

HARROW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Report of activity at Harrow Chief Executives

27th June 2013

Introduction
This paper summarises the activity involving the Harrow Chief Executives' meetings since the last Board.
Proposed Action
That the activity of Harrow Chief Executives is noted.
What are you asking the Partnership Board to do
The Board should note the activity of Harrow Chief Executives

Background

Harrow Chief Executives (HCE) have met twice since the Board's last meeting.

April meeting

Safeguarding

The meeting discussed how best to take forward their commitment to improving safeguarding of children and young people. It had been proposed that the Chief Executives collectively visit some of the most significant access points to safeguarding such as the Front Door to Children's Services and the Urgent Care Centre at Northwick Park Hospital.

The meeting felt that this could be useful to provide the context in which the services were working and how difficult it could be to detect and act on all potential safeguarding issues. However, it was also felt that the process could be enhanced. The best way to this would be for the relevant HCE Members to undertake in depth visits to the appropriate parts of their own organisations to get a better understanding of their specific purpose, how they fit into the whole picture and how they interact with other partner organisations. Observations and ideas for improvements could be shared during a facilitated discussion.

This approach was adopted and a half day set aside incorporating the next scheduled meeting.

Community Budgets

The meeting also discussed the Community Budgets advice prepared by Government and a specific invitation to seek support via the Public Service Transformation Network. The principle of community budgets has been discussed several times before and has wide spread support. The potential for financial support via the Network required agreement to some detail of the areas that Harrow envisaged being included within community budget arrangements. For the purposes of the Network bid at least, the meeting agreed to include the following activity areas:

- Troubled Families;
- Domestic Violence;
- Work and Skills via the WLS
- Health and Social Care via the WLA but with a local bid for services for older and vulnerable residents.

The debate included the possibility of being part of a West London Alliance bid and the option was retained to support and be part of WLA proposals.

The meeting also considered the Government's advice suggesting that there was no barrier to establishing a community budget project or projects locally without further reference to Government. Consideration of the scope for following this advice was deferred until the outcome of the Network bids was known.

Updates

Simon Ovens, the Borough Commander formally introduced himself to the meeting.

Claire Murdock informed the meeting that CNWL had also taken on the provision of services in Milton Keynes. This additional contract would not defuse the organisation's focus on its long-standing service areas.

Avani Modasia reported on the success of the voluntary and community sector in winning the tenders to provide Healthwatch Harrow and Health Advocacy. Ash Verma, as Chair of the co-ordinating organisation for Healthwatch Harrow echoed the Sector's satisfaction with the outcome of the tender process. He gave some further detail of the proposed development path for the organisation which included seeking a Chair sometime in the autumn.

May meeting

This special meeting was devoted to Safeguarding issues and resulted in developing and agreeing the attached action plan.