

**WIRRAL LSP EXECUTIVE BOARD****WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010****REPORT OF THE WIRRAL EQUALITIES FORUM****PROPOSAL FOR A WIRRAL EQUALITIES CHARTER****1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides Wirral LSP Executive Board members with a brief overview of the Wirral Equalities Forum, alongside a proposal to develop an LSP Equalities Charter for Wirral.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Established during 2007 the purpose of the Wirral Equalities Forum was to bring together Wirral's public sector equalities officers to gain a better understanding of each others' work and priorities. Active members of the Forum currently include NHS Wirral, Wirral Council, Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Merseytravel, and the Stonham Group.
- 2.2 Current Forum members have a very good understanding of each other's work programmes and priorities based upon each organisation's individual and shared duties and aspirations. Forum members have also supported each other's equality events, and some members are currently discussing the possibility of pooling resources for online equality and diversity training.
- 2.3 To complement the thematic delivery structures of Wirral LSP, a range of groups are necessary to support the enabling activities required. These include existing partnerships such as the Environmental Sustainability Appraisal Group, the LAA Development Group, the Comprehensive Engagement Strategy Group, and now the Wirral Equalities Forum (see Appendix A).
- 2.4 For the Wirral Equalities Forum to be an effective 'enabling group' for Wirral LSP there is now a need to:
- Obtain support from the Wirral LSP Executive Board for a partnership approach to further developing the equalities agenda across Wirral and our respective organisations.
  - Review the Forum's membership to a) ensure a consistent strategic approach to its work, and b) ensure a fairer representation of LSP members.
  - Identify joint priorities based upon identified local inequalities.

### **3. PROPOSAL FOR AN LSP EQUALITIES CHARTER FOR WIRRAL**

- 3.1 The vision for Wirral LSP is 'a more prosperous and equal Wirral'. As a consequence there are a number of policies and initiatives in place and being delivered to realise the vision.

The Wirral Equalities Forum recognises that it has a greater opportunity of supporting the LSP realise its vision, if it develops a shared set of equality principles and an action plan that all LSP members can sign up to.

Seeking to learn from best practice models, the Wirral Equalities Forum has looked at an Equalities Charter being developed by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities - AGMA (see Appendix B). By pooling resources and developing a shared vision, set of values, objectives, and an annual action plan AGMA have been able to create new opportunities to help the city region achieve a common vision of equity and fairness.

Members of the Wirral Equalities Forum support the development of an Equalities Charter for Wirral LSP, as a very visible statement to Wirral's communities that it is fully committed to reducing inequalities.

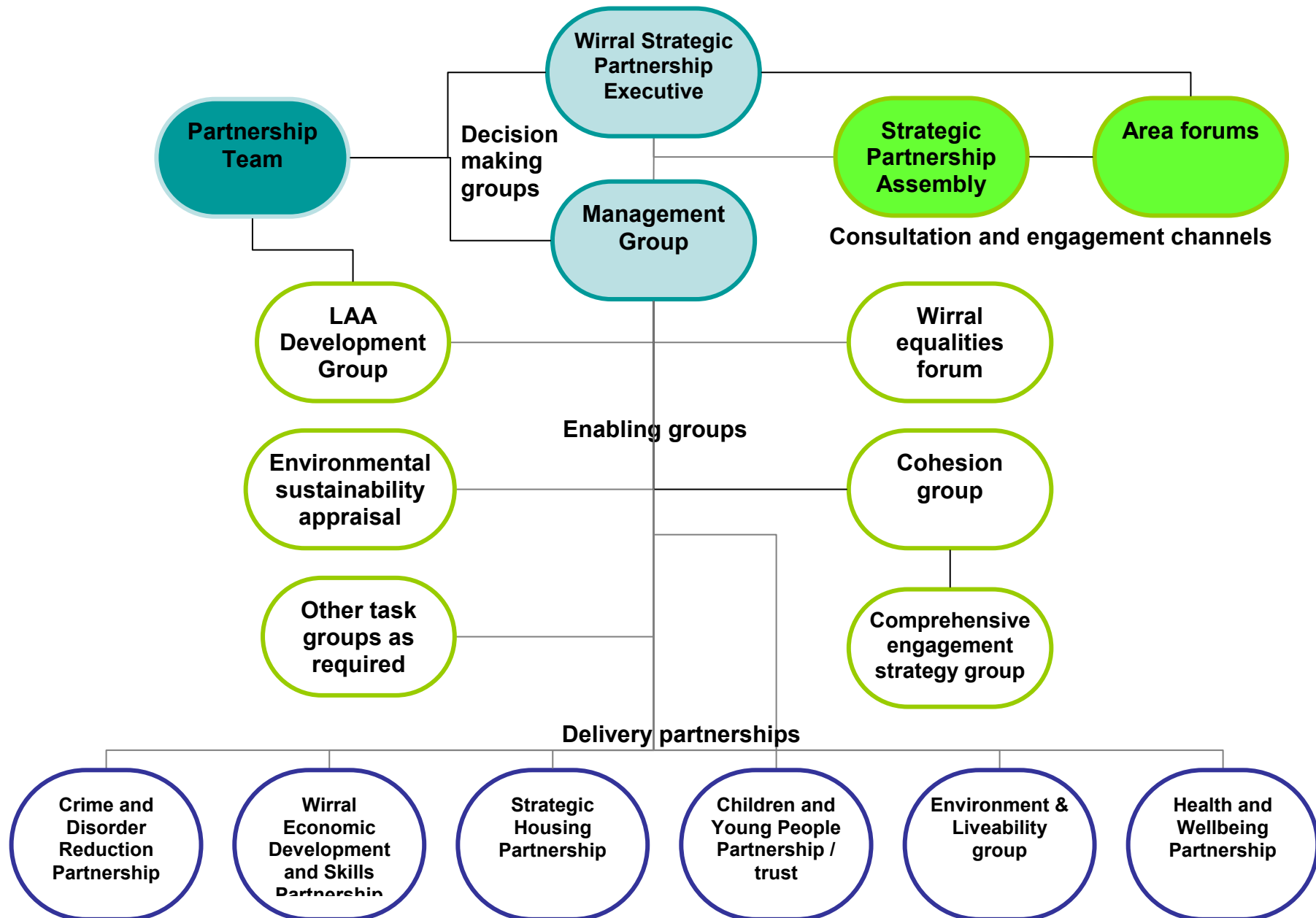
### **4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Wirral LSP Executive Board is requested to consider the development of an Equalities Charter for Wirral LSP.

#### **Wirral Equalities Forum**

This report was prepared by Jacqui Cross (Corporate Equality and Cohesion Manager, Wirral Council) and Michael Chantler (Diversity and Inclusion Manager, Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust)

## Appendix A Wirral LSP Governance Structure



## “Building a Fairer Greater Manchester”

### Our Vision

The AGMA Family’s Equalities and Human Rights vision is to:

*‘Build a fairer Greater Manchester’*

### Our Values

Our underpinning values are to promote:

- **Equality** – by recognising people’s different needs, situations and goals, and removing the barriers that limit what people can do or be.
- **Human Rights** – by placing key human rights principles, such as dignity, respect and equality at the heart of policy and planning.
- **Diversity** – by understanding that every individual has a personality, abilities, gender, ethnicity, beliefs, sexual orientation, age, familial and social responsibilities that make him or her unique.
- **Community Cohesion** – by building strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds.
- **Fairness** – by making judgements between competing demands and resources, ensuring that decisions are fair, reasonable and reflect our legal obligations.

### Our Objectives

To achieve this aim the AGMA family will strive to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination and provide fair and responsive services for our diverse population.
- Deliver public services that enable people to achieve equal life outcomes.
- Ensure our workforces reflect the diversity of the population we serve.
- Promote diverse individual and community talents for the benefit of everyone, and actively promote good relations between people.
- Influence and support our partners and other organisations within the City Region to reduce inequality.

Signatures:-