

# Partnership Matters

June 2008



## Sustainable Community Strategy Update

The new Sustainable Community Strategy starting from 2009 onwards is now in the process of being developed. The Sustainable Community Strategy will describe the diversity of communities across Derbyshire, outline the challenges for the area and set a shared vision and priorities to improve quality of life of local people. It sits above all other strategies and plans, providing a guiding framework and strategic direction for organisations in Derbyshire. Over the next few months partners will be asked to contribute to the process of developing the strategy. Partner support will be greatly appreciated (for example publicising the strategy) and will ensure that the final document is appropriate for everyone's needs.

It is recognised that organisations have already contributed a wide range of evidence (for example research, performance and consultation information) during the development of priorities for the new Local Area Agreement (LAA). If partners believe that they have any additional information about the needs of

communities in Derbyshire that was not considered during the LAA process they should ensure that this fed into the process now, as the new Community Strategy will inform future refreshes of the LAA.

For more information contact Becky Lomas at Derbyshire County Council: [becky.lomas@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:becky.lomas@derbyshire.gov.uk)

## Focus on - Wheels to Work Project

Wheels to Work Derbyshire has recently been successful with three funding applications, this means that the scooter loan project hosted by Derbyshire Rural Community Council is now operating in virtually all rural parts of the county. The project aims to reduce worklessness by loaning scooters to those wishing to take up employment, training or education opportunities, but have been prevented from doing so because of transport difficulties.

Since the project began in April 2004, 165 people have loaned a scooter from the scheme, and the additional funding means that 75 more people will be able to loan a scooter over this financial year. This will benefit the individuals themselves and will also benefit rural businesses who are able to recruit more widely due to employees having their own independent transport.

Wheels to Work Derbyshire provides Compulsory Basic Training (CBT), scooter insurance, breakdown cover, full servicing and maintenance of the scooter, and protective clothing. The client must have a job offer or college place to enable them to access the project, and be willing to pay £15 per week for the loan of the scooter. The maximum loan period is 6 months, which will hopefully give the clients enough time to save towards their own transport.

The new funding has been awarded by The Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Derbyshire County Council, Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership, Access Alliance Programme and EMDA. For more information please contact Sandie Abberley, Project Manager, or Simone Riddle, Project Officer, at DRCC, Church Street, Wirksworth, DE4 4EY, or ring 01629 821923,



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## Message from the Chair



It's been another busy few months for those working with the Forum. The Derbyshire Local Area Agreement was formally submitted to GOEM on 30 May 2008 following approval by Nick Hodgson, Chief Executive of the County Council and myself as Leader of the Council. It now has Ministerial agreement across Whitehall and by 30th June will have approval from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, giving it full legal status.

Behind the scenes the council and its partners have been working hard to finalise governance arrangements to make sure the implementation of the Local Area Agreement is as effective as possible. Thanks to all partners for their continued support during this process. It goes to show, just how well we work together.

John Williams, Chair Derbyshire Partnership Forum

## Community Forums

Community Forums are now established across all districts – 42 Forums in total. The Forums are one key part of our arrangements to provide local people with opportunities to influence decisions and shape service developments.

With full coverage across the county, we now have the opportunity to think about how Forums support our overall consultation and engagement programmes. By working through the Derbyshire Community Engagement Group a more co-ordinated approach can be achieved. This will provide a broader consultation base enabling partners to gain a better understanding of issues concerning specific areas. Consultation with the Forums will be varied. It will cover thematic issues, provide opportunities for targeted topics to be investigated that are relevant to the local area (for example 4 x 4 use in the Hope Valley) and will also provide an opportunity for Forums in more deprived areas to be invited to prioritise expenditure on LAA priorities within their area.

More information is available from Jude Wildgoose on 01629 580000 extension 7439

## LSP Evaluation

Partners may recall information in the previous newsletter outlining... complete this

Thank you to those partners who undertook interviews for this project, the results of which will be available in November

There is possible you may be approached to contribute to this study

Please do your bit to help spread the word about the Derbyshire Partnership Forum (DPF), Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement (LAA). Keep people in your organisation informed by distributing this newsletter.

Available online at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/partnerships/derbyshire\\_partnership\\_forum/meetings](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/partnerships/derbyshire_partnership_forum/meetings)

## Compact Awards

Organisations which work in partnership to improve the services they offer to Derbyshire residents could be in the running for a new award.

Nominations are now being invited for the first Derbyshire Compact awards which will be presented in November to reward good teamwork carried out over the previous 12 months.

The Compact is a framework guiding how public bodies such as councils, the police and primary care trusts can work most effectively with voluntary organisations and community groups to provide efficient, high quality services.

Since it was launched five years ago the Derbyshire Compact has been encouraging good practice between partner organisations in key areas including funding, consultation, volunteering and black and ethnic minority organisations. Organisations signing up to the initiative agree to a range of principles including a commitment to promoting equality of opportunity and the need for openness and accountability.

Award nominations are invited for individuals or groups working in the public, voluntary or community sector who have demonstrated excellence in the compact way of working. They can be made online by searching for 'compact awards' at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)



Awards will be given to groups who have worked well in one of three main categories:

**Communicating the Compact** – raising awareness of the compact and helping to sign up new groups

**Compact development** – helping to integrate partnership good practice into everyday work

**Compact implementation** – best practice in areas such as funding and conflict avoidance.

There will also be an award for an individual or organisation who has carried out 'particularly significant' work to develop compact working.

## The 'Hub'

Central Government has been working on the development of a national database to manage and monitor LAA priorities and the national indicator set (NIS). As a result, CLG (Communities and Local Government) launched the first version of 'The Hub', a framework of specialised software, in April 2008, which will act as a repository for all of the national indicators and LAA targets.

The Hub is not an analytical tool and is intended to complement local performance management systems, not replace them. Local systems will be able to link directly to the Hub and display the information held through local *Windows*, such as partnership websites.

Government Offices are currently inputting the LAA targets for each area but further data will only be made available in the Hub from September onwards.

At a meeting of the DPF Executive on 7<sup>th</sup> May, it was recommended that a Performance Management Sub-group be established to discuss the implications of the Hub and the performance elements of the new national framework. The first meeting of the sub-group took place on 18<sup>th</sup> June comprising representatives from various DPF partner organisations.

Work is now underway to develop arrangements for implementing the Hub in Derbyshire. User access is currently being organised through Government Office East Midlands (GOEM) and will be co-ordinated by Derbyshire County Council, as the responsible authority for the LAA.

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## Community Health Champions

Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust, (PCT), together with Community Voluntary Partners (CVP, the community and voluntary infrastructure organisation in Bolsover District) is launching a new initiative to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Bolsover, the North East District and Chesterfield. They have an ambitious target to recruit 60 volunteers from the local community and partner organisations. These volunteers will be known as Community Health Champions and will be active local people from their own communities who have an interest in helping others become healthier.

Many people do not access health services until unfortunately it is too late to make significant healthier lifestyle choices which would improve their long term health and well being. This is particularly true in areas experiencing high levels of deprivation, poverty and lack of knowledge and/or support from traditional services. Community Health Champions will become an important part in reversing this cycle by delivering and supporting consistent, clear and relevant health messages within the heart of local communities by local people that others will know and trust.

### Community Health Champions don't give advice or tell people what to do but they will be able to:

- Provide clear and up to date information to people where they live and work about health and wellbeing
- Help people to develop their knowledge and skills about health and wellbeing by helping them to access information, advice and support, and, access healthy initiatives to making improvements and adopting a healthier lifestyle
- Help people to identify how their way of life might affect their health and well being and help them to make the changes they want at a pace that suits them
- Provide local information about activities or groups that people can go to and/or contact to improve their health and wellbeing

Free training will be provided for volunteers as well as those working within the statutory sector and will be part of a network of support, information sharing and gathering, plus, supervision provided through the Primary Care Trust and Community Voluntary Partners. The aim is to offer a 'complete package' of training, support and supervision to enable local people to become Community Health Champions in their own communities.

For more information contact Judy Derricott on 01246 514053 Email: [Judy.Derricott@derbyshirecountypct.nhs.uk](mailto:Judy.Derricott@derbyshirecountypct.nhs.uk)

## Meeting dates and contact information

The Derbyshire Partnership Forum meetings are held quarterly at County Hall in Matlock on the following dates. All meetings start at 10am.

26 September 2008    26 June 2009  
12 December 2008    25 September 2009  
27 March 2009        11 December 2009

For more information about the DPF and to access this newsletter online visit

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/partnerships/derbyshire\\_partnership\\_forum/meetings/](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/partnerships/derbyshire_partnership_forum/meetings/)

To submit articles for this newsletter contact Louise Collins on 01629 580000 ext 7254

[louise.collins@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:louise.collins@derbyshire.gov.uk)