



Minutes

Safe and Strong Communities Board

28th July 2010
Lees Suite, Oldham
09.00 – 11.00
MEETING 19

	Name	Acronym	Agency
Present:	Carolyn Wilkins (Chair)	CW	Oldham Council
	Tim Forber (Co Chair)		Greater Manchester Police
	Danielle Touray	Minute Taker	Oldham Council
	Alan Higgins	AH	NHS Oldham
	Alison Vaughan	AV	Oldham Council
	Anna Forster	AF	OPST
	Bruce Penhale	BP	Oldham Council
	Charles Lauder	CL	Talawa Consulting
	Chris Sykes	CS	Oldham Council
	Cllr David Hibbert	DH	Oldham Council
	Cllr John McCann	JM	Oldham Council
	Cllr Joy Wrigglesworth	JW	Oldham Council
	Cllr Keith Pendlebury	KP	Oldham Council
	Colette Kelly	CK	Oldham Council
	Dave Catherall	DC	OPST
	Howard Sutcliffe	HS	VCFP
	John Rooney	JR	Oldham Council
	Liz Windsor-Welsh	LWW	VAO
	Miriam Biran	MB	OPST
	Sally Pearson	SP	Government Office North West
Teresa Broadbent	TB	Oldham Council	
Apologies:	Carol Brown	CB	Oldham Council
	Cllr Mark Alcock	MA	Oldham Council
	Cllr Rob Blyth	RB	Oldham Council
	Cllr Steven Bashforth	SB	Oldham Council

1. AGENDA

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes Approved

3. **Actions from previous meetings**

ACTION 138/18/10

SSC New proposed Structure / Governance Report – Anna Forster and Chris Sykes to amend the wording regarding recommendations and decision making process and representation at meetings. AF to add it to the LSP Exec Agenda for ratification.

LSP Agreed

ACTION 139/18/10

SSC New proposed Structure / Governance Report – Equality Impact Assessments – to be an agenda item at the next meeting in July.

Completed

ACTION 140/18/10

Strategic Assessment – Anna Forster to add as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Completed

ACTION 141/18/10

Alcohol Strategy – Anna Forster to write to Alan Higgins on behalf of the Chairs, confirming the Board's approval of the By Law

Completed

ACTION 142/18/10

Equality Impact Assessment – Carolyn will look into this and confirm at the next meeting.

Completed

ACTION 143/18/10

- **Priority Reports** – It was suggested that at future meetings the priority reports be shuffled into different orders, not numerical. Anna Forster to action.

Completed

- **Priority 6 Report** – Building Cohesive Communities and Neighborhoods: On progress, Bruce Penhale will provide a full breakdown at the next meeting.

Completed

- **Priority 1 Report** – Reduce Crime & Support Victims: Chris Sykes highlighted a risk with the Domestic Violence Activity and the increase demand due to success.

Completed

ACTION 144/18/10

- **Priority 1 Report** – Chris Sykes to set up a small group to consider options.

Completed – Small Funding to support the Best Bar None Scheme has been accomplished and implemented

- **Priority 2 Report** – Reduce the impact of Drugs and Alcohol: On progress, no exception reporting.

Completed

ACTION 145/18/10

- **Priority 2 Report** – Tim Forber to gain a commitment from Alan Higgins for a NHS representative to be present at all future meetings. **(complete)**
- **Priority 3 Report** – Prevent Young People becoming Offenders: On progress, the board agreed to keep NI 46 as a local indicator.

Completed

- **Priority 4 Report** – Improve Quality Of Life: On progress, no exception reporting.

Completed

- **Priority 5 Report** – Offender Management: On progress, no exception reporting.

Completed

ACTION 146/18/10

- **Priority 5 Report** - Anna Forster to circulate the report by email

Completed

- **Priority 7 Report** – Improve the Cultural Offer and Engage in the Arts: On progress, no exception reporting.

Completed

ACTION 147/18/10

- **Arts Engagement Strategy** - to be added to the agenda for the next meeting – for a discussion.

Completed

- **Priority 8 Report** – Cleaner & Greener Neighborhoods: On progress, no exception reporting.

Completed

ACTION 148/18/10

- **Priority 8 Report** – Anna Forster to circulate the report by email

Completed

- **Priority 9 Report** – Housing Strategy: On progress, no exception reporting.

Completed

ACTION 149/18/10

Fire / Process - to be added to the agenda for the next meeting – for a discussion.

Completed

4. Arts & Culture Update - Part I – Colette Kelly (moved – Att. 12)

CK updated the Board with recent progression relating to the Arts & Culture moving ahead strategically. Colette proposed that the Cultural Partnership should stand alone, rather than feed into the Stronger Communities Strategy Group. To impetus is on attaining the delivery aspects and not losing them.

CK also informed the Board that the Sports Alliance of Oldham (SPA) is strengthening and focusing on the best use of arts and culture around Oldham for the purpose of engaging young people

CK sought approval from the Board to take draft forward. Agreed:

ACTION 150/19/11

AF to circulate draft terms of reference to Board and existing Cultural Partnership to progress implementing the changes.

DC asked whether the SPA would be reviewed as part of the process. CK informed the Board that Neil Consterdine is now leading on this initiative and is driving it forward to 2012.

5. Arts & Culture Update – Part II – Miriam Biran (moved – Att. 13)

The Board was informed that there has been an increase in adult engagement of the Arts recently.

MB provided a brief over view of the contents of the Arts Engagement Strategy. The SCSG had recently approved the strategy, with a few minor amendments identified.

MB also informed the Board that once the new cultural partnership was formed a detailed delivery plan would be drawn up and implemented. The cultural partnership would oversee this process.

Members of the Board added:

CL: Equality and Factor Assessment: If this has been carried out?

MB: responded that this will be taken on board

LWW: added that the strategy should outline cross cutting benefits. MB to action this.

The Board endorsed the Strategy.

6. Review of the Area Based Grant (ABG) – Alison Vaughan (Att. 3 - 5)

AV recapped on the purpose of the ABG review, which is to focus on the Prospectus priorities as detailed in the paper presented to all members of the Board.

AV added that the Challenge Panel has been established and has now met four times to agree both the format of the review and key areas where savings can be achieved. The next step is to manage the cuts and to move ahead in a more strategic / organised way in light of this the challenging times ahead. With £4.2M in overall cuts to be accomplished, the Panel confirm they are half way there with focused importance on minimal impact.

Members of the Board added:

Cllr JW referred to the LSCB error which should read child and not adult. (AV to amend)

AV counteracted that there is each area of activity will go through an equality impact assessment to ensure that manage the impact on unrepresented groups.

Cllr KP referred to the chart and the potential savings part and asked if that will reduce the end total or whether that is deliverable?

AV Responded that she is confident that it is deliverable and it is changing daily.

ACTION 150/19/12

AL to circulate updates on current position from the Challenge Panel when available.

7. Block Performance Report & AGB Update – Dave Catherall (Att. 6, 7)

DC notified the Board on the Access Project which claimed the full amount of delivery for 12 month up front which was paid in full. DC questioned this course of action as standard procedure is a quarter of the agreed amount is paid in arrears.

DC updated the Board that there are no significant issues at this point.

ACTION 150/19/13

DC to update the Board at the next meeting regarding the Access Project payment which was claimed in full and provide an explanation

8. SSC Block Priorities and Performance Update

8.1 Housing Theme – John Rooney (Att. 8)

JR began by updating the Board with positive news pertaining to L4 in Tier 2 where homelessness was prevented in 341 cases in the first quarter of the year. JR added to this with the highlights which were:

- Oldham had the best record prevention of homelessness in Greater Manchester
- Oldham's support partnerships show encouraging figures with 130 people attending the 'Working Together to Tackle Homelessness' event
- In a ballot of all FCHO tenants in April 2010, 87% of tenants voted in favour of a housing stock transfer to FCHO in the form of a new Registered Social Landlord. The transfer, who will take place by the end of this year, will involve £149M of investment on homes in the first five years alone.
- A total of 60% of the private homes in the Borough have been thermally imaged through the Heatseekers project. The survey showed that approximately 40% of homes had high levels of heat loss. In the first 4 weeks, 243 home insulation measures were taken up by Oldham residents.



- Oldham Council is on course to sign a £130m PFI4 contract in August 2010 which will deliver 330 new affordable homes and 320 refurbishments. Two of the sites are in the existing Crossley and Primrose Bank estates and three are 'Brownfield' sites in Coldhurst, Westwood and Fitton Hill.
- The Council is developing a 'Warmth for Health' insulation scheme in partnership with the Energy Savings Trust. This will help support free loft and cavity wall insulation where someone in a household suffers from a respiratory illness.

JR also informed the Board that the grant loss impact resolution is in place.

8.2 Clean and Green – Carolyn Wilkins *on behalf of Carol Brown* (Att. 9)

With CB sending her apologies, CW covered this section and began with the need to implement behaviour changes to the Oldham Public in light of the total cost of fly tipping to the Council each year amounts to £1.5M.

CW also highlighted the key developments: -

- Pride of Place training planned for 60 Residents (Failsworth & Hollinwood; East Oldham) in August to enable them to survey and monitor LEQ and performance of service.
- Oldham Council was chosen as one of 12 Authorities to run annual national chewing gum campaign by KBT & Defra.

CW covered part of the risks and issues namely the high levels of fly tipping in the Borough

- Continuing high levels of fly tipping & side waste in alleyways. Have contacted Marketing & Comms team about running a Campaign to address this.
- 2 Street Scene staff offered development opportunity working with Enforcement team. 3 other staff trained and being given FPN powers.

CW added that these would need to be further highlighted at the next meeting.

ACTION 150/19/14

CB to provide a more detailed update at next meeting on how we are tackling litter / detritus problems and what more can more do to achieve.

8.3 **SAFE Theme – Chris Sykes - (Att.10)**

CS highlighted the NI's: (15) Serious Violent Crime, (40) Drug Users in Effective Treatment, (18) Adult Reoffending Rate for those under Probation, (46) Youth Offenders Access to Suitable Accommodation that there was a pleasing reductions in these areas showing that the Partnership is working effectively.

Furthermore, CS clarified highlights and lowlights within the SAFE Theme which included:

- 'Best Bar None' Project which is now active.
- 'Challenge 25' Scheme which was launched in Failsworth.
- 'Fearless' Initiative which is a Crimestoppers version for youths; this is being promoted through Revolution Radio.
- 'Tackling Knives Action Plan' and 'Youth Crime Action Plan' which is a requirement by the Government to initiate; Manchester Metropolitan University have shown a keen interest in the Violent Gangs Project currently in progression and are offering to support the Partnership in this area.

CS ended the highlight section on the DIP which is out-performing the Greater Manchester regions by a vast margin; often by 7% to 20%, Oldham has the best performing DIPs which CS commended upon.



CS moved to current progressions within:

- **Integrated Youth Crime Prevention Programmes** (Youth Inclusion Projects) - activity is mainly funded through the ABG (positive activities for young people element) and supported by the Youth Justice Board's Prevention Grant to Youth Offending Teams. In the last quarter a "mini-YIP" approach has been applied to the Coldhurst Ward and a youth worker has developed a caseload of 20 young people from Grange and The Radclyffe Schools in response to tasking.
- The **YOT Worker in Custody Suite** is fully operational and early indications (which, hopefully, will be verified through NI 111 data later) are that diversion from first-time entry towards restorative justice is beginning to impact. This work links closely with the CAST as they, alongside police officers attached to schools are now delivering restorative justice in schools on a daily basis.
- The **Youth Offending Service** is in the process of finalising the Capacity and Capability Assessment with the Youth Justice Board. This will be followed by the production of the Youth Justice Plan for 2010-11 due at the start of next month.
- The Youth Justice Board has announced another round of "thematic inspections" of local youth justice processes. We anticipate that we may be subject to this latest round under the theme of "interventions" with offenders.

Finally, CS outlined the risks, challenges and issues which focused on spending cuts particularly around ABGs where 30% savings are to be made.

Regarding the predictive risk calendar; the school holidays would more than likely show an enhancement in ASB. Go Oldham! – which is a progression on the Passport to Summer project is a combat measure to entice youths into carrying out positive leisurely activities.

The NC&J Coordinator is commissioned by the Board and to date no notification of the grant which will cover this post's salary is known, CS asked that this matter be focused on with urgent attention.

ACTION 150/19/15

CS to follow up and get a decision by next meeting.

8.4 Strong Theme – Bruce Penhale (Att. 11)

BP commenced with the NI complementing his section which was NI 1: People who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area. This increased from 50% in 2008 to 56% in 2010.

With reference to local drivers in Tier 3, BP updated the group on Equalities (formerly measured by NI140 - the percentage of people feeling they are fairly treated by public services); though the Government has withdrawn this indicator which it is very hard to interpret the results from. The value is unchanged at 57% in both the 2008 Place Survey and 2010 Oldham You & Your Community Survey.

When more detailed questions were asked in the Oldham Survey about specific public services, the responses were much more positive e.g. 98% for local libraries; 94% for your children's school; 85% for the Police; 67% for the Council. The lowest value was for Jobcentre Plus (60%).

BP pulled from his highlight section:

- The Launch of the new Volunteer Centre Oldham (OVC). Local residents of Oldham now have access to support to help them volunteer. Volunteer support organisations now have access to a free advertising tool and resources / policies to ensure they can effectively support their volunteers.
- A Community Cohesion Action Plan was developed and agreed for the Waterhead Academy as part of a wider plan for the BSF/Academies programme

BP raised concern around the positive work Talawa Consulting have carried out. Once their contract runs out who will take ownership going forward?

BP pointed to the next quarter: the Community Resilience Working Group will be established and work will commence on developing a combined action plan. Alongside this, the cost reductions required through the ABG review process in relation to community cohesion will be achieved. The new Government's position on Preventing Violent Extremism will be assessed and a report prepared for the next Board meeting.

CL suggested the need to include worklessness as a separate item within the terms of reference of the proposed community resilience group.

The Board added to this section with the need for better positivity for Oldham residents. It is apparent that weight of negativity and cynicism is having a detrimental impact on the town.

CW also pointed out that 29% of Oldham residents work for the Council, therefore cuts to public services could have a vast impact on our residents.

DH highlighted the need to address / manage any risk of disturbances in light of the proposed cuts and impacts on the economy, which historically have been known to cause tensions.

9. Alcohol Strategy – Alan Higgins – (Att. 15 & 16)

AH provided a brief outline of the alcohol strategy that is still progressing. He also added that he realised resources across the partnership are limited at the moment but added we cannot afford to do nothing. (Invest to save)

AH pointed to the Table of Contents within the consultation draft of the Alcohol Strategy and highlighted the Themes in section 3 which also sets out a list of actions.

The Board agreed and awaits the progression of this important document at the next meeting.

The Board also had a discussion about the 24 hour drinking proposals and possible policy changes. It was agreed that the SSC Board should feed into the consultation process.

ACTION 150/19/16

AF to circulate consultation documents to the wider board to engage in discussion and to formulate a collective response from the SSC Board

10. Strategic Assessment / Partnership Plan – Chris Sykes – (Att. 17 & 18)

CS started off with the Strategic Assessment Review and its importance with particular regard to priorities.

The Review set out key risks, gaps and priorities for the forthcoming 6 months.. The priority leads have been widely involved in the production of this document. Delivery plans are also in the process of being set up to ensure we deliver against our priorities.

CS moved onto the Partnership Plan which is a public faced document – available on the intranet and the Oldham Partnership website.

Members of the Board added that this Plan is a good tool to promote Oldham positively.

Over the next couple of months the Board will be commissioning the Strategic Assessment to identify our priorities for 11/12. CS proposed that the Strategic Assessment was carried out in a slightly different way next time to ensure that the process is fit for all and not just to met the requirements of a CSP.

Each of the thematic groups to carry out an assessment to identify priorities for 11/12 – using a range of methodologies and evidence based processes. At the Jan Board a draft Strategy will be presented for discussion.

ACTION 150/19/17

CW suggested that at the next Board the SSC Strategy / Priorities should be a thematic agenda item for further discussion.

ACTION 150/19/18

CW added that the SSC Strategy be assessed by the Board and feedback their thoughts for possible amendments to AF

11. Equality Impact Assessment – Carolyn Wilkins – (Att. 19)

CW introduced the Equalities paper – explaining that at the last meeting CL set a number of challenging questions to the Board relating to embedding equalities across the partnership, This paper has been written in response to the questions posed.

CW began her theme with who will be identified as having the responsibility for the equality portfolio and responded with: -

- The Equality Portfolio should initially sit with the Chair’s of the SSC Board and Theme Group Chairs. But over time may move around to other members of the SSC Board – which will also help increase awareness and understanding across the Partnership.
- The SSC Board to agree clear equalities priorities – that should be reflected in its plans and strategies.

With regard to how the portfolio will be monitored and scrutinised, CW stated the follow task list: -

- To incorporate equalities into the Strategic Assessment process. Therefore the gap analysis around needs incorporates equalities issues.
- To carry out an initial Screening exercise, as part of the Strategic Assessment which will provide an overview of the equality impact on the SSC Board.
- In 2011 – To carry out full evidence based Equality Impact Assessment - the Screening exercise will then be used as a bench mark – involving focus groups to strengthen evidence based findings.
- Impact Assessments to be carried on plans and strategies.
- To implement systems for measuring and monitoring progress, this should be part of the performance monitoring framework. E.g. not just ‘has hate crime gone down’ but “has the rate been particularly reduced for group X who were disproportionately likely to be victims”.

- To review and revise business cases, reports, monitoring forms and quarterly return templates to ensure that equalities is consistently addressed and scrutinised through out the commissioning cycle and performance management framework.
- The Board and Theme Groups need to challenge business cases where impact on equality isn't addressed adequately. If there is likely to be significant adverse impact on the communities, then a fuller assessment needs to be undertaken.
- To endeavour to involve service users / focus groups to assess the impact on equalities of commissioned activity.

CW also added that the importance of equality needs to be reflected in the draft terms of reference of the Board and the Theme Groups. This is to include a section on Equalities in the SSC Terms of Reference and the connecting Theme Groups. The Board and Theme Group members all have a duty to ensure that we embed equalities in all our work however the Equalities Portfolio holder has the overall responsible for ensuring that the Board adheres to this statutory requirement.

CW opened her piece of work to the Board for feedback.

BP responded that equality needs to be fed through all our strategies.

CL informed the Board that Talawa Consultancy appeared throughout the paper-works in today's meeting. The correct name is Talawa Consulting.

ACTION 150/19/19

Authors within the Board to ensure the correct name: Talawa Consulting appears in future reporting.

12. Any other business

None

13. Date of Next Meeting

2nd November 2010 - Lees suite - 4pm till 6pm