

Minutes - Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board

(Not a public meeting)

Wednesday 11th November 2009

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| Present | |
| Chair | Cllr Steve Foulkes (Leader, Wirral Council), |
| Public Sector | Cllr Simon Holbrook (Deputy Leader, Wirral Council and Leader of Liberal Democrat Group) Cllr Jeff Green (Leader, Conservative Group, Wirral Council), Stephen Maddox (Chief Executive, Wirral Council), Superintendent Chief Superintendent Jon Ward, (Merseyside Police), Gillian Thomas (Job Centre Plus), Paul Gibson (Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service), Kathy Doran (Chief Executive, NHS Wirral), Ian Davidson (Acting Chief Executive for Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust), Alberto Bertalli (Private Sector), Pat Higgins (Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust) |
| Voluntary Sector | Clint Agard (Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network), Myrtle Lacey (Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network) |
| Private Sector | |
| Advisors | Richard Perry (GONW), |
| Secretariat | Wirral Council - Jim Wilkie (Deputy Chief Executive), Carolyn Curr (Head of Policy and Performance), Kevin Adderley (Head of Strategic Development), Marie Armitage (Joint Director of Public Health, Wirral PCT & Wirral Council), Howard Cooper (Director of Children's Services), Alan Stennard (Director of Regeneration), John Webb, (Director of Adult Social Services), Jane Morgan (Corporate Policy Manager), Lucy Beed (Corporate Performance Manager), Pete Molyneux (Chief Accountant), Brian Simpson (Wirral Partnership Homes) |
| Other | |
| Apologies | Gary Foulkes (Jobcentre Plus), Mike Hagen (Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service), Len Richards (Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust) |

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Minute 174 - WELCOME, APOLOGIES, INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies received as stated above.

The Chair welcomed Carolyn Curr and John Webb to the meeting.

Minute 175 - ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- Minute 167 – Next LSP Assembly meeting is in the process of being rescheduled.
- Minute 169 - Peter Forrester has provided Jon Ward feedback on anti-social behaviour not receiving a green flag in the 2008/09 CAA assessment.
- Minute 172 LAA funding report was deferred at the last meeting as requested by the Chair pending further information provided by the Deputy Chief Executive relating to Myrtle Lacey enquiry regarding the availability of funding for welfare benefits posts in the community and voluntary sector and that no confirmation had been received regarding this issue. This report is covered in item 6 on the agenda.
- Any other business - The Chair at the previous meeting requested that enquiries be made to invite members of the Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Small Businesses to attend this board. This action has now been completed and representatives have accepted and will attend the next board meeting.

Minute Decision : Resolved that -

- 1) The minutes of the last meeting be accepted as a true record

Minute 176 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared

Minute 177 - WIRRAL LSP – REPORT ON WIRRAL’S RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE

Jim Wilkie introduced the report to outline the latest impact of global economic conditions on Wirral’s economy, and identify the steps taken by the Council and its partners to respond to the recession through the development of a Recovery Plan.

J Wilkie advised that the Plan will contain measures to mitigate the impact of the recession but at the same time maintain momentum on the Investment Strategy.

Clint Agard informed the board that Wirral Change has seen an increase in clients finding work. In addition, Future Job Fund vacancies have been filled at Wirral Change.

Cllr Green requested information about whether the partnership was geared up to deal with increases in mental health issues linked to the recession. Marie Armitage

responded that there was no evidence that demand was increasing for mental health services, however this is being monitored. Ian Davidson commented that NHS Wirral has invested significantly in mental health services and therefore there will be capacity to deal with any increase in demand.

Cllr Green requested information regarding levels of repossession. Alan Stennard commented that additional finance has been made available to address this issue and that data would be circulated to the board.

J Wilkie responded to a number of questions raised relating to the current position of a number of local businesses which impact on Wirral's economy.

H Cooper circulated information related to the apprenticeship and the impact on the NEET cohort.

Minute Decision:

Resolved that -

1) Executive Board members agreed to:

- Note this latest report on Wirral's response to the current economic conditions.
- Note progress towards the development of a Recovery Plan, aimed at minimising the impact of the recession on Wirral residents and businesses, and planning for future recovery.

Minute 178 – QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE & RISK REPORT

Jim Wilkie presented this report and advised that the report sets out progress of the LAA priorities at the half year stage and will inform Government Office North West's annual review of Wirral's Local Area agreement.

Key partnership achievements include:

- LSP response to the economic downturn and regular monitoring reports. Recovery plan now to be implemented.
- Robust negotiations for the LAA improvement targets – Audit Commission has used the dragon's den approach as an example of best practice
- Robust performance management framework including delivery plans and monitoring of risks
- Development of partnership comprehensive engagement strategy

J Wilkie advised that the overall position is very good with 72% (23) of indicators on target, 16% (5) are assessed as amber, and 13% (4) have missed the target by more than 10% (red). The report also includes additional section to demonstrate how the partnership is tackling inequalities.

J Wilkie requested that thematic leads provide feedback on performance issues raised within the report.

J Webb informed the board that the partnership is optimistic regarding achieving target relating to self directed support. Wirral's approach is being used as a national exemplar.

There was some discussion regarding the need for all partners to better understand the personalisation agenda.

H Cooper circulated information related to the apprenticeship and Connexions activity and the impact on the NEET cohort. H Cooper also indicated that he would report to a future meeting of the board the impact on national developments on apprentice programmes and the implication for Wirral.

Discussion also took place regarding the levels of NEET in the most deprived wards and the focus of activity to address this. The board welcomed the additional sections regarding narrowing the gap within the report and requested that the data be updated as part of future reports.

Discussion took place regarding the effectiveness and impact of relevant strategies and resource allocation.

H Cooper gave an update on performance issues relating to NI 68.

K Adderley gave an update on performance issues for NI 151 / 154.

Cllr Holbrook asked for consideration to be given in future reports to those indicators currently assessed as amber and the potential direction of travel.

Cllr Green requested for updates on a regular basis for annual indicators.

J Wilkie advised the board that part 3 of the report provides an overarching risk register for the partnership and this has been developed by the LSP management group. These risks will be taken forward as an overarching risk register by the LSP management group and reported quarterly to the board. Board members were requested to identify any further risks for inclusion.

J Wilkie advised the board that part 4 of the report advised the board that robust delivery plans have been developed for each improvement priority area. It is recommended that the delivery plans are managed and monitored by the relevant thematic partnership group. Should an LAA improvement target underperforms for a period of two or more consecutive quarters then it is recommended that the relevant delivery plan is reported to the LSP Executive Board for consideration and to identify any further action that can be taken.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that -

1) Executive Board members:

- Future reports provide consideration of amber performance indicators and that proxy measures / contextual information be included in future performance reports for annual indicators.
- Review the second quarter performance and risk information contained within this report and identify any areas for further action.
- Agree that delivery plans are reported to the LSP Executive Board for

improvement targets which under perform consecutively for a period of two or more quarters.

Minute 179 – LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT REPORT

Lucy Beed presented this report to outline the latest expected performance reward grant that Wirral will receive. £7.905m is expected to be achieved in performance reward grant which equates to 80% of the £9.824m available.

J Wilkie advised that the Corporate Policy Team within the Council's Corporate Services Department has to date provided essential resources for coordinating and developing the Local Area Agreement (LAA). This team has previously received funding from pump priming grant and match funding from NHS Wirral to fund temporary posts within the team. This provides funding for these posts until July 2010. It is requested that the remaining £108,546 is allocated to further extend these vital posts for the remainder of the 2008/11 LAA to support the work of the partnership and delivery of the LAA.

M Lacey requested that unallocated funding be communicated across the partnership. J Wilkie confirmed that the LSP Management Group and LSP Executive Board receive regular reports regarding unallocated funding.

The board discussed the need to ensure that the contribution made by the third sector is fully reflected in partnership activity. L Beed advised that further work can be taken to review the voluntary and community sector's contribution to partnership delivery in the LAA delivery plans.

Minute Decision : Resolved that -

1) Executive Board members:

- Review LAA delivery plans to ensure the contribution of the third sector is fully reflected.
- Note the expected performance reward grant and approve the indicative allocations outlined in section 4.3.
- Note the final position of the PPG expenditure and approve the following requests:
 - Allocate the remaining £2,074 pump priming grant to NHS Wirral as a contribution for delivery of the BME smoking cessation target;
 - Allocate the remaining £108,546 council contribution to the LAA is used to continue to fund temporary posts within the council's Corporate Policy Team.

Minute 180 – COMPREHENSIVE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Jim Wilkie presented this report to provide Wirral LSP Executive Board with an

update on the progress of the Comprehensive Engagement Strategy (CES) following the end of the three month consultation period.

The council has taken the lead in developing this key document and the board is asked to endorse the final version of the CES attached as Appendix A.

Cllr Green requested confirmation that the Conservative Group's comments have been received. J Wilkie confirmed that this will be followed up.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that -

- 1) The LSP Executive Board agreed to endorse the final draft of the Comprehensive Engagement Strategy.

Minute 181 – COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT

Jim Wilkie provided a verbal update to the board and advised that the partnership has submitted its appeal for the red flag for safeguarding vulnerable adults and is awaiting confirmation that the partnership has met the grounds for appeal.

J Webb circulated a report regarding the progress that had been made in relation to the red flag for safeguarding adults.

J Wilkie informed the board that final CAA results will be provided to the partnership on the 4th December under embargoed and published on the 10th December. The partnership team will take forward the self evaluation work including the findings of CAA into a work programme.

J Wilkie thanked all partners for their support and involvement in the CAA process.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that -

- 1) Executive Board Members agreed to develop a work programme on the partnership's self evaluation and CAA findings.

Minute 182 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Kevin Adderley provided a verbal update to the board regarding the consultation of the core strategy and advised that consultation documents would be circulated in early January 2010.

Minute 183 – DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- **Wednesday 20 January 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm**
- Wednesday 17 February 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm
- Wednesday 31 March 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm