

Partnership Convention 2009

On Friday 6th February 2009, Wigan Borough Partnership hosted its 9th annual partnership convention at the JJB Stadium.



As successful as ever, the event was attended by over 250 people representing the wide range of sectors who are actively working in partnership across the borough.

Having established itself as a key event in the WBP calendar, the programme for the convention was designed to ensure that everyone who attends has the opportunity to highlight and showcase their successes but is also flexible enough to allow current big issues facing the borough to be presented in an informal and entertaining way.

BBC news reporter Dave Guest once again welcomed everyone to the convention where he encouraged people throughout the day to join in the debate and participate in the workshops.

Presentations by keynote speakers successfully highlighted some of the achievements of the WBP over the last year and also outlined some stark facts about issues that are currently facing the borough.

Mark Ashley - Chair of the Cultural Partnership entertained delegates with his recipe tips and ingredients on how to survive the credit crunch.



Gareth Cheesman - representing the Children Young People & Families Partnership spoke of the progress of the new LSP structures and how the LSP jigsaw is beginning to come together.

Kate Ardern - Director of Public Health presented statistics and facts that highlighted problems still being faced by people in some areas of the borough - bringing home that there is still a lot of work to be done.



Clare Brennan - Representing the community sectors highlighted the importance of the invaluable work that people in our community and voluntary organisations do daily to help us address local issues and concerns.

Ian Drummond - Chairman of Leeds Voice Voluntary Organisation and member of the Leeds Local Strategic Partnership gave an overview of some of the issues facing Leeds Local Strategic Partnership, who like Wigan, are striving to

make that difference. His presentation also outlined areas and opportunities that Wigan should proudly embrace and celebrate.

Morning workshops structured to ensure that people on each table had the chance to get to know each other, chat about their own and their organisations successes over the past year and to discuss current issues of importance to them. By lunchtime, all workshop tables had agreed their “Top 10” issues.



As well as being entertained by input from Wigan Theatre actors Will Travers and Vicky Fleming and listening to some real life local hero stories such as the success of projects in Shakerley, people were encouraged to join in the afternoon workshop of their particular choice from the Top 10 list and discuss topics such as communication, credit crunch, funding, unemployment, young people, service delivery - again gave participants the chance to voice their opinions and work together to agree and plan for actions that can start to work towards improvement.



The overall success of the Partnership Convention is down to the participation of its attendees. The vast scale of partnership working in the borough is obvious from our attendance list on the back page and we are delighted and grateful to see not only old comrades and colleagues but more and more new faces - faces that represent the future of partnership working in Wigan is and will continue to be as strong as ever.

Many thanks to those who presented, organised and contributed to the day. Information and actions will be used to influence and develop our partnership plans both strategically and locally.

For more information about the work of Wigan Borough Partnership and to view images from the Partnership convention, please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/vision2026 or ring the LSP Team on 01942 827280/ 827371

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Sharing success

£16.6M funding secured for redevelopment of the Bickershaw Colliery site

Free swimming for all young people

6th annual “WORDS” festival

Stronger involvement of health services in communities and townships – appointment of health improvement workers

Improvements in networking and communication



Young people recruited as volunteers through the V – Involve programme

Improvements to play facilities

Organised a family fun day

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Secured a laptop for a housebound student

Expansion of a Parenting Course in Hindley YOI

Won a Chief Constable’s Award for Excellence based on our neighbourhood management

Leigh Sports Village now on stream

Dawn Patrol programme

Successfully developing the “Your Choice” project

Changing the image of “Relate” to increase our profile

Assistive technology to help people remain at home



Achieving our school travel plan targets

Reduction in local crime rates
Proactive approach to reducing fires by targeted work with local partners

Getting a 1st class degree

Moving away from grant aid to commissioning

Supported over 70 volunteers to provide essential support at Pensioners Link

Developed evening exercise class in community centre

Working towards some new community allotments

Improved access to the web – people’s network

Successful worklessness conference



Evaluation

Over 200 people attended the partnership convention this year from many different organisations. Attendees gave us their thoughts on how the day had felt to them.

People were mainly very positive about the presentations, and over 90% thought the workshops were either excellent or good. People commented that this was due to the work of the facilitators and the structure of the workshops which were felt to be thought provoking and constructive and enabled everyone to contribute.

The opportunity to network and meet new people was consistently noted as the best part of the day. People largely appreciated the requirement to move around - which allowed them to meet even more people!



Many told us they resolved to keep in touch with those they had met, as well as passing on the messages and outcomes to their colleagues.

A number identified a desire to get more involved in volunteering or to find a way they could start.

Many commented on the Blind Date play as a good way of getting messages across in a light hearted way.



Some suggestions for improvement included:

- Queues for coffee and lunch were a little too long, and some would have liked a healthier option at break times and lunch.
- Bike parking and green transport provision would be a good idea to have every year and support the sustainability agenda.
- Need to improve involvement and representation – including hard to reach and BME groups.
- We need to improve the accessibility of the event by adjusting sound systems and the font sizes we use.
- We need to increase representation of volunteers and the business sector.

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Action Plan

Priority: Green Agenda	
Actions	Comments
Increase understanding and education around issues	No time to waste on starting work on this agenda. These actions should be achieved through campaigns, leading by example but with local ownership. Should also be linked to health agenda.
Identify practical changes	
Increase greenery of	
Prepare for changes in the climate	
Develop agreed targets	
Enforcement	
Community clean ups	
Allocate budget for green agenda	
Priority: Volunteers	
Actions	Comments
Targeting under-represented	Working with volunteers arises in other areas of the action planning. This makes this set of actions more important because of the knock on effect it could have.
Improve availability of information / knowledge	
Taster sessions	
Communicate benefits	
Recognise contribution of volunteers	
Identify barriers and remove them	
Understand problems facing voluntary sector	
Improve interface between LA and volunteer groups	
Priority: Community Development	
Actions	Comments
Engage with all groups	The community Development actions can have impact on the achievement of other tasks within this plan.
Working together to meet shared objectives	
Ensuring accountability	
Build confidence in community members	
Gather community intelligence and act on it	

Priority: Hard to Reach

Actions

Develop advocate programme
Set locality targets
Develop a 'What works' site to share best practice

Comments

LSP partners should provide funding for this work, Townships, local advertisements and more social based activities should be used to recruit people to an advocate programme.

Priority: Access to services

Actions

Audit perceptions of access
Consult on choices for additional services
Work together better to provide info
Explore Hull initiative and potential for local use

Comments

To achieve this we need to allocate funding and increase use of volunteers. Joint working is important with support from the council and its wider partners.

Priority: Human needs

Actions

Minimum standards for health, wellbeing, employment, skills and housing
Focus efforts on agreed targets
Focus on real outcomes

Comments

Urgent action is required through the LSP. Bringing everybody up to the level of our minimum standards.

Priority : Communications

Actions

Use Borough Life more effectively as a way of providing information about services
Engage media more effectively
Clarity about our target audience
Publicise good news stories
One stop shop approach to provision of information
Central database of agencies and services including voluntary and community
Use of internet and social internet sites eg., Facebook
Develop information board for networks, LSP, community groups etc

Comments

Our information giving and sharing needs to be more frequent.
Most of these actions should be completed within the next six months,
Contribution is required from all partners.

Priority: Services that meet need

Actions

Dialogue with the community on basics
Understand need and identify gaps
Work in partnership to deliver
Balance between national targets and community needs

Comments

Funding should be allocated to localities to achieving changes / improvements

Priority: Unemployment / raising aspirations

Actions

Subsidise training packages
Profile local people who have done well
Lobby rules on loss of benefits if you volunteer
Start 4-5 re-employ offices in Wigan
Support small businesses
Grants for business start ups
Joined up approach to skill development
Develop partnership employment strategy
Subsidise businesses to take on apprenticeships
Invest in careers advice
Information centre
Encourage night schools
Subsidise travel to job / training opportunities

Comments

These activities need to be supported by a clear communication plan.

The council needs to take a lead in this work and actions are required right now.

Priority: Funding

Actions

Officer support and training for commissioning / bids / monitoring / evaluation etc inc. constructive feedback
Longer term funding streams to provide certainty
Make best use of all available funding
Help identify existing funding opportunities
Develop understanding of voluntary sector needs
Single point of contact and signposting
Recruit volunteers with skills to contribute

Comments

Economic regeneration need to take a lead role in this work.
The third sector also has large influence.

Actions need to be put in place as soon as possible

Delegate List

A Hodgkinson	Hindley Ladies Club
Adrian Hardy	LIFT
Alan Johnson	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
Alan Lloyd	Lane Head Residents Group
Alison Dawber	
Alison Jones	Wigan Council
Alison Tunnicliffe	Wigan Council
Andrea Arkwright	Wrightington Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust
Andrea Sizer	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Andrea Smith	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
Andrew Bond	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
Andy Allen	Wigan Council
Andy Baddeley	Greater Manchester Police
Andy Roberts	Greater Manchester Probation
Angela Hine	Greater Manchester Police
Ann Gent	Job Centre Plus
Ann Rampling	Ashton Forum
Ann Young	Wigan Borough Artists
Anne Spears	Fotara
Anne Smith	Greater Manchester Police
Anne Turner	LINK
Annette Kerner	Wigan Council
Barry Short	Greater Manchester Police
Bernard Walker	Wigan Council
Bev Pilkington	5 Boroughs Partnership
Bob Pell	Greater Manchester Police
Boby Raja	Wigan Council
Catherine Akehurst	Wigan & Leigh CVS
Carmel Foster Devine	Wigan Council
Carol Southern	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
Carol Watson	Local Strategic Partnership Board
Cath Lomas	Wigan Council
Catherine Foxon	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Charles Lowe	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Cherisse Walley	Wigan Council
Chris Roberts	Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue
Chris Skoyles	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
Chris Wyatt	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
Christine Coverdale	Coalfields Regeneration Trust
Claire Brennan	Over 50s Forum
Cllr Barry Fagan	Wigan Council
Cllr Brendan Bowen	Wigan Council
Cllr Brian Baldwin	Wigan Council
Cllr Brian Merry	Wigan Council
Cllr Chris Ready	Wigan Council
Cllr Ged Bretherton	Wigan Council
Cllr James Talbot	Wigan Council
Cllr Joan Hurst	Wigan Council
Cllr Keith Cunliffe	Wigan Council
Cllr Myra Whiteside	Wigan Council

Cllr Norman Bradbury	Wigan Council
Cllr Paul Tushingham	Wigan Council
Cllr Phyllis Cullen	Wigan Council
Cllr Richard Clayton	Wigan Council
Cllr Robert Bleakley	Wigan Council
Craig Hamilton	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Carol Tyldesley	Wigan Leisure Culture Trust
Daniel O'Neill	GMP
Danny Jones	Rose Bridge High School
Dave Storm	Wigan Optimists
David Davies	Wigan Rotary Club
David Spears	Fotara
Debra Fox	Liverpool University
Dawn Jones	Wigan Council
Deborah Gent	Adult Community Education
Dee Lee	Wigan Optimists
Del Foulkes	Wigan and Leigh Pensioners Links
Des White	Pensioners Link
Donna Barrow-Jones	Wigan Council
Dorothy Walls	Orrell Billinge Network
Dot McCourt	Mencap Society (Golborne)
Eddie Walsh	Adactus Housing Group
Elaine Cartwright	Nugent Care
Elaine Jones	Over 50s Forum
Elaine Walsh	Proco NW Ltd
Eleanor Smith	English Churches Housing Support Group
Emma Edwards	Wigan Council
Evelyn Smith	Shakerley Community Partnership
Francesca Slattery	Wigan & Leigh CVS
Frank May	Swinley Community Resident Groups
Geoff McCourt	Mencap Society (Golborne)
Geoff Oliver	Community Payback
George Wild	
Georgina Bentley	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
Gill David	Arts Exchange
Gillian Forrester	WLCT
Graham Wilcock	Standish Community Forum
Gwen Derbyshire	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Heather Lomas	Wigan & Leigh CVS
Helen Richmond	Over 50s Forum
Helen Seddon	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
Hitesh Chandarana	Ashton Leigh and Wigan Community Healthcare
Ian Drummond	Leeds Voice
Ian Harrison	Wigan Council
Ian Kennedy	Greater Manchester Police
Ian Ryding	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Jackie Mutch	Groundwork Wigan and Chorley
Jayne Kay	British Waterways
Irene Smith	Over 50s Forum
Jackie Farrington	Leigh Township Forum
Jackie Ely	Wigan and Leigh Housing
James Noakes	Wigan Council

Jan East	5 Borough Partnership
Jan McDonald	Coalfields Regeneration Trust
Janet Withington	Wigan Council
Janice Barton	Wigan and Leigh Housing
Janine Morton	Wigan Council
Jean Fieldhouse	2 Derby House
Jean Garlick	5 Borough's Mental Health Trust
Jean Houghton	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Jennifer Lees	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Jim Hutton	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
Joan Brogden	Over 50s Forum
Joanne Brewder	Wigan Council
Joanne Taylor	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Joe Cassidy	Pensioners Link
Joe Taylor	Orrell, Billinge Community Network
John Hill	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
John Harding	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
John O'Neill	Heritage Network
John Hesketh	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
John McArdle	Age Concern
John Nunnerley	Deanery High School & Sixth Form
John Winnard	Private Sector
Joy Winstanley	Friends of Three Sisters
Joyce Holmes	Wigan Women's Friendship Club
Julie Baxendale	Wigan Council
Julie Eccles	Job Centre Plus
Julie Hotchkiss	Ashton Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust
Justine Topping	GMP
Karen Nolan	Wigan and Leigh Housing
Karen Wilson	LINK
Kate Sheffield	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Katherine Fairclough	Wigan Council
Keith Molloy	Wigan Council
Ken Barston	Ashton township Forum
Ken Jarvis	Wigan Borough Pensioners Bowling League
Kevin Tasker	Coalfields Regeneration Trust
Kevin Walsh	Wigan Council
Lesley Tyrer	Wigan Council
Linda Adhana	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Lisa Beckett	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
Liz Blagburn	Wigan Council
Liz Fisher	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Louise Haigh	Wigan & Leigh CVS
Louise McDonald Leigh	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Lynne Davison	Wigan Council
Lynne Hayes	Wigan Council Hesketh Fletcher
Lynn Morris	Groundwork Wigan and Chorley
Marjorie Marsden	Wigan & Leigh Housing Partnership
Lynne Calvert	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Marie Hulme	Greater Manchester Police
Marilyn Simpson	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Marion Andrews	Boroughwide Community Network

Mark Ashley	Standish & Wigan Courier
Mark Tilley	Wigan Council
Martin Cooney	Community payback
Martin Kimber	Wigan Council
Martin Purcell	Wigan Council
Matthew Stockwell	Wigan Council
Maureen Smith	Ashton Township forum
Mike Kirkby	Pensioners Link
Mike Matthews	Wigan Council
Mona Barratt	Hindley Ladies Club
Neil Fearnley	Wigan Council
Nick Clarke	Wigan Council
Nick Colledge	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
Nick Hudson	Wigan Council
Nina Carter	Wigan Council
Olive Taylor	Over 50s Forum
Olwyn Preston	Standish Lipreading Society
Pam Stewart	Leigh Township Forum
Pat Shacklock	Wigan Council
Paul Cartwright	Victim Support
Paul Cox	Greater Manchester Police
Paul Crook	Wigan Council
Paul Foster	GM Chamber of Commerce
Paul Gaskell	Wigan Council YOT
Paul Halfpenny	Wigan Recycles
Paul Heaton	Manchester & District Housing Association
Paul Haunch	Wigan & Chorley Groundwork Trust
Paul Petrykowski	G M Fire
PC Dave Johnson	GM Police
Penny Cook	Wigan Council
Penny McGinty	Wigan Council
Pete Gascoigne	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
Peter Burt	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
Peter Clarke	Greater Manchester Police
Peter Donohue	Stephenson's Solicitors
Peter Guy	Gin Pit Village
Peter Hall	Landlords Association
Peter Purcell	Fotara
Phillipa Hurst	Wigan Council
Phil Hirst	Wigan Rotary Club
Rachel Renwick	HMYOI Hindley
Richard Foster	Wigan Council
Rita Quinn	GMPTE
Robert Lomas	Greater Manchester Police
Robin Foxon	Wigan Council
Rodney Hill	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
Ruth Walkden	Wigan and Leigh CVS
Ruth Mycock	Adactus Housing Group
Stanley Riley	Standish Lipreading Society
Simon Calderbank	Wigan Council
Sophie Baxendale	GM Chamber of Commerce
Simon Monks	Greater Manchester Police

Steve Lyon	Wigan Council
Stephen Hand	Wrightington Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust
Susan Gambles	Wigan Council
Susan Loudon	Wigan Council
Susan Taberner	Wigan Optimists
Suzanne Carter	Wigan Council Sure Start
Taryn Pearson	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
Theresa Westhead	Huntington Disease Society
Tom Milner	Metrolite Industries
Tony Bradshaw	Wigan Rotary Club
Trevor Barton	Local Strategic Partnership Board Member
Trish Anderson	Wigan Council
Vicky Collison	Tyldesley Sure Start
Vicky Bannister	Wigan and Leigh Housing
Zenno Vatev	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
Zoe Denton	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust