

# DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM (DPF)

28 June 2013

## Agenda

- 1. Welcome and apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**
- 3. Partnership Approach**  
Cllr Anne Western, Leader, Derbyshire County Council
- 4. Welfare Benefit Reforms**  
Alison Westray-Chapman, Joint Assistant Director Corporate Resources,  
Bolsover and North East Derbyshire District Councils
- 5. Food Banks**  
Kris Ambler, Partnerships Manager, Advice Derbyshire
- 6. Housing, Health and Social Care**  
John Simmons, Vice Chair, Care and Repair England
- 7. Local Enterprise Partnerships**  
Cllr Anne Western, Leader, Derbyshire County Council
- 8. Future of the DPF – Discussion Item**
  - Role of the Forum moving forward
  - Governance/Structures
  - Reporting mechanisms, information and communication
  - Meetings
- 9. Any other business**
- 10. Date of next meeting**
  - 10am Friday 13 December 2013

**NOTES of the DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM** held on 15 June 2012  
at County Hall, Matlock

**PRESENT**

Councillor A I Lewer  
(in the Chair)

<p><b>Amber Valley Borough Council</b> J Townsend</p> <p><b>Amber Valley CVS</b> L Allison</p> <p><b>Big Lottery Fund</b> M Rowe</p> <p><b>Chesterfield Borough Council</b> Councillor J Burrows</p> <p><b>Chesterfield College</b> S Holmes</p> <p><b>Community Voluntary Partners</b> L Wallace</p> <p><b>Derbyshire Association of Local Councils</b> B Wood</p> <p><b>Derbyshire Dales CVS</b> N Moulden</p> <p><b>Derbyshire Dales District Council</b> Councillor L Rose</p> <p><b>Derbyshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service</b> S Frayne</p> <p><b>Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce</b> G Gowcher</p> <p><b>Derbyshire Police Authority</b> P Hickson</p>	<p><b>Derbyshire County Council</b> Councillor Mrs C A Hart Councillor C W Jones Councillor B Lewis Councillor Ms A Western N Chavaudra W Downes S Eaton I Fisher R Gent S Goodwin N Hodgson B Laurence D Lowe M Molloy B Robertson J Wildgoose</p> <p><b>Derbyshire Police</b> M Creedon B Thacker</p> <p><b>Derbyshire Probation</b> J Mead</p> <p><b>Environment Agency</b> S Quinlan</p> <p><b>Erewash Borough Council</b> L Poyser</p> <p><b>Erewash CCG</b> R Marwaha</p> <p><b>Erewash CVS</b> P Edwards</p>
---	---

<p><b>High Peak Borough Council</b> Councillor C Bisknell D Lerner</p> <p><b>LINKS</b> R Kerry</p> <p><b>North Derbyshire Voluntary Action</b> J Willis</p> <p><b>North East Derbyshire District Council/Bolsover District Council</b> P Hackett</p>	<p><b>Financial Inclusion Partnership</b> E Bates</p> <p><b>Rural Action Derbyshire</b> S Green</p> <p><b>South Derbyshire CVS</b> J Smith</p> <p><b>South Derbyshire District Council</b> Councillor R J Wheeler</p>
--	---

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of S Allinson (Tameside and Glossop PCT), Councillor J A Allsop (Derbyshire County Council), Councillor G Baxter (North East Derbyshire District Council), Councillor P Bayliss (Derby City Council), J Birkin (Chesterfield Royal Hospital), Councillor S Bradford (Amber Valley Borough Council), P Carney (Amber Valley Borough Council), Councillor C Corbett (Erewash Borough Council), L Curd (Derby College), S Fielding (Job Centre Plus), J Herbert (Derbyshire Dales and High Peak LSP), S James (Derby Hospitals), J Jaroszek (Erewash Borough Council), S Kelly (Chesterfield College), C Lawton (LINKS CVS), A Layzell (Southern Derbyshire CCG), Councillor M Longden (Derbyshire County Council), W Lumley (Bolsover District Council), F McArdle (South Derbyshire District Council), J McElvaney (Derbyshire County Council), Dr R Patel (NHS Tameside and Glossop), P Shelton (Arts Derbyshire), Bishop H Southern (Churches Together in Derbyshire), I Thomas (Derbyshire County Council), and A Wright (Derbyshire County Council)

**1/12**        **MINUTES** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 December 2011 were confirmed as a correct record.

**2/12**        **BRIAN WOOD** The Forum was informed that this was to be Brian Wood's last meeting, as he was retiring from his role at Derbyshire Association of Local Councils. Brian was thanked for his contribution over the years, and was wished a long and happy retirement.

**3/12**        **DRAFT PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12** The Forum was presented with the draft Annual Report. This had followed a similar format to previous years, and members were informed that there was still an opportunity to comment on the document, prior to it being published in a final version. Any comments should be submitted to David Lowe.

**4/12      SAFER COMMUNITIES BOARD** Details were provided of the wider issues and challenges facing the Board. Considerable work had been undertaken locally over the past six months in relation to preparation for the transition to Police and Crime Commissioners. The Safer Communities Board had commissioned work outlining the community safety activity undertaken in partnership in Derbyshire, together with the risks associated with a number of funding streams transferring to the Commissioner from April 2013. This was in the form of a briefing pack for all Police and Crime Commissioner candidates.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act also required each police force area to establish a Police and Crime Panel, which would be a joint local authority committee to scrutinise the work of the Commissioner. In Derbyshire, it had been proposed that the County Council host the Panel, which would convene in early July 2012 to take forward planning in relation to its role. Nominations had been invited from districts for representatives.

The Police and partners were looking closely at the format of the annual threat and risk assessment, which identified the priorities for the Police and community safety partners. The assessment would include a broader approach, looking at key strategic issues impacting on crime and community safety. There would be a presentation of the findings of the assessment in October 2012, and then a more strategic presentation of the priorities to senior managers and leaders across the partnership area.

Work was being undertaken around the evaluation of current initiatives such as the Integrated Offender Scheme, and in the county, around 300 offenders were being managed in a multi-agency way to reduce their re-offending. Since 1 June 2011, a cohort of offenders had been tracked, and the scheme had reduced their offending by 14% by the end of March 2012. Work was ongoing to collate the data to the end of May 2012 and to evaluate the cost saving. The meeting referred to the procurement of domestic violence services and the impact on local organisations.

It was reported that information sharing continued to be an issue, and departments were working with the Council's Transformation Team to identify suitable solutions to enable more effective partnership working. A key development in information sharing, in order to tackle anti-social behaviour, was the introduction of a web based multi-agency case management system. This would be rolled out across the county over the next few months.

**5/12      CULTURE DERBYSHIRE** In its first few months, Culture Derbyshire had taken steps to increase member representation at Board level, and the range of skills and experience to the Board had been broadened. A newly constituted organisation, Arts Derbyshire, had replaced the former Derbyshire Arts Development Group and Derbyshire Arts Partnership; the

Derbyshire Cultural Officers' Group had been re-launched as the Derbyshire Leisure Officer's Group; and the former NI7 Steering Group had been revamped as a VCS Strategic Partnership Group. This would maintain an overview of the relationship between the Council and the Voluntary and Community sector.

Culture Derbyshire owned two priorities as part of the Sustainable Community Strategy – engaging local people in the responsibilities, opportunities and benefits of taking part in culture, arts and sports; and encouraging more organisations to recognise the value of sport and physical and mental activity to improve quality of life. The Board had agreed a limited number of performance indicators to monitor the achievement of these priorities.

The Board had been working to produce a high level Strategy to guide its work over the next five years, and at its recent meeting, had agreed to promote the resulting document as a prospectus rather than a strategy. The prospectus identified a number of ambitions to which all partners subscribed, and these were stated. It also included an action plan which highlighted the contribution partners would make to the achievement of the ambitions. Culture Derbyshire was to hold its first annual Cultural Conference on 22 June, and this event would be used to consult on a final draft of the Cultural Prospectus.

The collaborative PhD project with the University of Sheffield Department of Information Studies, to research the value and impact of cultural services in Derbyshire, had completed almost six months, and the Board would receive an update at its meeting in September.

Culture Derbyshire had been active in planning for the arrival of the Olympic Torch Relay in Derbyshire on 29 June, and it was stated that the Olympic Games had had a significant economic impact. East Midlands companies had secured contracts to the value of £460m, of which 25% had come to Derbyshire, and more schools had been involved in the National Sports Week programme than any other county in the country.

The Board had agreed at its last meeting to plan a county and city wide commemoration of the centenary of World War 1, and between 2014-2018, there would be an ongoing programme of activities, exhibitions and research. Preparations would also continue for a County of Culture celebration in 2015, although further detail was awaited from the Government about its plans for a national competition post 2013.

**6/12**      **DERBYSHIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP** Details were provided of the activity that the Board was currently developing and supporting. It was stated that the monitoring of projects funded through Single

Programme Funding would continue until the end of the financial year. The Deed of Termination for the Single Programme Funding had been signed off with emda prior to its operational closure, and all contractual arrangements with emda had now ended. Over the lifetime of the programme, the Partnership had administered over £51m single programme funding, with over £64m of match funding. The outputs recorded were – 5,875 jobs created or safeguarded, 5,491 people assisted to find work, 1,253 new businesses created, 14,162 businesses supported, 38 hectares of brownfield land reclaimed, and 16,232 people assisted with skills development.

The focus for Business and Skills over the coming months would be to develop the web portal to showcase business services for Derbyshire, the Derbyshire Knowledge Exchange, and to work with a range of partners to develop a clear approach to Investor Development support.

Invest in Derbyshire was a new web portal to support and attract inward investment in Derbyshire. The Partnership was working with UKTI to attract and secure overseas investment. An event would be held on 3 July 2012 to promote the new website. The Derbyshire Infrastructure Plan 2012 had recently been approved by the County Council.

The meeting highlighted the uncertain funding in relation to the administration of the Partnership, which was the subject of separate discussions, and its role with regard to the Local Enterprise Partnerships.

**7/12**      **ENVIRONMENT** An update was provided on the Sustainable Community Strategy key priority to improve and protect the local environment.

In terms of managing waste in a more sustainable way, there had been an improvement in recycling and composting performance. In addition, the amount of waste sent to landfill was anticipated to have reduced, along with the amount of residual waste collected per household. North East Derbyshire District, Bolsover District and Chesterfield Borough Councils had introduced new recycling bins so that residents could recycle a wider range of household materials, and this had had a positive impact on kerbside recycling performance. The County Council had run over 70 recycling roadshows, and there had been a range of adverts on buses and billboards. A number of parents had benefited from the £25 real nappy cash back scheme, and over 700 residents had purchased home composters. There had been a new Household Waste Recycling Centre in Matlock, and it was anticipated that more than 70% of the waste taken to the centre would be recycled/composted.

The County Council's Countryside Service had benefited from 3,625 volunteer days in the last twelve months. More than twenty sites in the North East of the county had been entered into the DEFRA Higher Level

Stewardship scheme, which would attract £30,000 per annum to develop and manage the sites for the next ten years.

It was stated that during 2011/12, visitors and residents had experienced greater access to the countryside, with 75.7% of the public rights of way network being open and available to the public. 17km of new greenways had been constructed and opened during 2011, and 300km of Greenways was now accessible for wheelchairs and mobility scooters. There were now five 'Tramper' scooters available from various countryside sites, and these provided people with mobility problems the opportunity to get out into the countryside.

The Countryside Service had supported three walking festivals and had run an events programme, and the County Council had designated three more Local Nature Reserves. The Environmental Studies Service had developed learning opportunities at a range of countryside sites and other outdoor areas. The Service supported sustainable use of woodland sites across the county for Forest School, and the Service had also provided training for 46 individuals towards becoming accredited Forest School Leaders.

The County Council's Conservation and Design Section had been working in partnership with District and Borough Councils to develop a planning tool to identify Areas of Multiple Environmental Sensitivity. This built on previous work to develop the Landscape Character of Derbyshire document, and pulled together information to establish landscapes that were desirable to protect in the future from the impacts of development.

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership had established an education project group to work with mill sites, land owners and education providers along the Derwent Valley to provide training, advice and support in creating educational resources and interpretation materials for a variety of projects.

It was noted that the Climate Change Sub-Group had proposed to develop an area wide strategy and action plan. A range of organisations and local authorities across the East Midlands had been working together on a pilot energy efficiency and carbon reduction programme for schools, and Derbyshire had selected ten schools to participate in the programme. Following feedback from pilot schools and those that attended an energy workshop at the Derby and Derbyshire Eco Schools Conference, a proposal for delivering a carbon and energy management programme within schools was currently being developed.

Global Action Plan had been working with the County Council to deliver energy efficiency and sustainability training to sixty people across Derbyshire, and almost 200 had signed up to the online Derbyshire Eco Challenge and

had completed six months of environmental behavioural changes. A new Eco Teams scheme for 2012/13 was currently under development.

The County Council had also been working with Climate East Midlands on the Well Adapting East Midlands project, and this provided continuing support to local authorities and partners. The Authority had produced a draft Adaptation Action Plan, and was currently developing a monitoring and evaluation process to improve the effectiveness of work on adaptation.

**8/12      SHADOW HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD** It was reported that Derbyshire's Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board was making progress towards its core purpose. Derbyshire was one of a small number of authorities that had been selected to receive bespoke support from the LGA to further develop the Board and its leadership role, and this would inform a new development tool for Health and Wellbeing Boards across the country. An initial half day session was to be held in July.

A key function of the Board was to develop a Health and Wellbeing Strategy, framed around a small number of high level priorities. Following approval of the draft priorities by the Board in March, consultation had been carried out with the public and stakeholders to seek views on whether these were the right priorities for Derbyshire. The draft strategy had been updated in light of the feedback, and had been presented to the Board at its last meeting for approval to go out for a twelve week consultation.

HealthWatch was to be the new consumer champion for health and social care in England, and the County Council was responsible for the development of the local Derbyshire HealthWatch Service. The date that the Local HealthWatch was required to be established had been delayed to April 2013, and the existing contract for the delivery of the LINK had been extended to March 2013. It was stated that the local multi organisation project team was on track to tender in September for the provision of Local HealthWatch, and forthcoming work would focus on ensuring that there was effective engagement with local communities. A number of constraints had been identified that could impact on the project timeframe being maintained to achieve the April 2013 deadline for setting up the Local HealthWatch Group, and these concerns had been fed back to the Department of Health.

The Authority also had to take on the responsibility for procuring specialist Health Advocacy services from April 2013. There was currently a lack of guidance around this, and there had been no confirmation of the funding available to meet the need. Regional work was being undertaken, to see whether the current Department of Health contract for this service could be accessed, and also to see if there could be a regional procurement response.



The Derbyshire System Integrated Plan, which set out how national, regional and local priorities would be delivered, had been accepted by the Board, and the plan focussed on current delivery as well as building for the future. Other key areas of work were highlighted.

With regard to the Adult Care Board, there had been significant progress, including agreeing joint commissioning priorities between Adult Care and the local NHS, agreeing to, and supporting, the 'Dignity in Care' programme in Derbyshire, focussing on Adult Care's plans to modernise accommodation, care and support, contributing to the development of the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and overseeing the work of the four steering groups that reported to the Adult Care Board. Key actions undertaken by the Adult Care Board were reported.

An update was also provided on the work of the Children's Trust Board. There had been a joint conference with the Local Safeguarding Children Board and Adult Services from the County and City, and the focus of this had been 'Think Family – early intervention and prevention'. In terms of targeting children and young families in greatest need for early intervention, the Trust had established a working group, chaired by the Strategic Director of Children and Younger Adults. There had been a Trust-wide consultation on this and the effectiveness of the Common Assessment Framework, and there were plans to develop a single assessment for vulnerable families.

The Trust was consulting on a new youth offer, and had also approved the Strategy on 'Raising the Participation Age'. This included trialling a model of a strategic review of post 16 provision in Bolsover and North East Derbyshire. The Troubled Families initiative was to be rolled out across the county, and domestic violence services had been re-commissioned for children and families.

**9/12 PLAN TO DELIVER THE ACCOMMODATION CARE AND SUPPORT STRATEGY FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN DERBYSHIRE** The plan to deliver the accommodation care and support strategy for older people had previously been approved by Cabinet. The plans set out to reconfigure the accommodation, care and support for older people through four Specialist Community Care Centres and two dispersed rural centres, which would consolidate specialist dementia services. This would be supported by a network of Extra Care schemes, providing a range of state of the art apartments with on-site personal care and support, some with additional specialist services. A summary was given of what the provision would comprise.

Discussions and negotiations were ongoing with health partners on the inclusion of NHS provision and investment within a number of the proposed developments. Of the 27 current homes for older people, it was proposed that

four would be maintained as residential homes. The exact configuration of the new provision and the new service model would be subject to detailed consultation in respect of each establishment that would be affected.

A phased approach to implementation of the plan was being used, and progress was stated. For Phase 1, three Extra Care schemes were already operational, and a scheme in Swadlincote was due to be open Autumn 2012. In Phase 2, a partnership with Chevin Together Housing was being finalised to deliver the next three Extra Care Schemes in 2014-15 in Alfreton, Clay Cross and Chesterfield. Two Specialist Community Care Centres would be developed at Darley Dale, and were estimated for 2014, as was the Centre at Heanor, although this would be subject to the outcome of consultation. A further five schemes had been identified for Chevin Together Housing, and these would be subject to confirmation of a detailed business case. Further development partners were being sought through a Competitive Dialogue procurement to deliver Extra Care between 2014-2017.

The County Council was working with Borough and District Councils to deliver housing strategies to bring in affordable housing for local people, and to jointly allocate Extra Care apartments. Planning agreements would also be sought from District and Borough planners. Partnership working was taking place with NHS Commissioners and providers, the voluntary sector, carers and other groups. The Strategic Director highlighted the need for land in the Hathersage area and asked for partners support in identifying available opportunities to support the delivery of the plan.

In terms of next steps for delivery of the plan, there would be consultation with affected services, residents, relatives and staff, and Cabinet would make decisions on individual homes. There would be continued procurement and working with partners to deliver the accommodation, and work with partners to agree, jointly commission and deliver service models.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

**10/12**      **COMMUNITY BUDGET FOR FAMILIES** The development of a community budget for families facing multiple problems in Derbyshire had previously been a key discussion topic for the Forum. Targeting children and families in greatest need for early intervention was a key priority for the Derbyshire Partnership Forum, and a high level strategic priority for the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Partners had agreed that the development of a Community Budget for families facing multiple problems presented an opportunity for the Council and its partners to review, reshape and redesign a wide range of services. Two aims had been seen as key in the development of Community Budget proposals – securing better outcomes for existing families with multiple problems, and reducing the number of families developing multiple needs through prevention and earlier intervention. The

Partnership had also agreed a number of high level principles to guide future work – prevention, targeting, focussing on what works, better outcomes at lower cost, and co-production.

Partners had generally been very supportive of the development of community budget proposals. It was felt that any proposals should reflect the current position in the county, and the targeting of support should consider a range of issues that were pertinent to families facing multiple problems. Proposals had been put forward to pilot work in a small number of areas in the county before wider roll out, and it was agreed that a phased approach would be appropriate in the development of community budget plans.

The Department for Communities and Local Government had announced a £448m package of funding to support priorities aimed at turning around the lives of troubled families, and the Troubled Families Team had published a financial framework setting out proposals for the payment-by-results scheme. It had been estimated that Derbyshire had 1,355 troubled families, and the County Council would receive up to a maximum of £4,000 per family over a three year period. Local authorities and their partners would be expected to provide match funding through existing sources. To receive the maximum funding available, local authorities would be required to meet all or a combination of the three key outcomes – reduced youth offending and anti-social behaviour, improved attendance at school and increased numbers of adults into work. Local authorities would also receive funding to appoint a Troubled Families Co-ordinator, and it was hoped that this person would be in post by July 2012.

During the first year of the Troubled Families Initiative, Derbyshire would work with 474 families, and work had taken place since December 2011, through a partnership Information Group, to ensure that families meeting the Government's criteria were identified. Work to better understand the characteristics of such families had also been undertaken. It was envisaged that the project would be rolled out across the county using existing Multi-Agency Teams to co-ordinate a multi-agency response. Over the coming weeks, work would take place to ensure that all agencies had the opportunity to be involved in implementing the initiative.

Work had been undertaken to develop a Community Budget Plan which met the long term aspirations of both the County Council and its partners. The Troubled Families initiative had now been incorporated into the proposals, and as agreed by partners, the Plan would adopt a phased approach. The Troubled Families Initiative, liaising with existing families, would start work on the Community Budget, but a key part of the process would be to identify how the number of families developing multiple needs could be reduced. Work with potential pilot areas and the discussion of proposals with agencies had commenced recently, and this would form the basis of Community Budget

Plan proposals. Work was also taking place to identify the range of existing interventions and initiatives supporting families facing multiple problems. Evidence gathered and lessons learnt from the first and second phases would be shared at a number of events, and this would help to develop a common understanding of current practice, and would support the potential redesign of existing services during the third phase, which would commence from April 2013.

The Community Budget presented an excellent opportunity for the Partnership to draw together the range of initiatives and schemes across Derbyshire supporting families with multiple problems. The proposals would be finalised in the coming weeks, and there would be locality briefs for the pilot areas participating in the second phase. A project group had been working on the development of the Troubled Families Initiative, and this would be broadened out through a virtual project group, and partners would be asked to nominate individuals who could support this work.

Governance arrangements for the Community Budget and Troubled Families Initiative at a strategic level were also being developed, and it was proposed that a time limited task and finish group comprising senior officers be established, to be chaired by N Hodgson. This group would report to the Forum on a six monthly basis, and it was also recommended that progress reports be presented to other relevant partnerships and sub-groups.

**RESOLVED** to (1) note the latest progress on the development of the Community Budget in Derbyshire and the publication of the Government's Financial Framework for the Troubled Families Initiative;

(2) invite individual partner agencies to identify representatives to participate in a virtual project group to support the ongoing development of Community Budget proposals;

(3) approve the establishment of a time limited task and finish group comprising senior officers to oversee work on the Community Budget and Troubled Families Initiative; and

(4) receive further reports on progress in due course.

**11/12**      **FINANCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY** The Forum was presented with the draft 'Financial Inclusion Derbyshire Strategy 2012-15'. Financial Inclusion Derbyshire was a partnership of organisations from across the county, and partners had been working together over the last 2-3 years to deliver against the original financial inclusion strategy. A range of issues had been looked at, and of the original 43 actions, 40 had been achieved.

Since the original strategy had been developed, the national economic picture had changed. From national data, it was known that financial exclusion levels in 32 of Derbyshire's wards across six districts fell within the worst affected septile in the country, and all eight districts had geographical areas of concern.

A new strategy had been formed to tackle future priorities in the county, and this built upon the work achieved to date. An initial draft had been sent for consultation and the comments had led to a final draft. The strategy covered seven theme areas – banking, credit, debt, financial capability/education, savings and illegal money lending. The next step would be for partners to develop the detailed action plans under each theme, and deliver these. An update of progress would be reported in a year.

The project had initially been funded by the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership until January 2012. Following a request to potential funding partners, only the County Council and High Peak Borough Council had provided grants and this had enabled the project to continue to June 2012. The Leader of High Peak Borough Council urged all partners to contribute to the project to support delivery of the plan.

**RESOLVED** (1) to endorse the Financial Inclusion Derbyshire Strategy 2012-15;

(2) that Forum members receive a progress report in a year; and

(3) that a letter be sent from the Partnership Forum to all members seeking a financial contribution to support the plan delivery.

**12/12**      **COMMUNITY DIRECTORY DERBYSHIRE** P Edwards, Erewash CVS, gave a presentation on the development of a Community Directory for Derbyshire. This was a web based information tool for anyone to use, and provided details of over 4,000 community groups in Derby and Derbyshire. Fourteen infrastructure organisations maintained the directory, and the information was as up to date as possible.

**13/12**      **STRATEGIC FLOOD BOARD** The Forum was informed of the Strategic Flood Board's role in co-ordinating flood risk in Derbyshire. There had been severe flooding in the UK during 2007, following which an extensive review had been undertaken into the causes, management and consequences of the flooding. The Pitt Review had recommended that 'the role of local authorities should be enhanced so that they take on responsibility for leading the coordination of flood risk management in their areas'. At the same time, two pieces of legislation had been passed – The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and Flood and Water Management Act 2010. These Acts gave responsibility for Flood coordination to the County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority.

An argument of the Review had been the lack of coordination in managing and responding to flood risk. Prior to the Acts being passed, Derbyshire had set up a Strategic Flood Board, and the role of the Board was to oversee the coordination of the risk management and the emergency response through the two key responsible bodies – the County Council and the Environment Agency. The Board had encouraged the development of a strong link between the Environment Agency and the Lead Local Flood Authority, and as a result, there had been better understanding of the mapped risk of flooding. As flood risk management had become more embedded into the Council's structure, the Board had helped all Risk Management Authorities to agree protocols and procedures in how to approach flood risk management.

In terms of next steps, the Board was part of a process linking the technical approach with a strategic overview, and this would be key in developing a strategy for Derbyshire. Over the next year, the Board would help define the Strategy, consider flood risk management schemes and be instrumental in negotiating funding between members, developing partnership and working to deliver flood risk protection measures.

**RESOLVED** to note (1) the work of the Strategic Flood Board; and

(2) the need to be supportive of future bids to unlock partnership funding necessary to prevent, protect and prepare Derbyshire communities and businesses from Flood Risk.

**14/12**      **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** The next meeting would be held on Friday, 14 December 2012.

## DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM

28 June 2013

### FOOD BANKS

#### **Purpose of the Report**

The numbers of charitable food banks are growing across the county, with a huge increase in demand for food parcels. The purpose of this report is to highlight the issue of food poverty and seek to address some of the drivers of demand for food hand outs.

#### **Background and Information**

Since 2011 Advice Derbyshire has been mapping the provision of food banks in the county, and as with the national trend both the number of and demand for food banks has increased. Many food banks report almost unsustainable levels of demand for free food parcels, and the key drivers include falling household income, inflation, welfare reforms and delays/issues with benefits. In the latter instance a significant number of visitors to food banks are there due to benefit sanctions.

Worryingly there has been an upward-trend in working families needing the assistance of food banks, with many family incomes simply unable to keep up with rampant inflation and stagnating wages. Coupled with decreasing incomes, rising fuel, energy and food bills have put many families in severe hardship and at risk of debt, homelessness and poorer health outcomes. The Advice Derbyshire food bank map has rapidly become the most visited part of our popular site, attracting more than 8,000 visits in the first 3 months of its operation. [www.advisederbyshire.org/foodbanks](http://www.advisederbyshire.org/foodbanks)

Advice Derbyshire also hosts a county wide food bank forum, where providers and public sector organisations can come together to discuss issues and agree actions. The next meeting of this group will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Chesterfield Town Hall, 10-1pm. All are welcome to attend to learn more.

#### **Next Steps**

We are working with the forum and stakeholders to raise awareness of the issue of food poverty, to better connect frontline services with food banks, to work with food banks to provide links to a range of advice services and to ensure there is a strategic approach to tackling poverty of all kind within the county. In addition to this Advice Derbyshire are leading on the development of donation drives and information sharing across the Derbyshire food bank network, in doing so working with colleagues in the City of Derby.

## **Recommendations**

For partners to develop their understanding of food poverty and food banks in the county and to ensure that (where relevant) any vulnerable service users are made aware of the availability of food banks. In addition to this, and in the context of continued cuts and rising inflation, we would ask the county to consider taking a strategic view in tackling food poverty – linking this in with wider efforts to tackle poverty and its root causes.

**Kris Ambler**  
**Partnership Manager**  
**Advice Derbyshire**

For Further information contact Kris Ambler  
Email address: [kris.ambler@advisederbyshire.org](mailto:kris.ambler@advisederbyshire.org)  
Telephone number: 07730093846



**DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

**28 June 2013**

**Housing, Health and Social Care**

**Purpose of the Report**

To draw attention to the need for improved integration, not only between Health and Social Care services, but also Housing, and to consider ways in which this need might be addressed throughout Derbyshire.

**Background and Information**

Care and Repair England (C&RE) is a small, independent, national charity set up in 1986 which aims to improve older people's housing. It innovates, develops, promotes and supports practical housing initiatives and policies which enable older people to live independently in their own homes for as long as they choose. In particular it works with older people to identify what is needed in order for them to live independently and well in their own homes. It then promotes and supports the development of solutions, particularly in the private housing sector.

Many District Councils across the country have been contacted and asked, almost as a 'mystery shopper', what their housing strategy is to meet the needs of an ageing population. Invariably the first focus in their response is about sheltered housing and/or Extracare. This completely misses the real fact that more than 75% of older people live in their own homes and most do not need or wish to move to such sheltered schemes. The follow up question therefore about Planning strategies is all too often met with silence. Although there has been a national, government led focus on 'affordable homes' there has not been similar attention to the need for 'accessible' homes.

The image of 'older people' is changing. The creation of the Better Government for Older People by the then new Labour Government in 1997, led to a change in the way older people were portrayed in the press and wider media. No longer were expressions such as 'demographic time bomb' being used and older people were gradually becoming seen as a valuable resource capable of benefiting society rather than being solely a drain on resources. The pendulum has now swung the other way. Older people are again being seen as the cause of the society's woes. 'The country is in the financial mess it is because of the size of the pension pot'. 'The country's housing crisis is being caused by older people living in houses larger than they need, thereby blocking such size accommodation for younger families.' There is also a gradual move in the media to suggest that older people have experienced the best of lives and that younger people now have to pay for it.

## **Localism**

Local decision making is becoming increasingly important, particularly in the context of housing and planning. There has been a major shift to localisation of decision making, alongside a drive to deregulate and remove national planning controls and building standards. Local authorities also have a great deal of freedom with regards to the use of their overall funding, with most ring-fencing of monies for housing related expenditure discontinued. (E.g. Disabled Facilities Grants, Handy Person schemes.)

## **Disabled Facilities Grants**

Administered by District Councils, Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) have, over the years been a mainstay of assistance to allow disabled people, the majority of whom are older people, to remain in their own homes. In his first Comprehensive Spending Review George Osborne made changes which have had a drastic effect on the availability of grant assistance. This effectively slashed the budget for Private Sector Housing Renewal funds, where DFG money was held and through localism allowed local decisions to be made about such matters as DFGs. At the same time the Department for Communities and Local Government removed the needs for Local Authorities to monitor waiting times for those waiting for assistance. A countywide picture as to timescales for adaptations is unavailable.

## **Quality of Housing Stock**

There has been a gradual deterioration in the condition of homes over the past decade. Some suggest that the 'Right to Buy' schemes supported by successive governments have contributed to this whilst the present economic conditions mean that people cannot afford to maintain their homes. The reference to 'Right to Buy' indicates an 'unwanted consequence' from what appeared a laudable concept. The present day reality is that many older people living in homes purchased at discounted prices in the scheme have not had the means to maintain them over the years and now have to live in less than decent conditions.

The effect of all this is several fold. People are living in accommodation not really suitable for their needs. People's dignity and self-respect are often challenged. Unnecessary Health service interventions follow. Unnecessary admissions to care result and most significantly the demand for all aspects of social care increase. Savings in one area lead directly to increases in demand for another, namely Adult Care services.

## **The need for integration in services**

The government and opposition speak loudly about the need for greater integration between Health and Social Care but the third leg of the stool, Housing, are rarely mentioned. If the service gaps are to be addressed it could be argued that Housing must be included in the analysis. C&RE are clear that

there is a real crisis looming, with the resulting costs of care inevitably falling to Health and Social Care. Not to mention the costs to the individual older person who may be living in unsuitable accommodation, receiving services they may not need if housing was more suitable and therefore whose dignity and independence is challenged.

### **More than Bricks and Mortar**

C&RE have engaged with older people across the country in the last few months about housing and what their home means to them. This report is now available (attached at Appendix 1).

### **Where now**

There now needs to be a discussion on the possibilities to address this issue. There is no quick fix. It needs a long term view. But, if action is not started now it will only get worse. It may be that the county council feel that 'Housing' is a District/Borough responsibility, but the resulting costs due to poor housing will fall to first tier authorities in the form of Adult Care.

C&RE are launching a national programme of suggested actions by local champions to draw attention to this issue and it is hoped that Derbyshire could again show its willingness to be a leader regarding older people's issues.

### **Moving forward**

In order to move this forward in Derbyshire it is recommended that a half day seminar be arranged, to include representatives from District and Borough Council Housing departments. Other relevant and appropriate services will also be invited to attend.

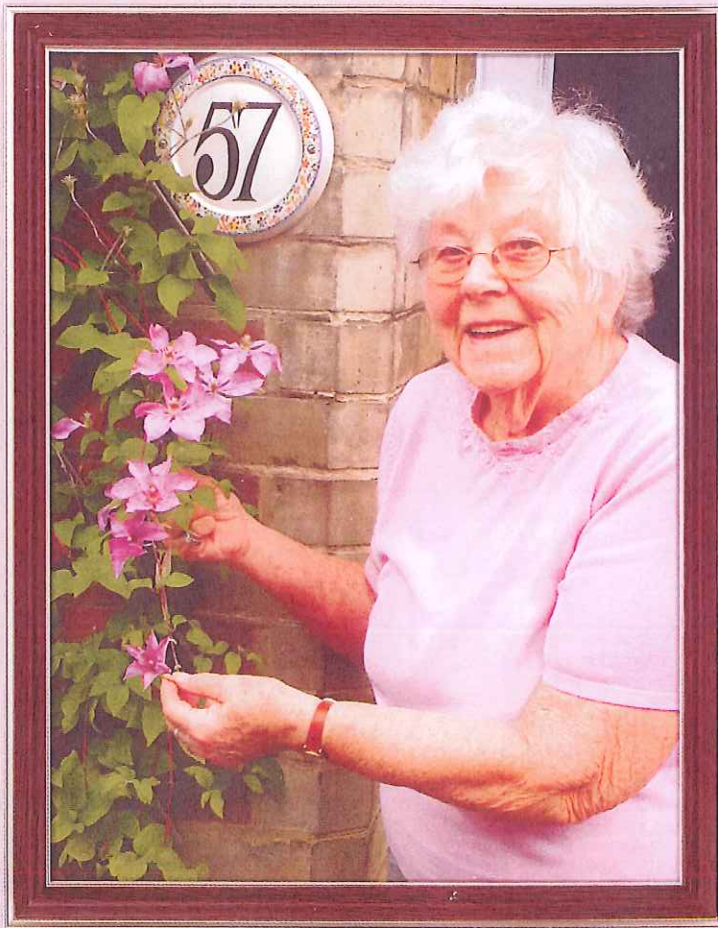
**John Simmons**

**Vice-Chair Care and Repair England**

For further information contact  
John Simmons  
[jandi.simmons@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jandi.simmons@tiscali.co.uk)

# More than bricks and mortar

Older people's views about the importance of their homes



*“My home means everything to me”*

This brochure summarises what older people across England told Care & Repair when we asked them *What does 'Home' mean to you?*

**Older people's homes are fundamental to their health, well being and quality of life**

It is therefore important to keep sight of the centrality of 'home', as opposed to 'accommodation', in the current debates about health, social care, planning and housing policies in an ageing society.

- 90% of older people live in general housing <sup>(1)</sup>
- 30% of all homes are lived in by older people <sup>(1)</sup>
- 75% of older people are home owners <sup>(1)</sup>



## Home is pivotal to health in older age

The importance of a home which is warm, safe & secure was a key theme in older people's comments.

*“My home is... comfort and security”*

*“My home is... of suitable design for my needs”*

- 1 million vulnerable older people live in non-decent private homes <sup>(1)</sup>
- Poor housing costs the NHS £600m pa <sup>(2)</sup>

## Home underpins emotional well-being and mental health

Older people described how their home profoundly affects every aspect of their lives.

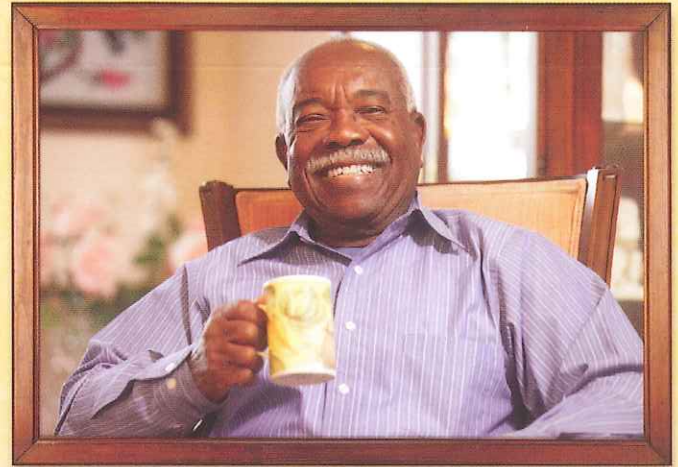
*“I am part of my house; my house is part of me. If you take my house away I lose part of myself”*

*“My home is full of memories & happiness”*

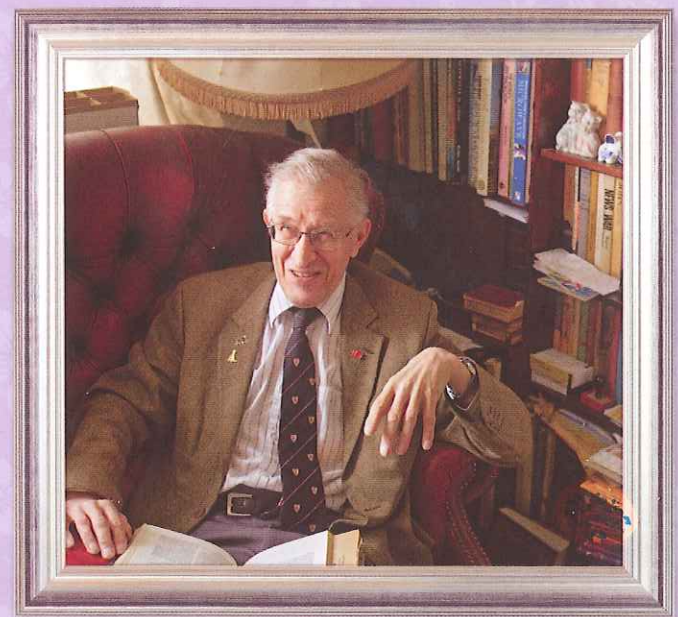
*“Home is... the place I can relax... and where my family can visit me”*

- People over 65 spend over 80% of their time at home <sup>(3)</sup>
- Depression affects 22% of men and 28% of women aged 65 or over; risk increases significantly if not living close to friends and family or poor satisfaction with home <sup>(4)</sup>

*“My home means safety, warmth... and a comfy chair”*



*Home*  
... my  
... a haven  
... a place





## Home is key to enabling independence in later life

Housing quality and suitability is a major determinant of the need for social care. It also affects the likelihood of experiencing loneliness.

'Home' and 'independence' were inextricably linked in many of the comments from older people.

*"Home... supports my changing life needs"*

*"Home is... to be able to live independently"*

*"Home is... about familiarity, especially for those with dementia"*

- Over three quarters of a million older people need accessible or adapted housing because of a medical condition or disability <sup>(1)</sup>



*"Home is where I can have my friends round for lunch"*

*Home is  
sanctuary*

*to be me*

## What makes a 'good home' in later life?

These were the most frequently mentioned factors

**LOCATION** - Proximity to family, friends, social opportunities, public transport, GP/health facility, library, shops, good neighbours

**DESIGN** - Warm, with affordable heating; safe; secure; adaptable/adapted; with space - for belongings, to socialise, for family; privacy - "My own front door"

Main reported housing difficulties

**COLD** - "Cost of heating is greatest worry", "My home is damp & cold"

**REPAIRS** - "My biggest worry is repairs & maintenance"

**ADAPTATIONS** - "I have mobility difficulties... steps to kitchen and bathroom mean I need help... ramps would make all the difference"



# Decision Makers – Time to Act

An aspiration of actively ageing at home, remaining part of a community and involved with family and friends emerges strongly from older people's key messages about 'home'.

Decision makers across housing, health, social care and planning need to ensure that this vision underpins all local policies.

- Most older people are happy where they live. They either need no help to stay living independently and well, or may need just *'that little bit of help'* to stay that way, including:
  - Independent, impartial housing and care options information & advice
  - Practical services to keep homes safe & secure
  - Affordable warmth
- Most older people prefer to remain at home and receive care *'at or closer to home'*. This requires:
  - Planning and design of a suitable housing stock
  - Rapid, accessible home repairs and adaptations
  - Joint planning and commissioning by health, social care and housing
  - Fully integrated care eg. hospital discharge which addresses housing condition & need
- Older people's economic and social circumstances vary widely and change over time. A *spectrum of housing options* is therefore required including:
  - Future-proofing – design all new homes to maximise independence & health gain
  - Local Plans must include detailed analysis of demographic trends and include development of a range of housing options for older people, across tenure and including both mainstream and specialist housing
  - Older people should be actively involved in local planning and decision making



Care & Repair England is a charitable industrial and provident society (IPS Reg No 25121R) established in 1986. It aims to improve older people's housing and believes that all older people should have decent living conditions in a home of their own choosing.

Care & Repair England  
The Renewal Trust Business Centre  
3 Hawksworth Street  
Nottingham NG3 2EG  
Tel: 0115 950 6500  
info@careandrepair-england.org.uk  
www.careandrepair-england.org.uk

#### References:

- (1) DCLG (Annual) Survey of English Housing
- (2) Building Research Establishment, 2010, *Good housing leads to good health*
- (3) English House Conditions Survey 2008
- (4) Wilson K et al *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry* 2007

Design and Production: The Design Box  
www.thedesignbox.co.uk  
Photography: Richard Moran, Colourbox