



## Halton Strategic **PARTNERSHIP**

### **Employment, Learning and Skills SSP Meeting Summary Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009.**

#### **Partnership Support Arrangements**

Colin Billingsley discussed the new Partnership Support Arrangements. Gill Bolan will be joining Jobcentre Plus shortly as a Partnership Co-ordinator, replacing Cheri Kelly. Gill will be responsible for co-ordinating the new ELS Performance Management Framework and Sub- Group with advice and support from Lisa Driscoll and the Central Partnership Team. Lisa Driscoll will continue to provide Policy advice and Partnership support to the SSP Board with administrative support from Madeleine Hamadianian.

#### **Budget and Revised Performance Management Framework**

A copy of the ELS Working Neighbourhoods Budget for 2009/10 and 2011/12 was circulated. This budget included the merged Core and Commissioning Budgets and had been approved by the Halton Strategic Partnership Board in February. The ELS SSP approved the budget. The LSP funding programme will shortly be considered by Halton Borough Council Executive Board as the Council is the Accountable Body for WNF and as such the budget is not yet formally approved.

The revised Performance Management Framework proposal was approved. The PMF will tie in with the proposed HSPB arrangements and will also provide a greater degree of rigour in performance managing the WNF projects, enabling problems with performance or spend to be identified earlier.

#### **Response to the Economic Downturn**

A debate took place around the various provisions partners were putting in place to respond to the economic downturn. Both Jobcentre Plus and the LSC had new programmes and funding that were being developed around redundancy support and support for both long term and the recently unemployed. Full details of the schemes would be circulated to SSP members as soon as measures were confirmed. Maximising WNF spend in order to complement existing provision was felt to be a priority and the economic downturn would become a standing agenda item.

#### **Sustainable Community Strategy Refresh**

A copy of the revised sections of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) had been circulated with the SSP papers. The SCS is being refreshed to ensure it fits with the LAA refresh and to take account of any policy changes. Members were asked to review the updated sections and to feedback any comments to Lisa Driscoll by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

### **Employer Engagement/ Inward Investment**

Colin Billingsley reported that there was a push from central government to all employers to share vacancies with JCP, together with the promotion of Local Employment Partnerships. An announcement will be made after Easter regarding customer number one at 3MG. and the Mersey Gateway Public Enquiry will take place during May.

### **LAA Refresh**

Gary Collins reported that the refresh of the LAA had taken place and that the revised National Indicators were with Government Office. A number of the Economic Indicators had been frozen for a year as a result of the economic downturn. The target around level 2 qualifications had been revised down in accordance with LSC guidance. The business start up indicator has a new methodology and the government office is pushing for a slight increase above current performance even though there is a recession. Indicator 173 around health related job losses had been removed and would now be a local indicator. This is due to the methodology only measuring to the nearest 100 and is not considered accurate enough.

### **Risk Register**

An updated copy of the Risk Register for ELS had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. The revised register took into account the new objective around financial inclusion, together with the risk arising from the economic downturn. Partners were requested to discuss the risk register within their sub groups and to bring any revisions back to Lisa Driscoll by the end of April.

### **MAA**

Gary Collins reported that the Employment, Learning and Skills platform of the MAA had now been signed off and a number of freedoms and flexibilities had also been requested. It was expected that the Housing and Transport platforms would be ready shortly, with work continuing on the Economic Development platform.

### **Sub Group Updates**

Updates were given on the activities of the Employment, Skills and Enterprise sub-groups.

### **LSP Update Report**

Lisa Driscoll gave a brief summary of the key actions and decisions from the last Halton Strategic Partnership Board in February.

### **Any Other Business**

- Partners were requested to ensure that any WNF accruals were with the Central Team by the end of March.
- Lisa Driscoll had prepared a briefing on the final Houghton Report on Tackling Worklessness which would be circulated to the SSP.
- It was agreed that Hitesh Patel from the Citizens Advice Bureau be invited to become a member of the SSP.