources both within the neighbourhood management team and in key partners was the major contributory factor. Therefore, it could be said that we were a little too ambitious last year when the Action Plan was agreed as to what could be delivered with the resources and the time available
- In 2007/8 32 Quick Response Fund & Community Action Fund grants were made by the neighbourhood boards, for a total of £35,997.48. Reports from the partnership's appraisal panel on mid-point reviews of two major neighbourhood management supported interventions (Kooldown Plus and Neighbourhood Pride) were also considered.

(b) Key issues at the July Halton Neighbourhood Management Board

- A presentation on the innovative Men's Health service developed by Halton & St. Helens Primary care Trust ('PCT') was received.
- A draft Development Plan for the partnership covering the period up to the end of external funding for the development of neighbourhood management in Halton, March 2010 was discussed. The plan was drafted to take into account ongoing work from last year's action plan, David Winchurch's report, and the key issues identified at the Awayday the previous week. After a discussion and with some amendments to objectives and performance indicators it was approved and adopted.
- The board also agreed to set-up a small working group to review the partnership's Risk Register.

(c) Neighbourhood Management Boards.

The three neighbourhood management boards are continuing to develop, with all three now having evolving Neighbourhood Action Plans and growing programmes of events and interventions.

(d) Other relevant issues;

- Training sessions on the subjects of project appraisal (to provide partnership members with the skills and knowledge to examine applications for funding from the partnership's Intervention Budget) and an 'Introduction to Neighbourhood Management' were offered in Spring.

Attendance was good, and participant feedback was very positive. Further training opportunities are in the process of being set-up for the Autumn.

- Neighbourhood management was singled out for particular praise in the Audit Commission's recently published Comprehensive Performance Assessment ('CPA') of the Borough Council – paragraph 8 on page 6.
- The latest update on the statistical baselines for each of the three neighbourhood management areas should be available by the date of your meeting.

5. THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT IN HALTON.

The Halton Neighbourhood Management Board had a well attended and productive board awayday at Norton Priory on 8th July. The event was externally facilitated by Dr Helen Kara.

The main focus of the awayday was to scrutinise in detail the recommendations contained in the Winchurch report relating to the future development of the partnership, to discuss partnership development priorities between now and the end of external funding in 2010, and how to best maintain the ongoing development of neighbourhood management in Halton after 2010.

The strong view of participants was that whilst much has been achieved to date, there remains much work to be done to secure the future of neighbourhood working here in Halton.

The consensus was that the partnership needs to 'kick-on' over the remaining period of external funding up to 2010 to embed neighbourhood working and resident engagement within the broader evolving empowerment, inclusion and cohesion agenda currently being set at national level for local authorities and wider public services.

Pursuant to this, the Awayday set the following key areas of work for the partnership over the coming months;

- A restatement of the partnership's neighbourhood management 'vision'.
- To track the 'closing the gap' with regard to key indicators between the neighbourhood management areas and Halton.
- To investigate the value for money/business case for the sustaining neighbourhood management beyond 2010.
- To reach a consensus about if, when and how to roll out' neighbourhood management after 2010 beyond the current pilot areas.

6. INTERVENTION ACTIVITY & EXPENDITURE

The neighbourhood boards' grant awarding panels continue to consider applications from local community and voluntary groups seeking small and medium sized grants from their respective allocated budgets for a wide range of events, projects and activities.

The three neighbourhood boards are working, via thematic groups, on the best

use of their delegated Intervention Budget to deliver the key priorities contained in their respective Neighbourhood Action Plans.

The partnership's overall level of expenditure is in line with its budget for 2008/9.

7. EMERGING ISSUES

- Negotiations with SSP's regarding the agreement of local targets for the neighbourhood management areas within Halton's 2008 LAA.
- Working with the relevant lead organisations regarding the key priorities set out in the HSP's commissioning pot.
- To start the planning process to sustain and develop neighbourhood management in Halton post-2010.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Neighbourhood Management is intended to help the Council and its partners to deliver the objectives in the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan in relation to closing the gap between the quality of life in the most disadvantaged areas and that in the rest of Halton.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

10. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

10.1 Children and Young People in Halton

10.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

10.3 A Healthy Halton

10.4 A Safer Halton

10.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Neighbourhood Management aims to support the delivery of objectives under all of the Council's key priority areas.

11. RISK ANALYSIS

N/A

12. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Neighbourhood Management aims to reduce geographical inequalities with the Borough.

13. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal	Runcorn Town Hall	Nick Mannion Neighbourhood Management Director 0151 471 7470 Nicholas.mannion@halton.gov.uk
Halton LAA		
Neighbourhood Management Delivery Plan		
Minutes of Neighbourhood Management Board meetings		