

<p>HARLOW 2020 PARTNERSHIP BOARD PROGRESS REPORT FROM PROJECT & PERFORMANCE MANAGER</p>

Reporting Period:	December 2008 – March 2009
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Strategic cross cutting targets

Summary of progress

Work is taking place with Harlow Youth Council to develop and enhance mechanisms for young people to be involved in decision-making processes - there have been 5 meetings between the Youth Council and Senior Officers of HDC; Youth Council have been involved in the development of the Play and Youth Strategy; the MyPlace Lottery bid; the development of Café Youth; and the Beijing/UK Olympic Handover events. Establishment of Community Partnerships in each ward of Harlow - a review of the strengths and weaknesses of previous neighbourhood engagement mechanisms has been undertaken and a report prepared for Scrutiny Committee; a paper on Neighbourhood working is being prepared. The current economic downturn had put increased pressure on the local voluntary and community sector.

Outlook for next period

Performance Reward Grant is available for the implementation of the Compact and Rainbow Services will take this forward.

Adult education

Summary of progress

Four staff trained in recruiting and developing Learning Champions; project delivery plan in process of being set up in conjunction with other college initiatives with the third sector; marketing activity discussed as part of College-wide activity involving staff and students with volunteering and the third sector.

Problems/delays

Funding for the third sector in the current economic climate is uncertain. This brings risks and opportunities.

Outlook for next period

College-wide initiative to engage staff and students in awareness of the work and contribution of the third sector. Where appropriate staff and students will engage with voluntary and community groups. Meetings with third sector groups on this college initiative, promotion of the learning champions project leading to recruitment of target groups.

CO₂ emissions

Summary of progress

Netteswell Phase 3 – domestic property heat insulation project and correlated reduction in carbon emissions - thermal imaging surveys in process of being rolled out to establish areas of greatest need before implementation of programme; cavity wall insulation programme for Council housing stock - Kier Harlow have now embarked on a programme to insulate 1500 homes over the next two years with consequential reduction in carbon emissions; Water Gardens car park - energy reduction partnership installation of new lighting regime to reduce energy consumption by up to 40% - installation due for completion by end March 2009; **establishing a Harlow Carbon Consortium aimed at sharing and executing best practice in energy management and reduction and consequential reductions in carbon emissions.**

Problems/delays

Capital funding for insulation projects being affected by the overall financial climate.

Risks or issues for discussion at the meeting

Harlow Carbon Consortium – views and ideas from the board on the scope of membership, engagement and involvement would be welcomed.

Outlook for next period

Committed schemes should complete in accordance with planned timescales. New initiatives on hold pending financial reviews.

Health

Summary of progress

1. *Reducing childhood obesity* - funding for 15 Mini MEND obesity programmes has been secured through the LAA PRG for 09/10. These programmes will be delivered in children's centres across Harlow.

2. *Reducing adult obesity* - the PCT purchased 200 weightwatchers packs for distribution to overweight patients in GP practices by practice staff referral. The Service Level Agreement for one year's £30k PCT funding to Harlow Council for 08/09 has resulted in agreed prioritisation of some of the Council's leisure directorate work in target areas of Harlow where there are likely to be higher rates of obesity and chronic disease. The Lister Medical Centre pre diabetics project will begin seeing patients in April 09. Work so far has focussed on training Health Care Assistants. A Local Enhanced Service for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease will be piloted in the Ross GP Practice in Keats House from April 09. Continuation of the Positive Steps programme need discussion and this will be contingent upon PCT resource being secured to take forward obesity work generally.

3. *Reducing smoking* - two providers have been secured to deliver additional targeted social marketing smoking work to men and pregnant women in Staple Tye and Toddbrooks where life expectancy is relatively low and there are likely to be higher rates of smoking than other less deprived areas. It is expected that the contract will be signed by the end of April and promotion of new community based outreach services can begin.

4. *Reducing sexually transmitted infections and teenage pregnancies* - there was a hold up in some of this work due to delays in recruiting a health improvement specialist for sexual health, but Athena Daniels was recruited and started in December '08. Effort is being focussed on a) increasing the number of screens for Chlamydia amongst young women 15 – 24 year olds, partly through investigating the possibility of a call and recall system in primary care, and b) undertaking social marketing insight work on those teenagers likely to become pregnant/parents to better understand their attitudes to pregnancy and parenthood, to inform future service provision.

Problems/delays

1. - there has been less activity than intended due to the problems recruiting a health improvement specialist for obesity.

2. - uptake of the weightwatchers packs has been slow but the PCT is continuing to promote the scheme to practices.

3. – The provider market is not mature for social marketing and smoking cessation delivery and the PCT has had to undertaken two rounds of tendering

4. - Investigating whether social marketing insight work is research and has to go through NHS ethics committees. It has finally been clarified that ethics approval is not required providing the project protocol demonstrates ethical practice.

Outlook for next period

1. & 2. - will depend upon the PCT recruiting either a full time post or project management consultant to take the work forward

3. – project is on track

4. - interviews with target group participants should take place within the next two months.

Housing

Summary of progress

32 new affordable homes delivered; 4 empty homes brought back into use; 3 properties disposed of to a registered social landlord, with 100% nomination rights to the council. Level of Non-decent council homes reduced to 10.85%.

Problems/delays

Downturn in housing market and the current economic climate has affected the delivery of new affordable housing – there is a general reluctance by developers to proceed. Registered Social Landlords are affected by current climate, in particular the slowdown in low cost home ownership sales has affected their business plan and they are re-appraising their schemes.

Outlook for next period

Currently working with Stansted Area Housing Partnership to try and progress housing projects. High level meeting between Chief Executive and Heads of Service and Director of Homes & Community Agency to discuss proposals and potential projects to progress. Ongoing dialogue with developers in the area. Regular meetings with Development Directors from Registered Social Landlords working within the area. Regular engagement with sub – regional partners on how local authorities can assist in stimulating the housing market and producing more affordable housing. Regular engagement with Essex local authority colleagues on how we can assist in stimulating the housing market and producing more affordable housing. Engagement with the LAA affordable Housing delivery project group. Monitoring to ensure section 106 affordable housing obligations are met. Ensuring section 106 affordable housing requirements are maximised.

Local business

Summary of progress

The Business registration target for 08/09 has not been met due to the economic climate.

Natural Environment

Summary of progress

Two Positive Conservation Management (PCM) plans written and submitted for approval; three sites identified where PCM can be easily achieved within timescale of project; development of a volunteer Greenteam group to help deliver sustainable projects on selected Local Wildlife Sites in progress.

Outlook for next period

Tasks appear to be on target. Funding commences from 1st April 2009 to support delivery of actions.

Older people

Summary of progress

Expansion of the nurse-led clinics in Sheltered Housing complexes to include a wider range of services that will support choice and independent living - review of nurse-led clinics has been undertaken, and several proposals for improvements adopted; a meeting has been held with other agencies to begin planning the development of the clinics to include wider forms of support and advice.

Sport, recreation and the arts

Summary of progress

A number of adult sports programmes booked including a wide range of family friendly sport sessions. Weekly boxing sessions commencing in April. Harlow Sports Awards 50 nominations across 10 categories all winners to be nominated to the BBC Essex Sports Awards. Life walks Harlow - provide lots of opportunities for training in leadership, first aid, and risk assessments. Summer holiday activities linked to sculpture collection. Summer art programme – brochure promoting visual arts in Harlow. Activities launched at Essex Tourism Show. 6 new window displays to be displayed in empty shops.

Problems/delays

Reduction in arts budget. Staff at risk once external funds are finished. One post within the Leisure Services team is now externally funded. If new funding cannot be secured at the end of the funded period it will not be possible to continue deliver to existing levels of provision.

Outlook for next period

Strategy to be developed to provide a sport and leisure strategy that coordinates all leisure, arts, cultural, and heritage facilities improve.

Street & environmental cleanliness & household waste

No report available at this time.

Transport

Summary of progress

The first stage of the First Avenue corridor has been completed. Cycling facilities have been improved at the railway station and work on sign posts linking with the Harlow Renaissance (HRL) leisure routes is underway. Formal approval from the Dept of Transport is imminent to extend the road between the M11 roundabout and the Park Inn into a dual carriageway. This must be completed by 2011 due to the conditions of funding.

Problems/delays

The design of the Burnt Mill roundabout has yet to be implemented with no funding currently available.

Volunteering

Summary of progress

An Essex Association of Volunteer Centres County wide bid for a support worker for volunteers with mental health problems has been successful. Harlow VC will have the funding for a part time dedicated mental health support worker.

Problems/delays

Unsuccessful funding bids have left Harlow Volunteer Centre in a critical state and renders action planning impracticable. HVC still awaiting the results of another four funding applications.

Outlook for next period

Dependant on funding.

Safer Harlow Partnership (CDRP)

Summary of progress

Most priority areas have exceeded their targets for crime reduction. Crime detection targets are currently the best in Essex. Current areas of concern are domestic violence and 'millennium' burglaries (taking car keys from houses in order to steal cars).

Outlook for next period

The structure of the partnership is being reviewed by a consultant who has recently been appointed.

Harlow Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP)

Summary of progress

Priorities for commissioning have been established. These are: raising aspirations for young people, developing positive activities, mental health and emotional well-being, targeted parental support; young people who are NEET (not in education, employment or training) and ensuring that activities are targeted at areas with evidenced need. The CYPSP has been considering how young people can be involved with the commissioning process.

Problems/delays

There are some capacity issues within CYPSP having taken on a large role, previously undertaken by ECC.

Outlook for next period

Further work to be completed on identifying suitable groups/leads to take work forward.