

# Notes of Meeting

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## Chief Executives Management Board

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September

1pm – 3.00pm

### Attendance:

Caroline Ball, Carolyn Wilkins, Clare Fish, Emma Alexander, Elaine McClean, Gail Richards, Hugh Broadbent, Ian Hughes (for VJ), Ian Kendall, Janet Sewart, John Howard, Kath Thomas, Michael Jameson, Mike Walsh (for NB), Pat Johnson, Rosina Mortuza, Alison Vaughan (notes), John Eley,

### Welcome and Introductions - Carolyn Wilkins

Apologies: Charlie Parker, Nick Brown, Veronica Jackson, John Saxby, Debbie Bridge, John Archer

### 1 Minutes and Matters Arising

CW advised that Item 3 WNT item deferred until October and Item 11 One Card taken off the agenda

### 2 Race for Health – Gail Richards and Carolyn Wilkins

- Members of EMB took part in the Race for Health NHS peer review and participated in a presentation with regards to Oldham and Oldham Partnership from Gail Richards and Carolyn Wilkins. This outlined the vision for Oldham, our challenges and our successes.

### 3 Working Neighbourhoods Team – Michele Carr

- Item deferred to October

### 4 Children and Young Peoples Plan – Michael Jameson

- This is a refresh and there are no wholesale changes, with a reduction to eight headline priorities. Instead the review has strengthened links to Corporate policies, the SCS, LAA and the area working agenda. There is a focus on what has been achieved and also recognises the challenges and changes needed to move forward.
- There is also recognition of the Children's Trusts move to statutory status and therefore a need to strengthen governance and accountability. A Children's Trust development day is taking place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.
- Agreed that it's crucial we focus on impact and outcomes whilst building on our partnership approach and cross-cutting perspective.

### 5 Substance Misuse, Drugs and Alcohol – Janet Sewart



- An in depth needs assessment of drugs and alcohol in Oldham is underway that will help identify the challenges for the next 12 months. There are issues with alcohol treatment and investment around this. An alcohol co-ordinator is now in post to drive this agenda.
- There is a need for an integrated substance misuse treatment service, with one system and a seamless service for clients and a focus on the outcome rather than the organisation. Research has been commissioned to look at moving this forward, looking at efficiencies and best value whilst ensuring services can focus on what they do best.
- There are immediate issues with Tier 4 including challenges around rehabilitation of offenders, crime and domestic violence, with the need for offenders having access to immediate integrated treatment services. There are also priorities around the 'Hidden Harm' agenda and big challenges with regards to safeguarding as well as those who misuse and to also take account of the Think Family agenda.
- Under-pinning all this are resource issues as much of the activity is grant funded and performance related. There is a need to ensure available resources are appropriately spent with a clear ownership of the drug and alcohol agenda and to ensure the service is fit for purpose.
- Group agreed that we need to shift the focus from looking at funding to re-aligning mainstream provision, but with clear leadership and ownership so that we are clear about how we drive the agenda forward. A joint conversation is needed between HWB and SSC partners to determine what we need to do now together rather than separately.

#### *Actions*

- 5.1 Urgent meeting between Caroline Ball, Carolyn Wilkins, Gail Richards and Janet Sewart to be arranged by OPST.

## **6 CAA sharing emerging priorities – Pat Johnson**

The first draft of Oldham's CAA will be available this week. There is recognition that the tags and flags agenda has been dominant in the process. An update of the report content was provided:

#### *Red tags*

- Health Inequality – would not be given a red flag. Acceptance that we are not there yet but that we have positive movement and a plan that evidences that we wont continue to do the same as we have.
- Housing - would not be given a red flag. There is a recognition of the huge challenges and that enough is being done. Our approach is not inadequate but it is not going to solve the problem but there is recognition of current financial restraints to address this further. HB highlighted the recent announcement of Government investment around new social housing that will see improvements in Oldham.

#### *Green tags*

- Young people's future prospects – Will be given a Green Flag. There is significant progress around this and a recognition of the narrowing of the gap and depth and degree of success already evident.

- Teenage pregnancy – will be given a Green Flag. There are still too many teenage pregnancies but the improvement is “spectacular”. Again, this is in recognition of the extent and depth of what is being done as a partnership.
- Cleaner/Greener – will not be given a Flag. Recognise our good performance and progress but there are still perceptions issues that need to be addressed.
- Cohesion – will not be given a red flag. Did not want to escalate this issue to more than what it is but feel that we are still not managing to change people’s perceptions. The AC want to understand better and recognise more about what we are doing. CB highlighted the Prevent agenda and highlighted that we are starting to join up despite competing national drivers but agree that we need to drive the change to address perceptions and satisfaction on this.
- Income and Poverty – if anything, this will be a narrower set. They are very assured by what is being done for children and young people, despite there being issues with some schools still, and the focus on this generation looks good for the future. There is also a recognition of the indicator measure for YP and poverty. However they are not convinced with the adult and skills agenda. There is some positive activity but feel that this is not significant enough to change things.

There will be no outcome on the following green tags:

- Response to the recession – we are not unique or innovative in our approach but recognise the successes.
- Homelessness – positive outcomes but variable and again what we are doing is not unique or innovative. There is a need for sustainability for this to be Green flagged.
- Domestic fires – what we do is good practice but not particularly different from what is seen as standard practice.

There will be a mention around alcohol in the report and will be looking at progress in this area, alongside other issues, in more detail next year.

A key issue from the assessment is that even when we are doing well, the public aren’t seeing it or recognising it. Need to focus not just on what we are doing but also on the perceptions of what we are doing.

There is still further dialogue to take place before the final report is issued, with a week for feedback on factual inaccuracies, etc before the formal report is produced on 19<sup>th</sup> October. There will be rights of representations after this with final results being published under embargo on 7<sup>th</sup> December and then formally published on 10<sup>th</sup> December on the One Place website.

Pat thanked the Partnership for our approach and contributions to the process. This has been one of the better experiences for her due to our openness and honesty about our challenges.

MJ welcomed the synergy between the Ofsted and CAA process but felt there may be an opportunity for further sharing of information. Pat emphasised that CAA is more focussed on outcomes and scale and that it is the impact they are looking for. This is not a test of deprivation but they are assessing progress and also if the scale is enough for it to make a difference.

The Group thanked Pat for her help and support.

## **7 Housing Allocations Policy – Hugh Broadbent**

- Hugh highlighted the perceptions agenda around housing allocations and that issues around cohesion are not just about race.
- They have been successful and are starting to have an impact in moving people into non-traditional areas and they are implementing an open door policy, to give those who have been on the waiting list long-term preference.
- A clear need needs to be evident but still take into account choice or where people want to live to avoid social engineering.
- There are still many sensitive issues, particularly around specialist housing for specialist needs such as drug users. CB and JS asked if this was because of the way we talk about the issue. Certain groups do need bespoke housing but it's how we do it and package it that's crucial. We need to address this issue as it won't go away – how open are we/should we be needs to be determined.

### *Actions*

- 7.1 Need to tackle difficult issue, pool our intelligence and then challenge the evidence to ensure future proofing. External conversation required.

## **8 Affordable Housing, meeting local needs – Hugh Broadbent**

- Identified that most repossessions are from secondary loans on properties and from those who had affordability issues around their mortgages at the outset.
- Agreed that affordability gap is the issue and the perceptions/prejudice around affordable housing.
- Developers are not keen on building for social landlords despite the affordable homes agenda but prefer the buy to let market.

### *Action*

- 8.1 Mark Reynolds to be invited to a future meeting around the strategic housing agenda. How can we pick up some of the difficult questions both reports have highlighted?

### *Updates*

## **9 Swine Flu – Gail Richards**

- This is a health led issue at present. We are beginning to see an expected increase in cases and mid October will see the introduction of a vaccination programme have we a tight enough grip? Issues, gaps and concerns to be passed to Gail.
- We have business continuity plans in place but we also need to pick up governance issues to ensure these are covered too. We need to determine what is essential and determine a hierarchy of important issues so that we only do the work we need to and what we will need to keep doing.
- We need to increase our communications measures and public reassurance agenda so that as partners we are affirming that we are doing what needs to be done.

### *Actions:*

- 9.1 Gail to review our approach by mid October so that we can pick up partners plans and cross reference our approaches

## **10 Alcohol Strategy – Alan Higgins**

This is a work in progress and a full update to be provided in November

- 11 Shared Services – Emma Alexander**  
A full report to be provided in November
- 12 One Card – Emma Alexander**  
Item removed from the agenda
- 13 Streamlining our Infrastructure – Gail Richards/Veronica Jackson**  
There is a clear commitment and focus to improve outcomes and linkages to shared services. A report to be provided November/December
- 14 Skills Pledge and Apprenticeships – Kath Thomas**  
Further information to be provided to Kath. Once complete, she will start looking at how we can move apprentices around organisations, regardless of who employs them to be give a broader experience. The skills for life agenda will also help address the adult skills issues highlighted in the CAA.
- 15 Work plan, Date of next Meeting and AOB**  
26<sup>th</sup> October 2009, 1pm – date to be confirmed as clashes with half term.  
OPST to check availability and reschedule if required.