



HARROW PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6 December 2012

(1) Present:

Harrow Strategic Partnership Board Members:

Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Chairman)	Leader of the Council, Property and Major Contracts Portfolio Holder	Harrow Council
Councillor Margaret Davine	Deputy Leader, Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder	Harrow Council
Councillor Susan Hall	Leader of the Conservative Group	Harrow Council
Rozmin Meghjee	Representative	JobCentre Plus
Jacqui Mace	Representative	Further Education Sector
Howard Bluston	Representative	Business Community
Chief Superintendent Dal Babu	Borough Commander, Harrow Police	Harrow Police
Borough Commander Richard Claydon	Borough Commander, Harrow Fire Authority	London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
Avani Modasia	Representative	Voluntary and Community Sector
Steve Porter	Representative	Voluntary and Community Sector
Dr Genevieve Small	Clinical Director	Clinical Commissioning Group
Michael Lockwood	Chief Executive, Harrow Council	Chair of Harrow Chief Executives
David Cheesman	Representative	North West London Hospital NHS Trust

(2) The following Harrow Council Officers attended:

Alex Dewsnap	Divisional Director, Strategic Commissioning	Harrow Council
Mike Howes	Service Manager, Policy and Partnership Service	Harrow Council
Tom Whiting	Assistant Chief Executive	Harrow Council
Marianne Locke	Divisional Director, Community and Culture	Harrow Council
Samia Malik	Service Manager, Community Cohesion and Engagement	Harrow Council

Apologies were received from:

Rob Larkman (Accountable Officer) (NHS Harrow) and Trina Thompson (Senior Policy Officer, Policy and Partnership Service) (Harrow Council)

106. Council Budget:

The Chief Executive, Harrow Council, introduced the report and explained that the financial challenges facing the Council and its partners were tough. However progress was being made in reducing the relevant financial gaps, despite difficult settlement figures provided to the Council.

The financial gap had increased that what had been previously expected due to a flat economy nationally, an increase in demand for services, a decrease in income levels, an ageing population and an increase in pressure for school places.

The Council had saved a significant amount of the savings target required by undertaking projects such as reducing senior managers, re-negotiating terms and conditions with staff whilst protecting front line services. It was even more important for all partners to work together to face the financial challenges that all partners currently faced.

The Chief Executive, Harrow Council, then asked other partners to share their organisations current position in relation to the management of its finances. The following points were made:

- the North West London Hospital NHS Trust had a savings target of £16 million, which were back loaded to the end of the relevant financial year. It was expected that the savings would be delivered;
- the budget for the entire Metropolitan Police across London would decrease by £500 million. Savings were therefore being investigated for Harrow which could be challenging. The Police already had effective partnerships in place and would look to build on this good position to see how work could be conducted more effectively and efficiently in the future;
- the London Fire Brigade would be required to make budget savings. At this stage it was unsure as to what the specific targets would be and their consequences. However at this stage, it was not anticipated that there would be any major detriment caused to Harrow;
- the Clinical Commissioning Groups had inherited the debt from the PCT which amounted to £42 million. This would be a significant challenge to address;
- the Education Sector was being affected by budget cuts and an increase in demand for training for skills.

During the discussion in this item, Members of the Board raised a number of queries which were responded to as follows:

- different sources of funding for Under One Sky were being investigated;
- the proposals provided in the report related to the Draft Budget of the Council. As a result all of the proposals were still subject to consultation;
- the Circles of Support scheme was based on a sustainable model over 3 years. This was an invest to save long term and prevention project. The delivery of this project would be put out to tender.

During the discussion on this item, Members of the Board made a number of comments as follows:

- if all partners worked together, the difficult financial challenges could be overcome;
- it was important for partners to be aware of how budget cuts could impact on other partners. There could be potential 'knock on' effects.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

All to note.