

County Durham Partnership Board

Meeting of Thursday 23 September 2010
Conference Room 4B, County Hall

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| Terry Collins, Environment Partnership | Paulina Lubacz, Durham University |
| Ken Jarrold, Economic Partnership | Lorraine O'Donnell, Delivery & Improvement Group |
| George Garlick, Durham County Council | Susan Johnson, County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service |
| Anna Lynch, NHS County Durham | Julie Form, One Voice Network |
| Cllr Simon Henig, Durham County Council | David Williams, Children's Trust |
| Ian Thompson, Durham County Council | Clare Marshall, County Durham Partnership |
| Rachael Shimmin, Safe Durham Partnership | Donna Jefferson, County Durham Partnership |

Apologies

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| Prof. Ray Hudson, Durham University | Yasmin Chaudhry, NHS County Durham |
| Jon Stoddart, Durham Constabulary | Joanne Fryett, NECC |

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Henig welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the list of apologies.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and there were no matters arising.

3. Government Update

Following the request from the CDP Board to the Delivery and Improvement Group (DIG) after the July Board meeting the DIG discussed the range of Government consultations and identified those with key partnership implications, further details are listed below.

Four consultations were listed in the report which had been circulated.

a. Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

Ken Jarrold gave the Board a summary of the LEP proposal which was submitted to Government by the 6 September deadline. There was initially some challenge at County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) from the private sector, which was discussed and resolved. The CDEP is committed to the proposal as well as supporting the proposal for a North East Economic Partnership (NEEP).

Susan Johnson enquired as to how the demise of the Regional Development Agency (RDA) would affect asset holdings and programmes running in County Durham and how investment would fit. George Garlick replied that work is being done nationally on this and that Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC) has been conducting an audit of RDA assets and this is now being considered by Government.

b. Policing in the 21st century: reconnecting police and the people

The report summarised the key points of the Safe Durham Partnership's response. Rachael Shimmin advised that the Council, Durham Constabulary and Safe Durham Partnership have submitted responses. One of the biggest impacts would be the proposed move to an elected Police Commissioner. Ken Jarrold commented that the transfer of CEOP to the National Crime Agency would affect all of County Durham and the CEOP is opposing this.

c. Liberating the NHS

Anna Lynch advised the Board that further documents are now available on the Department of Health website. Work is underway across key partners to identify future plans, particularly around the 'Local democratic legitimacy in health'. The Primary Care Trust will be responding as well as Durham County Council.

The proposed Health and Wellbeing Board will have responsibility for defining its own functions, membership as well as taking on the health scrutiny function and is something that will need to be considered by the CDP Board. It will not be the same as the current Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) will oversee the establishment of the Boards and will link to the proposed Healthwatch arrangements.

The health improvement function will transfer to the Local Authority and will be captured in a bill in December 2010. There will be information events on this for the public and staff and a CDP view will be required.

Susan Johnson asked about the consultation on the White Paper. Anna Lynch advised that a white paper is usually not consultation but this one has some 'greenish bits' in, although some areas are not up for change. Anna is on the national advisory group which examining the December white paper and will continue to feed back to the Board.

Ken Jarrold commented on the negative debate in the health service due to the job losses. This will be the most radical change in the health service however despite the upheaval the opportunities are immense. Local Authorities have a greater role and should be optimistic and County Durham is well placed to deal with the changes.

d. Localism Enquiry

A paper is due on this new national agenda item is expected in the autumn. Calls for evidence have been requested with a deadline of Friday 1 October. We need to provide evidence of what has been achieved, The DIG is formulating a response.

Susan Johnson went on to query the changing role and membership of the DIG. The membership needs renewing in light of the changing remit and expectations of partners. Lorraine O'Donnell will be speaking to partner organisations outside of the meeting on how to take this issue forward.

Other issues resulting from the impact of the abolition of Government Office North East (GONE) will also need to be addressed, including funding programmes which run until March 2011. We are working with GONE on a piece of work around knowledge management following an offer made to Durham County Council and partners.

4. Performance Reward Grant

Cllr Henig offered his thanks to Sue Parkinson and officers who prepared a paper on the real impact of the additional £1.1M will have on tourism and culture in the County which is a moment of opportunity that will not be available again. A positive impact of the recent recession is the increase in UK based tourism. This proposal has received strong support from a range of partners involved in the CDEP.

Susan Johnson applauded the work that has gone into the paper, which presented a strong case. Susan did query what impact the reduction in One North East (ONE) investments would have as this does support enterprise etc and asked what is the opportunity cost of this proposal against losing the ONE funding.

Simon Henig commented that County Durham benefits from the North East work carried out by ONE, particularly the overall marketing campaign and there is no overall clarity on future arrangements yet.

Ken Jarrold commented there are many things we could spend the grant on however this is the most beneficial with highest impact. County Durham has the highest growth in tourism in the north east with £25million coming from the local economy in the last year. It is an open door and a key time as people are holidaying in the UK.

George Garlick commented that this has had an instant impact. CDP can congratulate itself as the programme is working.

Paulina Lubacz commented that the evidence presented in the report gives partners confidence to continue work within the County on cultural infrastructure initiatives such as the Cathedral investments and the World Heritage Site visitor centre, etc. If the CDP backs a key issue then colleagues are persuaded to be onboard.

David Williams considered the report excellent, well written and persuasive and he strongly supports it. Susan Johnson agrees that there is a persuasive case but wondered if this had been weighed against the risk of losing other schemes. It was reiterated that the CDEP did not believe we could have the same impact anywhere else as this will be a huge benefit to businesses etc.

Rachael Shimmin believed this support for the Culture Partnership would maintain the momentum achieved through the City of Culture bid. County Durham Foundation provides community funds and corporate support and sponsorship on this. We need concrete evidence of what we can do.

The recommendations in the report were agreed. Simon Henig thanked Ken Jarrold for this work and will update CDP on the emerging ONE picture when more information is made available.

5. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The JSNA report is a joint report of the Directors of Public Health, Children and Young People's Services and Adults, Wellbeing and Health. The Assessment sets the context for the County and is a statutory requirement. The last two reviews have been light touch whereas the 2010/11 JSNA is a comprehensive review led by Children & Young People's Service. The review is structured on the five altogether themes. The expected national datasets which inform the JSNA have not yet been released therefore the draft ones are being used. Workshops with partners have taken place and the final document will be produced in October.

Lorraine O'Donnell reiterated David's point that the JSNA is a key dataset and we use it as evidence to Government. It is strongly felt that the JSNA is needed even if the statutory requirement is removed as a key resource on which to base all major strategies.

Rachael Shimmin said that this is a powerful commissioning tool for the private sector and should be raised at the CDEP, Ken Jarrold agreed to take this forward.

Anna Lynch commented that the JSNA is mentioned in the Health White Paper documents and that the Health and Wellbeing Board will have responsibility for this in the future.

6. Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Performance Management Framework (PMF) Quarter one 2010/2011

This is the first report on the new SCS PMF and the format has also changed for 2010/11. There is new analysis and breakdown and the localities will be expanded on.

Section one of the report shows if performance towards targets has gone up or down or is stable.

Changes since the SCS basket was agreed by the CDP are set out in table six of the report. Work is outstanding on key information on satisfaction levels. Key datasets and regional talks are ongoing due to the national changes and will be reported in quarter two.

Performance is largely positive. 53% of indicators are exceeding targets and 65% have improved or are maintaining against the previous 12 months. The report provides information under the priority theme headings.

Altogether Wealthier

A PMF is being developed from scratch which will build on the ongoing good work and positive activity however there is no data available yet. A summary against the key priorities is provided in paragraphs 12-13 of the report.

Altogether Better for Children & Young People

The report is thin but GCSE results will feature in the quarter 2 report. For the 8th year running the rate of improvement is better than the national increase. Five GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths has increased by 7%. Information is provided in paragraph 14.

Altogether Healthier

This section reports on a number of proxies by design due to the data lag that occurs within health. Information is provided in paragraph 16.

Altogether Safer

There are many highlights (detailed in paragraph 17). Future attention needs to be focussed on hotspots and key points. The performance of pre reprimand first time entrants into the youth justice system is positive. Areas in need of improvement are detailed in paragraph 19.

Altogether Greener

The partnership launch was successful and recycling is improving.

Overall the picture is positive.

Susan Johnson commented that admissions to hospital as a result of alcohol affect all organisations and wondered what forward planning is happening due to the decrease in funding and budgets, which places services at risk. Susan asked where the budget cut hotspots will be.

Rachel Shimmin commented that the Area Based Grant (ABG) cuts will be discussed at a Safe Durham Partnership half day contingency planning meeting during the Autumn.

Anna Lynch commented that the alcohol team had delivered this service with no financial management costs included. QIPP are looking at driving through efficiencies in patient pathways and the health improvement service is not part of the disinvestment. There is no threat to community adult care service, only under efficiencies through reinvestment.

Paulina Lubacz commented that Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) are critical in getting buy in and engagement to allow understanding of why decisions are made.

Ken Jarrold commented that he felt overwhelmed by the amount of information contained within the report and that we should build on paragraph 5 and challenged fellow thematic partnership chairs to take a radical look at their sections of the report and produce a single sheet for each thematic partnership, similar to the monthly economic update.

George Garlick commented that we are assessing datasets against budgets however we don't know what the underlying economy will do. There will be a data lag this year and targets will need to be based on current knowledge.

Lorraine O'Donnell welcomed all comments and offered to feed these into the development work for quarter two. Susan Johnson commented that she finds the Economic Update very useful and distributes it to her senior team.

7. Update from Chairs of Thematic Partnerships

Economic Partnership – Ken Jarrold

- The overall judgement is that the economy is flat and awaiting the impact of the comprehensive spending review.
- Private sector activities in County Durham are the best in the North East and 6th nationally.

- The County has the third highest increase in private sector jobs in the last ten years which justifies Durham County Council's economic focus on Durham City.

Environment Partnership – Terry Collins

- Julie Form chaired the last Environment Partnership meeting
- There will be a review of the Partnership in November which will include wider partners looking at the focus of the Partnership, reviewing the PMF, the priorities etc
- The meetings continue to be positive
- Subgroups are working together, the review session will look at cross cutting issues and invite economic partners.

Children's Trust –David Williams

- Results of inspections are positive. We have 13 children's homes, the majority of which are outstanding or good – better than 09/10. The adoption service also received an outstanding report.
- There were concerns on waiting times to Social Care Direct therefore there is now an initial response team which has reduced a 40 minute response time to three minutes.
- Stanley Academy will proceed and negotiations are ongoing for Consett.
- The Primary Care Trust has recommitted to integrated teams and 13 will be established throughout the County.

Safe Durham Partnership – Rachel Shimmin

- The rollout of MARAC has been completed which is very positive.
- A unified approach to anti social behaviour is seeing significant improvement in public confidence. This has involved a lot of effort from a range of partners.
- A task and finish group has been doing preparatory work to the Olympics in 2012. A number of police officers are being pulled out of all regions to support London forces which could have an impact here.
- GONE have been incredibly helpful and supportive and a critical friend on the SDP and has provided positive feedback on the Safe Durham Partnership and its solid foundations

Susan Johnson commented that much of the funding for PCSOs comes from the centre where a lot of the work is dependant on this and asked if these posts are under threat. Terry Collins said that he had met with Jon Stoddart and discussed this issue and they are not under threat.

Health and Wellbeing Partnership – Anna Lynch

- A response to the health paper has been prepared following work carried out at the last meeting.
- Health Networks are meeting regularly and linking to AAPs, Local Children's Boards and GP interest groups, with varying success. These will be used for community engagement. This project budget is managed by County Durham Foundation.
- Physical activity in Sedgefield has increased and the group are looking at the reasons behind this.
- Staff have been give notices due to the decrease in funding. The impact is being considered.
- NHS County Durham is the vanguard with a pilot of the 111 number and Yasmin Chaudry is the national lead. There is close project management and there is a significant impact on accident and emergency services. Due to the interest in this pilot Anna Lynch will report on it in more detail at the October Board meeting.

8. Update from Voluntary and Community Service (VCS)

Simon Davison has now left One Voice Network (OVN). The funding situation for his post is being considered. Durham Rural Community Council is the accountable body and is looking to recruit someone, possibly for 18 months and are liaising with GONE regarding a possible

secondment. The VCS value the representation they have at CDP and need the right person to fulfil this role.

Lorraine O'Donnell is to be the keynote speaker at the OVN conference on 16 November. The initial workshop was successful and discussed the third sector strategy with DCC, backed by the Compact. OVN is encouraging the sector to remain positive.

George Garlick commented that he was encouraged by this and that the sector has always had a mature positive approach within County Durham and is encouraged that this looks set to continue.

9. Update from DIG

This has been covered under previous agenda items

10. Any other business

Susan Johnson enquired how budget consultations are being taken forward by DCC and are we planning to do this via the AAP Forums?

Lorraine O'Donnell commented that budget planning timetables had been shared at the DIG and only DCC and County Durham Fire and Rescue Service have a similar schedule.

Budget figures will not be known for the AAP forums which are planned early November. It was decided to investigate holding the CDP Forum meeting earlier in November and look at how much information would be available.