

**Oldham Partnership Steering Group Meeting
Held at Civic Centre, Oldham
on 13th November 2008**

Members	Bill Edwards Zuber Ahmed James Allen Mohammed Alyas Mohammed Azam Cllr Ian Barker Jon Bloor Cllr Mike Buckley Cllr Olwen Chadderton John Crompton Kevin Dawson Clare Fish Marie Gillot Janet Gipson Stuart Goodwin Roger Gould Alan Higgins Alan Lee David McGealy Lihanne Nelson Pauline Richardson Cllr Alan Roughley John Tummon	Chair and Environment Partnership Oldham Primary Care Trust Coldhurst Area Committee Werneth Area Committee Voluntary & Community Sector Oldham MBC Local Learning Partnership Oldham MBC Oldham MBC Failsworth Area Committee East Oldham Area Committee Health & Social Care Partnership Jobcentre Plus Hollinwood Area Committee Greater Manchester Police Faith Sector – Churches Together Oldham Primary Care Trust Oldham MBC – Oldham Children's Trust Voluntary & Community Sector Oldham Children's Trust Chadderton Area Committee Oldham MBC Oldham Race Equality Partnership
Observers	Mark Bolger Paula Boshell John Eley Ian Flanagan Smith Neil Gibson Ian Kendall Karen McCrackle Mary Murphy Michelle Renshaw Anne Ryans Peter Stringer	Oldham MBC - Communities Voluntary, Community & Faith Partnership Oldham Partnership Support Team Oldham Partnership Support Team Oldham MBC – Strategy & Resource Oldham Community Leisure Oldham Partnership Support Team Oldham MBC - Communities Oldham Partnership Support Team (minute-taker) Oldham MBC - Finance Oldham MBC - Finance
Members Apologies	Martin Gleeson Cllr E Hulme Jean Maxwell Moira Percy Jennet Peters Fazil Rahim Cllr Glynis Shaw	Oldham Trades Union Council Oldham MBC Royton and Shaw Area Committee Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive Government Office North West Community Cohesion Advisory Group Oldham MBC

The Chair welcomed the new members to the meeting.

35/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

36/08 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Oldham Partnership Steering Group 14th August 2008

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

24/08 FREQUENCY OF OLDHAM PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP MEETINGS

Issues raised:

1. There are now 6 bi-monthly meetings per year. The Quarterly Performance update will be presented at the nearest meeting once data has been collated.
2. Car Parking passes are now available for the Steering Group meetings. These can not be issued on block. Members who are attending the meetings need to let the Support Team know in advance that they require a pass allowing enough time for these to be posted out prior to the meeting.
3. An update was given re the concern raised by Philip Gaul in the minutes at the last meeting re employees of the Council being excluded from participating in Area Committees. Mary Murphy informed the meeting that the change came about due to Area Committee's being constituted bodies which restricts officers to sit on these committee's.
4. There is now a Chairs blog on the internet. This is a two way communication. Issues raised re abbreviations will also be included on the internet giving a full glossary of meanings. Further details can be obtained from Karen McCrackle, Marketing & Communications Co-ordinator, Oldham Partnership Support Team (karen.mccrackle@oldhampartnership.org.uk)

27/08 GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT – LSP ENGAGEMENT

The Chair gave a reminder to the members to use their vote.

29/08 RESEARCH DELIVERY PLAN

Ian gave an update on the development of the Oldham Partnership Strategic Research Working Group's (OPSRWG) Delivery Plan. Since the Delivery Plan was approved on 14 August some further work has been done to refine the budget allocations. The contingency budget of £9,575 has now been allocated to a range of activities. The Place Survey has also cost approximately £5,000 less than anticipated which has meant it is possible to allocate a greater amount to the planned research project on low income, poverty and worklessness (the OPSRWG group felt this would add considerable value).

Ian confirmed the following revised budget allocations:

Two research engagement events	£4,000
OldhamInfo costs	£33,000
Place Survey	£25,000
Active People Survey sample boost	£3,425 (no change)
Oldham in Profile	£6,000
Research project on low income/poverty/worklessness	£38,000

The Steering Group formally approved the revisions to the Delivery Plan.

Regarding the project to be commissioned on the theme of low income, poverty and worklessness, Ian explained that the work will be commissioned asap in this financial year but the work may not be complete until post-March 2009. This means it may be necessary to finance all or part of this project using the group's budget for 2009/10 (depending on whether or not it will be possible to carry forward some of the budget from 2009/09). Ian therefore asked the Steering Group whether the OPSRWG can proceed to commission the work on the understanding that it may need to be financed in 2009/10, and also requested pre-approval to include this item of work in the 2009/10 Delivery Plan, should all or part of the work need to be commissioned in 2009/10. The Steering Group agreed that the OPSRWG should continue to commission the project on the above understanding and confirmed that it gives pre-approval that it would support the decision to carry out the project in 2009/10 should this be required (which assumes that an Area Based Grant allocation to strategic research will continue in 2009/10).

Ian gave details of a Research event he was holding on the 18th November. **Action:** Ian to circulate invitation to the Steering group.

30/08 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

John Eley provided an update. The work has now been approved and the proposal is to undertake the EIA in 3 phases:

Phase One

Original screening activity to be carried out by Harji Patel, with support from commissioning unit staff and technical advice from Catherine Newton. Activity to commence middle of November 08 and aim to complete by end of December 08. Equalities officers from partner organisations to be fully involved. Will focus upon the current LAA.

Phase Two

To include any outcomes of riep funded pilots in Sefton and Cumbria, which are seeking to disaggregate National Indicators scheduled to be available early in the new year. Move to full

EIA of identified areas of weakness. Harji Patel to lead, Catherine Newton to offer technical support. To take place early in the New Year with a March 31st end date. Equalities officers from partner organisations to be fully involved.

Phase Three

To carry out an equality impact assessment on the new refreshed LAA. To take place early in the new year with a March 31st 2009 end date. Harji Patel to lead on this and the impact assessment itself to be carried out by suitably qualified personnel from within LAA partner organisations.

John expressed the consensus was that this should be resourced as a borough and requested Partner Organisations and individuals get involved.

Action: John Eley to email summary to Steering group members.

Volunteers were requested to assist with the process. The following volunteered:

James Allen, representative for Coldhurst Area Committee; Janet Gipson, representative for Hollinwood Area Committee; Pauline Richardson, representative for Chadderton Area Committee

John Tummon sought clarification that the EIA would be paid for by the Partnership and carried out by Oldham MBC officers with volunteers to oversee. John Eley confirmed this would be the process.

33/08 MANCHESTER'S MULTI AREA AGREEMENT (MAA)

Cllr Roughley is on the Scrutiny Panel and gave a brief update.

John Crompton sought clarification on who attended the MAA event from the Steering Group. The Oldham Partnership Support Team did not organise this event so were unable to provide the information at the meeting. **Action:** The Support Team will contact the organisers to try and find out who attended from the Steering group.

Oldham Partnership Executive Group 18th September 2008

34/08 LAA REWARD GRANT

John Eley updated the meeting that Oldham were potentially planning on using the grant monies on one or two big transformational items. The monies will not be received until 2010/11.

35/08 PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Clarification was sought on the difference between this group and the Oldham Partnership Executive Group. John Eley explained that this group comprises the major public sector budget holding agencies which now need to meet regularly to drive the delivery of the Community Strategy and LAA.

Action: Bill Edwards to do a blog on the internet on this group at a later date.

Action: It was agreed this item would be brought to a future meeting.

38/08 LSP ELECTED MEMBER PROTOCOL

John Eley explained this was an agreement that included the number of Elected Members who would sit on various groups including working groups.

John Tummon requested that more detail of what was included in each item be incorporated in the minutes.

End of Matters Arising

37/08 LAA UPDATE: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BLOCK

An update on the Children & Young People Block within the Local Area Agreement

Alan Lee, Service Director - Children Young People and Families Directorate presented the report (please refer).

The report informed the Steering Group of progress in relation to establishing a Children's Trust in Oldham in addition to the development and delivery of the Children and Young People Block of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The report covered: Revised Governance Arrangements; LAA Performance 2007-8; Commissioning 2007-2008; Drivers and Priorities 2008-2011; Funding and Commissioning 2008-2009.

A discussion highlighted the following:

- It was requested that the RAG rating be made clearer in reports especially as not everyone has colour copies. In future the word Red, Amber or Green will be written within the colour codes to ensure it is clear even in black and white copies.
- Re: Page 11 of the report section: 'Make a Positive Contribution' discussion and concern was raised re the closure of Youth Centre's. This was echoed by a number of Area Committee Representatives.

Alan Lee responded to the concerns: The budget position is very challenging and services have had to be examined to reduce spend. Much of this has been looking at back office and properties held. The commitment remains to deliver in frontline services to the Young, the approach to rationalise is to look at improving provisions and having better facilities at fewer locations.

Further discussion highlighted concern that the needs for Youth Services are different in different communities within the borough and central locations may not be suitable for everyone.

John Crompton representative for Failsworth Area Committee highlighted that the Young people in his area had expressed they would like to meet in their own area with their own friends.

Other concerns raised included whether the new facilities would be open and ready for use before the existing one's were closed.

- Cllr Buckley expressed that Councillors and trying to make decisions on cuts and this committee is a great forum to express guidance and ideas.

Action: In view of the concerns from a number of representatives at the meeting it was decided that a separate session with Alan Lee would be arranged on the area of Youth Provision and views fed back into the process.

- Re. Page 7 Section 3.4 of the report. John Tummon raised his concerns that the ethnic breakdown within the LAA Indicators is not given within reports or in the LAA and if it was it would highlight further concerns.

Alan Lee responded to the concern: The report had a clear focus which did not take the one mentioned above, however, there is no reason at all why this information won't be provided.

John Eley confirmed that the Equality Impact Assessment would review such issues.

38/08 JSNA (JOINT SERVICE NEEDS ASSESSMENT)

A presentation presenting the findings to the Oldham Partnership Steering Group.

Alan Higgins, Director of Public Health and Clare Fish, Service Director, Adult & Community Services gave a presentation (please refer).

The purpose of the JSNA is to: Identify the current and future health and well-being needs of the local population; To inform priorities and targets set by LAA's; To inform commissioning priorities to improve outcomes and reduce health inequalities.

The full report and a summary of the JSNA is on the OldhamInfo website. Please give feedback.

A discussion highlighted the following:

- Cllr Roughley expressed the need for the information to be translated into understandable actions for the panels to be able to assist i.e. quality of life can be improved by some of the following.
- Engaging and Commissioning are significant problems which need to be addressed on a larger scale to make an impact.

It was expressed by the group that this is an area which should be considered during the review of the Council Budget. Health is a consequence of everything else which is done and should be incorporated in budget making.

- Communication needs to be improved to ensure residents are aware of what is being done, how they can help themselves etc.
- Cllr Chadderton sought clarification re. what is being done to address under age drinking.

Alan Higgins responded: With increased alcohol problems and the increase in people at hospital with alcohol related injuries this has been given priority status. It has been highlighted that this is a wider issue which the whole partnership needs to address.

39/08 SCS/LAA

To provide an opportunity to discuss the document in more detail as requested at the last Oldham Partnership Steering Group meeting.

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

40/08 QUARTER 2 – PERFORMANCE UPDATE

To provide an overview on Performance for Quarter 2.

This item was deferred to the next meeting and would be given priority on the agenda.

41/08 OCLL CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY

To provide an update to the Oldham Partnership Steering Group

Ian Kendall, Oldham Community Leisure gave a presentation (please refer).

The presentation covered 'the expected outcomes from sport and culture'.

A discussion highlighted the following:

- Clarification was sought as to how OCLL report into the Oldham Partnership.

OCLL report in via the Council and they also have strong links with the health block.

Action: Clare Fish to look at OCLL being included in the Health & Well-Being Partnership to provide a much clearer link.

- James Allen representative for Coldhurst Area Committee expressed concern and disappointment that disability facilities had not been mentioned including facilities to enable disabled people to be able to get out and about.

Ian Kendall responded informing the group that access had been reviewed at existing buildings and that new facilities provide for people with disabilities.

- John Tummon asked what had been considered re. the 2012 olympics and paraolympics in encouraging people to get involved and improve health and fitness awareness in the borough inspiring people to consider their lifestyles.

Ian Kendall responded informing the group that by 2012 plans should be in place for all Oldham's leisure facilities to be refurbished.

42/08 COMPACT

To inform the Oldham Partnership Steering Group on progress of the review regarding the local Compact and seek endorsement for the consultation and development process.

This was deferred until the next meeting.

43/08 PRIORITY PROGRAMME FUNDING TO COMMISSIONING THROUGH A STRONG COMMUNITIES FUND

To provide an update to the Oldham Partnership Steering Group

Mary Murphy, Communities Unit Manager presented the report (please refer).

The report was approved by the Oldham Partnership Executive at its meeting on the 18th September 2008. The Voluntary and Community Sector expressed concerns and requested that the report be brought to the Steering Group meeting for further discussion. The report set out proposals for the development of a more co-ordinated approach across the Oldham Partnership for work to build strong communities.

Mary Murphy included the following detail in her presentation:

Funding may be reduced to £880,000. For groups that aren't commissioned funding will be given for four months to assist with the transition or wind down.

Two task groups have been set up and will meet for the first time next Monday to look at what needs commissioning and a Needs Assessment will be undertaken which starts next week.

Overview & Scrutiny have task and finish group and will invite recipients of the funding to meet and input into consultation.

Mary provided the following timetable:

- Before Christmas – Needs Analysis around themes of Infrastructure, Community Development and Legal and Advice Services.
- Risk assessment of change to groups who may no longer be funded.
- Early New Year – decide commissioning framework, invite expressions of interest
- April – new commissions start

A discussion raised the following:

- Clarification was sought on how the groups had been put together and who sat on them.

Mark Bolger responded: The aim was to get representation from those not currently receiving funding.

- Clarification was sought as to whether the report had gone to the Voluntary, Community and Faith Partnership (VCFP).

The report had gone to the Community Cohesion Advisory Group (CCAG) which the VCFP are part of.

- Paula Boshell asked for clarification on the status of the report.

Mary Murphy responded: The report has been approved by the Oldham Partnership Executive Group at their meeting held on the 18th September 2008.

The Consultation Process is still ongoing and the Overview & Scrutiny meeting is on Monday.

Paula Boshell expressed her concern that this has been the first opportunity to have a dialogue and would not class it as meaningful consultation.

- Clare Fish commented that the Health & Well-Being Partnership had concerns about the content of the report and it had not had the opportunity to have input.
- Concern was raised re Ethnic Minority groups not having met for sometime and as such how do these groups get represented at the meetings making the decisions.
- John Tummon raised a couple of concerns. Firstly, equality does not seem to figure in the process and it isn't specified that it will be looked at. Equality is one of the six Community Cohesion principles and some assurance is needed that this will be included.

Secondly, there's concern that by moving to Area Based Grant (ABG) numerous Voluntary Organisations will not manage past April simply because of the need to meet core costs i.e. employment of a manager.

Also, the Voluntary and Community Sector need to feel secure about the process than they do at present especially with the absence of feeling that they have been consulted on the process.

John Tummon also had concerns that the same team of officers are going to undertake the Equality Impact Assessment and feels real consultation will not be undertaken. His view is that consultation should have been carried out prior to the Oldham Partnership Executive Group agreeing the report and he suggested that the process is deferred for 12months to allow full consultation.

John Eley responded: There is no reason why a formal consultation cannot be undertaken with both the VCFP and the H&WB board.

- Paula Boshell raised concern re. Volunteers who had given their time and would not find out until March what the outcome was. Paula expressed that this did not allow time for

redundancy of staff, there are lots of questions unanswered and felt the timescale needed to be extended to allow for this.

Mark Bolger responded: A letter had been sent to those affected by the Priority Programme Funding.

Paula Boshell had a copy of the letter and confirmed a response had been sent back but no reply had been received to answer the queries within it.

John Eley informed the group that a meeting had been organised with Paula and others to discuss some of these issues further.

The Chair summarised that there was a very strong indication that further discussion was needed and that it was important that members input into the meetings already arranged raising their concerns. The Steering group is a policy making group not a decision making group.

- Clarification was sought re. action being taken against trustees leading to personal costs being incurred and whether the Local Strategic Partnership would take responsibility for costs incurred rather than trustees.

Mary Murphy responded: The Council nor the Local Strategic Partnership would be responsible. Those organisations which received funding should have been incorporated as Limited by Guarantee, Voluntary Action Oldham should have been advising them of this.

John Eley distributed a form ' More arts funding for Oldham'. He expressed the importance of people in the borough completing these if they have taken part in any events within the borough. The forms will have an impact on the borough receiving £600,000. Partners were asked to circulate and encourage completion from those who had taken part in the Arts within the borough.

Action: John Eley to email questionnaire with a briefing to partners.

Dave McGealy asked if clarification could be given on whether Radio was seen as part of the Arts. **Action:** John Eley to liaise as necessary and respond.

44/08 2009/10 OLDHAM COUNCIL BUDGET

To provide an update to the Oldham Partnership Steering Group

Anne Ryans, Assistant Director - Finance gave a presentation supported by Peter Stringer SSDP Project Manager (please refer)

The purpose of the presentation was to present the proposals around Oldham Council's budget for 2009/10. As part of the papers copies of 2 reports presented to Cabinet had already been circulated. This gave an opportunity to obtain views and give the group chance to feedback into the process.

A discussion highlighted the following:

- John Tummon asked if the Priority Programme Funding was the 2nd largest cut in the budget as seemed to be the case in the reports circulated.

The figures would need to be looked at in detail to be able to confirm this.

- Clarification was sought on what had made the budget deficit worse than expected.

Anne Ryans responded: Savings had not materialised as expected. There was an assumption that the size of premises portfolio would be reduced. This has been effected by the current economic situation.

- Concern was raised re the cuts in the budget for Adult Services re disabled and carers.
- Clarification was requested as to how views from the borough had been sought as it was expressed the MORI poll only went out to 800 residents which did not seem like a large enough proportion of the boroughs residents.

Peter Stringer responded: There have been a number of options available to residents to have their input. These include: a simulator exercise on the Oldham Council's website, by email, by telephone etc.

- John Eley summarised that more work on the impact of the proposals needs to be done to look at what it means for residents.

Action: The group agreed that a one item agenda meeting should be arranged to look at this prior to the decision making stage. John Eley to co-ordinate.

In the meantime any suggestions and feedback can be sent in to Peter Stringer (peter.stringer@oldham.gov.uk) who will advise members of the views received.

45/08 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

46/08 DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS AT THIS STAGE.

No changes made.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Date of Next Meeting

Date: 15th January 2009

Time: 6pm

Venue: Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham