

Safer and Stronger Communities Board - Leeds Initiative

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board is to provide strong and effective leadership, to support effective partnership work, and take action to deliver the aspirations of the Vision for Leeds. In particular, its key objectives are to join up activities to maximise outcomes, and to create a culture where partnership work in the interests of local people is built into the way all agencies, sectors and organisations act.

Strategic Leadership

The board will lead the long-term strategy for the city for safer and stronger communities and co-ordinate the partnership actions to achieve the priorities in the city priority plan.

Accountability

The Leeds Initiative is not a separate legal entity. Each partner within the Leeds Initiative retains its own functions and responsibilities. This Safer and Stronger Communities Board is accountable to the Leeds Initiative Board, which will provide strategic direction. It provides a focus for the agreement of shared action between partners and constructive challenge to make sure that the partnership work improves outcomes. To meet this objective this board will performance manage the delivery of the city priority plan.

Roles

The chair will be the Executive Board Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services.

The vice-chairs will be selected from the West Yorkshire Police and third sector members.

Executive accountability will be with the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods of Leeds City Council.

Servicing will be the responsibility of the Environment and Neighbourhoods directorate and Leeds Initiative office.

Responsibilities

The Safer and Stronger Communities Board will:

- § lead the delivery of these themes in the Vision for Leeds and the city priority plan;
- § develop, deliver and report on an action plan to deliver the objectives in the city priority plan;
- § provide a framework within which partners may agree to commission services together, with pooled or aligned budgets;

- § act as an advocate for the contribution, which these themes make to public policy and partnership working in the city, and support the culture and practice of partnership working;
- § develop and sponsor new activities, which support the aspirations of the Vision for Leeds in these areas
- § tackle underperformance against the priorities and targets;
- § identify opportunities for greater efficiency, effectiveness and economy of delivery through a common approach and innovative solutions to areas of policy, planning, performance management, consultation, reporting and communication, resource allocation and delivery of services in the city and take action as appropriate;
- § evaluate the impact of interventions, capture learning and disseminate good practice across partners in the Leeds Initiative; and
- § influence local, regional and national government policy initiatives linked to these themes.

Linkages

This group is one of five strategic partnership boards reporting to Leeds Initiative Board. Together these bodies are responsible for the entire Vision for Leeds and the city priority plan. It has links to a wider network of partnerships, some of which it will commission to deliver areas of its agenda, and it will link with the agendas of other partnership boards, specifically:

- § Safer Leeds Partnership
- § Stronger Communities Partnership
- § Cleaner Greener City Partnership

It will also closely link with locality work, which will be led directly by the Leeds Initiative Board. Others are wider networks or groups, whose interests it will reflect, for example:

- § Migration Partnership
- § Third Sector Partnership

Equality and community engagement

The board will have due regard to equality in all its activities, and will take steps to demonstrate it has consulted with communities appropriately in all its decisions.

Membership

1. ALMO/BITMO
2. Chair or vice chair of Cleaner Greener Partnership
3. Chair or vice chair of Harmonious Communities
4. Chair or vice chair of Safer Leeds
5. City Centre Business
6. LCC Children's Services
7. LCC Democratic Executive Member: Environment

8. LCC Democratic Executive Member: Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services
9. LCC Democratic Opposition parties Leeds City Council (Conservative)
10. LCC Democratic Opposition parties Leeds City Council (Liberal Democrat)
11. LCC Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate Senior Officer
12. Leeds University/Leeds Met/FE College
13. Third Sector - community relations/ intelligence
14. Third Sector - community sector
15. Third Sector – migration
16. Third Sector – Third Sector Leeds representative
17. West Yorkshire Police
18. West Yorkshire Probation Service
19. Optional: LCC Democratic Scrutiny Chair
20. Up to 2 co-opted members to add specific expertise or perspective

The membership of this group includes partners in Leeds, which contribute to the achievement of the Vision and objectives for this theme in the city priority plan.

Officers in attendance

Officers from Leeds City Council, Leeds Initiative, and other partners will be invited to attend the board at the discretion of the chair. Their role will include advising the group, preparing agendas, minutes, reports and briefings for the board, and following up actions arising from discussions and decisions made by the board.

Openness

Meetings are not open to the public, but papers, agendas and minutes will be published on the Leeds Initiative website promptly. A forward plan of meetings will be published on the Leeds Initiative website.

These Terms of Reference were agreed:

Date: 06 June 2012

Signed:

Cllr Peter Gruen, Chair, Safer and Stronger Communities Board