

WALSALL FOR ALL

Walsall for All Partnership Board Meeting

Date: 23rd September 2019, Time: 16:00 - 18:30

Venue: Walsall College, The Hub, Littleton Street West, Walsall, WS2 8ES (HB102 room)

Reputational risks

Paul has offered an overview about the **financial allocation (local and national contracts)** within Walsall for All programme. A table with data was shared with the group prior to the meeting. According to which over 50 % of total budget (2 years) were allocated locally and over 20% - nationally/regionally through commissioning.

The Council procurement system has ensured a transparent and clear process. The programme manager has offered updates to the board about the commissioning process.

Though our local organisations are doing well, there is potential for more work on strengthening their fundraising capacity which will enable them to better compete with regional and national organisations.

Feedback from the group:

- Still unclear. How it was estimated? How that compares to the other IAs?
- How is this programme fair from the perspective of allocations? Historically, how we did it? Did we aim to commission locally?
- Are we investing the right thing in the right place? What's the value for money?
- Having more information about the commissioning out in the community would have prevented this discussion. What is the role of the Board? I would want to be clearer from the start.

AP 1. Charlotte will look at other IAs in terms of local and national/regional allocations and used approach.

- Walsall has a different profile compared to other 4 Integration Areas. It looks that we are ahead of the 4 areas. It is important keeping in mind that this is a pilot programme and we need to ensure a continuous learning approach.
- Walsall VCS is great, but we are in a journey here and need to take some learnings from the process so far.
- We have to look at the genesis of the programme: chunk of money went to DWP and it was a decision taken at a different level; the work around ESOL has started before WfA programme and we didn't necessarily want it inside the Council, but we had to build on existing work, we have now hired the

coordinator for ESOL Unit and it's clear how important is to have an internal resource to look at the trends.

Some of the big projects with external providers will still be implemented through local groups: we are looking at the Community Dialogue as a national expertise, but the model will still be local (experience will be transferred to the local groups); DWP is also delivering more through local groups compared to other IAs.

- The commissioning process for WfA was very robust and its strength was around quality. There is a risk that the quality of delivery is affected if you don't use a competitive tender.
- We have tried to create open market space and offer the opportunity for local groups to compete and access funding for this piece of work. We have split the funding into small amounts of money to commission locally; two open market events were organised to inform communities/groups about available funding and application process; information about commissioning was advertised on our social media platforms, newsletter, direct emailing, board and other networks.

Laurence has spoken about the **importance of evaluation** offering some tips:

- Evaluation requires clear planning from the beginning.
- Consider that different initiatives might have very specific integration indicators that need to be measured;
- There are 3 aspects to think of when building evaluation: evaluation of the objectives; evaluation of the process; and evaluation from community/impact on the participants
- For baseline questions look at the Home Office Indicators of Integration.

Sustainability risks

Paul read the message from Cllr Garry Perry (to be circulated around the group after the meeting).

Charlotte announced that Integration Areas will receive additional funding. A second wave of funding to be committed, especially around ESOL.

Additional £10 million will support 1mln adults in the UK who don't speak English. However, it is not clear how much will be allocated to Walsall.

Feedback from the group:

- It would be beneficial to look at the partnership boards from other 4 areas, learning from their experiences. Do they have a similar journey or are doing things better?
- How we can get the VCS voices per Locality, at the grass roots level?
- We need to look at transparency. We are so far in the journey, we need to review the ToR for the board and be clearer on the role. Bring it in the next meeting.

- It was mentioned about the enabler role, we should look at the Community Development plan and link it with what we do and work together.
- Where in Walsall has the money gone (per Locality)?

AP 2. Programme manager will offer a map representation of projects and investment in Walsall at the next meeting.

- How we, at this board, support each other based on transparency? How useful we are here? What information is missing that would help us to work better?
- There are lots of Walsall for All things happening outside the Board. We should look at ToR to include the good things happening.

David has briefly presented the idea for **Partnership Development Grant**. A draft concept has been developed and presented to the board.

The development grant will allow us to fulfil our longer term commitment stated in the integration strategy, Walsall for All.

The second stage would be to apply for a 5 years Lottery Fund grant.

The group agreed One Walsall to apply on behalf of the board for a development grant.

One Walsall to include a reference about Resilient Communities.

WfA programme update - Operational risks

Imran has presented a score card for the programme with details about each project (something requested at the last meeting) and a slideshow with latest events.

The board was asked to comment on the format and content.

Feedback form the group:

- Can we add a column on evaluation, or indicators/what success looks like?
- How do you want us to share the information? What is the most suitable format?
- People are not aware about DWP work. Needs to be reflected more in the updates.
- How much was allocated against each project? (It was shared in the last meeting)
- Asset model: What assets we have as individuals?
- For me it is looking at what is being done and discussing how we can ensure good delivery?
- Evaluation approach is critical. We cannot measure impact and learn if we are not evaluating.

- The initial idea for this Board was to ensure links with different sectors, each of you were invited to represent your sector. Taking what is discussed in the meeting to your sector and bringing back feedback from your sector.
- How do we make sure we don't lose sight of our risk register? We have a group delegated for risk register review and update. We need to review that spread sheet.
- Programme manager would normally be coordinating the risk register and have input from the board.

AP 3. David, Alex and Irena will review the risk register (to check if Janet still wants to be part of the group).

Finances and governance risks

Irena has raised a potential risk in terms of programme delivery being extended and finances reallocated.

Financial allocation was allocated to Walsall in October 2018. The commissioning process required months of work and preparation. The full projects delivery started in August and the timeline will need to be extended.

The biggest risk is if MHCLG wants the delivery done by March 2020.

Take Over Day

Zara has presented to the board the Takeover Day initiative (national) and encouraged board members to be part of it on 25 November. Young people from different backgrounds will experience different job roles for a day within hosting organisations. Ibrahim Sohail then took over as chair of the meeting.

Children Services are interested to help with young people's recruitment.

AOB

Ibrahim Sohail was elected to the Young Combined Authority, as part of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). Some of the WMCA's priorities are around integration.

For next meeting:

Members were asked to write in a sentence: What is the issue we need to clarify at the next board meeting?

- Scrutiny of outcomes, where are we at in this journey?
- Terms of Reference
- Ensuring our means for encouraging and continuing an 'open' conversation with the community ensuring that we listen and respond as well as speak. Impact of Walsall for All on residents.
- Clarity on the role & contribution in order to maximise engagement.
- Once agreed purpose of the board to review membership – ensure right round the table to bring diverse perspectives from different sectors/groups to drive forward & shape WfA.

- Shared understanding of common purpose. United in our messages
- How we ensure ourselves and our networks receive updates in the best possible way that's consistent with our work, while keeping in mind the importance of transparency and sharing of information.
- Have we got the right attendees/members/representatives? Then what value are you expecting them to contribute? (This will improve attendance & continue to provide value.)
- Impact of DWP on achieving aims of the Integrated Communities Green Paper
- We need to look at whether the board is representative of who we need? Look at what any barriers are?
- The impact of WfA has had on myself or my area of interest (locality, school, group, family, priority).
- The board's purpose and its role as a contact between board members sectors and the actual board itself.
- What is the purpose of the board, how does it relate to the programme management function delivered by the Council?
- How do the skills & experience of the board's members (and the sector they represent) help to shape & influence the ongoing programme?
- Self-assessment – explore together what each member can bring to the board considering its purpose and the programme.
- Sector representation needs to be two-ways exchange of information and opinion.

Dates and time for the next meetings:

- November 25
- January 20
- March 23

In attendance were: David Primrose, Gerry Lyng, Charlotte Weston, Irena Hergottova, Imran Suddle, Alex Boys, Charlotte Gough, Gerald Nembhard, Laurence Lessard-Phillips, Marie Smith, Claire Wills, Ibrahim Sohail, Zara Khan, Paul Gordon, Nigel Rowe, Beverly (Children Services).

Apologies from: Geetanjali Bhucher, Jamie Hobday, Isabel Vanderheeren, Maureen Lewis, Margaret Turley, Ashvin Patel, Jamiesha Majevalia, Paula Furnival, Andy Seager, Janet Davies, Elisabeth Buggins, Juliet Malone