

# Minutes - Local Strategic Partnership - Executive Board

(Not a public meeting)

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010

<b>Present</b>	
<b>Chair</b>	Cllr Steve Foulkes (Leader, Labour Group)
<b>Public Sector</b>	Cllr Simon Holbrook (Leader, Liberal Democrat Group) Cllr Jeff Green (Leader, Conservative Group, Wirral Council), Steve Maddox (Chief Executive, Wirral Council), Mike Hagen (Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service), Jon Ward (Merseyside Police) Kathy Doran (Chief Executive, NHS Wirral),
<b>Voluntary Sector</b>	Myrtle Lacey (Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network), Clint Agard (Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network),
<b>Private Sector</b>	Neil Dutton (Federation of Small Businesses)
<b>Advisors</b>	Val Edmonds (Audit Commission), Richard Perry (GONW)
<b>Secretariat</b>	Wirral Council - Carolyn Curr (Head of Policy & Performance, Wirral Council), Marie Armitage (Joint Director of Public Health, Wirral PCT & Wirral Council), Pete Molyneux (Chief Accountant), Howard Cooper (Director of Children's Services), Rose Boylan (Principal Economic Officer, Wirral Council, John Highton (LSP Co-ordinator, Wirral Council)
<b>Other</b>	Aidan Melling (National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services), Sheila Lynch (Assistant Director, Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership), Kate Julian (Centre for Local Governance), John Curtis (Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service)
<b>Apologies</b>	Len Richards (Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust), Alberto Bertali (Private Sector), Ken Davies (Wirral Chamber of Commerce), Sheena Cumiskey (Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust), Sue Allen (Job Centre Plus), Jim Wilkie (Deputy Chief Executive), Kevin Adderley (Head of Strategic Development), Simon Pierce (Formerly Learning Skills Council), Brian Simpson (Wirral Partnership Homes)

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**Minute 213** - WELCOME, APOLOGIES, INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies received as stated above.

The board agreed that Councillor Foulkes should chair the meeting given the interim position as outlined as agenda item one.

The Chair welcomed to the meeting

- Kate Julian - researcher from the Centre for Local Governance
- John Curtis from Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Aidan Melling from the National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services
- Sheila Lynch - Assistant Director Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership
- Rose Boylan, Principal Economic Officer, Wirral Council

## **Minute 214 - ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Minute 196 (31/03/10) – Stronger Communities, Vulnerable Localities

- Jon Ward provided a briefing note update on the progress being made in relation to this area of work in the Morpeth super output are (SOA) and this was circulated to board members after the meeting.

Minute 206 (31/03/10) - Midlife Planning – Preparing for Retirement

- This report was noted and further consideration will be given to how volunteering may be promoted in the borough including the production of a volunteering guide for use by partner organisations

Minute 207 (31/03/10) - Safeguarding Adults in Wirral

- Partners were requested to report the draft strategy within their individual organisations
- The governance issues emerging from the Safeguarding Adults in Wirral report will be considered as part of the wider review of governance of the partnership.

Minute 210 (31/03/10) – MBA Leadership Programme

- Board members had been requested to consider the scope for their own organisations to participate in the Leadership Programme in the next intake which is likely to be September 2010.

### **Minute Decision :**

#### **Resolved that -**

1) The minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> March meeting were accepted as a true record with the exception that Clint Agard (Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network) was in attendance

## **Minute 215 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by board members

## **Minute 216 – LSP IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS - KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT (KM)**

Carolyn Curr, Kate Julian (KJ) from Centre for Local Governance, Researcher and John Curtis (JC) from Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service presented this item.

KJ described the knowledge management model- it was developed by Manchester Metropolitan University and in collaboration with five local authorities and is essentially a self assessment tool that will assist the partnership to improve its KM processes.

There would be no monetary cost to the Partnership however the project would need to be agreed by June 2010 in order to be certain of securing funding from NWIEP. The project team from the University would include a project director / researcher and administrative support. A commitment would be required from partners to:

- Participate in an initial self assessment questionnaire
- Feedback to each collaborating partner
- A facilitated meeting of the partnership to share findings and agree next steps

The timescale for the project would be July – December 2010.

The focus of the work will be inequalities. The KM framework will be tested by collaborating with Partnership staff that are at the forefront of knowledge transfer between the partners *and* who are specifically involved in initiatives that address inequalities.

The Chair queried KM role in terms of efficiencies for partners. JC suggested that the process is more an information sharing collaboration with its outcomes adding clarity to where potential efficiencies could be made. Cllr Holbrook queried the mapping process and the need to have that element correct from the outset. KJ explained that the process will aid understanding and delivery. Cllr Green asked how this should be approached as a partnership in order to consider all the different elements of the partnership. KJ highlighted that the model has generic language to support all agencies. The separate snapshots from partners give an overall picture for the partnership. Marie Armitage (MA) highlighted the benefits of this work and its links to JSNA and provision of a range of services across partners. MA added that there is an aligned KM project on Health Inequalities across Merseyside.

Chair thanked Carolyn Curr, Kate Julian and John Curtis for the report and presentation

#### **Minute Decision:**

#### **Resolved that -**

1) Executive Board members agreed:

- To the proposal with particular reference to the questions outlined in 4.1
- To time commitment from their organisation that will be necessary to support the project such as self assessment outlined in 3.2. of the report

#### **Minute 217 – LAA PERFORMANCE & RISK - FULL YEAR 2009/10**

Carolyn Curr presented this item. It was agreed that the presentation slides would be circulated to board members after the meeting.

CC outlined the performance for the year highlighting where activity and outcomes had worked well and achieved beyond target and also where challenges remained for the partnership. CC described the process for the forthcoming period related to this years CAA and the potential for green flags. The presentation highlighted a substantial number of areas where case studies were being collated to present to the Audit Commission in the coming weeks. These case studies would also be used as a generic evidence bank for the partnership and for submitting for future innovation awards.

Cllr Holbrook queried the corrective action on NI 130 which he thought to be an inadequate explanation. The Chair requested that this issue be resolved. Jon Ward (JW) endorsed the performance & risk report and added that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies (HMIC) had requested information for potential green flags on 'violence against the person, robbery and vehicle crime. Mike Hagen (MH) further endorsed the report and also outlined work by MFRS with Wirral partners. This had resulted in a number of improved outcomes for young people and residents that included aspects such as engagement in positive activities, physical activity, support for vulnerable households, alcohol intervention, qualifications, volunteering, conflict resolution, family interventions, coaching awards, job preparation and employment. Both cases were opportunities for green flags as the presentation highlighted.

Cllr Holbrook asked of the consequences of the change from Learning Skills Council to Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and recording of data. Rose Boylan (RB) agreed this is an issue and discussions continue as to how SFA will resolve the issue for Wirral. Val Edmonds (VE), Wirral's CAA Lead, welcomed the presentation and content of the report as it demonstrated where effort had been put into important areas for Wirral. VE would cover a number of these elements in her presentation.

Chair thanked Carolyn Curr for the report and presentation

#### **Minute Decision:**

##### **Resolved that -**

1) Executive Board members agreed to:

- Accept the full year performance & report 2009/10
- Review the full year performance and risk information from the report and presentation and identify any areas for further action.

#### **Minute 218 – AUDIT COMMISSION – CAA UPDATE**

Val Edmonds (VE), Wirral's Audit Commission CAA lead, presented on the CAA update and to a tabled document.

VE outlined the process for updating red flag on the 'OnePlace' website in March, June and September. AC is making every effort to minimise any burden of assessment. VE covered each of the thematic areas highlighting specific aspects as outlined on the tabled document. VE made the partnership aware that she will be asking specialists to assist in the review of specific areas and aspects namely Community Safety and the potential for a green flag and the red tag for housing. VE reiterated the potential for green flags and looked forward to receiving the information on these and generation of further discussions on them.

Progress would be reported at the August Executive Board with the caveat of

understanding the impact of any changes in government and implications that may have to current processes.

Kathy Doran (KD) asked if the CAA process would take account of the recent World Class Commissioning (WCC) review. VE confirmed that WCC would be used to inform the process wherever possible. Marie Armitage (MA) added that the information on inequalities should be included from the forthcoming National Support Team (NST) for Inequalities visit as a follow on from their first full review in 2009.

Howard Cooper (HC) highlighted the work that was taking place in order to achieve improvement in targets such as teenage conception. This performance was massively improved in difficult circumstances and yet it was still showing an underachievement against the exacting target. VE recognised this and would welcome further details to understand the context of the achievement.

Chair thanked Val Edmonds for her report.

**Minute Decision :**  
**Resolved that -**

- 1) Executive Board members agreed to:
  - Accept the report presented by Val Edmonds, Audit Commission CAA lead for Wirral
  - Continue to provide case study information as required for potential green flags

**Minute 219 – WIRRAL LSP - ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN**

Rose Boylan (RB) presented this report update to board members on Wirral's Economic Recovery Plan

Positive aspects continued to be realised since February's update to board members. The report highlighted many of these including:

- Business start –ups growing against a backdrop of reductions elsewhere
- JSA – third consecutive monthly reduction – out performing others regionally and nationally
- Apprenticeship programme had been recognised nationally as an exemplar model by those outside of Wirral

Board members discussed what threats may be evident to the success of the recovery plan. Board members would consider implications as more details became apparent on changes to future funding. Richard Perry (RP) highlighted the emergency budget that would be presented on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Jon Ward (JW) informed board members of the significant funding issues that will be challenging to the partnership in the future and

Mike Hagen (MH) highlighted the need for partners to maintain support across the partnership through this period of change for organisations.

Chair thanked Rose for the update report.

**Minute Decision :**  
**Resolved that -**

- 1) Executive Board members agreed to:
  - Note the report and continued positive improvements
  - Continue to periodically review the recovery plan.

**Minute 220 – PERFORMANCE REVIEW - NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NI 117)**

Howard Cooper (HC) and Sheila Lynch (SL) presented this report. This was an update on specific aspects of NEET since it was reported to the January 2010 board.

HC informed board members that NEET performance for Wirral continues to improve and has done so for all but one month of the last year and SL would give some detail and context to those improvements.

SL outlined her report would be answering specific queries from January's Executive Board meeting. NEET performance was improving. Members were asked to recognise that data being used was now based on NCCIS residency based data, rather than previous counting methodology based on where a young person studied and chose to register for work. (National Connexions Customer Information System (NCCIS) provides Management Information (MI) for the Department for Education. An interface between the NCCIS and the various local CCIS located within each Partnership allows the transfer of information between the two).

The pace of reduction has increased as have numbers of young people EET (in Education, Employment and Training). In terms of Churn numbers NEET are not static and few young people remain NEET for substantial periods of time, as there is a constant flux. We have accurate, detailed information and the lowest not known (NK) numbers than ever before in the Borough through robust data analysis by Connexions. The former focus area was an increase in 17 year olds NEET and it is now an increase in 18 year olds NEET. Work is underway at ward level through recruitment drives and other methods. We are having a very positive impact with the lowest 17 year old NEET numbers across the City Region. Wirral Met College now has multiple entrance points in the year to minimise the wait to join a course as it is now 'roll on roll off'.

The newly formed 'TIGER' group has set up a partner 'case conferencing' system which monitors closely NEET joiners and leavers and providers are being asked to refer young people at college or in work based learning to Connexions for support 4 weeks prior to leaving if they have no post course destination. The group has also provided a forum for aligning and co-ordinating the contributions of all key partners in tackling youth unemployment.

These improved outcomes are being achieved by creating a package of opportunities, supported by having a shared partnership priority to reduce NEET numbers. A further benefit is being derived through the January guarantee offer of EET, which is seeing an impact in engaging 16/17 year olds. We have improved neighbourhood working, looking at NEET by street and targeting support measures including individual case support, joint home visits with key partners and young person peer mentors.

HC supported the view that success was due to a collective approach and could not be accredited to one single element. Different approaches are being put in place for different people. We are looking at necessary support elements for smaller groups of

NEET which could be by geography, by street level or as a vulnerable group such as looked after children or care leavers where there is additional help to guarantee more support.

Work continues to match provision to the aspirations of young people and to seek to develop further work opportunities in areas such as construction with partners.

Cllr Holbrook questioned the age correlation seen from period to period. SL recognised the shift to more 18 year olds currently NEET. With reduced employment opportunities for 18 year olds and other initiatives targeting other age groups then there are risks to this cohort in the future. This could be further worsened if Higher Education opportunities reduce. SL confirmed that activity will follow through to target support to 18 year olds to reduce the potential impact of these issues.

HC highlighted that these issues and risks are a growing typical pattern with last years 17 year old NEETs now this years 18 year old NEETs and potentially this could continue for this group of young people.

Cllr Green sought assurance that the 'visibility' to us of certain groups does not leave unseen groups still vulnerable. HC confirmed that work had been, and continued to be focused at supporting vulnerable groups and service providers were aware of continuing to identify those most in need of support. This coupled with the low levels of young people not known to us should enable the effective targeting of resources to meet need.

Mike Potter, Principal of Wirral Met College, was thanked by the chair, via HC, for the work of the TIGER group in supporting outcomes for the NEET cohort.

Chair thanked Howard and Sheila for the report presentation. Chair congratulated everyone involved on the very positive progress currently being made.

#### **Minute Decision :**

#### **Resolved that -**

- 1) Executive Board members agreed to.
  - Noted the update report on NEET

#### **Minute 221 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no further business. Meeting closed at 7.05

#### **Minute 222 – DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

#### **Venue Mersey Maritime**

Wednesday 30 June 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 11 August 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 29 September 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 10 November 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 19 January 2011, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 16 February 2011, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 30 March 2011, 5.00 – 7.00pm

