

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Manchester Partnership (LSP) Board
Held on 12 April 2005**

Present:	Councillor Richard Leese	MCC (In the Chair)
	Philip Royle	Job Centre Plus
	Paul Thomas	Manchester Enterprises
	Davy Iredale	CN4M
	Ed Cox	CN4M
	Kirsty Rawlinson	Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
	Justine Curran	GM Police
	Keith Howcroft	GMPTE
	Adrian Mercer	South Manchester PCT
	John Korzeniewski	GM LSC
	Steve Mycio	Deputy Chief Executive Performance

Also Present	Brian Holmes	GONW
	Chris Daly	Manchester Alcohol Services
	Maureen Noble	Manchester Drugs and Alcohol Action Team
	Kath Smythe	Manchester Partnership Team Leader
	Ingrid Daly	Ward Co-ordinator
	Katy Carmichael	Ward Co-ordinator
	Peter Jones	MPSL

Apologies: Michael Eakin (North West Arts Council), Bill Marks (Job Centre Plus), Chris Mulligan (GMPTE), Briony Simister (GM Chamber of Commerce) and Geoff Little, Head of Corporate Performance

1. Minutes of the meeting of the Manchester Partnership Board held on 15 March 2005 and Action Note

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 15 March 2005 and Action Note were presented for consideration.

Resolved/-

That the Minutes and Action Note be received.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Review of Community Network

Ed Cox introduced a report on a forthcoming review of the Community Network for Manchester (CN4M), following the review of CN4M completed in Autumn 2003 and recent changes to the funding arrangements for the Single Community Programme. The Neighbourhood Renewal Adviser Chris Allen, appointed by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit, had the remit of looking at current structures and processes, identifying key issues, making recommendations and drawing up a work programme, with a final report no later than 3 June 2005. He added that the input of all LSP Partners was needed and the review represented an opportunity for the Board to examine ways of working together.

Resolved/-

- (a) that the report, brief and timescales be noted.
- (b) that the Board support and contribute appropriately to the review.

4. LSP Self Assessment

Kath Smythe introduced a report on the process for self assessment of the Partnership for 2005-2006 as part of the Partnership's Annual review with Government Office North West (GONW). Guidance from NRU set out seven traffic light assessments, comprising one for each of crime, education, housing, health and employment over the last year, one for partnership management based on performance over the last twelve months and one for the improvement plan over the next twelve months. Evidence had been compiled from information provided by the Thematic Partnerships for action plans, annual reports and quarterly reports. Some of the traffic light assessments in the draft were questioned as being optimistic, in comparison to the current assessment of PSA targets.

Resolved/-

- (a) that the process being undertaken for the self assessment be noted.
- (b) that the assessment be revisited to accurately reflect the traffic light performance scores reported to the Board over the course of the year.

5. Presentation on two key priorities - Alcohol and Neighbourhood Focus

(A) Alcohol

Adrian Mercer led a presentation on an Alcohol Strategy for Manchester. The Strategy had a multi-agency focus that addressed a number of priorities: reducing alcohol-related crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour; tackling health inequalities related to alcohol abuse; improving the range and quality of alcohol services in Manchester; protecting young people from alcohol-related harms through education, early intervention and support in tackling alcohol problems; and redressing the negative impact that alcohol misuse had on the economy and workforce of Manchester. A video was shown which provided a case study of a woman alcoholic in recovery

Chris Daly introduced an analysis of statistics concerning alcohol consumption and related health concerns. He drew attention to the number of life years lost to alcohol, third behind tobacco and high blood pressure, the number of hospital admissions and the number of accidental deaths, resulting in estimated health care costs of £1.7 billion per year. In Manchester, the reduction in life expectancy caused by alcohol was 4.4 years for males and 2.9 years for females in comparison to the average for England. In the North West, alcohol related incidents comprised 12% of Accident and Emergency attendances (75% after midnight on Fridays and Saturdays) and there had been a ten fold increase in alcohol related paediatric admissions. The number of youths and women in alcohol statistics was increasing. There was also an increasing burden on primary care where general practitioners were concerned about their lack of knowledge of screening strategies which through early intervention could be an effective treatment. There were a number of cross-cutting issues, including Health (alcohol services, A & E, hospital services and primary care), Crime and Disorder, Families and Hidden Harm, the availability of alcohol and in Manchester a culture of chronic and binge drinking. The costs in England had been estimated at £1.7 billion for health, £7.3 billion for Crime and Disorder, £6.4 billion for Workplace/productivity and an unknown figure for Families and social cost.

Maureen Noble informed the meeting of recent research into young people's views of alcohol. Consumption was increasing. 20% of school exclusions and 33% of anti-social behaviour involving young people were alcohol-related. Alcohol misuse seriously affected the health and well being and development of young people. There were various reasons for alcohol misuse: gaining confidence, "having a laugh", "getting high" and escaping from everyday life and surroundings. There tended to be a pattern of behaviour starting at 11-12 years, becoming commonplace by 14-15 years and established by 17+ years. The Manchester Alcohol Strategy worked with schools and the police and encouraged health promotion. Good work had been carried out to date but there was still much to be achieved. Further work needed to be done with improving existing services, co-ordinating the work of agencies and working with the drinks industry on the night time economy and the culture of drinking.

A number of issues were raised in discussion, including

(a) Manchester had introduced some innovative and successful projects and these had shown the importance of agencies working together;

(b) there were cultural differences between north and south Europe concerning patterns of drinking and the question was asked as to what could be learnt from European counterparts. It was reported that in Southern Europe rates of cirrhosis were much higher than in the UK although the rate was declining in Southern Europe whereas it was increasing in the UK.

(c) changing attitudes to alcohol would take time and would require a co-ordinated approach through education and providing other activities for young people; there had been progress with tobacco and that could be built on to encourage more personal responsibility; there had also been successes with changing public attitudes to drinking and driving but that had taken some time to achieve;

(d) employers had a responsibility to create a culture of sensible drinking through, for example, prohibiting lunchtime drinking and implementing robust policies relating to alcohol misuse;

(e) there were concerns about behaviour involving alcohol in suburbs of Manchester as well as the city centre; the Licensing Act provided an opportunity to reduce the harm to communities caused by irresponsible drinking establishments within and outside the city centre; the development of a Business Improvement District and a Local Voluntary Fund might also provide opportunities for tackling long term problems;

(f) the Alcohol Strategy would be launched on 6 June 2005 and all Partnerships would be invited to the launch. Thematic Partnerships would need to take account of the strategy through their Action Plans. Although primary care trusts tended to take the lead on alcohol issues, there was no single agency with lead responsibility.

Resolved/-

- (i) That Adrian Mercer, Chris Daley and Maureen Noble be thanked for their informative presentation.
- (ii) That Thematic Partnerships be required to consider what they can contribute to achieving the outcomes of the Alcohol Strategy as well as identifying any gaps within the Strategy.
- (iii) That the Manchester Partnership consider how the Alcohol Commissioning and Strategy Group could be strengthened to develop the Alcohol Strategy.

- (iv) That a report on Thematic Partnership activity be made to the meeting of the Board scheduled for 26th July 2005 (excluding Health and Crime & Disorder partnerships who are already fully engaged with the strategy).
- (v) That Government Office be engaged in considering how the issues raised through the strategy cut across a number of Government Departments, possibly through the Places Project.
- (vi) That the issue of the differences between alcohol issues in the City Centre and in residential areas be returned to the Board at a future meeting.
- (vii) That the development of key messages, which provide simple, clear and straightforward information, be considered as part of the implementation of the strategy for use across all partner agencies.

(B) Neighbourhood Focus

Ed Cox led a presentation on Neighbourhood Focus. He drew attention to the levels of deprivation in various wards in Manchester. The challenge to the Partnership was to create a city-wide approach that would deliver services appropriate to the needs of residents wherever they lived in the City. There needed to be a balance between a whole city approach and neighbourhood initiatives to deal with particular issues such as GCSE attainment, low birth weight babies and mortality rates. The overall strategy for neighbourhood renewal was contained in the Manchester Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and Action Plan 2004-2006. Through a number of agencies and activities such as thematic partnership action plans, NRF funds, SRFs, etc, the overall objectives were to reduce impact differences between different areas of the Manchester, to support services in providing evidence for their activities in particular areas and to provide leadership to those working to deliver improved quality of life in neighbourhoods. He suggested that there needed to be better budget and service planning, more thematic and cross-agency working, supported by more area-based information and workforce development and sharing good practice, to achieve the shared vision and principles of the Partnership.

Ingrid Daly informed the meeting of various neighbourhood focus activities in the Ardwick Ward. The Ward was close to the city centre and had a diverse ethnic mix. There were a significant number of rented Council houses. There were some good transport links. There were, however, concerns over poor health levels, a high number of single mothers, high youth unemployment, high levels of economic inactivity, a lack of facilities and activities for young people and a lack of good shopping facilities. Tackling these were key priorities. An Ardwick Youth Unemployment Group had been established to work with other agencies and co-ordinate activities to tackle the 16-19 NEETs group, low school attendance and low skill levels. Information was sent out to young people so that they were informed about what services were available. Progress was also being made on the sharing of information.

The Healthy Ardwick Group, comprising residents and workers, had been set up to tackle poor health in the ward. It had a community focus and worked with other agencies, including Sure Start, to tackle concerns over poor diet and a lack of fresh food. Some progress had been made, including the provision of fresh fruit and vegetables and more co-ordinated working with other agencies.

Katy Carmichael informed the meeting of particular issues of concern in Old Moat Ward. The Ward was situated four miles from the City Centre. The Old Moat estate was in the middle of the Ward where there was a high proportion of lone parent households and a high incidence of anti-social behaviour and anti-social behaviour orders. All of the estate's Super Output Areas were in the top 15% most deprived and the top 10% for children's deprivation. The Ward Service Co-ordination Group had identified a key issue to be tackled: although KS2 attainment was above Manchester average, KS4 achievement was below City average making it much lower than the national Floor targets, and Youth Nuisance had become particularly critical recently with children aged 8-12yrs becoming increasingly involved in anti-social behaviour. Better community links to schools, increased community cohesion, steered by the community, facilitated by workers in the community and linked to projects such as Sure Start were being actively pursued by the Group. There would be an impact on LPSA2 targets for educational attainment, anti-social behaviour, community cohesion and community engagement if these issues could be addressed. Discussions with the Chief Education Officer had not yet delivered any opportunities but continue to explore solutions.

Ed Cox summarised the challenges for the Board: inter-agency working at neighbourhood level, a shared vision across thematic partnerships to deliver improved quality of life at ward level, creating neighbourhood focused mainstream budget and service planning that took account of ward plans, area-based information sharing, sharing good practice and staff development.

The Chair proposed that in view of the time constraints for the meeting the May meeting of the Board should discuss the points raised by the presentation, in particular the need to create a shared vision through better accountability and shared targets and appropriate local leadership, and the significance of the Tracking Neighbourhood Change project to neighbourhood focus.

Resolved/-

- (i) that Ed Cox, Ingrid Daly and Katy Carmichael be thanked for their informative presentation.
- (ii) that further consideration be given to the issues raised at the meeting of the Board scheduled for 17 May 2005.
- (iii) that the Tracking Neighbourhood Change project from Housing Market Renewal be presented to the Board as part of this item.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Next meeting

The following was noted as the date for next meeting: 17 May 2005 8.00am to 10.00am.

MEETING OF MANCHESTER PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON 12 APRIL 2005

ACTION NOTE

1. Minutes of meeting held on 15 March 2005

Noted.

2. Review of Community Network

Action

A. Board support and contribute appropriately to the review **(All Board Members)**.

3. LSP Self Assessment

Action

A. Self assessment be revisited to ensure accurate reflection of traffic light performance scores reported to Board in course of year. **(KS)**.

4. Alcohol

Action

A. Thematic Partnerships consider how they could contribute to outcomes of Strategy and identify gaps in Strategy. **(All Thematic Partnerships)**

B. MP consider how to strengthen Alcohol Commissioning and Strategy Group to help develop Alcohol Strategy **(Partnership)**.

C. A report on Thematic Partnership activity (excluding Health and Crime and Disorder) be submitted to the Board meeting on 26 July 2005 **(KS)**.

D. GO be approached to consider how issues raised in Strategy cut across a number of government departments **(KS)**

E. Consideration be given at a future Board meeting on how alcohol issues affected differently the city centre and residential areas **(KS)**

F. Key messages be developed to provide clear information as part of the implementation of the Strategy across all partner agencies **(Drugs and Alcohol Action Team)**

5. Neighbourhood Focus

Action

A. Further consideration be given to issues raised in presentation at the meeting of the Board set for 17 May 2005 (**Board**).

B. Presentation on Tracking Neighbourhood Change project be made to Board at May meeting (**HMR Team**)

6. Next meeting

17 May 2005 8.00am to 10.00am.