

HARROW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Harrow Strategic Partnership Annual Report

15th June 2010

Introduction
The constitution requires Harrow Strategic Partnership to prepare and consider an Annual Report yearly. The Annual Report sets out the progress made in the previous year and indicates areas of future work.
Proposed Action
Once the Annual Report has been endorsed by the Partnership Board the report will be published on the Harrow Council's website.
What are you asking the Partnership Board to do
Endorse the Harrow Strategic Partnership Annual Report

Summary of the Issue

In 2009/2010 the Harrow Strategic Partnership has needed to consider ways of delivering savings through working closer together. To achieve savings without compromising Harrow's improvement journey, the Partnership embarked on an ambitious and pioneering transformation programme – 'Better Deal for Residents'. The programme shifted the focus from internal partner improvements to an innovative and partnership-led approach to balancing medium term budgets and delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The introduction of the Total Place project is an example of our closer partnership working. Working with Pricewaterhouse Coopers, £1.9 billion public expenditure was identified in Harrow. The two highest areas of spend were Health and Social Protection. The Counting Harrow exercise and discussions with partners set out the strategic overview and the direction of two pilot projects. The two pilots focus on the most service intensive families and the pathways in and out of hospital for older people. Partners also have an ambition to consolidate the public sector footprint (there are currently over 150 public sector buildings in use across the borough), and work has commenced with residents to identify ways in which changes in their behaviour would result in better outcomes for them and lower costs for partners, called the Better Together programme.

Comprehensive Area Assessment

Last year, a new assessment format was introduced by Central Government which looked at partnerships' capacity to successfully improve their local area. This was called the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). The first CAA recognised that the partnership was working well across Harrow and delivering good outcomes for residents. The report

also recognised that the Council, health services, the police and others are working towards a common vision for Harrow in the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement.

An outcome of the recently established government coalition agreement has resulted in the disbandment of future Comprehensive Area Assessments. It is currently unclear what the future government performance reporting will be.

Management Group Achievements

Key achievements and deliverables of the five thematic management groups include:

- Development of a Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- The formation of the Children's Trust to replace the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
- Introduction of the Good to Outstanding Initiative to help schools to move to an outstanding Ofsted rating
- Good progress in improving the safeguarding services with children looked after with a record number of adoptions being completed and more stable placements
- The delivery of the 'Our Harrow Our Community' campaign
- Preparation of a Community Cohesion Action Plan
- Receipt of two awards at the 2010 Community Partnership Awards for the Somali Taskforce and Community Road Show.
- Launch of Neighbourhood Champions
- The procurement of Smartwater
- Introduction of the Rayners Lane Neighbourhood into the Partnership
- Alignment of the Recession Busting Group into the HSP structure
- Completion of the Harrow's first Local Area Agreement with a total claim worth £4,680,000.

Future Work

The coming 12 months are likely to be dominated by the need to make substantial progress on the Better Deal for Residents Programme. This is likely to take the form of joining up services between partners and establishing common direction, reporting and standards, seeking opportunities for co-location, both to release unnecessary public buildings and to achieve better service integration, and progressing the element of the programme that increases residents' involvement in the design, development and delivery of services, including taking more responsibility for the future of the area.

The current LAA will come to an end and the process of recording and verifying our final position will need to be undertaken. There will be a need to refresh the short term action plan of the current Sustainable Community Strategy and consider the ambitions in the Strategy in relation to the future financial challenges and changes to national policy.