

Equalities Appraisal of the draft Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-14



June 2009

This appraisal was undertaken in June 2009 by a panel of practitioners from the public and voluntary sectors in Derbyshire with knowledge of and expertise in equality issues.

Scope of the appraisal

The Community Strategy provides a guiding framework for partner organisations. The scope of this assessment was to ensure that the document effectively highlighted the key overarching equalities issues which should be considered by partners in delivering services, both individually and in partnership. It was beyond the scope of the assessment to consider the individual activities which will be implemented to deliver this strategy (and meet the LAA targets). These should be subject to separate more detailed EIAs.

This assessment focused primarily on how the following aspects of the draft strategy may affect local communities.

1. Reducing Inequality (p.9)
2. Partnership Principles – Understanding communities and delivering services which are accessible to all (p.10)
3. Safer Communities priorities
4. Children and Young People priorities
5. Health and Wellbeing priorities
6. Culture priorities
7. Sustainable Communities priorities

Using information outlined below, the panel considered whether the draft strategy would meet the needs of different groups or communities.

Name of information source	Reason for using
Various national and local statistical information relating to issues such as crime, housing, health, education, transport, environmental quality, access to services etc (e.g. Census, Indices of Multiple Deprivation, JSNA etc)	To ensure that sound needs analysis informs strategic priorities
Quantitative surveys (e.g. BVPI, Place Survey, Citizens Panel surveys etc)	To ensure that the views of local people are taken into consideration when setting strategic priorities

Qualitative consultation on quality of life with local residents undertaken between September 2008 and March 2009	To gain a wide variety of views on what issues are most important to local people in terms of their quality of life
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The following points have been incorporated into the document.

Groups	Effects identified from data/ information
BME communities	Issues mostly similar to general countywide priorities which are all reflected in strategy but particularly concerned that the strategy should cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear of victimisation and hate crime • Access to appropriate health services • Access to cultural and leisure opportunities, training and employment (cultural and language barriers) • Sense of community
Older People (50+ Forums)	Issues mostly similar to general countywide priorities which are all reflected in strategy but particularly concerned that the strategy should cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to services and support people to live independently
Young people	Issues mostly similar to general countywide priorities which are all reflected in strategy but particularly concerned that the strategy should cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and environmental issues • Activities for young people and good access to these • Good prospects for the future, home, career etc
LGBT	Issues mostly similar to general countywide priorities which are all reflected in strategy but particularly concerned that the strategy should cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime and fear of crime • Parks and open spaces
Disability	Issues mostly similar to general countywide priorities which are all reflected in strategy but particularly concerned that the strategy should cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling safe, victimisation and hate crime (particularly learning disabilities) • Support people to live independently • Access to services (physical and information) • Having a voice and being accepted

To improve the document, the following changes were made. These should be read in conjunction with the draft strategy published for consultation on 27 March 2009.

Reducing Inequalities

Added disadvantaged alongside vulnerable. Ensured that the barriers which prevent people from accessing services and leading a good quality of life are highlighted. Simplified the list of factors which may cause people to be vulnerable or disadvantaged.

Partnership Principles – Understanding communities and delivering services which are accessible to all

Removed specific examples of forums. Replaced with 'appropriate community groups, forums and networks'. Changed second bullet point to ensure partners are committed to equality in service delivery and employment. Widened 'isolated people' to not just focus on those in rural areas.

Safer Communities

Added religion and belief to the reasons why local people could suffer victimisation or hate crime.

Children and Young People

Changed teenage mothers to teenage parents

Health and Wellbeing

Changed to mental health issues – rather than poor mental health. Added people from BME backgrounds – because they may face cultural and language barriers in accessing health services
Added disabled people – because they may face barriers in accessing health services

Culture

Added disabled people – because they may face barriers in accessing cultural and leisure opportunities
Added people from BME communities – because they may face language and cultural barriers in accessing cultural and leisure opportunities.

Sustainable Communities

Merged the regeneration bullet point with the general point about deprived communities because these are very similar. Changed vulnerable young people to young people with complex needs. Changed people with mobility problems to people without access to transport. Added the barriers which disabled people face in accessing training and employment. Added BME communities – because they may face barriers to training and employment because of language or cultural problems or a lack of appropriate qualifications and/ or skills.

Further action to ensure partnership activities continue promote equality

ACTION	LEAD RESP	PARTNERS	RESOURCES
Explore the relationship between DPF and established forums to improve communication of key issues for local people and partners	DCC Policy Team	All members of DPF Lead officers and Members of consultative Forums	No additional resources necessary
Raise awareness of the equalities aspects of the strategy and engage with partners to ensure that partners' activities promote equality	DCC Policy Team	All members of DPF	No additional resources necessary

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