

Minutes

Strong Communities Strategy Group

15th January 2010

Lees Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham

1.45pm – 3.00pm

Present:	Carolyn Wilkins	Oldham Council
	Bruce Penhale	Oldham Council
	Natalie Downs	Oldham Council
	Denis Durnian	Oldham Council
	Howard Sutcliffe	Voluntary, Community and Faith Partnership
	Basit Shah	Voluntary, Community and Faith Partnership
	Kashaff Feroze	Voluntary, Community and Faith Partnership
	Kevin Shaw	Oldham Coliseum
	Chf. Insp. Sarah Jones	Greater Manchester Police
	Carl Bell	Oldham Council
	Colette Kelly	Oldham Council
	Moira Blood	Oldham Housing Investment Partnership
	Jo Farrington	Oldham Primary Care Trust
	Cllr. Rod Blyth	Oldham Council

Apologies:	Shauna Dixon	Oldham Primary Care Trust
	Cllr Jean Jones	Oldham Council
	Phil Sumner	Voluntary, Community and Faith Partnership

A SECTION OF MINUTES

1 Welcome and Introduction

1.1 CW welcomed people to the meeting. CW apologised for the fact that the meeting was arranged for Friday afternoon and confirmed that future meetings would not be arranged for this time, due to Friday prayers.

2 Minutes and Matters Arising

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 12th December were accepted as a correct record.

2.2 **Matters Arising**

Item 2.1

HS requested confirmation that the Embedding Equalities commission would report back to the SCSG. It was agreed that the findings would be.

Item 2.2

BP was requested to contact Tariq Rafique and Fazal Rahim who were nominated as the two representatives from the VCF sector who could become engaged with the process relating to violent gangs.

Item 2.6

As PS was not present at the meeting, it was not confirmed whether he had spoken with Richard Gore/Bernard Phillips with regard to how the Education Cohesion Sub-Group should work. This action is to be carried forward to the next meeting.

Item 4

It was reported that Moira Blood had forwarded comments regarding the commissioning of Strong Communities Activities to BP.

Item 5

It was reported that nominations from the VCFP who should be invited to the stakeholder event had been forwarded to CB.

ND had circulated a copy of the SSC Board Chairs minutes to members of the Group

ACTIONS:

BP - to contact Fazal Rahim with regard to becoming the two representatives from the VCF sector who could become engaged in the process relating to violent gangs

PS - to speak with Richard Gore/Bernard Phillips with regard to how the Education Cohesion Sub-Group should work.

3. **Commissioning of Strong Communities Activities 2010/11**

3.1 A report was circulated for discussion with members of the SCSG.

3.2 BP outlined the fact that the programme was based around six broad commissions and that the allocation from the Oldham Partnership to support this activity was £1,865,000. He said that there was a need to gain a firm agreement of the programme from members of the SCSG, in order to submit this to the SSC Board on 27th January 2010.

3.3 BP said that the programme which was presented within the report was over-programmed by £65,000 and that the table at Appendix A of the report evidenced:

- Activity which had already received an in-principle commitment
- Activity which had received some level of support, but required more detail
- Activity proposed as new ideas.

3.4 It was agreed that the activity which had already received an in-principle commitment should be re-commissioned at the same level of funding which was previously granted.

3.5 **Third Sector Support and Development**

3.5.1 ***VCFP/Compact:***

CB said that he would want to seek greater alignment between the work of the VCFP and Voluntary Action Oldham. The development of the Compact had made good strides but there was a need to decide how to take this work forward. CB feels that there may potentially be opportunities to make a level of saving in back-office functions, which could potentially reduce the funding allocation requested to support this activity.

It was agreed that presentationally, there was a need to merge Third Sector Support with the VCFP/Compact.

It was agreed to support VCFP/Compact as a proposal.

3.5.2 ***Community Chest:***

CB said that small grants are popular with voluntary, community and faith groups. Voluntary Action Oldham had administered a similar scheme in the past and this had proved popular with elected members and the third sector.

KS said that it was important that communities have somewhere that they can acquire small amounts of funding.

DD said that Voluntary Action Oldham had been awarded the tender for the Community Grants Scheme in 2009/10 and that the maximum they had been allowed to use towards management costs was £10,000.

RB recommended giving the funding to each of the District Partnerships to administer through the Neighbourhood Managers. SJ said that she felt that District Partnerships may not be as developed in some of the areas and that there was a danger that not all groups would be able to benefit.

It was agreed to establish the principle of a Community Chest and that an approval of £60,000 be allocated towards this commission. It was agreed that this be discussed in more detail at the next meeting of the SCSG.

3.6 **Legal and Advice**

3.6.1 ***Oldham Law Centre / Oldham Citizens Advice Bureau:***

An update was provided on the commissioning of Legal and Advice Services from Oldham Law Centre and Oldham Citizens Advice Bureau. It was noted that an in-principle commitment had already been made to this activity.

ND said that the two organisations had been granted the extensions until 31st March 2011. It was intended that delivery schedules would be negotiated with the two suppliers prior to the next financial year. However, it may be necessary to negotiate six month contracts initially, in order to fit with the new Legal Services Commission (LSC) Framework and commissioning process, which comes into effect from 1st October 2010. The decision to negotiate 6 or 12 month contracts has not yet been agreed.

There is no longer a guarantee that local voluntary and community groups will be successful in being awarded a contract through LSC funding and it may be necessary for the Council to work with these organisations to identify other funding sources or assist them in winding down their activity from October 2010.

3.6.2 ***Oldham Credit Union:***

It was reported that the Oldham Public Service Board had already made a commitment to providing financial support to Oldham Credit Union and that the £15,000 allocation was the funding which they had received previously from the former Priority Programme Fund.

The programme is monitored and overseen by the Economy and Enterprise Board.

It was agreed that Credit Union be supported.

3.7 **Engaging Communities Through Culture**

3.7.1 ***Festivals:***

BP said that Festivals activity had recently been reviewed. It had been recommended that there was a need for a year-long programme of activity, rather than just the four week Festival of Diversity Programme which currently takes place.

The Culture Partnership has suggested having a pot of funding available for groups to apply to. It has been highlighted that it would not be appropriate for funding not to be available to support activities such as the Oldham Carnival/Oldham Mela/Oldham Pride at such a late stage, when they are already planning their activities for 2010/11. These activities have been previously funded by Priority Programme Fund and it was therefore requested that funding be available for an additional year.

It was noted that the Festival of Diversity had been included as part of the 'Festivals' programme within the 'Engagement Through Culture' business case.

KS recommended that the funding allocation for the 'Engagement through Culture' business case be broken down under the three themes of: Marketing; Festivals; Raising Aspirations

It was approved that £16,000 be available for Festivals activity.

3.8 **Cohesion**

3.8.1 ***Supporting Victims of Hate:***

BP said that there was an independent project which supports victims of hate crime and employs three members of staff, but that match funding from the Big Lottery Fund will end in July.

It was agreed that Supporting Victims of Crime be supported.

3.8.2 ***Building Community Dialogue and Managing Conflict:***

BP said that this activity includes Good Relations Oldham and Interfaith Development, which are both subject to independent evaluation and have already received a level of commitment to continue, subject to the findings recommending merit in continuing.

BP said that if longer-term funding was available to support the two named activities, then it would be worth advertising these as open commissions. However, because of the length of time that the funding is available, it is suggested that they be offered through preferred supplier.

SJ raised her concerns that she had not had the opportunity to feed into the evaluation process. ND to pass on her details to ERS Ltd.

It was agreed that Building Community Dialogue and Managing Conflict be supported.

3.8.3 ***Developing Young Leaders:***

BP said that this linked to work that is ongoing in relation to guns and gangs and aims to address issues relating to a lack of role models and engagement with white communities.

CB said that funding was available through the Priority Investment Fund and that there may be an opportunity to link this into the work proposed as part of this commission. MB feels that there is a need to work with young people in some particular areas of the Borough.

It was reported that Superintendent Chris Sykes is leading on an approach to gangs and that the funding would be used to support this work.

HS circulated a report which outlined a proposal for the VCF sector to apply to the Big Lottery Fund to develop work around guns and gangs. BS said that Vision Associates have led on this proposal since the two shootings which took place in the Borough. The proposal is to work with young people and Agenda for Change. The intention is to bring together a partnership and the work would not just concentrate on Muslim communities. BS said that he had already met with Superintendent Chris Sykes and that a meeting is scheduled to discuss this proposal further.

It was recommended that Chris Sykes and BP discuss the proposal in more detail with HS.

It was agreed that Developing Young Leaders be supported.

3.8.4 ***Contingency Fund:***

BP said that there was a need to have a fund available which is uncommitted, but which could be utilised to respond to particular issues as they arise.

CW requested that this be renamed as a Targeted Intervention Fund.

It was recommended that the allocation of this fund could be evidenced through the Community Tension Assessment and that the approval of monies be granted through the Gold Group which comprises the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Superintendent.

It was agreed that £10,000 be allocated to support this activity.

3.9 Preventing Violent Extremism:

3.9.1 BP said that there was less money presented within the programme than had actually been allocated to PVE activity from the Government.

3.9.2 BP said that he was proposing the following:

- ***Support for National Indicator 35 – which includes activity such as the training of staff and raising awareness of Prevent issues***
- ***Engaging Young People at Risk***
- ***Capacity Development of Asian Women***

It was confirmed that the programme had been endorsed by the Prevent Steering Group. Activity currently funded through the Challenge and Innovation Fund would be subject to evaluation prior to re-commissioning.

It was agreed that the above programmes be supported.

3.10 A revised copy of the programme is available at Appendix A for information.

3.11 As a result of the revisions made to the programme which was originally presented, the level of 'over-programming' has been reduced to £25,600

ACTION:

Commissioning of the Community Chest to be discussed in more detail at the next meeting of the SCSG.

BP and Superintendent Chris Sykes to meet with HS to discuss the proposal for guns and gangs in more detail.

4 Cohesion Risk Register

4.1 BP circulated a copy of the most recent Cohesion Risk Register for information. He requested that any comments on the document be sent to ND or BP as soon as possible.

ACTION:

All – to circulate comments on the Cohesion Risk Register to either ND or BP as soon as possible.

5 Any Other Business

5.1 A copy of the draft Compact which is proposed between the local authority and all secondary schools / Academies and their governing bodies / trustees was circulated for information.

6. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

6.1 Please note an amendment to the date and time of the next meeting as follows:

DATE: WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY

TIME: 2.00 P.M – 4.00 P.M

VENUE: GREEN ROOM, CIVIC CENTRE

APPENDIX A

Theme	Activity	Funding (£)	Current Status
Third Sector Support and Development	Third Sector Infrastructure Support	230,000	'In Principle' commitment confirmed
	VCFP and Compact	100,000	Level of commitment, but requires business case approval
	Community Chest	60,000	New proposal / idea
	Volunteering Development	125,000	'In Principle' commitment confirmed
	Community Centres and Organisations	180,600	'In Principle' commitment confirmed
	Capacity Building of Organisations	50,000	'In Principle' commitment confirmed
Equalities	Equalities Commission	150,000	'In Principle' commitment confirmed
Legal and Advice	Oldham CAB and Oldham Law Centre	384,000	'In Principle' commitment confirmed
	Credit Union	15,000	Level of commitment, but requires business case approval
Engaging Communities Through Culture	Engagement Through Culture	250,000	'In principle' commitment from SSC Board subject to additional info being received. Funding allocation awarded from 2009/10 budget
	Festivals	16,000	New proposal / idea
	LATICS	31,000	'In Principle' commitment confirmed
Cohesion	Supporting Victims of Hate	50,000	Level of commitment, but requires business case approval
	Building inter-community dialogue and managing conflict	130,000	Level of commitment, but requires business case approval
	Developing Young Leaders	75,000	New proposal / idea



Theme	Activity	Funding (£)	Current Status
	Contingency Fund	10,000	New proposal / idea
Preventing Violent Extremism	Prevent Programme Co-ordinator	50,000	'In Principle' commitment confirmed
	PVE AGMA Top-slice	15,000	'In Principle' commitment confirmed
	Support for delivery of NI 35	50,000	New proposal / idea
	Oldham Mosques Council	35,000	'In Principle' commitment confirmed
	Engaging Young People at Risk	75,000	New proposal / idea
	Capacity Development of Asian Women	50,000	New proposal / idea
TOTAL		1,881,600	(does not include the £250,000 allocated from 2009/10 budget towards the Engagement through Culture activity)
Funding Allocation from Oldham Partnership (ABG & PPF)		1,856,000	
Difference		- 25,600	