

Minutes

Oldham Partnership Steering Group

15th July 2010

Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham

At 6pm

Members

Present:

Bill Edwards	Chair and Environment Partnership
Cllr A Roughley	Saddleworth North
Cllr J Battye	Failsworth West
Eric Trigg	Chadderton District Partnership
Garth Sharpe	Medlock Vale Representative
Ian Kendall	Oldham Community Leisure
James Allen	Coldhurst Representative
Jean Maxwell	Royton, Shaw & Crompton District Partnership
Kevin Dawson	East Oldham District Partnership
Liz Windsor-Welsh	Voluntary Action Oldham
Mark Lee	Greater Manchester Police
Raad Al-Hamdani	Saddleworth District Partnership
Roger Gould	Churches Together
Trupti Patel	Indian Association

Observers

Present:

John Eley	Oldham Partnership support team
Ian Flanagan Smith	Oldham Partnership support team

Apologies:

Marie Gillot	Jobcentre Plus
Janet Gipson	Hollinwood Representative
Sally Pearson	Government Office North West

22/10 **Welcome and apologies**

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies.

23/10 **Minutes and matters arising**

Bill Edwards, Chair of the Oldham Partnership Steering Group, went through the minutes of the last meeting; which were passed as a true account of the meeting

Matters Arising

03/10 Duty to Involve

Draft brought back to steering group by July meeting at the latest

In the absence of Ben Spinks, John Eley provided the meeting with an update, the options of an engagement hub was being looked at, which would be an online resource, with shared principles which would allow sign posting and service consultation. Cllr A Roughley asked what are the benefits of an engagement hub as something similar had been previously done, also what would be the cost implications of such a project. Jimmy Allen, Coldhurst Representative advised that community engagement communication is the key to obtain views. John Eley advised that his team would investigate further and report back at the next meeting.

Action: John Eley to look at engagement hubs and community engagement communication.

04/10 - Anti poverty strategy

To be revisited in terms of linkages between poor health and poverty.

John Eley apologised he was still looking into this and would report back to the next meeting.

Action: John Eley to report back

05/10 – also 13/10 Volunteers to Harji Patel OPST 13/10 John Eley to obtain a written update from Harji Patel.

John Eley discussed the Oldham Partnership - Equality Impact Assessment, Jimmy Allen asked if the Equality Impact Assessment could be a future agenda item, Cllr A Roughley added that it was unreasonable to take a document of such nature to a meeting without circulating beforehand. Documents which needed recommendations should be distributed 3 working days in advance of the meeting.

Action: Equality Impact Assessment to be a future agenda item.

06/10 - Round table exercise

To be undertaken in May and outcome brought back to steering group meeting - Item deferred to a future meeting.

13/10 Free swimming

John Eley and Ian Kendall discussed with the meeting the end of the government funding for free swimming lessons as from the 1st August 2010. John Eley advised that some aspects of the scheme maybe considered if funding can be obtained, Ian Kendall also advised that Oldham Community Leisure was looking at options combined in their gym memberships.

24/10 **City Region Pilot**

Liz Hume, Divisional Lead - Regional Policy presented an overview of the City Region Pilot:

- 2009 Budget confirmed Greater Manchester as a pilot Statutory City Region
- A key step in the Statutory City Region pilot was a formal City Region Agreement being signed between the AGMA authorities and Government in December 2009.
- Both Government and AGMA recognised that, to make the most of Greater Manchester's potential, changes needed to be made to the AGMA governance arrangements
- To make the necessary changes to the governance arrangements, proposals were developed by the 10 AGMA authorities to form a Combined Authority. This will give the AGMA Executive Board a formal legal footing, and enable the powers outlined in the City Region Agreement to be devolved from Government to the Manchester City Region
- The Government's Combined Authority consultation has just closed, so should become clearer over the next few months exactly what this is all going to look like – it isn't clear yet what the new Government's approach will be
- If it goes ahead, it has advantages in terms of clearer governance arrangements; potential for more powers to be devolved to Greater Manchester (e.g. around transport, skills); and formalises the existing AGMA approach of taking a co-ordinated, strategic approach to cross-cutting issues like economic development.
- There's a good overlap between Oldham's Community Strategy objectives and the Greater Manchester objectives, so this way of working should benefit us in Oldham – and indeed already has e.g. metrolink extension, regional science centre.
- Through the City Region Agreement, we're currently involved in four public service reform pilots – around early years, social housing, employment and skills and low carbon. There's no extra funding attached to these – they're looking at how we can work more effectively with partners to better focus services on our customers' needs and reduce duplication.

Eric Trigg, Chadderton District Partnership - spoke with the meeting about the options around local consultation with AGMA, especially with the recent impact on Mills Hill Station and how we come improve local interaction with Greater Manchester.

Jimmy Allen, Coldhurst representative asked of the possibilities of a local representative being part of such a process.

Cllr J Battye, government does not like the name City Region but does like the initiative, however does have different terminology. Greater Manchester Council is more democratic by having the leader of the Council and the Chief Executive representing us.

The Chair, Bill Edwards summarised the points raised by Oldham Partnership members:

- 1) What are the options regarding local input
- 2) Loss of a democratic body
- 3) The "top down" approach

If any Oldham Partnership member would like to discuss the City Region Pilot, please contact Liz Hume: liz.hume@oldham.gov.uk, or telephone 0161 770 5691.

25/10 District Partnerships update

Item deferred

26/10 LAA Update : Childrens Trust

Michael Jameson, Assistant Executive Director - Children & Young People provided the meeting with a general overview of the national context of the Childrens Trust. Along with a recap of local drivers:

Raising education standards

16-19 changes

Ambitious capital programmes including Building Schools for the Future (BSF)

Robust safeguarding

Outward facing, outcome focused and locally delivered children's services

Integrated commissioning for children using "total resource"

Strengthened Children's Trust governance and accountability arrangements

Michael Jameson discussed in depth the CAA performance profile which has improved to 'performing well' and a recent unannounced inspection of front line safeguarding practice in April 2010, which was very pleasing.

The meeting discussed at length the emerging risks facing the authority, including the impact of the coalition government, reductions to public spending and the future of the BSF programme.

We are still waiting on decisions regarding the BSF programme, obviously we are in very difficult times and funding will be hard to secure and it was essential to re-visit our priorities.

Mark Lee - Greater Manchester Police

Mark Lee, from Greater Manchester Police gave a brief overview of the new policing model, which sees an increase in officers within the communities which overall should give a more efficient service.

Mark advised that he will be looking into PACTS and Area Actions Teams and produce his feedback accordingly. The Oldham Partnership Steering Group asked for the results to be shared at a forthcoming Steering Group Meeting.

Mark also discussed with the meeting the Restorative Justice Programme, which looks at young people on minor offences. The Police have a number of options available to them when dealing with such, these include, doing nothing, giving the young person a formal warning or a caution or referring them to the Restorative Justice Programme. Restorative Justice sees police officers working with victims of crime such as shoplifting, criminal damage, minor thefts and anti-social behaviour to find alternate punishments to arrest

and charge.

Restorative Justice requires the consent of both victim and offender to take part and agree to alternative sanctions such as making an offender pay for goods they stole, asking them to undertake voluntary work in the community, cleaning up any graffiti or coming face-to-face with their victims to really grasp what effect their criminality has had.

27/10 **Compact Code of Practice**

Liz Windsor - Welsh circulated the new codes of practice with the supporting papers for the meeting and asked the Oldham Partnership Steering Group to endorse these codes of practice, which will then go on to the LSP for ratification. Comments which had been given to Liz before the meeting regarding format and lay out had been rectified.

An in-depth discussion around volunteers not replacing paid employment posts took place, which members discussed the impact voluntary work has on individuals and organisations. Some members felt that it would be beneficial for the unions to take a look at this and make comments accordingly. Liz Windsor Welsh advised she would look into this.

It was agreed to continue this discussion at the Oldham Partnership Conference on the 16th July.

Bill Edwards, the Chair thanked Liz for the hard work and on a majority decision to progress with the Code of Practice, due to timescales.

28/10 **ABG Review**

John Eley discussed with the meeting the report on Review of the Area Based Grant and the recent announcement made by Government to cut £2.8 million from the ABG programme. This also includes the removal of ring fencing for four revenue grants received by Oldham. Some cuts have already been identified by the Challenge Panel, however there is still some way to go.

29/10 **Outcome from round table exercise – Health and Well Being**

Item deferred

30/10 **Next meeting**

16th September 2010, 6pm, Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham:

- *LAA Update: Safer & Stronger Communities inc Housing Block*
- *Quarter 1 10/11 Performance Update*

Other agenda items to be reported at a relevant time:

- *Quarter 2 10/11 Performance Update (18th Nov 2010)*
- *Compact Update (18th Nov 2010)*
- *LAA Update : Health & Well Being (March 2011)*
- *LAA Update : Economic Enterprise and Development (May 2011)*
- *LAA Update : Childrens Trust (July 2011)*

ACTION: Steering group members to advise the partnership support team of agenda items by Friday 13th August 2010