



# UPDATE

HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Issue 10 - OCTOBER 2007



## Simon Weston Stars at Partnership Conference



Simon Weston OBE was the keynote speaker at October's highly successful Partnership conference, sharing his story of triumph over adversity and reinforcing the need for effective partnership working.

For the third year running 100% of delegates voted the event either excellent (69%) or good (31%). A wide range of partners were on hand to hear from regional and local speakers from Government Office, the NHS, and Halton's Neighbourhood Management Team.

You can download copies of the presentations from the conference by [clicking here](#).

## We Won't Stand For Domestic Abuse in Halton

Halton's Domestic Abuse Forum is continuing to improve services for professionals and the public - and in the past six months has taken referrals from more than 400 people who have been affected by domestic abuse. On top of this it's already achieved 100% in its BVPI targets for 07/08.

By commissioning against need the Forum has established a dedicated counselling service for children, a support service for people affected by

sexual assault and rape and introduced a specialist domestic abuse midwife to the local Primary Care Trust.

Performance against targets has improved year on year and partnership efforts are being made to assist police in further reducing the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse offences.

The MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) has discussed 49 individuals in an effort to reduce

serious risk, and plans to extend the remit of the Forum to consider sexual violence and so called 'honour' killings is a further example to central government of the Forum's good practice.

For more information on the work of the Domestic Abuse Forum, contact Sally Clarke, Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator for Halton on **0151 907 8300** ext 4279.



Some of the Safer Halton Week campaign material.

## Safer Halton Week Hits The Streets

The first Safer Halton Week took place between 24th-30th September, and offered residents the chance to find out ways of keeping themselves, their family and their property safer.

You can download the information booklet published to support the week by [clicking here](#).

## National Treatment Agency Gives Halton the Thumbs Up

The latest monthly performance figures have given Halton's Drug and Alcohol Service a glowing report - with the highlights including:

- Halton has the joint-highest retention figure at 93%.
- We have the best-performing partnership based on numbers in treatment against planned performance, retention target and waiting time target.
- 100% of waiting times were under three weeks, placing us in the top group.

Congratulations to all involved - the hard work is obviously paying off!

## Wigg Island Visitor Centre Unveiled

Wigg Island's new Visitor Centre will open its doors for the first time on 31st October. The Centre has been supported under our Urban Renewal priority, and will further improve the reclaimed area's status as a valuable resource for the community in Halton.

## Observatory News

The Centre for Local Economic Strategies has recently published an independent assessment of our work to produce Halton's Data Observatory - you can find out more by [clicking here](#).

## Neighbourhood Management

The Halton Neighbourhood Management Partnership's Delivery Plan for 2007-2010 has now been formally adopted and each of the three Neighbourhood Boards are putting the final touches to their action plans.

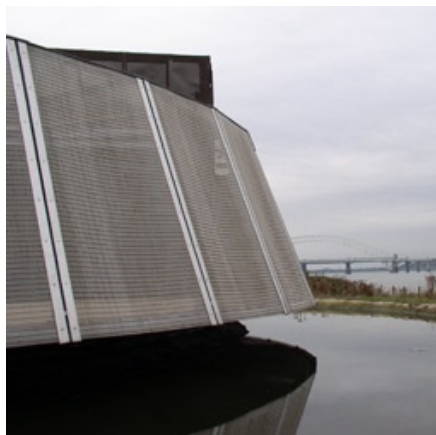
A wide range of activities and projects continue to be developed in the pilot areas alongside partner organisations. These include;

- A day of action on the Hallwood Park Estate that will see the repainting of the youth shelter, graffiti removal, return of abandoned supermarket trolleys and the collection of bulky items of household furniture in conjunction with the annual Bonfire Initiative.
- A Community Clean-up Day involving local residents and partners just before Bonfire Night on the Stewards Avenue Estate in Central Widnes.
- A pilot Family Fun Club within Castlefields - offering local families the opportunity to engage in a range of activities including arts, crafts and a trip out at Christmas time.

After battling through the qualifying rounds in Bournemouth, our Hallwood Park and Palace Fields Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Ruth Stradling, has been selected to represent England in the UK and Ireland Young Thinker of the Year Finals in Scotland next March. Good luck Ruth!

## Matt Bids Farewell

Matt Atherton leaves the Partnership Team after four years on 29th October to take up a new communications role at Halton and St Helens PCT. Any communication-related issues should be directed to [Isp@halton.gov.uk](mailto:Isp@halton.gov.uk) in future. We wish Matt every success in the future.



Wigg Island's new Visitor Centre.



Neighbourhood Management in action in Halton.

## What is the Halton Strategic Partnership?

The Partnership is Halton's local strategic partnership, and brings the main service providers and agencies in the area together to improve services and drive regeneration. You can find out more at [www.haltonpartnership.net](http://www.haltonpartnership.net). The projects mentioned are supported through the Partnership's work - if you'd like to find out more please get in touch by the contact details below:

**Tel** 0151 471 7528 **Email** [Isp@halton.gov.uk](mailto:Isp@halton.gov.uk)