

## HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 19 November 2008 at the Bridge Suite, Stobart Stadium

### Present:

<b>Board Members:</b>	Councillor Rob Polhill	(Chairman)
	Dave Bertenshaw	Cheshire Police
	Debbie Dalby	Halton Voluntary Action
	Gary Finchett	Cheshire Police
	Mike Fry	Community Empowerment Centre
	Pat Grunwell	Riverside College
	Councillor Ron Hignett	HBC
	Fiona Johnstone	PCT
	Rev. Ray Jones	Faith Communities
	Jo Lappin	Government Office North West
	Neil McGrath	Halton Housing Trust
	Terry Parle	Halton Sports Partnership
	John Rowlands	Halton High School
	Councillor John Swain	HBC
	Mark Wilson	Jobcentre Plus
	John Redmond	Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
	Ian Williamson	Halton & St Helens PCT

### Advisors to the Boards

Rob Mackenzie	HBC
Gerald Meehan	Children and Young People
Andrew Pannell	HBC
David Parr	HBC
Shelah Semoff	HBC

**In Attendance::** Charlene Simpson and Kirsty Parr

**Apologies for Absence:** N Atkin, B. Edwards, D. Sproson and Councillor Wright

### 27 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 having been printed and circulated were agreed as a correct record subject to apologies being recorded for Ray Jones.

### 28 CHILDREN IN CARE

The Board received a presentation from Mr Gerald Meehan, Director of Children and Young People's Services which:-

- Outlined the role and responsibility of the Council in relation to Children in Care (CiC);
- Highlighted the areas in which Children in Care need in order to reach their full potential;
- outlined the key issues i.e that 34 out of 78 care leavers are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), young people currently leaving care much earlier (17.5 years in Halton) as compared to mainstream (24 – 25 years) and stable accommodation;
- highlighted the need for job opportunities – currently 12 are required per year - and emphasised the importance of young people experiencing a working environment in the early years;
- explained how the C&YP Directorate supported the young people and the need for sustained interest and scrutiny of the Authority's performance;
- outlined the total number of care leavers and that the proportion in NEET had risen by 4% this year from 44% to 48%; and
- set out the total number of care leavers living in suitable accommodation which had increased by 6% since January.

Miss Charlene Simpson, who had previously been in care in the Authority and her mentor Kirsty Parr were in attendance at the meeting. Charlene gave a verbal presentation on her experiences of leaving care. She reported that she had been on an ILM course for three weeks, which had been enjoyable and enabled her to gain confidence. In addition, she highlighted how the Employment Team in Halton Council and various agencies had given her a kick-start which had enabled her to realise the potential she had and obtain a job within the Council.

The Director of Children and Young People reported how proud he was of Charlene and outlined the positive impact she has had in the workplace. He highlighted that young people had a lot to offer in the workplace and encouraged partners to give them a chance by offering apprenticeships.

The Chief Executive of Halton Council indicated that there were eleven organisations represented at the meeting and if each one committed to offering an apprenticeship to a young person leaving care that would alleviate the immediate problem. He encouraged the partners to make a commitment to taking at least one young person and offer them an apprenticeship.

Arising from the discussion, the following items were noted:-

- the importance of initial support to young people to make them feel safe, loved and give them confidence was noted;

- NHS Halton and St Helens PCT committed to taking on three apprenticeships; and
- it had been a powerful presentation and it is important that it remained high on everyone's agenda.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and presentation be noted;
- (2) Miss Charlene Simpson be thanked for her informative presentation; and
- (3) Partner organisations consider making a commitment to offering employment to at least one care leaver each year.

## **29 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARTNERSHIP**

The Board considered a report which explained the new structure for the Children's Trust agreed by the Children and Young People's Alliance Board on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008.

Appendix One to the report contained a diagram of the planned structure.

The key features of the Children's Trust included:-

- Front line staff providing integrated delivery to the child and family;
- Shared processes used to support their work;
- Joint assessments of need, plans and commissioning arrangements with pooled budgets – setting priorities and delivering the necessary resources; and
- The inter-agency governance arrangements needed to agree the overall vision and drive through change.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) the Children's Trust Board undertake the role of the Specialist Partnership for Children and Young People.

## **30 HALTON OBSERVATORY**

The Board considered a report on the progress of the Halton Observatory.

The Observatory has been running for three years and the Borough Council is looking at how it can be improved. This is being done by consulting

users of the site and by analysing what other Local Authorities have adopted as best practice. An initial meeting has been arranged for 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008 with Local Futures to discuss the progress of the Observatory and a way forward. This, will establish the scope for improving the Observatory in partnership with Local Futures.

Arising from the discussions, the following points were noted:-

- Cheshire Police are compiling data on crime which would be available on the internet next month. The information would be available by category, with a detailed breakdown of the crime in each ward; and
- It was suggested that the Authority explore the possibility of the numerous data analysis teams employed by the partners being merged into one virtual system unit to become more efficient and effective. This was supported by the Members of the Board. It was acknowledged that there could be challenges sharing data arising from data protection and security considerations;

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the continuing support and contributions to the Halton Data Observatory be confirmed;
- (2) following discussions with Local Futures, the proposals for improving the Observatory be circulated for comment; and
- (3) the Borough Council should explore the option of having a virtual team to collect and share information to serve Halton.

### **31 IMPROVEMENT PLAN 09/10**

The Board considered a report which set out the draft of the Improvement Plan for 2009-10 and the draft matrix of Board and Group meetings for 2008.

The Board was advised that they could contact the Partnership Team if they had any issues which may or may not be included in the Improvement Plan and were asked to consider the dates relevant to their participation and raise any major diary conflicts with the team.

RESOLVED: That the content of the report be noted.

### **32 RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

The Board considered a report which informed Members that they had previously established a Strategic Risk Register in November 2007 and it was time to review and refresh the register in conjunction with the Specialist Strategic Partnership.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the revised risk Register (Part 1) as attached to the report be approved;
- (2) the five Specialist Partnerships be asked to review and update the risk to the delivery of their partnership objectives, including the achievement of LAA targets by the end of January 2009, and a consolidated register be brought back to the Board at its February 2009 meeting; and
- (3) the SSP's continue to update their risk registers on a quarterly basis.

### **33 CORE STRATEGY**

The Board considered a report which advised Members of the progress made to date on the Halton Core Strategy and explained its potential as a key policy document.

A diagram of the Core Strategy Stages was circulated at the meeting for information.

The Board was advised that Appendix A outlined the Hot Topics considered at the Officer Steering Group Meetings of June 08, Appendix B outlined the summary of issues and policy implications and Appendix C outlined items apportioned to Core Strategy Chapters.

It is appropriate to engage the Partnership fully in the emerging Core Strategy. The following actions were proposed:-

- Partnership members would receive the Issues and Policy Options papers relating to the individual Core Strategy chapters via email after they had been presented to the Borough Council's Local Development Framework Working Party. Comments would be invited on the papers;
- Upon completion of the programme of meetings outlined at Appendix D, a question and answer session could be arranged involving key officers and the LSP in order to address any additional matters regarding Issues and Options papers; and
- Following on from this, a series of stakeholder meetings would be arranged with the Special Strategic Partnerships to discuss potential preferred policy approaches for individual chapters. These were likely to take place after March 2009.

The following points arose from the discussion:-

- the extensive community involvement as set out in the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was noted; and

- in respect of the Core Strategy seeking to create more prosperous mixed communities, where crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour is reduced - it was noted that the next stage of the process would be to have a dialogue with Cheshire Police.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and comments made be noted; and
- (2) the proposed programme of action set out in paragraph 3.7 (1-3) in the report be approved.

### **34 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT OF LAA / COMMUNITY STRATEGY TARGETS**

The Board considered a report which clarified the performance management arrangements for the LAA/Community Strategy targets, in order to ensure a consistent approach was taken by SSPs.

The Board noted that there had been 50% reduction in incidents this year as a result of partnership work, particularly with Cheshire Police. The Board also noted the increased number of incidents in the Widnes area on Mischief Night and the impact this had on the community.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the development of a more consistent approach to performance management across all SSPs be approved;
- (2) minimum standards for performance management arrangements for each SSP as set out in the report be approved;
- (3) the Board request that the performance management arrangements for the Urban Renewal SSP be established in line with other SSPs; and
- (4) the Board confirmed the responsibility of individual SSPs for named LAA indicators for the purposes of performance monitoring, including cross cutting indicators.

### **35 ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT**

The Board considered a report which advised Members of the possible implications of the current and emerging economic climate on the work of the Board and in particular on meeting its targets. It was requested that further reports be presented to the Board on performance and the impact of the economic climate on Halton, as data becomes available.

In respect of the economic climate and the possible resulting redundancies, a letter from Mr Mark Wilson, Jobcentre Plus was circulated at

the meeting. The letter asked the partnership to give consideration to the following:-

- Whether they felt existing organisational arrangements were still fit for purpose;
- Whether they needed to update information on available services;
- Whether there was a need to create a revised sharply focussed (and minimal) set of co-ordination groups (perhaps based on the existing and 'new' LAA Structures; and
- Whether they are in good shape and feel able to respond immediately as required to requests for help.

Members of the Board recognised that the Government had made a significant contribution to the banks. However, the partners would need to be in a position to support communities as well as achieving its targets within a reduced budget.

Partners were asked for ideas and to consider how they could address this problem to ensure the authority was in a position to respond to immediate need.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) the Board receives further reports on performance and the impact of the economic climate on Halton, when data becomes available.

### **36 REVIEW AND REFRESH TIMETABLE**

The Board considered a report which advised Members of the arrangements for refreshing and reviewing Halton's Local Area Agreement (LAA).

The importance of retaining funding streams to enable the delivery of the Local Area Agreements (LAA) was noted. It was highlighted, for example, that should a decision be made to withdraw or suspend the funding for the Police Community Support Officers in the future, this would not only have health and safety implications in the community but would affect the delivery of the LAA.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

### **37 CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE**

The Board considered a report on the requirements of National Indicator 186 CO<sub>2</sub> production in the area) for which there is a target in Halton's Local Area Agreement. The report briefly outlined the approach with Halton Borough

Council had followed to develop a Carbon Management Plan and highlighted some key actions that Halton had taken to date to reduce its carbon footprint.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the content of the report be noted;
- (2) Partner agencies look at the model which Halton Borough Council have used for carbon management and consider adopting a similar approach within their own organisation;
- (3) SSPs regularly include this on their own agendas.

### **38 NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Board considered a report which informed Members of the progress in developing neighbourhood management in Halton.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

### **39 WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND: FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

The Board considered a report which provided Members with a summary of spend for the second quarter of Working Neighbourhood Fund, July - October 2008.

The Board was advised it was likely that there would be a larger than anticipated under spend this year and it was proposed that any under spend be added to the Commissioning Pot. If agreed by the Board, the SSP Chairs would be consulted on this process.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the financial summary stated in the report be noted as a true and accurate statement; and
- (2) any WNF underspend at year end be added to the Commissioning Pot for 2009-11, unless there were any exceptional reasons for doing otherwise.

*Meeting ended at 12.05 p.m.*