

**BUCKS STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIP**



*promoting prosperity, tackling inequalities*

# **Bucks Strategic Partnership Annual Report 2008 –2009**

# Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Summary of performance 2008/09	4
3. Governance	5
4. Local Agreement performance 2008/09 - Progress against LAA Outcomes:	6
▪ <b>Children's Trust thematic partnership:</b>	7
○ Improving the quality of life for children and young people.	
▪ <b>Adult Commissioners and Healthy Communities Partnerships</b>	8
○ Improving the quality of life for older people	
○ Healthy Communities	
▪ <b>Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board</b>	10
○ Safe Communities	
○ Strong and Cohesive Communities	
▪ <b>Bucks Economic and Learning Partnership</b>	12
○ Prosperous Communities	
○ Accessible Communities and Transport	
○ Superb Environment	
5. Annual reports from the district Local Strategic Partnerships:	
▪ <b>Aylesbury Vale Local Strategic Partnership</b>	13
▪ <b>Chiltern Community Partnership</b>	14
▪ <b>South Bucks Partnership</b>	16
▪ <b>Wycombe Partnership</b>	18
6. BSP Improvement Agenda 2009/10	19

Appendix A: Summary of BSP improvement projects 2009/10

# 1. Introduction

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This report is the first annual report from the BSP Implementation Group to the BSP Board. It reports on progress made during 2008-09.

## **Local Area Agreement**

The report includes a summary of progress towards achieving the outcomes in the Buckinghamshire Local Area Agreement. It sets out the reports of each of the thematic partnerships, who are charged with driving delivery of the targets.

Performance monitoring reports both in summary form for the whole Local Area Agreement (LAA) and detailed reports for each of the areas performance managed by each Thematic Partnerships are also available, accessible via the LAA website [www.bucksisp.org.uk](http://www.bucksisp.org.uk) under 'Local Area Agreement'.

The Bucks LAA sets out a commitment to tackle those problems which have the greatest impact on the quality of life of local residents, typically problems which extend beyond the remit of any one agency. These shared, partnership priorities are expressed through the LAA as an integrated programme focused on the overarching themes of promoting prosperity and tackling inequalities. The Local Area Agreement is a means of delivering the outcomes in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The first year of the new Buckinghamshire LAA has focussed on starting to deliver activities against all those indicators agreed with government in June 2008, and putting in place the baselines and partnership arrangements to deliver against all remaining indicators which were signed off at the April 2009 refresh.

## **LAA Pooled Fund**

Partners have agreed to pool £1,500,000 to support the delivery of the Local Area Agreement outcomes. The report on progress on the LAA includes the appropriate links to use of the pooled fund.

## **Wider Partnership working issues**

This report also reflects the challenges faced, and progress made, in the wider partnership working agenda of the BSP.

It includes a summary of work undertaken to set the strategic direction for Buckinghamshire, working collaboratively to express these strategic priorities in one integrated 'family' of Sustainable Community Strategies 2009 – 2026.

## 2. Summary of performance 2008/09:

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The key achievements and challenges faced by the BSP over the last year can be summarised as:

- The first year targets for the majority of the Local Area Agreement targets reporting data at year end were reached. So far, the LAA is largely on track to meet its 3 year targets. Risks to future delivery include concerns over the effects of the economic downturn and potential funding impacts.
- The LAA Refresh was completed successfully. This included agreeing baselines and targets with government for those LAA indicators which could not be signed off last year. We renegotiated the affordable housing target, in light of the economic downturn.
- We successfully completed our Local Public Service Agreement 2005-2008, achieving improved outcomes across a range of priority areas for residents. These include fly-tipping, bus patronage, basic skills, reduced arson and burglary reduction targets. We also triggered reward grant in excess of £8,500,000 which is now being reinvested in public services, including a £1,500,000 contribution to an LAA Pooled Fund.
- Partners have collaborated successfully in a joint review of the Sustainable Community Strategies at county and district level. For the first time, from this year we will have an integrated 'family' of Community Strategies. These will all work to a common timeframe of 2026, and have been developed from a collaborative consultation and interpretation of the evidence base. This is a significant step in bringing clarity for the public and partners to community planning in Buckinghamshire.
- The BSP has worked collaboratively to support residents and local businesses during the current economic downturn. Partners have shared information to establish both the impact of the downturn locally, actions being taken or planned and also any opportunities the downturn may afford. This was with a view to ensuring that the partnership approach to responding to the downturn is as co-ordinated and effective as possible. Funding is being made available from individual partners and through the BSP Fund to support both the business community and local residents. The Voluntary and Community Sector are involved in managing some of this funding on the BSP's behalf. Additionally, the BSP has adopted a dashboard of performance indicators to enable it to monitor the effects of the downturn locally and assist the partnership in planning any further response.
- We have set out, and started to implement, an ambitious improvement agenda for partnership working in Buckinghamshire. This includes further development of our shared evidence base, challenging the way we deliver and the way in which we communicate both between partners and to the public. BSPIG's improvement plan challenges the status quo and explores different ways of doing things so that residents can receive better services, that address our agreed priorities for the area, at better value for money.

### 3. Governance summary 2008/09

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Following the introduction of the new Bucks Strategic Partnership governance arrangements last year, some of the key points relating to the development of the governance arrangements are as follows::

- **An overarching BSP Conference is held, usually annually, as well as other BSP stakeholder events on key topics.** They bring together all the relevant key players and interested parties to help inform and advise on Buckinghamshire issues and priorities. The June 2008 conference '*Shaping Buckinghamshire*' focussed on long-term strategic planning for the county as preparatory work for the current review of Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS). A May 2009 BSP Workforce Development seminar was held for employees of partner organisations. The outcomes are helping to shape a partnership approach to the strategic development of public sector workforce planning in the county. This will be key to meeting the SCS outcomes, particularly in a time of tightening public sector finances.
- Following the inaugural meeting last summer, the **BSP Board** has met quarterly. After taking initial soundings with the Board on its desired ways of working, the meetings have operated on a workshop basis. Whilst the Board has helped to shape substantial partnership workstreams, such as the Healthy Communities Strategy and development of the Community Strategies, it is appreciated that the Board wishes to develop its approach further. This would include helping to shape the partnership approach to strategic commissioning and resource allocation in the county to meet the Community Strategy priorities. A review of the governance working arrangements is scheduled for autumn 2009, when the future approach at Board meetings will be agreed
- **The BSP Implementation Group** (BSPIG) brings together agencies to progress the delivery required to fulfil the strategic view of the BSP; BSPIG meets on a two-monthly basis and drives forward the delivery of the LAA as well as the improvement agenda for the BSP. It holds the thematic partnerships to account for the achievement of LAA targets and manages the development of the LAA Pooled Fund, reporting back to the BSP Board on progress and decisions made. It also plays a cross-cutting role in drawing together linked pieces of work across the LAA. Over the last year, the Group has managed a successful first year of the LAA, and also continued to push a wide range of development work which will contribute to delivery of the Community Strategy priorities and the LAA. This is set out in more detail later on in the report.
- **There are Five thematic partnerships** to the BSP : Children's Trust (statutory partnership), Healthy Communities Partnership, Adult Commissioners, Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board (statutory partnership) and the Bucks Economic and Learning Partnership. The governance arrangements for these partnerships continues to develop, including the representation from elected members and voluntary sector. There are also links with the **four District Local Strategic Partnerships**. Over the last year, the key area for development has been the collaborative approach to developing the family of Community Strategies., and ensuring the activities of each geographic and thematic arms of the BSP support and complement each other for the benefit of residents and those who work or do business here.
- Engagement with partners from the **Voluntary and Community Sector** has been embedded across the BSP, with named representatives on the Board, BSPIG, and all thematic groups as well as on each of the district LSPs. Each of these representatives links into The Buckinghamshire ChangeUp Consortium which is the strategic body for the voluntary and community sector in Buckinghamshire.

## 4. Local Area Agreement Performance 2008-09

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Of the total 33 indicators in the LAA during 2008/09:

- 9 were not finalised until the Refresh in March 2009, and developed baselines and targets during the year.
- 16 were on target at year end
- 2 missed their target
- 6 did not have data reporting at year end.

The 2 indicators that missed their target were:

- NI.156 (homelessness) which exceeded its target of 193 by 7.
- A local indicator on the number of carers receiving support from a carers centre; which was 39 short of its 7,000 target.

It is important to note that many of the LAA indicators have data which is available annually or even less frequently. Sometimes there will be a substantial time-lag between performance and reporting (e.g. some of the health data). Additionally, whilst the LAA is a short-term (3 year) delivery mechanism, some of the indicators play out over a longer time period and progress needs to be seen in the context of trends over time. An example of this is Reduction in mortality rate indicator, where progress would be measured over a 5-10 year period rather than the 3-year LAA period.

Detailed summaries from each Thematic Partnership follow.

## ▪ **Children’s and Young People’s Trust**

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**LAA Outcome: Improve the quality of life for children and young people**

**Indicators: NI.51 Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services  
NI.56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6  
NI.69 Children who have experienced bullying  
NI.102 Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages 2 and 4.**

**There are also 16 statutory indicators in the LAA, focussing on the achievement and learning of children and young people.**

The Children and Young People’s Trust is the statutory partnership with the lead for delivering the LAA for children in Buckinghamshire. The Trust is responsible for a range of statutory LAA targets for attainment and safeguarding as well as those relating to mental health, obesity, bullying and closing the achievement gap. The Trust has undertaken a wide range of innovative and exciting work over the past year and focussed on improving outcomes for some of the most vulnerable children in the County.

Key achievements over the year in relation to the discretionary targets in the LAA include the significant progress made in relation to the CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) development. The County Council and PCT have worked together in partnership to establish a seamless service for children and young people experiencing problems with their mental health and well-being. A range of professionals and young people were involved in a detailed commissioning exercise and a new service has been procured designed to meet local needs in Bucks A pooled budget has been established and the new contract for the service following competitive tendering was let to Oxford and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust. This establishes the new model of delivery and has enabled our outcome indicators to improve significantly in relation to the LAA.

The Trust’s focus on closing the gap in terms of well-being and attainment has meant that a range of targeted and focussed projects are being undertaken in schools. The Trust is beginning to see the benefits of the implementation of the BME Achievement Plan with increased attainment among some groups. The implementation of a “reading recovery” programme is also delivering encouraging improvements in outcomes. Results of these initiatives will become clearer following the publication of results later in the year

On-going work on obesity is progressing well, with a task and finish group established to progress this further. The Public Health Overview and Scrutiny committee report on obesity has lead to some further proposed actions from partners. Obesity work may the topic of one of the BSP pilot workshops using the ‘Delivery Chain Analysis’ methodology.

The baseline for work on bullying has been established through the TellUs survey and activities are being undertaken across Buckinghamshire to tackle this key concern for children and young people.

**LAA Pooled Fund use: no projects performance managed by this thematic partnership.**

## ▪ **Adult Commissioners and Healthy Communities Partnerships**

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### **LAA Outcome: Improving the quality of life for older people**

**LAA Indicators:** NI.131 Delayed transfers of care from hospitals

NI.136 People supported to live independently through social services (all ages)

**Local Indicators:** Number of people aged 50+ accessing learning programmes

Number of carers receiving support

Number of people accessing pre-retirement support

Number of older people accessing bereavement support

### **LAA Outcome: Healthy Communities**

**LAA Indicators:** NI.121 Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75

NI.134 The number of emergency bed days per head of weighted population

**Local Indicator:** Reduce fuel poverty; Number of households receiving heating and insulation improvements per year

(NB: NI.141 'Number of vulnerable people achieving independent living' was added to the Bucks LAA at refresh, March 2009. Reporting will commence at the end of Q1 2009.)

### **Adult Commissioners Partnership:**

Overall, partnership progress was made to achieve the LAA targets relating to older people. The multi agency partnerships across all care groups have gone from strength to strength over the past year. The Older Peoples Partnership in particular took on a role of over seeing the delivery plans related to NI 136. Joint work with the Supporting People Partnership has resulted in a county wide partnership initiative to tackle falls initially in sheltered housing schemes.

Recognising that extra partnership efforts were required to tackle delayed transfers of care sparked off a multi agency group meeting and the development of an action plan which resulted in a reduction in delays, the actions have now been incorporated into the LAA delivery plan for 2009/10. Continued efforts are illustrating how the power of a partnership approach can improve the quality of life for those in receipt of both health and social care services.

Supporting people to live independently forms part of each partnership in Buckinghamshire and has become part of a wider partnership preventive agenda. During 2009/10 further partnership work combined with the development of technological solutions such as telecare and telehealth services, will take place. Partners from Community Safety, Fire Service, Health and district councils are all now involved with projects to enable people to live independently across the county. A multi agency event is to be held in early 2009/10 and will start to bring together partners providing a variety of preventative services. Partners attending range from the Fire Service to District Council leisure services. The idea is to start joining up approaches across the partnership in order to enable a more seamless approach to helping people remain independent in their own homes for longer

Work with regard to pre retirement support has flourished resulting in the target being met early. The target has been reset to a more stretching target. During 2008/09 the number of carers accessing support increased until the very last few weeks. Lessons were learnt with regards to avoiding any dip in the future and the target has been re-profiled to reflect the seasonal recruitment of carers.



During late 2008/09 funding was made available to complement existing stroke services. Once funding was confirmed work ensued in the development of a county wide post which bridges the gap between Health and Social Care Services. Recruitment process will begin April 2009.

### **Healthy Communities Partnership:**

Reducing mortality from circulatory disease and in particular reducing the health differences in mortality between the most and least disadvantaged groups, is a long term agenda. Within Buckinghamshire there has been a long term trend of showing reductions in death rates from circulatory disease. Maintaining this is a combination of effective management of acute episodes, maximising the health of people with existing circulatory disease and prevention of circulatory disease. Key to maintaining improvements in circulatory disease is partnership working and addressing the wider determinants of health.

Partnership working on this and other areas related to improving health and tackling health inequalities is supported by The Healthy Communities Partnership. In 2008/09 the partnership developed a Healthy Communities Strategy. A key workstream in the strategy is 'Tackling heart disease, diabetes and stroke in the most at risk groups'. This workstream builds on the LAA delivery plan for circulatory disease and the PCT had begun the implementation of piloting the NHS Health Check in the GP practices serving the most disadvantaged areas. The Healthy Communities Strategy also includes workstreams tackling wider determinants of health, such as income maximisation and physical activity e.g. Walk Wycombe, that also contribute to the circulatory disease target

Smoking makes a significant contribution to the deaths related to circulatory disease and the LAA Delivery Plan incorporates the PCT smoking quitters target. The PCT smoking cessation service has good quit rates, but has struggled to recruit enough potential quitters into the service to achieve the annual target. Partners can make a key contribution to this by promoting the service with clients and staff and maximising this potential will be addressed through the Healthy Communities Partnership. In order to make the biggest impact on the circulatory disease target it is important that the smoking cessation services target the most at risk populations. The PCT has commissioned Solutions 4 Health to deliver smoking cessation services targeted at Black and Minority Ethnic groups.

Through the wider partnership structures, such as the Policy Officers Group, action to improve health and tackle disadvantage has been incorporated into other programmes and will be a key objective of work currently being developed in relation to tackling disadvantage at a small area level. There are also links across the thematic partnerships. For example the Healthy Communities Partnership has organised a workshop to look at physical activity and this will include how the partnership can contribute to NI 08 Participation in Adult Sport, which is led by the Safer and Stronger Block.

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#### **LAA Pooled Fund use: the projects performance managed by these partnerships are:**

- **Adult Commissioners; Stroke Rehab co-ordination - £120,400**

## ▪ Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership

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<b>LAA Outcome :</b>	<b>Safe Communities</b>
<b>LAA Indicators:</b>	NI.16 Serious acquisitive crime rate NI.21 Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local Council and police NI.49 Number of primary fires and related fatalities and non-fatal casualties, excluding precautionary checks NI.111 First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 NI.115 Substance misuse by young people
<b>Local Indicator:</b>	Number of people participating in alcohol treatment following arrest referral
<b>LAA Outcome:</b>	<b>Strong and Cohesive Communities</b>
<b>LAA Indicators:</b>	NI.01 % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area NI.07 Environment for a thriving third sector NI.08 Adult participation in sport NI.35 Building resilience to violent extremism

Overall, performance against the LAA targets has been successful but there are recognised differences in performance across the county which are the focus of attention for the partnership going forward.

Serious acquisitive crime remains a problem for Chiltern, with the CDRP seeing 126 additional Burglary Dwellings when compared to the previous year. Work is continuing to tackle this and it remains the BCU priority. Burglary Dwelling increased slightly in Wycombe however Robbery is showing a more concerning increase with 57 more than the previous year. Overall the county has seen Serious Acquisitive Crime reduce over the year by 1.8% when compared to the previous year, with only Chiltern experiencing an increase overall.

One aspect of the response to reducing serious acquisitive crime is that an intelligence led process has been established and the information flow improved considerably. The ANPR (number plate recognition) working group is taking a strategic approach to ANPR assets across the county. TVP are in the process of establishing a central 24/7 capability to improve investigation of crimes and tracking of vehicles. The Communications working group has been focusing on themes to deliver for the rest of this year, beginning with defensive planting and shed security for April 09. The items on display working group is evaluating the sending of letters to registered owners of vehicles left unsupervised with items of value on display.

Work on addressing anti-social behaviour (ASB) has also had a high priority. A workshop held in December 2008 enabled key partners to review partnership activity on ASB. This included looking at what is working well, identifying the gaps on ASB activity, looking at key priorities for future activity.

Action to improve the environment for the third sector so that it can more easily thrive in Bucks has been taken forward by the Compact Steering Group and the Change Up consortium, both of which are cross sector partnerships. Having noted the need for an on-line information resource where voluntary and community groups can access all the information they need, a joint project has been launched to fund and manage this. Monies have been forthcoming from ChangeUp, BASIS BIG lottery and through the Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership.

A major Voluntary and Community Sector Conference in March 2008 saw over 150 representatives from Buckinghamshire's voluntary and community sector coming together to discuss how to meet the

challenges they face in maintaining and improving their services in the future. The conference included workshops on marketing, finding volunteers, diversity awareness as well as one to one surgeries and funding advice.

The BSP has previously noted the value in getting local employers involved in their communities through volunteering and gave £20,000 pump priming money to launch the Volunteer Workout project which does just that. This grant levered in a further £300,000 from the Big Lottery. The Volunteer Workout team are in place and by March 2009 was actively working with 33 employers and 40 voluntary organisation in Bucks.

For the work on improving adult participation in Sport, there is a time lag in data availability and the focus has been on ensuring the planned activities are taking place. We will then evaluate progress against the data as it emerges. Pilot activities have taken place, including return to netball in Aylesbury, South Bucks and Chiltern. A post has been recruited to the County Sports Partnership to oversee the 'Reactivate Bucks' campaign and other active lifestyle initiatives.

**LAA Pooled Fund use: the projects managed by this thematic partnership are:**

- **Adult Participation in Sport - £230,000**
- **Home Safety Checks - £133,000**

## ▪ **Economy and Environment Thematic Partnership**

### **LAA Outcome: Prosperous communities**

**LAA Indicators:** NI.155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)  
NI.156 Number of households living in temporary accommodation  
NI.163 Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher  
NI.171 New business registration rate

**Local Indicator:** Number of clients directly accessing the private rented sector through local authority partnership schemes (excluding Aylesbury Vale)

### **LAA Outcome: Accessible communities and transport**

**LAA Indicator:** NI.175 Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling  
NI.198 Children travelling to school –mode of travel usually used

### **LAA Outcome: Superb environment**

**LAA Indicator:** NI.185 CO2 reduction from Local Authority buildings  
NI.193 Percentage of municipal waste land filled  
NI.196 Improved street and environmental cleanliness –fly-tipping

Whilst the majority of targets were on track at year end, risks remain to the achievement of some targets at the end of the LAA period due to the impact of the economic downturn affecting housing targets, new business registration and potential risks to funding in several areas, including HCA Grant funding and LSC funding to support improved qualification levels.

We exceeded the 08/09 target for affordable housing, but in spite of the renegotiated figures agreed for the LAA for future years, there remain risks due to HCA Grant funding not being made available, developers not bringing sites forward, units not being delivered on time and the demise of the Rural Housing Trust.

On the skills side, the target milestone was reached. Delivery has increased significantly. Two successful Spotlight on Skills events were held to raise awareness of skills availability and provision. A LSC funded Skills for Growth project, aimed at supporting increased take up of Level 2 skills, has been implemented. An Employer skills survey has been completed, with report received and action plan in development to address the issues highlighted. Significant activity is planned around developing enterprise education at all levels in support of future promotion of Buckinghamshire as the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain.

On Climate Change work, we have made substantial progress in developing baseline information, agreeing a target with government and in securing both SALIX funding and funding from individual organisations to progress the work on reducing carbon emissions.

The Partnership has actively inputted to the Sustainable Community Strategies consultation and continues to look at ways of ensuring the targets are met and that activities are aligned with the overall economic development of Buckinghamshire.

### **LAA Pooled Fund use: The projects managed by this thematic partnership are:**

- **Fly-tipping - £125,500,**
- **Rural housing enabling partnership - £45,000**
- **Reduce CO2 emissions - £320,000**

**The initial focus of bids was to support indicators at greatest risk of non-attainment and bids to support small business and skills development are in progress for consideration going forward.**

## 5. Annual Reports from the district LSPs 08/09

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### **Aylesbury Vale Local Strategic Partnership**

The Aylesbury Vale Local Strategic Partnership (AVLSP) was reconstituted in 2008, to create a more focused management board for the LSP, together with a wider reference group. Therefore the main focus in the last 12 months has been to create an effective partnership and ensure that the representatives from the key agencies and the representative groups have been actively involved in shaping the aims and objectives of the LSP.

The LSP is chaired by Warren Whyte, the Town Councils representative and Val Lawson, from Vale Volunteers is the Vice-chairman.

The partnership met on four occasions during 2008/09 and considered a range of issues and items at each meeting, helping to provide information exchange between partners, raising strategic issues for discussion and most significantly the development of the revised Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), to replace the old Community Plan.

In addition to these quarterly meetings, the LSP hosted a wider reference group meeting in January 2009, which was attended by nearly 40 people representing a wide range of interest groups from across the Vale. This workshop provided a good opportunity to consult on the SCS, and to be updated on the work of Aylesbury Vale Advantage, the forthcoming Local Development Framework for the Vale and the programmes run by Buckinghamshire Community Action to support rural areas.

During 2008/09, AVLSP also spent time developing a communications plan, to help identify how the LSP can best engage with the local community and partner organisations and to ensure that there is a better understanding of the role and function of the LSP. This will be implemented in the next few months, to include more detailed information on the website, a regular communication newsletter for the reference group and more press releases to highlight the work of the LSP.

Work has also been progressed on a pilot Lone Parent Project, which has highlighted the substantial hurdles for those in more rural locations and having to work with multiple agencies. This will be a project that continues into this year, with a view to implementing proposals that will help to overcome some of these difficulties.

AVLSP has also been an active participant in the Rural Forum established by the Government Office for the South East, which have been used as an opportunity to remind Government agencies about some of the particular challenges facing rural communities in the region.

The work of the LSP for the coming year will focus on identifying those particular areas of the SCS that we can add value to and putting to best effect the resources and funds available to support the work of the partnership.

For further information please contact Tracey Aldworth via email [lsp@aylesburyvalcdc.gov.uk](mailto:lsp@aylesburyvalcdc.gov.uk) or telephone 01296 585003



## **Chiltern Community Partnership**

The Chiltern Community Partnership has continued to implement its strategy, particularly in the areas of community cohesion, environmental sustainability and by focussing on homelessness prevention and affordable housing. The partnership has had extensive engagement in developing the Chiltern Sustainable Community Strategy and the steering group has responded to and advised on other strategic issues such as the Bucks Locality Strategy, and Children's Local Delivery Framework.

### **Community Cohesion**

Building on previous best practice research in Southern Buckinghamshire, the LSP has set up a community cohesion forum. Membership includes key partners such as the police, Chesham High College, Chesham Asian Welfare Society, Paradigm Housing, Youth Service and the Primary Care Trust. The forum is chaired by the Chiltern District Council Chief Executive and the Council has appointed a community cohesion officer along with an out-reach community cohesion assistant to deliver a range of new community projects initially focusing on the Asian community within Chesham. The Council, in consultation with the LSP is now finalising a Community Cohesion Action Plan. Partners in the Chiltern LSP are also supporting the Chesham Building Community Capacity Project which aims to improve community linkages and choices for older people and also prevent people entering social care too early.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

The Council, working with the partnership, has developed a Climate Change Action Plan. The strategy includes a number of measures that aim to provide enhanced knowledge about climate change in the community. Both public and businesses can observe the Council making its own improvements on its own operations and can learn from this. It also provides a visible web presence for the community to enhance understanding in practical terms of how to minimise their own impact.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

There have been a number of successful local partnership projects to promote physical activity and promote activity. The MEND project (Mind, Obesity, Exercise, Do it) supported 26 families to positively change their lifestyles and the sports zone project attracted 7544 visits in 2008/09. Other examples include developing ladies only swimming and free swimming for 16s and under and over 60s.

### **Revitalisation and Engagement**

The partnership has continued to encourage and support local revitalisation groups who have helped develop the local dimensions of the Sustainable Community Strategy and specific place shaping ambitions in the Local Development Framework Core Strategy. Other examples include extension of sports and play outreach workers resulting from consultation on the Play Strategy and facilitated

engagement for the Primary Care Trust at Chalfont St Peter on the future of the Gerrards Cross and Chalfonts Hospital. In October the Council held its annual business meeting in partnership with the Federation of Small Business, the County Council and private business to promote and provide support for small business. Since then the Council has had regular engagement with the FSB to help develop a local approach to supporting small business.

## **Housing and Homelessness Prevention**

As a priority outcome, progress on the Chiltern Housing Action Plan is regularly reported to the Chiltern Community Partnership. The economic recession has undoubtedly had an effect on local house building. However new schemes are coming into fruition. An affordable housing scheme of 28 homes is currently under construction in Chalfont St Giles and a further scheme also in Chalfont St Giles of 26 homes is also expected to start on site shortly. Planning permission has been granted for a two other schemes, one in Little Chalfont and one in Amersham on the Hill which incorporate a significant proportion of affordable homes (35%).

Significant improvements have been made in the areas of housing advice and homelessness prevention. The Council, in partnership with South Bucks has been awarded of £98,000 per annum from the CLG Enhanced Housing Options Trailblazer programme and a proportion of this has been allocated to Chiltern CAB to support the delivery of debt and budget advice and the expansion of the Bureau's outreach work in Chiltern. Following discussions with CLG at the start of 2008 and being subject to a homeless service peer review by Oxford CC a number of measures were undertaken in 2008/09 to increase and improve the delivery of housing advice and homelessness prevention. These include appointing the new Homelessness Prevention Officer (2 year post), launching a new Housing Advice Micro-Site within the CDC Website, undertaking joint training with key partners. These measures are having a significant impact in reducing homelessness locally. There has continued to be an increased take up of the rent deposit guarantee scheme.

## *South Bucks Partnership*

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### **South Bucks Partnership**

2008/09 has been a busy year for the South Bucks Partnership. One of the main achievements this year has been the merger of the South Bucks Partnership with the Joint Local Committee strengthening the democratic accountability of the partnership with the inclusion of Councillors from each Parish Council and Councillors representing the District and County Council. This will improve the links between the South Bucks Partnership and the communities it serves. This way we hope we will be able to deliver better targeted and co-ordinated services to our local communities.

One of the main activities of the year has been the development of a new Sustainable Community Strategy. Partners have been busy developing a vision for South Bucks to 2026. Parish Councils have been updating their plans which were fed into the District-wide strategy and many organisations working in South Bucks attended a visioning event held in December 2008 which helped to identify what people would like to retain and what things they would like to change in the District by 2026. A workshop to be held in July will focus on the challenge of delivering this vision and look for opportunities for partners to work more effectively together to co-ordinate the delivery of services which are better focused on the needs of local communities.

Partners collectively work together to achieve the vision set out in the Community Strategy and much has been achieved this year to improve the quality of life for South Bucks residents. Here is a snapshot of key achievements, a fuller list is available in the South Bucks Partnership Annual Report.

Key Achievements:

- ◆ **Engaging with local businesses** – two business lunches were successfully organised with guest speakers talking to local businesses on topics including local employee volunteering, skills for tomorrow's economy and reducing carbon emission. It gives local businesses an opportunity to feed back on current issues they are facing to partners and other local businesses.
- ◆ **Homelessness** - Housing Services have recently been awarded a central government grant to enhance the existing homelessness service. The money will pay for a debt advisor to work within the South Bucks CAB and for a floating support worker to work with young homeless people with Padstones, a local housing charity. These two areas were chosen as parental eviction is the biggest driver of homelessness in the District and a recent review of homelessness services found that we lacked an effective debt advice service.
- ◆ **New Social Housing** - The Housing Services Team helped London and Quadrant Housing Trust obtained Housing Corporation Social Housing Grant of over £2.5million in 2007, to develop 43 brand new flats and houses for affordable rent over two years. 13 units were delivered during 2008/09.
- ◆ **Reducing carbon emission across the District (NI 186)** - The District Council was successful in securing 1:1 support from the Energy Savings Trust to prepare an Energy Action Plan for service



implementation to help reduce carbon emission across the District. It is expected that the plan will be finalised in October 2009.

- ◆ **Anti-social behaviour (ASB)** - the ASB Team was granted additional resource for administration provided by Thames Valley Police. All three ASB Officers, which includes the ASB Partnership Post, the Thames Valley Police ASB Police Officer and the Thames Valley Police civilian part-time post for administration support are now all co-located at South Bucks District Council. By having a co-located team we are able to provide a more efficient and effective response to ASB in the District. We have provided many diversionary activities as a Partnership in our priority locations. Specific work carried out in the Farnhams area, which was previously highlighted as having problems of ASB, involved work on developing a youth club which is now up and running and the problems of ASB have now ceased. We have rolled out schemes to tackle ASB such as the red/yellow card initiative which acts as an early warning system for young people and adults in an attempt to combat low level ASB.
- ◆ **Additional Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)** –An additional PCSO has been recruited to spend 50% of their time at the newly opened Beaconsfield Motorway Service Area. They are due to start on 29 June 2009 and are part funded by the Motorway Services. The other 50% of their time will be spent in Gerrards Cross.
- ◆ **Tacking child obesity** – the MEND programme – Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do it! – developed and run in partnership with the Primary Care Trust (PCT), the Big Lottery Fund and Nexus Community Leisure Services is tackling child obesity. Regular courses run twice a week for 10 weeks, and the funding obtained means they are free to participants. MEND helps those who are overweight for their age to get into healthy habits and find a balance between eating and exercising. Courses are targeted at youngsters in the aged 7 – 13.
- ◆ **Voluntary sector** – Increased accessibility for South Bucks residents to voluntary services by housing Voluntary Action, CAB at the District Council Offices, and providing hot desking facilities and use of meeting rooms for the Bucks Foundation, Peoples Voices and Carers Bucks at the District Council Offices.
- ◆ **Supporting older people** – increased the number of volunteers to support older people through targeted initiatives especially linking with Age Concerns Handy-Person Scheme.
- ◆ **The South Bucks Cohesion and Inequalities Forum** has reviewed statistical evidence and consultation feedback for geographical and communities of interest that could be at risk from cohesion and inequalities. This work has developed into the Cohesion and Inequalities Audit and covers the following areas: Young People, Older People, Deprivation, Black and Minority Ethnic Communities, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, Carers, Migrant Workers, Refugee and Asylum Seekers, Rural/Access to Services, and those with mental health, physical disability and learning disabilities. The Forum has reviewed the findings for each of these groups, and identified priorities and actions to address cohesion and inequalities which have been encompassed into a draft Cohesion and Inequalities Strategy.



## Wycombe Partnership

It has been another busy and productive year for the Wycombe Partnership. This short summary gives a flavour of our work at the District level, which contributes to the Countywide Sustainable Community Strategy and the relevant targets in the Local Area Agreement.

On **social well-being**, the Wycombe One Community Programme has focused on community cohesion and preventing violent extremism, investing over £700,000 in the District to March 2011. 15 projects ran last year across the District, including Wycombe Swan United in Dance and the Karima Poetry Slam. The Muslimah Project has been recognised by the Government as good practice for empowering Muslim women and girls. This work has helped to inform national developments through our experiences here in Wycombe District. Further projects are planned over the next two years.

We have redirected our efforts on Tackling Disadvantage during the year, based on the latest analysis of IMD information, and are piloting an approach during next year with partners for possible adoption across the County. Community Safety work has seen a 25.2% drop in serious acquisitive crime in the first quarter of 2009/10.

The Community Showcase Awards have been launched, leading to our event in October 2009, celebrating local achievements and is jointly funded by a range of partners.

On **economic well-being**, the Partnership has responded quickly to the recession by jointly producing guides for residents and businesses with the District Council. The Partnership's Sustainable Economic Prosperity Strategy will see the delivery of specific projects commencing during 2009.

On **environmental well-being**, specific projects have been taken forward on reducing the carbon footprints of partners, green travel plans and reducing unnecessary, environmentally damaging and unsustainable packaging. These projects are running through to 2010.

In addition, the Partnership restructured itself during the year, to take into account the changes made to the Bucks Strategic Partnership and new Statutory Guidance. Our smaller Executive Board reports to the full Partnership, with twice-yearly conferences to gain maximum involvement of stakeholders.

The Wycombe Development Framework is the land –use arm of our Sustainable Community Strategy and was only the seventh area in the South-East to reach the Core Strategy milestone. We have undertaken the refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy as part of the family review in Buckinghamshire and have been able to learn and share, with our personal responsibility work being adopted countywide.

Further information from Jane [Barnett-jane\\_barnett@wycombe.gov.uk](mailto:Barnett-jane_barnett@wycombe.gov.uk)

## **6. BSP Improvement Agenda 2009/10**

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During 2008/09, the BSP Implementation Group has initiated work or managed further development in a number of project areas, all of which contribute to delivering better services for residents. Work will be ongoing over the next year, summarised on the schematic at Appendix A.

### **Responding to the economic downturn**

The BSP will continue to monitor local conditions and the impact of the recession, alongside targeting support through the thematic partnerships and via the BSP Fund and other funding sources.

### **Knowing our Communities**

We have continued to develop our understanding of the needs and drivers of the communities within Bucks through development of the tools to analyse information and sharing of information in partnership. I: on Bucks is now launched, focussed on community safety information in the first instance. It is an information sharing tool which allows users to understand data about their local area. For partners, further development of the tool will help to inform our understanding and planning for services.

We have also reached agreement in partnership to use the BSP website as the repository for a shared evidence base. This offers opportunity for better decision making, since planning will be based on a more comprehensive evidence source. But it also offers an efficiency saving, through ensuring that activities are carried out once for the partnership, not potentially twice or more for individual organisations. Although at an early stage, the streamlining of evidence into one access point has benefits of better and more comprehensive information being available whilst also making the best use of partner resources in preparing and using one, shared evidence base.

### **Tackling disadvantage**

The outcomes in the Community Strategies cannot be achieved without addressing the inequalities between different parts of our community. BSPIG has a strong focus on challenging how the LAA is delivered, for example through the work undertaken on equalities impact assessment of the delivery plans.

A partnership approach to use of research information is being developed relating to tackling disadvantage in Buckinghamshire. We have jointly commissioned ACORN data for the first time, which gives detailed customer insight information. Through partnership discussions, we are considering the synergies in using the data in a co-ordinated way. For example, there may be benefits in using the data to inform the joint approach to welfare benefits across the county. Through a Fire and Rescue Service led pilot, we are also looking at how mapping of the different evidence from different agencies can direct partnership energy and resource to specific communities. We have also initiated pilot work on a small community area within Wycombe to explore how a targeted partnership approach to tackling disadvantage might add value.

### **Communications**

We have developed the way in which communicated information about partnership working both between partners and to the public. Through the launch of the Buckinghamshire Together e-magazine, we have a much stronger mechanism for disseminating good practice and sharing developments in partnership working. We have also commenced development of the BSP website so that within the next

few months it will have a public-friendly and public-facing approach to the communication of performance, as well as responding to the detailed information requirements of partners. Through the mechanism of the BSP website, we will communicate the 'Bucks story' rather than successes or difficulties of individual partner organisations.

### **Resource mapping**

Although at an early stage, BSPIG has started to consider how we should approach mapping public sector spend against the desired outcomes for the area to ensure that the optimum result is achieved from the collective resource available. Acknowledging the early stage of the national 'Total Place' pilots, BSPIG is considering the most appropriate model for Buckinghamshire on a pilot basis. This is a key development area over the next year.

### **Workforce development**

Aligned to this is the challenges and opportunities in strategic workforce planning. If the outcomes in the Sustainable Community Strategies are to be achieved, we need to take a bolder, more innovative and area-based approach to workforce development so that the right people, with the right skill-sets are in place to deliver.

### **Challenging Delivery**

In addition to the role the individual partner organisations and thematic partnerships play in contributing to the LAA delivery plans, BSPIG has continued to press for development on any different approaches which can add value. For example, cross-boundary issues have been a focus for attention. Led by the Safer and Stronger block, discussions have taken place with Slough on cross-border criminality issues. This has led to development of cross-border work on integrated offender management which has the potential for a positive impact on acquisitive crime figures in the south of the county.

We are also planning pilots of a 'delivery chain analysis' methodology in two areas of the LAA, to establish whether this challenge to existing delivery plans can break down any barriers to achievement. These pilots are scheduled for the autumn.