

# Minutes

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## Oldham Partnership executive

**24 March 2010**

**Groundwork Environment Centre**

2pm

**Members present:**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Nick Brown                  | Oldham Sixth Form College                |
| Gail Richards               | NHS Oldham                               |
| Cllr John McCann            | Oldham Council                           |
| Cllr Lynne Thompson         | Oldham Council                           |
| Cllr Jim McMahon            | Oldham Council                           |
| Cllr Peter Dean             | Oldham Council                           |
| Carolyn Wilkins             | Oldham Council                           |
| Paul Argyle                 | Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service |
| Liz Windsor Welsh           | Voluntary community & faith sector       |
| Phil Sumner                 | Strong Communities Strategy Group        |
| Jonathan Yates              | Voluntary community & faith sector       |
| Marie Gillott               | Jobcentre Plus                           |
| Sally Pearson               | Government Office North West             |
| Alan Higgins                | NHS Oldham                               |
| Chief Supt Tim Forber       | Greater Manchester Police                |
| Jimmy Allen (observer)      | OP steering group cooptee                |
| Garth Sharpe (observer)     | OP steering group cooptee                |
| Cllr Ann Wingate (observer) | Oldham Council                           |
| Eric Noi (observer)         | OCVYS                                    |

**Officers present:**

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| John Eley       | Oldham Partnership |
| Alison Vaughan  | Oldham Partnership |
| Karen McCrackle | Oldham Partnership |
| Adam Lee        | Oldham Partnership |
| Sewa Singh      | Oldham Council     |
| Harriet Wilkins | Oldham Council     |

**Apologies:**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Cllr Howard Sykes | Oldham Council                                 |
| Charlie Parker    | Oldham Council                                 |
| Michelle Ford     | Learning and Skills Council Greater Manchester |
| Charles Shaw      | OCVYS  |

01/10 **Welcome and apologies**

Nick Brown welcomed colleagues

02/10 **Minutes and matters arising**

December's minutes will be amended to reflect that the annual update to the executive will be about the third sector rather than just the compact.

Other than that, the minutes from the executive meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December were approved.

Notes from the most recent public service board were circulated, as were the minutes of the credit crunch cabinet (CCC) on 21 December 2009.

**ACTION:**

**CCC minutes will be circulated as soon as they are available rather than with the subsequent executive papers**

03/10 **Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) chairing arrangements**

The executive supported option three of the council and police jointly chairing the DAAT. This decision will now be taken back through relevant statutory bodies. Gail pointed out that there's also an opportunity to review broader DAAT membership and make sure the right people are around the table.

**ACTION:**

**Broader DAAT membership to be reviewed if appropriate**

04/10 **Safe and strong communities (SSC) performance update**

An update was given on performance over the last year in this theme.

Phil Sumner expressed concern about the holder of the Director for Transforming Learning post being on a temporary contract. Nick Brown offered to raise this issue with the Children's Trust.

Jim McMahon asked whether the needs and concerns of Oldham's white working class residents were considered when we thought about community cohesion. Executive members reassured Cllr McMahon that this issue has been recognised as a gap in our provision, and members of the SSC in attendance at the executive will ensure it is raised again.

Gail Richards highlighted the excellent performance in NI 111 (first time entrants into the youth justice system) and asked for the partnership to ensure that the learning from this was disseminated.

**ACTION:**

**NB to raise PS's comment re the Director for Transforming Learning post at the Children's Trust meeting**

**CW to highlight JM's concern that the needs of the borough's white working class be considered in community cohesion activities**

05/10 **Review of ABG programme and single commissioning board**

A report was presented on area based grant. At the time of the meeting we were approaching the end of the second of three years of ABG. John Eley described the current landscape: an expectation of harsh public sector funding cuts in the coming years, and Oldham's preparation for this.

Challenge sessions are proposed to assess the impact and value for money of current ABG-funded activities. Further discussion of the membership and governance of the challenge panels will take place at the public service board. John then gave updates on the development of a single commissioning board (SCB) and the partnership transformation fund (unused ABG).

Phil Sumner asked that membership of both the challenge panel and SCB achieved a balance of people who understand both hard targets and the softer, perceptions-based targets. In terms of governance, it was also suggested that there was some overlap in the democratic structures of the council and NHS, and some work could be done to rationalise this.

Nick suggested that the proposals for membership of the challenge panel be worked up and sent round to the executive. Gail expressed a need for transparency and openness in this process, and also asked for executive members to commit to clear diaries to meet the timescales of this project. She also called for the documentation to be absolutely correct; there are currently some inconsistencies. Cllr Dean reinforced the need for transparency and Nick assured him that the process and terms of reference would be publicly accessible.

Cllr McMahon asked whether we could clearly state that core services shouldn't be funded by ABG; Gail commented that whilst this would be exactly the right thing to do, there may be implications for services. We'd need a clear picture of these implications – and a shared understanding of what we mean by core services - before we could make this decision.

Cllr McMahon queried £500,000 of ABG which has been allocated to Oldham Council, with no reference made in the papers to what this is for. It should not be used to fill any gaps in the council budget, and he felt that the executive could not approve the ABG proposals without having this information. Cllr McMahon agreed that once evidence of what the £500,000 was for had been provided, the PSB could make a delegated decision on the ABG allocations. He asked that a report go to the PSB on this matter, and be circulated to the executive also.

**ACTIONS:**

**Challenge panel membership to reflect hard and soft targets**

**More detailed challenge membership proposals to be circulated to the exec as soon as possible**

**Exec members to make any further comments to John Eley**

**Exec members to receive a copy of the ABG report that goes to the PSB**

06/10 **Update on health and well being block**

Alan Higgins outlined the health and well being performance over the last year. In particular:

- Whilst progress is being made against the all age all cause mortality rate in Oldham, we are tracking the national and regional trends rather than closing the gap. Improvements have slowed for females.
- In mortality from circulatory disease, again Oldham is tracking the national and regional trends and not closing the gap.
- Cancer mortality is not coming down as steeply as circulatory disease, and indeed has been rising in Oldham for the last few years, particularly for women.
- Alcohol related hospital admissions to the Royal Oldham hospital are lower than the regional rate, but have been going up for some years. Accordingly, services have been reconfigured to treat alcohol dependency.
- There have been significant achievements in increasing the number of people receiving self directed support.
- 92% of Oldham primary care practices offer extended hours, against a national target of 50%.

Alan also highlighted the Marmot review to reduce health inequalities, which clearly positioned health inequalities as a fairness and social justice issue. Executive members commented on a clear link between the Marmot review and Oldham's anti-poverty strategy, and asked for the anti-poverty strategy to reflect the link between poverty and health.

**ACTION:**

**The link between poverty and poor health to be included in Oldham's anti-poverty strategy**

07/10 **Developing a regional science centre**

John Eley gave an update on the development of a regional science centre (RSC) in Oldham. The executive has already pledged its support for the RSC, and for pursuing the purchase of an existing property for the location of the centre.

A confidential report was circulated.

There was discussion about the LAA reward grant, which the executive had previously agreed to ring fence for the RSC. The reward grant had not yet been audited so Oldham was not in receipt of it; hence it had been removed from the RSC funding. Nick explained that the sixth form college's board of governors had agreed to commit college funds. Cllr McMahon stated that when the reward grant comes through the commitment to use it on the RSC should remain.

Gail Richards asked that wording should be included in a memorandum of understanding to reaffirm that partners share the risks of the RSC, and that everyone agrees that a final resourcing package might look different to what's currently presented, and that everyone agrees to this.

Further discussion took place about the repayment period for the prudential loan, including debate about whether the period should be ten rather than five years. Carolyn Wilkins explained that the council cabinet had already accepted this risk, and we will use the five year period to pay off as much as we can and then re-negotiate beyond that if need be.

In light of a possible reduction in ABG it was also thought to be risky to commit such a significant amount of ABG to the RSC. It was agreed to revisit the RSC financing if a significant drop in ABG was announced. Cllr McMahon stated his belief that the reward grant should be used to reimburse the sixth form college.

**ACTION:**

**Carolyn Wilkins will take these discussions back to the borough treasurer.**

**08/10 Items for information**

- Anti-poverty strategy. As item 06/10, the links between health and poverty will be explored further in this strategy
- Improving confidence strategy. The strategy was circulated to members
- LAA refresh: five indicators linked to the recession

**ACTION:**

**The link between poverty and poor health to be included in Oldham's anti-poverty strategy**

**09/10 Dates of future meetings**

All at Groundwork at 2pm.

24 June 2010

23 September 2010

23 December 2010

**10/10 Agenda items for future meetings at this stage**

Economic prosperity update (June 2010)

Interim town centre plan (at relevant time)

Safe and strong communities update (September 2010)

Children's Trust update (December 2010)

Third sector update (December 2010)

**11/10 Timetable for the next meeting**

28 May 2010

Final request to executive members for agenda items

3 June 2010

Deadline for receipt of agenda items

7 June 2010

Deadline for receipt of reports

9 June 2010

Agenda and reports emailed and posted to executive