

Social Care & the Voluntary Sector

A Review of Partnership Working in Buckinghamshire



Partnerships in Bucks

- At least £11 million is spent on services provided by the not for profit sector from Social Services budgets. This represents at least 15% of the overall Social Care Budget.
- Partnerships also exist between the health service e.g. OT services, for profit sector e.g. residential and nursing homes



Types of Partnership

- Development of Policy
- Development of Strategy
- Service Delivery
- Policy Partnerships - eg Guidelines on Physical Intervention, Involving Local People in Planning
- Strategy Partnerships - eg Learning Disability Strategy, Carers Strategy
- Service Delivery Partnerships - eg Age Concern, Heritage Care, RNID, Mencap



Partnership Ingredients

- Clarity of Purpose
- Wanting to succeed together: commitment and ownership
- Participation and Consultation
- Funding Arrangements
- Extent of underpinning trust - getting monitoring arrangements right
- Good Personal and Professional Relations
- Development Capacity



Examples of Good Practice

- Voluntary Sector leading BV Reviews
- Voluntary sector involvement in Partnership Forum and Joint Planning Groups
- Joint Service Agreements for voluntary organisations
- New outcome focused monitoring procedures
- Joint Training initiatives
- Regular contact and liaison meetings



Making Partnerships Better

- Develop local compact between Councils and voluntary organisations
- Lead officer for each partnership identified
- Consolidate where possible different funding streams into one
- Develop monitoring thresholds in proportion to size of partnership
- Remember part of BCC's services are those which the voluntary sector provides on our behalf

