

# Minutes

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## Oldham Partnership Steering Group

12 March 2009

Crompton Suite, Civic Centre

At 6pm

### Members

#### Present:

Bill Edwards	Chair and Environment Partnership
Raad Al-Hamdani	Saddleworth and Lees Area Committee
James Allen	Coldhurst Area Committee
Mohammed Alyas	Werneth Area Committee
Cllr Mike Buckley	Oldham Council
John Crompton	Failsworth Area Committee
Kevin Dawson	East Oldham Area Committee
Marie Gillott	Jobcentre Plus
Janet Gipson	Hollinwood Area Committee
Stuart Goodwin	Greater Manchester Police
Alan Higgins	NHS Oldham
Ian Kendall	Oldham Community Leisure
Jean Maxwell	Royton and Shaw Area Committee
Dave McGealy	Voluntary, community and faith sector
Pauline Richardson	Chadderton Area Committee
Cllr Alan Roughley	Oldham Council
Garth Sharpe	Medlock Vale Area Committee
Tom Wolstencroft	Oldham Council

### Observers

#### Present:

Shirley Allen	Oldham Partnership support team
Martin Burroughs	Oldham Partnership support team
John Eley	Oldham Partnership support team
Michele Carr	Oldham Council
Ian Flanagan Smith	Oldham Partnership support team
Susan Kirkham	Oldham Partnership Strategic Research Working Group
Karen McCrackle	Oldham Partnership support team
Harji Patel	Oldham Partnership support team
Bruce Penhale	Oldham Council

### Members

#### Apologies:

Zuber Ahmed	Vice chair
Cllr Ian Barker	Oldham Council
Cllr Olwen Chadderton	Oldham Council
Clare Fish	Oldham Council

Martin Gleeson  
Lihanne Nelson  
Moirra Percy

Cllr Glynis Shaw  
Trupti Patel  
John Tummon

Oldham TUC  
Oldham Children's Trust  
Greater Manchester Passenger  
Transport Executive  
Oldham Council  
Voluntary and community sector  
Oldham Race Equality Partnership

10/09 **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting and gave apologies.

11/09 **Minutes and Matters Arising**

02/09 Matters arising

Dave McGealy confirmed a positive outcome had been reached in the discussions between Oldham Council (OC) and the voluntary, community and faith sector.

John Eley explained that we hadn't been able to set up the session to look at budget cuts, but could still do this in future. Roger Gould commented that it would be interesting to hear about Oldham Partnership finances at a future meeting.

03/09 Performance update

Marie Gillott updated the steering group on Oldham's employment figures:

- Number of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) customers in Oldham Jan 09 = 5493; Jan 08 = 3797
- Number of JSA customers moving off JSA Jan 09 = 731
- Number of JSA customer moving into JSA Jan 09 = 1324
- Vacancies held by Jobcentre Plus in Oldham Jan 09 = 681

Ian Flanagan Smith clarified the definition of a carer, taken from the Carers & Disabled Children Act 2000. "*Carers (aged 16 or over) who provide or intend to provide a substantial amount of care on a regular basis for another individual aged 18 or over*".

Tom Wolstencroft confirmed that a carer isn't paid and is often related to the person they care for.

Kevin Dawson asked what we do in Oldham to support young carers. Tom Wolstencroft said we have a young carers strategy and offered to provide further information if required

04/09 Compact

Bill Edwards reported that the strong third sector group was doing some excellent work and could present their work at a future steering group

06/09 Youth provision

Several members of the steering group said they were still concerned about the potential closure of some youth centres, and requested an update at the next meeting

#### General update

John Eley gave members a brief update on the changes within the council. He had met the new Assistant Chief Executive Carolyn Wilkins, who will have overall responsibility for Oldham Partnership's work in the future. There will be a greater emphasis on working in partnership and working in neighbourhoods in the future.

#### Heritage Advisory Forum

Cllr Mike Buckley, OC's historic environment champion, told members about Oldham's Heritage Advisory Forum. One of the forum's first pieces of work is to produce a list of buildings of historical interest.

Cllr Buckley sought support for the forum to be part of the Oldham Partnership structure, and made members aware that not every area in Oldham was represented on the forum, so new members would be very welcome.

The steering group responded positively. In particular Werneth Music Rooms were discussed. Cllr Buckley said members were welcome to attend the forum and raise the issue, and could also nominate other buildings for the historical interest list by contacting the council's new conservation officer Karen Heverin. John Crompton suggested the work of the forum should be discussed at area committees – Cllr Buckley will ask Karen to arrange this.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- **Partnership finances to be addressed at a future meeting**
- **Strong third sector group to present at a future meeting**
- **An update on youth centres to be provided for the May meeting**
- **A fuller briefing on the changes within the council and how they affect the partnership will be provided in May**
- **Steering group members to suggest buildings of historical interest to [Karen.heverin@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.heverin@oldham.gov.uk) ; 770 3717. Karen Heverin to contact area managers to highlight this work.**

#### 12/09 **Oldham Partnership's response to the credit crunch**

Michele Carr told members about the new credit crunch 'war cabinet' that will meet monthly to respond quickly to Oldham's changing circumstances as a result of the recession. The war cabinet has a 'rapid intervention fund', currently £400,000 that will be used in emergencies and only for work that isn't in the remit of the partnership's theme groups. For example, the time clients needed to wait for an appointment at the Citizens Advice Bureau recently rose from 2 weeks to 6 weeks, so the war cabinet agreed to fund two extra workers to bring this back down.

The war cabinet will produce a monthly report that partners will use to identify how they could change their services to help. Steering group members will be sent this.

Michele highlighted the new e-mail address for comments, suggestions and concerns ([credit.crunch@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:credit.crunch@oldham.gov.uk)) and asked area committee reps to help get the message out to their committees.

Dave McGealy asked whether we knew what had happened to ex-Woolworths employees. We don't have information that specific, but we can track the employment situation of people that have been directly supported by the partnership, such as ex-employees of Slumberland.

Janet Gipson asked whether there is an option to bring forward Government funding. Michele said the Government are looking at capital funding, and Beverley Hughes (North West Regional Minister) is lobbying on behalf of the region. Work is also underway to help local companies win local contracts.

**ACTIONS:**

- **Steering group members to promote the use of the [credit.crunch@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:credit.crunch@oldham.gov.uk) address, or to report community tensions the [community.relations@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:community.relations@oldham.gov.uk) address**

**13/09 Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

Please see the presentation circulated with these minutes.

Shirley Allen and Harji Patel from the partnership support team told the group about work to date in doing these mandatory assessments of the impact of our policies (our local area agreement, sustainable community strategy and Oldham Beyond strategy) on minority groups. A desktop research phase is now complete, and Harji and Shirley will now begin to work with the steering group members who volunteered their help.

Shirley told steering group members that this is taken very seriously, and if a negative impact is found we will undertake a full impact assessment and will fix the negative impact, by altering how we work if need be. Harji said we will begin the second phase immediately, however it is important the work isn't rushed and it given the time and consideration it merits.

**ACTIONS:**

- **The work was approved by the steering group, and the second phase will now get under way**
- **Shirley and Harji to meet Garth Sharpe to explain more about EIAs**

**14/09 LAA Update: Healthier Communities and Older People block**

Alan Higgins introduced the theme, which is about enabling residents to live longer and to enjoy a good quality of life. Alan reported some good news, including the likelihood of Oldham reaching its target for lowering deaths from cardio vascular disease. Other successes include a rapid uptake of bowel cancer screening and HPV (the virus that leads to cervical cancer) immunisation.

The number of smokers quitting for four weeks is currently not on target, and performance has slipped in the last year, however Alan reported the partnership has a new tobacco control strategy. Alcohol-related hospital admissions still need to be much lower, and Alan and Stuart Goodwin are meeting to consider what more we can do in partnership to tackle this.

Tom Wolstencroft reported we have already exceeded our challenging target to support people to live independently – and this is due to working in partnership. We will also meet another challenging target to reduce the number of older people going into residential care. John Crompton highlighted the success of the Forum4Age, which has 240 active members.

Cllr Roughley asked about older people who don't necessarily contact the council but may need help. Tom reported that whilst the number of older people who access our help is high compared to other parts of Greater Manchester, we're always trying to improve this – and in particular the number of older people from ethnic minorities contacting the council has improved.

#### **ACTIONS**

- **A glossary of the terms used will be provided with these minutes**
- **The 'Our health in our words' public health report will be distributed to steering group members**

#### **15/09 Neighbourhood working – where next?**

Bruce Penhale presented this work in progress to get feedback from the steering group.

He asked group members three key questions

- What needs to change to make your neighbourhood better?
- How do we have a better two-way dialogue with communities?
- How do we encourage communities to do things for themselves?

Garth Sharpe said the Medlock Vale neighbourhood agreements were a fantastic example of what can be achieved and asked that we learn from this success.

Jimmy Allen suggested that a council presence is valued at community meetings and officers should be encouraged to attend where possible. Stuart Goodwin said that the council and Greater Manchester Police are working well together to become more accountable and accessible to communities.

Mohammed Alyas asked about the area committee action plans, and was concerned that we could produce more plans that will 'go on the shelf'; Bruce acknowledged that these need to be concise and built into services' plans.

#### **16/09 Performance update**

This item was deferred to the next meeting

#### **17/09 Wellbeing measure for Oldham**

This item was deferred to the next meeting

- 18/09 **Oldham Partnership strategic research working group (OPSRWG) delivery plan**  
Susan Kirkham asked for approval for the OPSRWG's delivery plan for 2009-10, and also asked for the steering group to agree some flexibility in the budget.

**ACTIONS:**

- **The steering group gave provisional approval, but because the item was dealt with quickly, Susan was asked to return to the next meeting to give more detail**

- 19/09 **Future meeting dates, agenda items for future meetings at this stage and the next meeting's timetable**

All of the above were noted