

Minutes

Oldham Partnership Steering Group

15th January 2009

Crompton Suite, Civic Centre

At 6pm

Members Present:	Bill Edwards Zuber Ahmed James Allen Mohammed Azam Cllr Ian Barker Cllr Mike Buckley Cllr Olwen Chadderton John Crompton Janet Gipson Roger Gould Ian Kendall Alan Lee Laurian MacDonald Jean Maxwell David McGealy John Moorhouse Pauline Richardson Cllr Alan Roughley Garth Sharpe Cllr Glynis Shaw	Chair and Environment Partnership Oldham PCT Coldhurst Area Committee Voluntary and Community Sector OMBC OMBC OMBC Failsworth Area Committee Hollinwood Area Committee Faith Sector – Churches Together OCLL OMBC – Oldham Children’s Trust Alexandra Area Committee Royton, Shaw and Crompton Area Committee Voluntary and Community Sector Relate Chadderton Area Committee OMBC Medlock Vale Area Committee OMBC
Observers Present:	Ami Dennison John Eley Ian Flanagan Smith Neil Gibson Marie Gillott Karen McCrackle Mark Reynolds	OMBC – Constitutional Services Officer (Minute taker) Oldham Partnership Support Team Oldham Partnership Support Team OMBC – Strategy and Resources Jobcentre Plus Oldham Partnership Support Team OMBC - Housing
Members Apologies:	Mohammed Alyas Stuart Goodwin Cllr Eileen Hulme Lihanne Nelson Moira Percy Kevin Dawson	Werneth Area Committee Greater Manchester Police OMBC Oldham Children’s Trust Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive East Oldham Area Committee

01/09 Welcome and Apologies

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

The Agenda Items were discussed in the following order: 1 –3, 6, 4, 7 –9 with Item 5 deferred.

02/09 Minutes and Matters Arising

Issues raised:

1. it was noted that although the TIF referendum was not successful many votes were cast which was positive.
2. John Eley reported back on minute 30/08 informing the meeting that preparation work was underway and that he would be able to report on progress on 12th March.
3. John Eley reported that the MAA event on 15th October 2008 was attended by A Vaughan, Bill Edwards (Chair of OPSG and Environment Partnership), Carol Hopkins (LS Executive) and Ian Kendall (OCLL) in response to John Crompton's query at minute 33/08.
4. James Allen referred to minute 37/08 and highlighted the importance of youth centres. He wondered if there would be a separate meeting regarding the issue of closures and John Eley responded by informing the meeting that closures would be reviewed as part of the Equality Impact Assessment.
5. David McGealy commented on minute 43/08 that it was a positive spin on what he felt was a negative meeting. He recalled that the meeting conducted a "show of expression" and that this was omitted from the minutes. John Eley responded that the vote was not formal and was not, therefore, recorded. Bill Edwards commented that the meeting had brought this particular issue to attention and as a result it had been brought up in other meetings, which had resulted in a group being established to address the problem showing that the steering group had done its job. David McGealy stated that he felt the minutes did not accurately reflect the feelings of the voluntary sector. Bill Edwards recognised that the voluntary sector felt aggrieved but highlighted that a lot of work was being done to repair this problem and John Eley specified that the LSP was mediating and attempting to improve the process by establishing a forum to take forward the discussion to the PPF (Priority Programme Funding) decision-makers, which was the remit of the Council. It was proposed that David McGealy and Bill Edwards agree some alternative wording of the minutes to ensure that concerns were noted accurately without re-writing the minutes. Bill Edwards agreed stating that it was unfair to agree minutes if people did not feel they were representative.
6. John Eley again highlighted the form for "More Arts funding for Oldham" stating that they would be distributed through Area Committees and further copies were available from John Eley. David McGealy questioned whether radio was included as an art and John Eley clarified that it was not included if it was passive.
7. Janet Gipson raised concern about the proposed cuts in the budget for Adult Social Services at minute 44/08. John Eley replied that he was still tracing down an appropriate representative to set up a session.

Matters arising:

1. Alan Roughley referred to minute 29/08 and stated that the matter should be treated with more urgency and Ian Flanagan-Smith reported that the project documents were being put together and would be open to tender soon so that the report should be available in June 2009. Alan Roughley commented that this was too late and wondered why this project could not be resourced internally. Zuber Ahmed agreed the matter was urgent. There was some discussion of what role the Oldham Partnership was staking and it clarified that OMBC are the decision-making body. Ian Flanagan Smith stated that the Economy and Enterprise Board was leading the project and a lot of internal resources were being used however, the project needed an expert to take it forward.

ACTION:

- **John Eley to report back on Equalities Impact Assessment on 12th March.**
- **Bill Edwards and David McGealy to agree alternative wording so that minutes can be agreed at the next meeting.**
- **John Eley to set up a session regarding the cut in the budget of Adult Social Services prior to decision being made**

03/09 Performance Update

Ian Flanagan Smith presented the report (please refer)

James Allen queried how accurate the figures given were and suggested that this be looked at so that future figures gave the real picture.

Stuart Goodwin reported that burglaries weren't as high as expected which is evidence that initiatives put into place were working. However, economy and crime were linked and the effect that the current economic downturn would have on crime is yet unknown.

Janet Gipson referred to page 2 of the report regarding Economic Prosperity and queried how grants distributed were checked and did the figures reflect businesses that had closed – the figures show targets being met but who was checking the figures were correct? Ian Flanagan Smith agreed that it was not worded well but that this was a nationally set indicator. John Eley added that there was a call for government to pull existing funding streams together.

David McGealy commented that the report was very good but wondered what input the Economy and Enterprise Partnership's sub-group had and would it be possible to have a report from them regarding how ready Oldham is to react to the economic change. Bill Edwards agreed that the meeting needed some visibility of the Economic and Enterprise Board's work.

Alan Roughley also highlighted that the new Tesco store was seen to be creating jobs when in fact it was displacing people in the local sector. Marie Gillot responded that unemployment in Oldham was not rising at the same rate as in other boroughs and in fact there had been an increase in people moving back into work. David McGealy highlighted a need for this to be publicised and that this was more important than figures.

There then followed a discussion regarding people on long term sick and attempting to

find work for those currently on disability benefits and it was noted that some approaches could be seen to be intimidating to vulnerable adults and that the focus needed to be on ability and empowerment: some employers were supportive but others weren't.

ACTION:

- **Marie Gillot to update the next meeting regarding job vacancies to include percentage of people on long term sick**
- **Ian Flanagan Smith to report on the definition of "Carer"**

04/09 **Compact**

Neil Gibson presented the report.

It was noted that the timescales were quite short and that more notice would improve participation. Neil Gibson stated that consultation would be complete at the end of March but that COMPACT staff could visit organizations.

Bill Edwards suggested that the launch event be delayed to take into account the findings of the "Strong 3rd Sector – lessons learnt" group. It was noted that no members of that group were present at the meeting and it was suggested that the working group should have some representation at the Steering Group meetings.

Cllr Chadderton noted that Remembrance of the Holocaust service was at 10.30am on the same day as the workshop on the 27th January and that in future key dates should be avoided.

ACTION:

- **The working group "Strong 3rd Sector" be invited to the next meeting.**

05/09 **SCS/LAA Update**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

06/09 **Youth Provision**

This item was brought forward.

Jill Beaumont presented the report.

It was stated that the last meeting had made the Partnership's feelings clear that it felt none of the children's centres should close. John Crompton commented that the proposals for a central Oldham Youth centre provided for 1,500 youths but this was not inline with current numbers accessing the services locally and it was not therefore a financially viable option. Garth Sharpe queried what research had been done regarding the effects of closure, particularly on crime statistics. Jill Beaumont confirmed that the initial decision had yet to be taken and that nowhere would close if it posed a security risk adding that the proposals were recommending alternative provision. Alan Roughley asked if a saving £6,000 by closing 3 centres would be worth it and Jill responded by stating that currently not all activities were being accessed and alternatives would be investigated in the area. Zuber Ahmed expressed concern over the proposed changes and asked if an impact assessment had been done. Jill explained that the target was to increase activity and engagement with young people and that the centres were tied to a

specified number of workers and timed sessions. David McGealy asked how many teams would be available for the borough and Jill responded by saying that this couldn't be decided until the base budget revealed. David then commented that statistics and a breakdown of demographics would be required to be open and transparent from the start.

Janet Gipson observed that in a previous scheme, SRB6, the local youths had requested Limeside Park , near Kaskenmoor school, as their preferred venue for a skateboard park and yet the site actually chosen was Oak Colliery. The site had no lighting and so can't be used in the evenings from October to March. The meeting noted the need for young people to be consulted.

ACTION:

- **Jill to return to the meeting and keep the Steering Group updated.**

07/09 Future meeting date for 2009

The proposed dates for future meetings were noted.

08/09 Agenda items for future meetings at this stage

The proposed agenda items were noted.

09/09 Timetable for the next meeting

The timetable was noted.