

Halton Strategic Partnership

Partnership progress report – Quarter 1 2005/06

Section 1: Chair's report

Area Forum Co-ordinator

Area forum co-ordination progressing on target

Alcohol harm reduction

Two groups have been established to tackle the alcohol agenda; a multi-agency group chaired by an Executive Director and a Councillor led 'alcohol topic team'. The 4 main priorities of the alcohol strategy are Tackling alcohol related violence, licensing, health and education.

Blue Lamp

A revised Service Agreement has recently been completed to include specific improvement target percentages in relation to fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. Targets also include a reduction in the British crime survey comparator crimes, reduction in theft from and theft of vehicles and reduction in burglary from dwellings.

Domestic violence reduction

Appointment of key staff has now taken place to progress the work of the Forum and the Domestic Violence Pilot Court Project. Strategy is in course of preparation. Audit of current position against Best Value Performance indicators has been completed. Domestic Violence Court pilot commenced on 1 June 2005 at Runcorn Magistrates Court.

Increased Drug Treatment

This initiative is about increasing numbers in drug treatment. The number in treatment at 1/4/05 was 524, giving an increase of 41 over the quarter. Achievement of this target remains on track. The partnership continues to work with the providers on Ashley House, the one-stop shop which will house drug service, the alcohol service, Footsteps, P2W and the POPO Team. Building work is currently out to tender with the NW Consortium. A provisional moving in date for the majority of services is December 2005. Numbers in treatment quarter 1 = 565. Target to be achieved in 05/06 = 635.

Engagement and Liveability

The membership of Engagement and Liveability Task Group has recently been re-constituted with a new Chair as a result of the re-organisation of the Council structure. Recommendations for spend of the monies available for engagement and liveability initiatives has been discussed by a sub-group and the recommendations will be taken to the full group for ratification on Monday 26th September 2005. Service Agreements and quarterly returns will follow shortly after the meeting.

Multi-skilled maintenance team

This team, based in Palacefields in Runcorn have ensured an enhanced level of service to improve the physical and environmental aspects of the area and ensure that customer satisfaction and perception have increased. The co-ordination of multi-agency working and improved response to customer requests has seen increased customer satisfaction in the area.

Neighbourhood Pride

This initiative has concentrated on 3 areas within the Borough based on high indices of deprivation. Success has been achieved in all areas by supporting the setting up of local community projects and encouraging a self-help culture; supporting community involvement in the delivery of local environmental improvement projects to experience tangible benefits of community action. It has also raised community awareness, skills and knowledge of the roles of various agencies and council departments, to enable effective future partnership working.

Pride of Place Team

The team have inspected, maintained and repaired 33 equipped children's playgrounds on a weekly basis and inspected and repaired 19 multi-sports areas on a monthly basis. They have also carried small scale improvements as requested by Area Panels, Blue Lamp, Neighbourhood Wardens and Housing Association Street Wardens.

Prolific and other Priority Offenders

The Project Manager is still in the process of preparing the monitoring documentation for this project. £70,000 has been allocated to this Project and partners are continuing to hold regular meetings to progress this initiative.

Town Centre Initiatives

Work is ongoing to drastically reduce the amount of environmental crimes within the Town Centres and to implement greater usage of on the spot fines to act as a deterrent under the Environmental Act 2005. In this quarter newsletters were published, easter events were staged. An

environmental campaign commenced in relation to chewing gum/litter removal. Preparation for the Halton festival took place, a bin cage scheme was introduced at Albert Square Widnes and footfall data retrieval and maintenance was undertaken.

Youth Splash

The Splash programme provides free constructive/diversionary activities for young people during the school holiday periods with the objective of reducing youth nuisance. The targeted age group is 10 to 17 year olds. The programme also includes health benefits, social benefits and improved opportunities for young people to become responsible citizens. Easter and Whit programmes have taken place. Activity projects have completed monitoring forms, which record, both the number of places offered and actual attendees. Providers are asked to evaluate their programmes/sessions and fully involve the young people in this process.

Section 2: progress against key objectives

Objective	Progress
To investigate and tackle the underlying causes of crime and disorder and respond effectively to changing patterns of crime	Safer Halton Partnership anti-social behaviour twelve month action plan 2005/06 is addressing the problems of anti-social behaviour throughout the Borough.
To improve the understanding of and response to drug/substance misuse problems and reduce incidents of drug related crime	The increased drug treatment programme is a direct response to drug/substance misuse problems and will contribute to reduction in any incidents of drug-related crime
To provide opportunities for young people to become responsible citizens and to engage with the wider community so as to reduce incidents of youth related crime and disorder	Youth Splash programme and the encouragement of pro-social activity amongst young people as a key delivery strategy in the anti-social behaviour 12 month action plan meets this objective.
To tackle the problem of hate crime, domestic violence and neighbour nuisance, and improve the understanding of, and response to, the problems in Halton	The work of partners on the Hate Crime Panel, Domestic Violence Forum initiatives, the domestic violence pilot court project and increased drug treatment programme have all contributed to this objective.
Reassure the community and reduce the fear of crime.	Blue Lamp project continues to reassure the community together with the work of Area Forums, Police Participation and Delivery Meetings and Community Action Meetings.
To create and sustain safer neighbourhoods by improving road safety, reducing the number of casualties and improving training and understanding by road users	Safer Halton Partnership initiatives continue to work alongside the road safety section of Halton Borough Council on initiatives to improve road safety.
To bring about environmental improvements in all areas of the Borough reflecting the priorities of the public to improve public perceptions and attractiveness	Multi-skilled maintenance team, Neighbourhood Pride, Pride of Place and Town Centre initiatives are all working together to bring about environmental improvements. The targets currently being set by the Engagement and Liveability task group will enhance progress against these key objectives.
To promote an integrated transport system that balances the need for people and goods to move around, including improved accessibility to local services, whilst also reducing the adverse impact on local neighbourhoods and the environment from traffic pollution and nuisance (link to Urban Renewal objective G)	The Travelsafe project which is part of the Blue Lamp initiative links to urban renewal objective G.

To safeguard and improve air quality in Halton	All 5 priorities for the Borough will contribute to this objective. Environmental improvements under the Safer Halton Partnership will contribute to an improvement in air quality.
To manage town centres effectively (links to Urban Renewal objectives C and H).	Town Centre initiative run by the Town Centre Manager is linking with Urban Renewal objectives C & H.
To promote improvement of Halton's cultural, leisure and sporting amenities and services in effectively addressing this Plan's strategic priorities	Youth Splash meets this objective.

Section 3: Neighbourhood Renewal Fund:							
Project	Spend to date	Budget to date	Year end estimate	2005/06 budget	Under/ overspend	Comments	Service Agreements
Area Forum co-ordinator	£8,150	£7,500	£30,000	£30,000	£0		Yes
Domestic violence reduction	£0	£11,000	£30,000	£30,000	£0	expenditure will commence in quarter 3	Yes
Neighbourhood Pride	£11,137	£11,932	£56,790	£56,790	£0		Yes
Pride of Place Team	£12,750	£12,750	£51,000	£51,000	£0		Yes
Town Centre Initiatives	£2,513	£18,750	£75,000	£75,000	£0		Yes
Youth Splash	£0	£20,000	£100,000	£100,000	£0		Yes
Alcohol harm reduction	Information awaited	awaited	£50,000	£50,000	£0	Information awaited from Project Manager.	Yes
Blue Lamp	In course of preparation	awaited	£700,000	£700,000	£0	New SA prepared. Spend for Q1 in course of preparation	Yes
Increased drug treatment	£0	£0	£70,000	£70,000	£0	DAT awaiting invoices via 5 Borough Partnership for rental payments for Ashley House	Yes
Engagement and Liveability	Under discussion	£0	£50,000	£50,000	£0	Meeting of Engagement and Liveability task group to agree final spend to be held on 26.9.05	No
Prolific and other priority offenders	Under discussion	awaited	£70,000	£70,000	£0	Information awaited from Project Manager.	No
Multi-skilled maintenance team	Information awaited	awaited	£55,000	£55,000	£0	Information awaited from Project Manager.	Yes
Total	Spend to date	Budget to date	Year end estimate	2005/06 budget	Under/ overspend		