

Partnership Matters

March 2008



Have your say on the Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy

The draft **Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy** is available for consultation from 10 March 2008. This strategy sets out the background to climate change globally. It examines Derbyshire's contribution to climate change and looks at some of the expected climate impacts on the county. It is recognised that by taking action together we are more likely to succeed in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions which cause climate change. In addition, we all need to adapt the way we live and work to cope with a changing climate.

The strategy is written for the Derbyshire Partnership Forum and has been developed with input from a variety of partners with a wide range of knowledge and experience. A set of strategic objectives forms the core of the strategy and this is followed by themes explaining the impact of our activities on climate change as well as the impact which climate change could have on the way we live and deliver services.

You can access the draft strategy and supporting documents online at http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/consultation/consultation_search_index/climate_change_strategy_consultation.asp

Once the strategy is approved, action plans will be developed to implement the objectives within the strategy and to set more detailed targets over specific timescales to meet our obligations both locally and nationally on this agenda. For more information about climate change please contact Maggie Bishop, 01629 580000 ext 7344 or email maggie.bishop@derbyshire.gov.uk

Managing Performance and Resources in Local Strategic Partnerships

Derbyshire has been chosen to participate in a study being undertaken by the Audit Commission to investigate the management of performance and resources in Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs).



The Commission is interested in learning from notable practice and the study aims to understand better how local strategic partnerships manage performance and how they use available resources. This will include performance and resources related to the Local Area Agreement. The findings will help LSPs and their partners to achieve better outcomes for local people.

The Audit Commission is pleased that Derbyshire has agreed to be involved in this study as it is an area recognised for its partnership working.

Fieldwork will be undertaken between February and April 2008 including interviews, workshops and observations of LSP and LAA meetings and partners may be invited to participate.

Message from the Chair



In Derbyshire good partnership working is a priority and we feel that it is particularly important that all our partners are well informed about key developments. Everyone has a role to play in cascading information throughout their own organisation and we hope that this newsletter makes the task easier. This is now the fourth edition of 'Partnership Matters' and we hope that by circulating it within your organisation everyone feels that they are kept up to date.

The next edition will be produced in time for the 27 June 2008 Forum meeting. Thanks to everyone for the interesting articles provided so far. Please keep sending them in. Suggestions as to how we can improve the newsletter and keep partners even better informed are most welcome.

John Williams, Chair Derbyshire Partnership Forum

Local Area Agreement Update

The Local Area Agreement Workshop held on 14 December was attended by a wide range of partners and since then work has continued to take place to refine the priority indicators for Derbyshire. A revised set of 35 priorities and one local indicator was submitted to the Government Office for the East Midlands at the end of January. It is to be noted that these indicators could still be subject to change.

Work has been undertaken to establish baselines for these 35 indicators where possible. Lead negotiators have been identified for each of the indicators, who will be responsible for agreeing targets for the next three years. Over the forthcoming weeks agreement will be reached regarding the lead partners who will be involved in the negotiation process and those organisations that will be involved in delivery. The timetable for negotiation is short with the majority of targets needing to be agreed by mid April. Formal approval of the LAA and designation of targets by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is due to be completed by 30 June 2008.

Further work has been undertaken on the development of governance arrangements for the Derbyshire Partnership Forum (DPF), the DPF Board and the DPF Executive to reflect national guidance. These revised arrangements also provide some general terms of reference and principles of working which will apply to the six Thematic Partnerships. Further work is being undertaken to develop detailed operational arrangements for these six partnerships. The latest information about the Local Area Agreement can be accessed online at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/partnerships/

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

Available online at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/partnerships/derbyshire_partnership_forum/meetings

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Bridging the gap between generations

Over recent months work has been underway to progress the Derbyshire Intergenerational Strategy, produced by the County Council. This strategy aims to bring young and older people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities, which promote greater understanding and respect between generations and contribute to building safer and stronger communities. Intergenerational work has proved to be extremely successful with gardening projects recognised internationally as good practice by the European Union's – European Approaches to Inter-Generational Lifelong Learning Project (see www.eagle-project.eu).

So far book clubs, writing, drama, digital photography, dance, herbs and wild food, along with gardening projects have all provided a basis for intergenerational projects, enabling young and older people to find common ground and build positive relationships. The projects directly assist in the achievement of Sustainable Community Strategy priorities to reduce anti-social behaviour and engage young people in positive activities.

A Resource Pack has been produced to help promote good practice and provide advice for those wishing to establish intergenerational projects and in April 2008, a dedicated intergenerational projects manager will begin work to co-ordinate activities and support more people in running projects across Derbyshire.

For more information contact either Jem Brown or Mark Emly at Derbyshire County Council on 01629 580000 ext 2068 or 2969 Jem.brown@derbyshire.gov.uk or mark.emly@derbyshire.gov.uk



Race Equality Scheme

The County Council is working hard to ensure everyone has fair and equal access to employment opportunities and receives the services which meet their needs.

We are currently reviewing the Race Equality Scheme which sets out how the council is meeting its legal obligations under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 to work to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities and encourage good community relations.

The updated Race Equality Scheme will be available from June 2008 and will cover two years to March 2010. The document is currently being drafted and will be available shortly on the website for consultation. Partners are encouraged to get in touch with Lesley Reece or John Cowings to input into this process. Telephone 01629 580000 ext 7384 or email lesley.reece@derbyshire.gov.uk or john.cowings@derbyshire.gov.uk



Being fair and equal
Making progress
Improving life

Partnership Matters



Sustainable Community Strategy progress

The main activities progressed through the Derbyshire Partnership Forum since the publication of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2006-9 are now highlighted in an annual progress report. The report provides details of activities and projects which are helping to improve partnership working and deliver the shared priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement. Summarising the main activities of the partnership in one document enables partner organisations to gain a sense of where partnership working has been strong and where interventions may be required to strengthen areas where progress hasn't been so successful.

You can access the progress report online at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/partnerships/derbyshire_partnership_forum/meetings/

As part of a wider review and evaluation process, the report provides a starting point to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the partnership and to identify opportunities for improvement. Key work progressed through the partnership during 2007 includes:

- Developing priorities through the development of the new Derbyshire Local Area Agreement (LAA)
- Strengthening the Derbyshire Community Engagement Group
- Developing community area profiles to improve access to research and information
- Agreeing an improved Partnership Agreement
- Improving governance, information and communication
- Expansion of the YES! (Youth Engagement Scheme)
- Progressing the Family Intervention Project
- Establishment of a Positive Activities Group
- Progressing partnership working to tackle obesity
- Development of an Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and associated activities
- Developing a Derbyshire approach to tackling climate change
- Improvements to the delivery of adult learning
- Enhancing cultural leadership
- Strengthening the Fly-tipping Forum

Over the coming months partners will be asked to contribute to a detailed evaluation of the all the activities undertaken by the DPF and to engage in the development of the new Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy.

Meeting dates and contact information

The Derbyshire Partnership Forum meetings are held quarterly at County Hall in Matlock on the following dates in 2008. All meetings start at 10am.

- 27 June 2008
- 26 September 2008
- 12 December 2008

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