

REPORT FOR: **CABINET**

Date of Meeting: 4 April 2012

Subject: INFORMATION REPORT - Harrow Partnership Board

Responsible Officer: Tom Whiting, Assistant Chief Executive

Exempt: No

Enclosures: None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report summarises discussion at the meeting of the Partnership Board held on 29 March 2012.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

This report sets out the Partnership's decisions reached at a recent meeting.

Options considered

None

Background

The Partnership Board comprises representatives of the Council, the Police, the Health Service, Business and the voluntary and community sector. It meets to consider issues that will influence the future of the borough and consider how they take forward the ambitions set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

After each Board meeting, a report of the business considered is made to Cabinet for information.

Current situation

At the Board's most recent meeting on 29 March, papers were considered relating to the future of the Health Service, taking forward the Community Budgets proposals that were drawn up in response to an invitation for pilot status, a complaint raised under the compact and progress on schemes funded from the Local Area Agreement reward grant.

Health Update

First, in relation to the Health Service, the Board received two reports, the first setting out how the Health and Social Care Act might be implemented in Harrow and, secondly, receiving information on the merger of the Ealing Hospital NHS Trust and the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust.

The first of these reports updated the Board on the intentions towards the transfer of public health to the Council and the budget currently proposed for that function, the development of the Health and Wellbeing Board, progress on the creation of a North West London Commissioning Support Service, Harrow's Clinical Commissioning Group and plans for creating HealthWatch.

A full report on the developing position is scheduled to come to Cabinet in May this year.

Secondly, in relation to the Health Service, the Board received an update on the process that is leading towards the merger of the Ealing and North West London Hospital Trusts. The process includes the full business case for merger being considered in April by both Trust Boards with a view of merger being achieved by 1 July, 2012.

The report made clear that the merger in itself will not impact on services but will lead to the identification of changes in services that will themselves be the subject of consultation. Some envisaged changes will provide for a higher volume of specialist cases being dealt with at specialist units allowing for the most effective deployment of staff.

Community Budgets

The Council submitted on behalf of the Partnership an application for pilot whole place Community Budget status. While that application was not

successful, Partners have been asked to consider how the ideas in that bid could be taken forward without the benefit of pilot status.

A number of proposals that echoed the main themes of the expression of interest were identified. The Board were recommended that the capacity of partners was limited and so chose three projects to take forward at this stage; namely

- Supporting the Out of Hospital Strategy;
- Taking forward co-location of the Police and the Council; and
- Joining up support for the voluntary and community sector.

The Board agreed governance procedures for the three projects which will feature in future reports to Cabinet.

The Board also considered the working arrangements for joint projects which, in summary, suggest that, once initial costs of a partners' contributions to a scheme have been recouped, any additional savings should accrue to an investment fund to finance future joint working schemes. The details of how this principle should be applied will be developed and be the subject of further reports.

Compact

The Board received a detailed report on a complaint raised under the Compact and decided that the Council's actions and decisions in this case were in accordance with the Compact. The complaint was therefore not upheld.

Progress on LAA funded schemes

The Board received a report on progress of schemes funded from the Reward Grant which, in all cases but one, was satisfactory. The absence of reporting in relation to the PCT's element of the Reablement Programme gave rise to concerns about the project's progress but the Board was informed that the Chief Executive had written to the PCT requesting information which would be reported to a future Board meeting.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications of these decisions although monitoring the LAA spend might result in allocated sums being repaid which might enable other schemes to be progressed. Similarly, the working arrangements for projects under the Community Budgets umbrella may have financial implications which will be reported as schemes are developed for detailed consideration.

Equalities implications

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No. An EqIA will be undertaken as part of the development of detailed proposals for the Community Budget projects.

Corporate Priorities

The Partnership's priorities support aspects of all of the Council's Corporate Priorities

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jennifer Hydari	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 2 April 2012		

Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Mike Howes, Service Manager, Policy and Partnerships Ext 5637

Background Papers: Agenda - Partnership Board, 29 March 2012