

# Minutes

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## Oldham Partnership Steering Group

16<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010

Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham

at 6pm

### Members

#### Present:

Bill Edwards	Chair and Environment Partnership
Angela Carr	Affordable Warmth
Camilla Guerra	Voluntary and Community sector
Chris Sykes	GMP Police
Colette Kelly	District Partnerships
Cllr A Roughley	Saddleworth North
Cllr M Buckley	Saddleworth North
Eric Trigg	Chadderton District Partnership
James Allen	Coldhurst representative
Janet Gipson	Hollinwood representative
Jean Maxwell	Royton, Shaw & Crompton District Partnership
John Crompton	Failsworth representative
John Eley	Oldham Partnership
Kevin Dawson	East Oldham District Partnership
Roger Gould	Churches Together
Safina Rashid	Voluntary Action Oldham
Sewa Singh	Overview & Scrutiny
Shirley Allen	Oldham Partnership Support Team
Theresa Jennings	Groundwork
Ian Flanagan-Smith	Oldham Partnership Support Team

#### Observers

#### Present:

#### Apologies:

Carolyn Wilkins	OMBC
Clare Fish	OMBC
Cllr J Batty	Failsworth West
Howard Sutcliffe	Voluntary and Community sector
John Moorhouse	Relate
Marie Gillot	Jobcentre Plus
Michelle Geoghegan	GM Chambers
Raad Al-Hamdani	Saddleworth District Partnership
Liz Windsor-Welsh	Voluntary Action Oldham

**31/10 Welcome and apologies**

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies.

Point of Information

After a question raised by Cllr Roughly Bill Edwards confirmed that he would remain in his role as Chair of the group for as long as the Oldham Partnership steering group remained in its present role.

**32/10 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 record.

Matters Arising

03/10 Engagement Hubs and community engagement

Ian Flanagan-Smith presented a briefing note to the group confirming that there already is a lot of successful engagement activity across the partnership. No proposals to develop a strategy at this stage. Intend to develop work already being done.

06/10 Health and Wellbeing roundtable exercise

John Eley reported that Alan Higgins had confirmed that this has taken place and a strategy to improve engagement in sports is being undertaken

10/10 Bill Edwards confirmed that he had attended three District Partnership meetings since the steering group meeting 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

13/10 Overview and Scrutiny

John Eley confirmed that James Allen's request for aids and adaptations for housing has been forwarded to Overview and Scrutiny.

14/10 Colette Kelly confirmed that Hollinwood and Failsworth district partnership meetings would be held at the Civic Centre for the foreseeable future.

**33/10 District Partnerships update**

This was confirmed as a standing item on the Oldham Partnership steering group agenda.

Colette Kelly stated that the review into the District Partnerships had been completed and a report had been presented to the Council in May. During this meeting the role of the co-optees was raised. Some area co-optees were fully engaged and felt that their work was valued whereas others didn't. Colette will circulate copy of this report for Oldham Partnership steering group members.

Colette stated that the role of each co-optee would vary according to the needs of the area that they represented. She acknowledged that some co-optees didn't feel they had a role under the new structure. She confirmed that there was no conclusion on the exact role of a co-optee. Cllr Buckley said that it would be helpful if co-optees could be told when they might receive clarity about their role.

East Oldham and Chadderton pilots had gone well. Got £100,000 each. Chadderton spent their money on regenerating buildings whereas East Oldham had spent their money on people, in particular concentrating on young Pakistani residents who were not

in education, employment of training.

Each district plan shared the same target issues of Safe and Clean; Health and Wellbeing; Economic prosperity and in Saddleworth there was the additional issue of transport.

Colette reported that the fact finding trip to Sheffield was very useful. They don't have co-optees there, they have area representatives and they vary from area to area. Sheffield were interested in the work that Oldham's District Partnerships have done regarding community cohesion.

John Crompton requested that it be noted that there had only been two PACT meetings this year. The first was on Jan 12<sup>th</sup> and this was poorly attended because of the snow. The second was June 24<sup>th</sup>. Concerns were raised about the sporadic length of time between meetings and the poor amount of correct information available detailing the times and locations of these meetings. This would make it hard for volunteers to commit to the process. Co-optees said that clear notes and diarizing of the meetings would make it clearer to everyone what was going on.

Colette said it was up to the individual District Partnerships to organize their own PACTS. They were looking at social media eg Facebook as a means of better communicating the work that was going on.

**Action : Colette Kelly to circulate District Partnerships report that was presented to The Council in May to members of the Oldham Partnership steering group**

#### 34/10 **Scrutiny of Place**

Deferred to November meeting. The deadline for the submission of comments to be extended

**Action: Oldham Partnership steering group members to read the report and send comments into the Oldham Partnership support team and any comments / issues raised to be discussed at the next meeting.**

#### 35/10 **Affordable Warmth Strategy**

Angela Carr presented her report.

Surprise was expressed at the level of fuel poverty listed in Saddleworth. Angela explained that fuel poverty was declared when more than 10% of a household income was spent on heating. Housing stock, particularly in Saddleworth, were a contributory factor in fuel poverty but the largest single cause in Oldham was low household income. The 93,000 properties listed as being in fuel poverty in Oldham includes private and social housing stock. Fuel poverty impacts directly on winter mortality statistics.

Affordable Warmth Strategy has a three year delivery plan to engage stakeholders such as PCT, CAB and Groundwork to provide a one-stop service, training frontline professionals to identify those in need; and then assisting clients across a range of interventions aimed at tackling the health and housing inequalities brought about by fuel poverty. There is also AWARM (Affordable Warmth Access Referral Mechanism) which allows people to refer those who they believe may be in need.

A thermal measuring van assessed 60% of the borough last winter and those households identified as having poor insulation have been targeted through the year. The rest of the borough will receive this service if the participation of those targeted this year is strong. Janet Gipson raised concern that the elderly may be reluctant to participate in this scheme and they were one of the groups who could benefit the most. It was agreed that

churches would be a way for the partnership to notify the elderly about this work

**Action – Roger Gould to cascade information about AWARM / Affordable Warmth Strategy and grants available to churches so the ministers can then let congregations know what is available**

**Action : Members of the Oldham Partnership steering group who want training and extra information about the Affordable Warmth Strategy to contact Angela Carr**

36/10 **Groundwork Oldham and Rochdale**

Teresa Jennings presented her report, the purpose of which was to inform the partnership of the extent and breadth of the work undertaken by Groundwork. Key successes include working with NEET youngsters deemed to be 'At Risk' of offending. Work with graduates includes creating work experience placements to make newly qualified young people more employable. Groundwork delivers a lot of national employment programmes for example 'Future Jobs Fund' and 'Flexible New Deal' Oldham's Flexible New Deal programme has been rated as one of the best two in the country.

Groundwork is proud of its record of using local money via local resources to meet the needs of the local community.

The meeting acknowledge the positive contribution of Groundwork on community and environmental priorities

37/10 **LAA Update : SSC Block**

Chris Sykes presented the report.

The performance data included went up to June 2010. The Safer Stronger Communities Board was now more strategic than it used to be. Each theme now has its own strategic group to assess their delivery. There is a strategy in place until March 2011.

Good reduction in reported burglaries in the borough, anti-social behaviour in the Town Centre is also down. Oldham also has one of the best records nationally of tackling homelessness

Oldham Community Tension report shows that police are good in the manner and measures being used to respond to tensions within an area. This report has done much to promote the reporting of Hate Crime

Chris Sykes explained that Hate Crime performance figures sits under 'Cohesion'.

Following a discussion about how to inform people of the successful work being undertaken by the police Chris Sykes acknowledged that there needed to be a better process than the existing one to report back to PACTs how the police were dealing with the issues raised at their meetings.

Cllr Buckley asked if it was possible to get 'Heritage' on the agenda of a future SSC meeting?

Janet Gipson asked if the 'Challenge 25' programme - where off-licenses were encouraged to challenge those they thought were trying to buy alcohol under the age of 18 – could be rolled out in Hollinwood next?

John Crompton requested that it be noted that the work the police have done in co-ordinating a sustained response to tackling community tensions in Oldham since the riots was remarkable and deserved recognition and praise

James Allen added his congratulations to the work of the police  
Bill Edwards offered congratulations from the Partnership on the reduction in crime and the work in dealing with community tensions. He said that he was glad that the SSC block now included the Cultural Partnership

**Action : Oldham Partnership support team to discuss with chairs of SSC board and strategy groups where heritage would be an appropriate agenda item**

38/10 **ABG review**

John Eley gave a verbal update on the Area Based Grant review. He reiterated that the purpose of the review was to find in-year savings of £2.84 million. Commissioned activities had to find significant savings whilst minimizing possible impact on services. Sixty three Equality Impact Assessments have been carried out to show implications of suggested savings.

The Oldham Partnership executive group will meet on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and decide whether to ratify proposed savings or not.

A request for further savings is expected to be made after the Comprehensive Spending Review on 20<sup>th</sup> October. Are looking at re-designing service delivery and identifying where service provision overlaps in preparation for April 2011. The Partnership needs to be pro-active in saying what money should be spent where and how – in anticipation of the role of the LSP evolving.

Progress to date has been very successful.

The need for transparency through each step of the process was emphasised.

In response to a question from Eric Trigg John Eley explained that an extra £1.2 million from the LAA Reward Grant may be given to the partnership to help fund the Regional Science Centre. This was half of the £2.4 million LAA Reward Grant which Oldham had earned through its work delivering against targets in 2006 - 2009.

**LSP Conference feedback**

LSP conference was a good, positive event.

**Action: OPSG to promote the good work of the partnership whenever the opportunity arises.**

39/10 **EIA**

Shirley Allen presented the report. She went through the history of the EIA process. Talawa consulting were appointed by OMBC in March 2009 to ensure that budget reductions didn't impact on one group of people more than another. Equality Impact Assessments are now carried out in the daily work of the partnership support team. A toolkit has been produced and is being used.

Sixty three EIAs were carried out as part of the Area Based Grant review. It is anticipated that the delivery of services will have to be re-designed after the Comprehensive Spending Review. The Oldham Partnership Support Team is now in a position to pick up any potential inequalities before they commission work.

James Allen asked why co-optees had been consulted at the beginning of this work but not during the ABG review process? It was explained that the urgency with which this work has had to be undertaken has meant that co-optees couldn't be involved as closely as they had been at the start.

Details of where the reductions in the ABG review will be available when they have been confirmed by the executive on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

40/10 **Next meeting**

*18<sup>th</sup> November 2010, 6pm, Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham:*

- *Scrutiny of Place*
- *Quarter 2 10/11 Performance Update (18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2010)*
- *Compact Update (18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2010)*

*Other agenda items to be reported at a relevant time:*

- *LAA Update : Health & Well Being (March 2011)*
- *LAA Update : Economic Enterprise and Development (May 2011)*
- *LAA Update : Children's Trust (July 2011)*

**ACTION: Steering group members to advise the partnership support team of agenda items by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010**