

Minutes

Oldham Partnership Steering Group

12 November 2009

Crompton Suite

At 6pm

Members

Present:

Bill Edwards
Raad Al-Hamdani

James Allen
Mohammed Alyas
Cllr Mike Buckley
Cath Cook
John Crompton
Marie Gillott
Stuart Goodwin
Roger Gould
Camilla Guereca
Cllr Paul Martin
Jean Maxwell
Lihanne Nelson
Garth Sharpe
Liz Windsor-Welsh
Jonathan Yates

Chair and Environment Partnership
Saddleworth and Lees Area
Committee
Coldhurst Area Committee
Werneth Area Committee
Oldham Council
Voluntary, community and faith sector
Failsworth Area Committee
Jobcentre Plus
Greater Manchester Police
Churches Together
Voluntary, community and faith sector
Oldham Council
Royton and Shaw Area Committee
Children's Trust
Medlock Vale Area Committee
Voluntary, community and faith sector
Voluntary, community and faith sector

Observers

Present:

Jenni Barker
John Eley
Ian Flanagan Smith
Michael Jameson
Colette Kelly
Karen McCrackle
Ben Spinks
Gail Thompson
Carolyn Wilkins

Oldham Council
Oldham Partnership support team
Oldham Partnership support team
Oldham Council

Oldham Partnership support team
Oldham Council
Observer
Oldham Council

Apologies:

Mohammed Azam
Jon Bloor
Cllr Chadderton
Paul Davies
Clare Fish
Janet Gipson

Voluntary, community and faith sector
Local Learning Partnership
Oldham Council
Oldham Council
Oldham Council
Hollinwood Area Committee

Cllr Hulme	Oldham Council
Ian Kendall	Oldham Community Leisure
Susan Kirkham	Oldham Council
Trupti Patel	Voluntary, community and faith sector
Moira Percy	GMPT
Fazal Rahim	Voluntary, community and faith sector
Pauline Richardson	Chadderton Area Committee
Cllr Alan Roughley	Oldham Council
Cllr Glynis Shaw	Oldham Council
Sewa Singh	Oldham Council
Howard Sutcliffe	Voluntary, community and faith sector

45/09 **Welcome and apologies**

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies.

46/09 **Minutes and matters arising**

38/09 An equalities impact assessment update was circulated at the meeting

39/09 A breakdown of the area based grant that goes to the voluntary and community sector still needs to be provided

39/09 A satisfactory solution to the access issues at Voluntary Action Oldham was found

40/09 Janet Gipson had received a response on her queries about two issues in her area, and Janet would like the excellent help she received from John Rooney minuted. An update paper from John was circulated.

40/09 Jimmy Allen had also received a response to his query

42/09 The 2020 targets will be picked up at the next meeting, and a meeting with the Voluntary Community and Faith Partnership will be arranged

John Crompton asked whether there were any executive minutes, as the steering group usually receives these. John Eley reported that the executive hadn't met since June, but would meet again in November and we would make sure the steering group receive these.

John reported that the partnership had recently been awarded a prestigious European Public Sector Award. Bill Edwards acknowledged the input of the steering group in this achievement and thanked everyone.

ACTION:

- **Breakdown of partnership funds to the voluntary and community sector to be provided (Oldham Partnership Support Team – OPST)**
- **2020 targets to be picked up at the steering group in January and VCFP meeting to be arranged (IFS)**

47/09 **Overview and scrutiny (O & S) – involving you**

This item was withdrawn from the agenda. Bill reminded members that they can suggest items for O & S to scrutinise.

48/09 **LAA update: children and young people block (Children's Trust)**

Michael Jameson (assistant executive director for children and young people) and Lihanne Nelson (Children's Trust development officer) presented an update on this block,

and their achievements and challenges. The Children's Trust is a statutory body responsible for achieving the five outcomes for children and young people:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic wellbeing

Lihanne told steering group members that the Children and Young People's Plan had been refreshed and is now available. (access it at www.oldham.gov.uk/children_and_young_people_plan). It contains more information about the achievements for each outcome.

Michael informed the group that the Children's Trust is moving to a locality model of delivering services in communities, and making schools and children's centres the hubs of communities.

John Crompton said the summer activities programme was a big success, and asked whether it could be made year-round. Colette Kelly said that we hope to continue the work.

Mohammed Alyas asked whether childhood obesity is a bigger problem in any particular part of the borough, and whether we target activities towards certain wards. Lihanne said that we are in the early stages of 'drilling down' into detailed ward-level statistics, but it will be done and will inform our planning. Michael said it was precisely because certain issues are a bigger problem in certain areas (for example, the infant mortality rate is highest in Chadderton) that we are moving to a locality-based model.

Jimmy Allen said that more must be done to encourage healthy eating in deprived areas. He also asked what's being done to stop offenders re-offending. Michael answered that Positive Steps have a very effective programme to tackle this.

Roger Gould asked whether there were any significant failures. Michael said that in educational attainment there was a significant polarisation of results, with five schools not achieving our floor targets for GCSE results. This remains a significant challenge.

Cllr Martin asked how the reduction in teenage pregnancy was achieved. This is through long term partnership working, and a tailored and customised approach. It was highlighted that this success was one of the reasons the secretary of state visited Oldham.

Bill Edwards concluded the discussions by saying the steering group fully endorse the move to locality working.

49/09 Development of the Voluntary Community and Faith Partnership (VCFP) and Compact update

Liz Windsor-Welsh (interim chief officer, VAO) and Jonathan Yates (chair, VCFP) gave

an update on the VCFP, which is the representative body for all the voluntary, community and faith groups in Oldham. The VCFP is the vehicle through which VCF organisations have a direct input into the partnership. A key aim for the VCFP support staff is to support the VCF representatives on the partnership and its thematic boards, and they will also be developing VCFP links with the district partnerships. They may also develop equalities networks, for example a BME network.

Liz and Jonathan proposed that their new model means any Oldham VCF organisation can be involved in strategic decision-making or decisions at a thematic level. Different levels of involvement are available, so a smaller organisation, for example, doesn't need to attend a meeting to have its voice heard.

An update on the compact was then given. This is a document setting out the principles of the relationship between the statutory and the VCF sector. Everyone can help to embed these principles and implement the compact. Copies of the compact were circulated and can also be accessed at www.theoldhamcompact.org.uk.

John Crompton asked what plans are in hand to continue the support posts after 2010. Mohammed Alyas echoed this in saying that previous attempts at a compact and a BME network were relatively short lived.

Liz acknowledged that the relationship between the statutory sector and the VCF sector had been 'stop start', but that the safer stronger communities board have made a long term commitment to supporting the VCF sector and a decision on long term funding will be made by the end of December. This should lead to a sustainable position for the VCFP, and a joint responsibility for its success. Carolyn Wilkins commented that funding will be a challenge, but there is commitment on both sides to work through any issues with regular communication.

Liz stated they can arrange a separate briefing on the compact for any individual or group.

50/09 **District Partnerships update**

Colette Kelly gave a presentation about neighbourhood working. This is about joining up with the community to deliver priorities in a neighbourhood. Colette reassured the steering group that this is taken very seriously, and more investment would be made in the co-optees.

Several members commented. Jimmy Allen expressed concern that in some district partnerships residents may not be at the table. There is a feeling of being uninformed and uninvolved. Raad Al-Hamdani stated that in his area attendance is down, and there is a feeling that the new system was dictated from the top. Cllr Buckley said there is still confusion over the role of the district partnerships and the PACTs (People and Communities Together), and also over how they fit with the parish councils. John Crompton stated his concerns that the system was delaying responses to residents' questions.

Colette acknowledged this and reassured co-optees that improvements would be seen. If not, co-optees should bring their concerns back to the steering group.

Mohammed Alyas asked whether all parties endorse the new approach and Colette responded that yes, all parties recognise that this approach has the community at its heart and are putting Oldham first.

A suggestion was made to get all co-optees together to listen to their thoughts and expectations and to explain the roles of the partnerships and PACTs. Bill Edwards also proposed that we continue to put area working on the steering group agenda until everyone feels happy with how it is working.

ACTION:

- **Co-optee meeting to be arranged (CK)**
- **District working to be on steering group agenda at each meeting (OPST)**

51/09 **Quarter 2 09/10 Performance Update**

Item circulated at the meeting

52/09 **Oldham Partnership strategic research working group 2010/2011 delivery plan**

Ian informed the group that a supplier had been commissioned for the Oldham Info website, and training sessions for Oldham Info would be available in 2010. The steering group gave its ongoing support for this.

53/09 **Duty to Involve**

Item deferred

54/09 **Next meeting**

13 January, 6pm, Crompton Suite:

- Oldham Prospectus
- Duty to Involve
- Neighbourhood working (standing agenda item)

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 11 December 2009.