

Minutes

Oldham Partnership Steering Group

18th March 2010

Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham

At 6pm

Members

Present:

Bill Edwards	Chair and Environment Partnership
Raad Al-Hamdani	Saddleworth and Lees Representative
James Allen	Coldhurst Representative
Cllr Mike Buckley	Oldham Council
Cllr Chadderton	Oldham Council
Marie Gillott	Jobcentre Plus
Janet Gipson	Hollinwood Representative
Roger Gould	Churches Together
Camilla Guereca	Voluntary, community and faith sector
Catherine Hankinson	Greater Manchester Police
Ian Kendall	Oldham Community Leisure
Jean Maxwell	Royton, Shaw and Crompton Representative
Safina Rashid	Voluntary Action Oldham
Cllr Alan Roughley	Oldham Council
Cllr Glynis Shaw	Oldham Council
Howard Sutcliffe	Voluntary, community and faith sector
Eric Tripp	Chadderton Representative
Liz Windsor-Welsh	Voluntary, community and faith sector

Observers

Present:

Jennifer Barker	Oldham Council
John Eley	Oldham Partnership support team
Ian Flanagan Smith	Oldham Partnership support team
Alan Higgins	Oldham PCT
Colette Kelly	Oldham Council
Karen McCrackle	Oldham Partnership support team
Harji Patel	Oldham Partnership Support Team
Michelle Renshaw	Oldham Partnership support team
Ben Spinks	Oldham Council
Tom Wolstencroft	Oldham Council

Apologies:

Representatives from Government Office North West	
Garthe Sharpe	Medlock Vale District Partnership
Carolyn Wilkins	Oldham Council
Lihanne Nelson	Oldham Children's Trust

01/10 **Welcome and apologies**

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies.

02/10 **Minutes and matters arising**

Oldham Partnership Steering Group meeting held 12th November 2009

47/09 A presentation was requested on the role of Overview and Scrutiny.

ACTION: This presentation to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

50/09 The co-optee meeting had now taken place.

Oldham Partnership Executive Group meeting held 17th December 2009

43/09 ABG 2010/11 will be in the region of £27 million, beyond 2011 the amount of funding is unknown due to National Public funding. Programmes in ABG will be reviewed in line with this.

03/10 **Duty to Involve**

Ben Spinks (assistant executive director for corporate policy and research) presented the item. The presentation focussed on the significant updates rather than work already undertaken.

The Steering Group was informed that from the 1st April 2009 there is a duty on local authorities to work with partners to involve local people. The IDeA who work nationally with Councils, undertook a workshop with Oldham to explore what a Citizen Engagement Strategy (CES) would look like for Oldham. The strong view from the workshop was that it should be looked at as a partnership. The Oldham Partnership Steering Group was in agreement with this.

Bill Edwards queried that the report did not acknowledge the work already done and thought this should have been stated within it. Ben Spinks confirmed that the work already undertaken had been discussed at the workshop and that these will be included in future reports.

John Eley asked for clarification on the CES as to whether this superseded the previous one. Ben Spinks confirmed that this one builds on what we had previously.

James Allen raised concern re. District Partnership co-optees and the role they play, the involvement from co-optees varies between the different districts and needs to be addressed. Catherine Hankinson questioned that the community might want information rather than involvement.

Ben Spinks informed the group that basic information should be available for all and that

the opportunity for further involvement is there for those who wish to be involved.

Cllr Buckley asked for clarification on the next stage re. the proposals and action. Ben Spinks informed the meeting that we are now in a position to move forward using the report from the IDeA workshop held on the 2nd March. This will then be brought back to the Oldham Partnership highlighting any gaps and the scope of strategy. The intention is to produce a draft quickly. Cllr Buckley asked for a more specific timescale. Ben Spinks confirmed it would be within the next couple of months or so but definitely for July.

04/10 **Anti-poverty strategy**

Jennifer Barker (policy officer, Oldham council) presented the item.

The strategy is being developed as a Partnership document. In March 2009 the Oldham Partnership Strategic Research Working Group (OPSRWG) commissioned the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) to carry out research into the causes and consequences of low income, poverty and worklessness in Oldham. The quotes within the strategy are direct from the research carried out.

The Action Plans are based on what is additional not what is already going on.

The document will be presented to the Oldham Partnership Executive group meeting on the 24th March. The Action Plans will be reviewed annually and the strategy every two years.

The final document will be available on the Oldham Partnership website.

Ben Spinks gave thanks to those who were involved with the development of the strategy.

Bill Edwards commented that the quotes within the document help keep a real focus. However, he expressed his concern that the document did not include health & well being. Ben Spinks responded stating the document focuses on additional work being undertaken and that the PCT will look after the health & well being elements.

James Allen expressed his concern re heating and the charges and asked that more work be done around lobbying the electricity companies.

Liz Windsor-Welsh sought clarification around the Risk Analysis section of the report regarding the prioritisation if funding was insufficient. Cllr Buckley also raised concern and expressed the need for priorities to be stated highlighting what will make the biggest difference and for programmes to be measurable and deadlines included. Raad Al-Hamdani also asked for clarification on whether monitoring progress would be given at these meetings.

Ben Spinks confirmed that progress would be reported to the Oldham Partnership and thanked everyone for their feedback on the document.

Cllr Roughley commented that there is a spread of wealth across the borough, education results could improve and there are job problems. Although these are acknowledged within the document he expressed that re. education we could lobby for more funding; re. jobs and low pay he would like to see evidence on what existing manufacturers tend to do to help. Some measures are run by private companies and so nothing can be done directly however more lobbying could be done.

John Eley informed the group that Oldham had a flagship project in the Junior University and also Oldham is exceptional in improving at further education level.

Eric Trigg asked if the war in Afghanistan has had any impact on Oldham. John Eley responded around the Economic restructuring and the recession.

Marie Gillott informed the group that there has not been a big increase in Job Seekers Allowance figures, the main area of concern is the number of people who have been in receipt of Incapacity Benefit for over 5 years. The Government are introducing new ideas to see how they can move those who are capable of working towards work.

ACTION: The Chair asked whether the strategy could be revisited in terms of the linkages between poor health and poverty.

05/10 **LAA Update: EIA**

Harji Patel (senior partnership officer, Oldham council) presented the report.

Clarification was sought re. point 9 in the report on what would be expected from representatives. Harji Patel informed the group that they would be part of the scrutiny group and their feedback would be incorporated within the officers validation and feedback to the OP Steering Group.

John Eley clarified that the main priority is to try and get service users to test the services. It is a unique opportunity as a partnership sharing programmes of activity and individuals testing them.

Janet Gipson asked whether other departments were included i.e. planning. Harji Patel informed the group that primarily it has been activities of the OP/ABG which have undergone the process, however, all activities have to undergo EIA.

Liz Windsor-Welsh expressed the importance of making sure community engagement is meaningful and that they can see the change and their input has made an impact.

Bill Edwards summarised with the following points:

- More volunteers are needed
- Harji to work with VAO
- Want Feedback

- Officers to be more committed to the process
- Not just dealing with LAA
- Issues and needs to be taken to appropriate section/department

06/10 **LAA Update: Health & Well Being**

Alan Higgins (Director of Public Health, Oldham PCT) and Tom Wolstencroft (Assistant Associate Director) gave a presentation.

Raad Al-Hamadi asked if presentations could keep the same colours for graphs etc to help interpretation and that the most up to date information be provided. Raad also asked for clarification on what had happened in 2003 to make the mortality rate increase. Alan Higgins responded to the queries stating that it is not clear what caused the fluctuation in the mortality rate and the data used is the most up to date official data they have.

Cllr Roughley asked for clarification on the link between social inequalities, health and sustainable climate change. Alan Higgins provided examples to show the link i.e. colder, wetter winters/more intense heat in summer have direct links to such things as respiratory problems. Also, levels of physical activity can have an impact on sustainable environment i.e. people walking to work or cycling leads to better air quality due to less omissions from cars.

District Partnerships have an important part to play as this is a way of engaging at community level with health & well being i.e. access greener space.

James Allen raised concerns around outstanding major adaptations and how this is going to be addressed to enable people to get out and about. Tom Wolstencroft confirmed that there is a problem in the fact there is more demand than there is funding and so there is a need to look at how people can obtain other help from services within the borough.

Ian Kendal commented that the people of the borough need to want to join in with the activities provided. The government have invested in free swimming for the under 16 and over 60 year olds however Oldham has a very low take up for this.

Janet Gipson suggested that activities should be advertised in the newsletters sent out within the District Partnerships. Colette Kelly confirmed that this could be done but also stated that activities are widely advertised via the website, newspapers, leaflets.

The group asked what could be done to improve participation. Alan Higgins informed the group that a round table exercise is being undertaken in May which he would be happy to undertake as part of this action and report back. The group welcomed this and asked if this exercise could include potential users.

ACTION: Alan Higgins to organise a round table exercise and report back to this group on the outcome.

07/10 **OPSRWG 2010/11 Delivery Plan**

This item was cancelled due to changes in the process.

08/10 **Performance Update Q3 09/10**

The update information was provided in a report by Ian Flanagan Smith (partnership co-ordinator, Research & Performance).

09/10 **Area Based Grant allocations to the VCFP**

This information was provided in the report from the Oldham Partnership Support Team.

10/10 **District Partnerships Update**

Colette Kelly (assistant executive director, neighbourhoods) presented the report.

Clarification was sought on the following sections within the report:

3.4 This is explaining that a selection of officers/services will deal with a selection of issues.

4.2 The visit to Sheffield highlighted that it will take time for the governance mechanism to bed in and for services to respond to local needs.

5.2.3 An example was given to explain this section. Area Action Teams are predominantly crime driven, what we would like to see is information overlaid for that area i.e. cleanliness, standard mortality etc to show a comparison to the borough average.

7.1 Failsworth area had been missed out.

Clarification was sought on how specialised services ties in with area services. Colette Kelly explained that some services can be delivered at area level and some at a central level.

James Allen asked if assistance could be given in respect of expenses/ transport for those co-optees who are asked to go on seminars etc. **ACTION: Colette Kelly will look into this request.**

District Partnership co-optees raised the following concerns:

1. The PACT meetings still seem to be discussing the same issues over and over again.
2. Issues do not seem to be going forward to relevant meetings.
3. Feedback not being received.
4. The processes, question time etc are not very clear.
5. The meetings should allow co-optees to be round the table and part of the meeting.

Colette Kelly explained that the change in the format of the agenda for the PACT is what people asked for.

Bill Edwards as Chair of the OP Steering Group offered to attend one of the meetings to observe the process and give input and invited others to do the same.

ACTION: Dates of the District Partnership meetings are to be circulated.

Janet Gipson raised the issue of meetings for Failsworth & Hollinwood being held at the Civic centre rather than in the community. Colette Kelly explained that this was not a permanent decision and would change once issues with these meetings had been resolved.

11/10 **Next meeting**

13th May 2010, 6pm, Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham:

- LAA Update: Economic Development & Enterprise Block
- Quarter 4 09/10 Performance Update
- Compact update

Other agenda items to be reported at a relevant time:

- Alcohol strategy
- Healthy weight strategy

ACTION: Steering group members to advise the partnership support team of agenda items by 22nd April 2010