

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

REPORT TO: Halton Strategic Partnership Board

DATE: 28 September 2005

SUBJECT: Community Empowerment Network update

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To receive a written report from the Community Empowerment Network.

2. RECOMMENDATION: To note the contents of the report.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

Halton Together update

Halton Together update Sep 05

Membership of Halton Together has grown from 180 to 311 groups and is still increasing.

The health mirrored group has now successfully re-formed into a steering group for the Health & Community Care Forum. Karen Tonge and Melissa Critchely are the newly selected representatives to attend the Health Partnership meetings on behalf of the network.

Another staffing change and a fond farewell to Mark Davies who was instrumental in the setting up of the Halton Together website. Mark has moved on to pastures new and will be setting up his own business

The first of our targeted funding workshops has been held in Kingway with 11 groups attending. Information was given on both Halton Together and the small grant programmes and members were able to access support on the day or just chat through thoughts and ideas. The next workshop will target Castlefields and will be held in September.

Follow up engagement events are planned for September in partnership with the LSP team. Feedback will be fed into the official process.

Halton Together/HVA

HVA are currently making changes to their constitution/memorandum of articles to ensure that it is robust enough to proceed with the amalgamation of both groups. Once the technicalities have taken place, further consultation will be held with all members to finalise the new board structure and name.

Arts Forum

'Take Part in Halton' event at Norton Priory on Sunday 10th July 05 was well attended and all visitors basked in glorious sunshine. A summary and photos can be seen on the website www.haltontgether.org.uk events

Environmental Forum

Success at last! Pre-application funding has been secured and a project manager has been appointed for a 3 month period to work with a dedicated youth group to compile data and evidence to support the final bid for the ongoing 'Neigh'bourhood Service'. A press release update will be issued shortly. Watch this space!

Disability Alliance

Funding has been secured to support the official launch which is planned for November.

Web Together

The website is still proving to be a huge success with over 11000 hits to date. The e-newsletter continues to be circulated twice monthly with the hardcopy

once a month. The new database is being tested internally before rolling out to the borough. Meetings need to be set up with the LSP partner agencies to discuss benefits of sign up.

Family Forum / Children & young peoples forum

The official launch of the new forum has postponed as a result of developments within the structure and set up of forums/groups. This will be rescheduled for the new year.

ECDL

ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence) sessions are continuing and two sessions per week are being offered.

Widnes base

Can't make it over to Runcorn? DON'T WORRY! Desk space is available in Age Concern in Widnes. In cooperation with the PPI Forum, access to the internet is available for use by CVS staff, CEN members and PPI members.