

Title and Author Harrow Chief Executives' Update

Date 15th June 2010

Introduction

This report provides an update of the issues considered by the Harrow Chief Executives' meeting held on 24th May, 2010

Proposed action

That the report is noted.

What are you asking the Partnership Board to do?

Note the report.

Summary of the issue

The HCE Meeting held on 24th May was a Performance Morning considering progress on the LAA, the Partnership's priorities and the issues identified by the last CAA assessment.

The main performance issues and decision reached were:

- the organisations represented at Harrow Chief Executives would each send a representative to the stakeholder meeting being organised for a date in June to progress a joint fuel poverty strategy; **(nominees to be notified to Andrew Baker)**
- partners would nominate by 11th June leads to contribute to, and liaise with Kashmir Takhar about, the communications campaign to support a positive result from the Thriving Third Sector survey that will be held in August 2010;
- HCE members would work together to ensure that the various sources of funding for voluntary and community organisations are streamlined and application and determination processes made compatible or amalgamated; **(Action Kashmir Takhar and Julia Smith to take forward);**
- HCE Members would nominate leads to provide an update to the December Partnership Board and the Voluntary and Community Sector Forum on progress on joint commissioning **(Action Martin Wintle and Betty Lynch to co-ordinate);**
- Partners would respond to Kashmir Takhar by 30th June regarding the Community Cohesion action plan and with examples of ways in which their work can and does contribute to the plan's outcomes; and
- Partners would nominate leads to join a community cohesion officer network to monitor and develop the community cohesion action plan.

The following updates were given:

- Health/Council Integration, where a plan was being developed to achieve level 2 integration over the next 6 months with the option of then considering the potential for further integration;
- The JSA numbers for Harrow were down in April by 160 but the picture generally is very patchy although with a downward trend;
- While Town Centre commercial property vacancy rates are low, this isn't necessarily the case for smaller district centres
- Harrow has become the West London lead for climate change work, and may be able to access London Councils' resources to fund a retro-fitting programme to increase the energy efficiency of residential property;
- The Harrow Credit Union has been launched;
- A review of Council Special Needs Transport had been completed which had identified the potential for use for other client groups in the middle of the day;
- The Labour manifesto included a commitment to sign up to the 10:10 campaign;
- The ability to affect performance against NI 8 (Adults participation in sport) was very limited as the Sports Development Team was concentrating on young people and the impact of 2012.

Work was commissioned to identify and monitor tensions between the action of organisations such as NHS London and the Metropolitan Police looking for economies of scale through the centralisation of services and the Total Place approach of seeking efficiency savings and service improvements through shared and joint working locally.

Partners gave initial views of the new Government's thinking:

Health: the current view of the health agenda was that a white paper is to be issued in the next 6 months suggesting that PCTs would become very different organisations with GPs taking a much more active role in commissioning. Locally, there was a prospect of establishing a GPs' organisation to undertake commissioning and it was recognised that there should be engagement now with GP leaders.

Welfare: It is proposed to abolish all current welfare to work schemes and replace them with one scheme covering all workless people. Existing Future Jobs Fund placements would continue but it appears that no more placements would be approved. There are also plans to simplify the benefits system to contain only two elements – a universal work credit and a universal life credit. These ideas had been trailed in a paper called Dynamic Benefits prepared by the Centre for Social Justice.

2. LAA Reward Grant Business Cases

The business cases from management Groups were considered and agreed for submission to the Partnership Board meeting to be held on 15th June.