



## HARROW PARTNERSHIP BOARD

### Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16 February 2010

**(1) Present:**

**Harrow Strategic Partnership Board Members:**

Councillor David Ashton (Chairman)	Leader; Strategy, Partnership and Finance Portfolio Holder	Harrow Council
Councillor Susan Hall	Deputy Leader, Environment and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Harrow Council
Councillor Paul Osborn	Performance, Communication and Corporate Services Portfolio Holder	Harrow Council
Councillor Bill Stephenson	Leader of the Labour Group	Harrow Council
Dr Gillian Schiller (Vice- Chairman)	Chairman	Harrow Primary Care Trust
Howard Bluston	Representative	North West London Chamber of Commerce
Malcolm Parr	Representative	Harrow in Business
Neil Tornes	Representative	Large Employers' Network
Julie Browne	Representative	Voluntary and Community Sector
Mike Coker	Representative	Voluntary and Community Sector
Jacqui Mace	Representative	Further Education Sector
Ann Groves	Chairman	Older People's Reference Group
John Edwards	Divisional Director, Environmental Services	Sustainable Development and Enterprise Management Group
Andrew Howe	Director of Public Health	Adult and Social Care Management Group
Brendon Hills	Corporate Director, Community and Environment Services	Co-Chair, Community Cohesion Management Group
Nick O'Reilly	Harrow Borough Commander	London Fire Brigade

**(2) Also Present:**

Michael Lockwood	Chief Executive	Harrow Council
Julia Smith	Chief Executive	Harrow Association of Voluntary Service
Susan Phillips	Locality Manager (West London)	Government Office for London
Annette Furley	CAA Lead	Audit Commission

**(3) The following Harrow Council Officers attended:**

Alex Dewsnap	Divisional Director, Partnership, Development and Performance	Harrow Council
Mike Howes	Service Manager, Policy and Partnership Service	Harrow Council

**Apologies were received from:**

Councillor Phillip O'Dell (Deputy Leader of the Labour Group) (Harrow Council), Paul Clark (Corporate Director, Children's Services) (Children and Young People Partnership) and Trina Taylor (Senior Policy Officer, Policy and Partnership Service) (Harrow Council)

**ACTION**

**35. Attendance by Substitute Members:**

**AGREED:** To (1) note that there were no Substitute Members present;

(2) note the apologies received (as set out above).

All to note.

**36. Declarations of Interest:**

**AGREED:** To note that there were no declarations of interest made.

All to note.

**37. Minutes:**

**AGREED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2009 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

All to note.

**38. Comprehensive Area Assessment Outcomes:**

The board received a report which was introduced by Annette Furley from the Audit Commission. The board were informed that Harrow Area's Assessment Results was published on 9 December 2009 by the Audit Commission.

The board were informed that the Audit Commission had assessed all major factors within the borough. This consisted of two main fields: The Organisational Assessment and the Area Assessment. The same process would again occur for the forthcoming year.

The board were informed that not every section of the Area Assessment would be reviewed again but rather there would be an increased focus on improving on those areas considered to be a risk. Most of the work conducted by the Audit Commission would be desk based but there was the possibility of other modes of research if required.

The Audit Commission would especially be looking at four main areas in the forthcoming years. The first area of interest would be the environment. There would be an increased focus on climate change and carbon emission. This was particularly relevant in North West London. The Audit Commission would be investigating how authorities were approaching this

issue.

The second area was focusing on Children and Young People and specifically issues relating to children who were permanently excluded from school. The third area involved improving the skills and learning of adults. The last area involved addressing the issue of Health Inequalities. Specifically this would involve looking at issues such as diabetes, obesity and mortality rates.

In response to questions raised by Members of the board, Annette Furley explained that:

- In order for green flags to be awarded as part of the Area Assessment, the Audit Commission were looking for exceptional performance providing a positive outcome, which was innovative in its nature and which could provide learning opportunities for other authorities.
- The Audit Commission were aware of the diverse nature of the borough and the work performed with each of the different communities in the borough.

Annette Furley explained that she would return to a future meeting of the board once the narrative of the Area Assessment had been composed. The Chairman thanked her for attending the meeting.

**AGREED:** That the board note the Audit Commission's judgement for the partnership's first Area Assessment.

All to note.

**39. Annual Public Health Report:**

The board received a presentation from a representative of the Harrow Primary Care Trust on the Annual Public Health Report. The presentation highlighted some key issues to the board which included that:

- Whilst Harrow generally had a healthy population, there were inequalities in health that had to be addressed.
- There were differences in life expectancy through the borough.
- Prevention was a key factor in addressing health inequalities.

In response to questions raised by Members of the board, the representative explained that:

- It was important to engage with the voluntary sector and the PCT were keen to hear any ideas to improve services.
- There were opportunities for partnership working, and installation of green gyms in the borough was an opportunity which could be explored.

- Issues relating to end of life care would be addressed through the PCTs Commissioning Strategy Plan and by working with the Older Peoples Reference Group.
- Proactive care was the theme of the reconfiguration of the health care system. A health check programme was being rolled out within 5 years.
- It was important for the partnership as a whole to deal with issues relating to health inequalities. It was imperative for all organisations to take some responsibility for addressing health inequalities.
- A report would be presented to a future meeting of the board to explain what plans were in place to deal with the issues identified as part of the report.

The Chairman raised a concern that there was no formal action arising from the report, and that it was not acceptable for the HSP simply to note the report, which was entirely passive. He requested that representatives be ready at a subsequent meeting to take up and act on the issues arising.

**AGREED:** That the recommendations from the Annual Public Health report be noted, and that a future (and soon) meeting, positive responsive action be taken by the HSP.

All to note.

**40. Consultation on Draft Third Sector Strategy:**

The Board received a report detailing the Council's draft Third Sector Strategy. The Corporate Director, Community and Environment, Harrow Council, informed the board that the strategy had been developed as a result of a recommendation from the Council's Cabinet. The aim of the Third Sector Strategy was to lead the transformation of the Council's relationship with the third sector to ensure the best possible services for the benefit of local people.

The board was informed that the consultation period had officially ended, however any comments on the strategy made by members of the board would be considered. The consultation period had been extended by 2 weeks and most of the responses had been very positive.

A Member of the Board expressed concern at the length of the consultation period. The Corporate Director responded that a lot of work had been conducted with the third sector in preparing the strategy. The Council had worked hard to publicise the consultation and fully sought to engage the third sector. This was endorsed by the Chairman.

**AGREED:** That (1) the overall aims of the strategy be endorsed.

(2) the strategy be recognised as a way forward for improving and developing the relationship between the voluntary and statutory sectors.

All to note.

**41. Local Area Agreement Review:**

The board received a report which was presented by the Policy and Partnerships Manager, Harrow Council. He explained that the Local Area Agreement was agreed in 2008 and was subject to an annual review. It was explained to the board this year the annual review incorporated a refresh process which was to only include indicators that were not confirmed last year due to the economic climate. 5 additional indicators had also been identified as part of the refresh process, which did not fall within the scope of the refresh. However they were considered to be important due to data errors and the need for a baseline and targets. These had been agreed by Government Office for London.

The Chairman raised certain specific questions on the additional indicators and suggested that the board delegate responsibility to him to investigate and study the revised targets and baselines as part of the refresh process and to agree the final targets. The Chairman also requested that a report be presented to the next meeting of the board to provide Members with an update. These proposals were agreed.

A Member of the Board commented that there had to be an amendment in the way that targets in the Local Area Agreement were reported to the board. These would be useful in contributing to making decisions on strategic issues.

**AGREED:** That (1) the new baselines and targets, which have been negotiated with Government Office for London, be adopted.

(2) to delegate responsibility to the Chairman to investigate and study the revised targets and baselines as part of the refresh process and to agree the final targets.

All to note.

**42. Report of the Harrow Chief Executives:**

The board received a report presented by the Chief Executive, Harrow Council, which informed of the major items considered by Harrow Chief Executives since October 2009.

The board were informed that:

- The new performance management system had been put into practice. The Chief Executive's Group would regularly receive reports of management groups. It was suggested that it would also be helpful for all Members of the board to receive these reports.
- The Harrow Chief Executives had received a presentation on the Better Together work stream of the Better Deal for Residents Programme. Further work would be undertaken to enable partnership implementation of the actions that the work stream had identified. These included dealing with issues relating to assets and other practical issues.

**AGREED:** That the report be noted

All to note.

43. **Date of Next Meeting:**

**AGREED:** That it be noted that the next meeting of the board would be held on Thursday 11 March 2010.

All to note.

[Note: The Meeting, having commenced at 6.00 pm, closed at 7.18 pm]