

Minutes

Oldham Partnership Steering Group

10 September 2009

Honeywell Centre

At 6pm

Members

Present:

Bill Edwards
Raad Al-Hamdani

James Allen
Cllr Mike Buckley
Cath Cook
John Crompton
Janet Gipson
Stuart Goodwin
Roger Gould
Ian Kendall
Jean Maxwell
Trupti Patel
Cllr Alan Roughley
Garth Sharpe
Liz Windsor-Welsh

Chair and Environment Partnership
Saddleworth and Lees Area
Committee
Coldhurst Area Committee
Oldham Council
Voluntary, community and faith sector
Failsworth Area Committee
Hollinwood Area Committee
Greater Manchester Police
Churches Together
Oldham Community Leisure
Royton and Shaw Area Committee
Voluntary, community and faith sector
Oldham Council
Medlock Vale Area Committee
Voluntary, community and faith sector

Observers

Present:

Mark Bolger
John Eley
Ian Flanagan Smith
Karen McCrackle
John Rooney
Gail Thompson
Gary Wheelhouse
Carolyn Wilkins

Oldham Council
Oldham Partnership support team
Oldham Partnership support team
Oldham Partnership support team
Oldham Council – housing strategy
Observer
Community Safety Services
Oldham Council

Apologies:

Clare Fish
Cllr Hulme
Lihanne Nelson
Moira Percy
Fazal Rahim
Pauline Richardson
Cllr Glynis Shaw
Jonathan Yates

Oldham Council
Oldham Council
Children's Trust
GMPTE
Voluntary, community and faith sector
Chadderton Area Committee
Oldham Council
Voluntary, community and faith sector

37/09 Welcome and apologies

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies.

38/09 Minutes and matters arising

Janet Gipson, Garth Sharpe and Raad Al-Hamdani's apologies for the last meeting were noted.

(21/09) John Eley said that three equalities impact assessments (EQIAs) had been completed, with no serious gaps found, and an update will be brought to the next meeting.

Bill said he feels there is an issue with feeding back to the steering group, and will be taking these thoughts to the next public service board.

Group members complimented the climate change workshop.

John Crompton asked for record to be made of the fact that the last steering group's discussions about district partnerships had been very useful and had had an impact on the first district partnership meeting in his area. Carolyn Wilkins reported that the group's comments had been fed to the area working project team. Any district partnership underspend from this year should be carried forward to next year.

Collette Kelly (the council's head of neighbourhoods) has now taken on responsibility for this and will attend a future meeting.

John Eley said that we are developing our approach to commissioning, and are continuing to work closely with the voluntary and community sector on this.

John Crompton let the group know that a councillor had recently shared with him their view that the steering group plays a very practical, useful role

ACTION:

- **EQIA update at the next meeting (Oldham Partnership Support Team – OPST)**
- **Collette Kelly to attend a future steering group (OPST)**

39/09 Oldham Volunteering Agency

Mark Bolger presented the proposal for a volunteer centre to coordinate volunteering across Oldham, so that volunteers have one place to go for information and support. The business case for this was agreed at the Safer Stronger Communities board, on the condition of a few additions being made.

There are two parts to the work: the development phase, for which a preferred supplier has been identified, and the delivery phase, which will go out to open tender at the end of the year.

Bill Edwards thanked everyone for the work that had gone into this. Liz Windsor Welsh asked how volunteers should be helped in the short term, and stated that the development phase shouldn't be done in such a way that it prohibits a truly open commission for phase two. Mark said that the project steering group were looking at what to do in the short term, and acknowledged that VAO were currently providing this support with no funds to do so. He also explained that the organisation commissioned for phase 1 have been commissioned on the basis that they wouldn't go forward to the second phase. Cllr Roughley asked about the cost of opening and staffing the centre. Mark said £50,000 was budgeted for staff, and the project group are looking at the feasibility of using an existing building.

Cllr Roughley asked how much area based grant goes to the voluntary and community sector. John Eley responded that it is approximately 25%. Garth Sharpe said a breakdown of this would be useful, and also enquired as to the number of new jobs that would be created by the volunteer centre. Mark couldn't say for certain, as some of the volunteer centre staff members might be people in existing posts in existing organisations who moved to the volunteer centre. John Crompton asked whether VAO could play a positive role in the volunteer centre. Mark gave assurances that VAO had a very important part to play. Trupti Patel asked how the volunteer centre would affect smaller groups, and Mark replied that direct support would be provided.

Janet Gipson flagged up the issue of accessibility at the new centre, because she found VAO's offices difficult to access. Liz Windsor Welsh will follow this up separately with Janet.

ACTION:

- **Further details of the VCS commissions to be provided (OPST)**
- **VAO access to be discussed (LWW)**

40/09 LAA update : safer & stronger communities (SSC) block

Gary Wheelhouse gave a presentation on the work of the SSC block. The presentation is attached with these minutes. Jimmy Allen queried Greater Manchester Police representation at area meetings. Stuart Goodwin will take this up separately with Jimmy.

Raad Al-Hamdani thanked this block for its good work and asked about what happens to money that isn't spent (in this case due to the re-structure of the SSC). John Eley explained that this year it had been re-deployed to help tackle the effects of the credit crunch and to support the Passport to Summer programme.

Raad was concerned that money for the Passport to Summer scheme was only paid in September, and Liz Windsor Welsh also expressed concern that interested parties were only given a few days to apply for funds. Gary acknowledged that lessons would be learnt from this, and improvements made next time.

John Rooney then talked members through his report from the housing block (which now sits under SSC).

Roger Gould asked where the people on the waiting list for social housing are at the moment. John said that they might generally be living in social housing already, or in a privately rented home – and this is reflected across the north west. Jimmy Allen asked about the future for St Mary's. John said a mixed tenure development is the long term intention, and the council are now beginning to work with a housing association to explore options on this. Janet Gipson asked about two housing projects in her area, and John will take these questions up directly with Janet.

Cllr Buckley asked what happens to residents whose homes are earmarked for demolition. John said they are supported on a house-by-house basis to move to other areas – many have taken equity loans, many have taken compensation, and, it must be remembered, many of these homes are already empty. John could provide exact figures about this for the steering group.

ACTION:

- **Stuart Goodwin to contact Jimmy Allen re GMP representation at meetings (SG)**
- **First Choice Homes to contact Janet Gipson re her queries as requested by JR**
- **Exact figures on what happens to people whose homes are earmarked for demolition to be provided (JR/OPST)**

41/09 **Performance Update Q1 09 / 10**
Deferred

42/09 **Report on 2020 target setting workshop held 23rd June 2009**
Ian Flanagan Smith reported that the Audit Commission recommended that we set some targets for 2020, and that residents and councillors were involved in this target setting. Hence a joint meeting was held between the steering group and overview and scrutiny in June.

Ian reported the outcomes of the meeting and asked for comments.

Cllr Buckley asked whether quality of the affordable homes built is more important than quantity. Roger Gould was concerned that CO₂ emissions was not chosen as a priority. John Eley explained that this was a first attempt at coming up with a list of ten priority indicators, so the list isn't set in stone. Ian also explained that we could only include indicators for which we could set viable 2020 targets – some issues could be a priority, but one for which it might be difficult to set a target beyond three years.

Liz Windsor Welsh said that this could be shared with the voluntary, community and faith partnership, and asked Ian to share the engagement plan for this piece of work.

ACTION:

- **Engagement plan for 2020 target setting to be made available (IFS)**

43/09 **Oldham Partnership Prospectuses**
Deferred

44/09 **Future meeting dates and agenda items**

12 November, 6pm, Crompton Suite:

- Oldham Prospectuses
- EQIA update
- Duty to Involve
- LAA update: children & young people block
- Quarter 2 09/10 performance update
- Development of Dovestones
- Oldham Partnership Strategic Research Working Group report back on implementation of business plan

Other agenda items to be reported at a relevant time:

- Alcohol strategy
- Healthy weight strategy

Meeting dates for 2010 have nearly been finalised, and will be circulated by Jen Weir in due course.

ACTION: Steering group members to advise the partnership support team of agenda items by 18 October 2009.