

Stockport Partnership Forum

Feedback from the Forum held at Edgeley Park on Tuesday 6th September 2005

‘WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER STOCKPORT’ – TOWARDS A LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The Forum was designed to provide an introduction to the Local Area Agreement process. It also held a number of workshops to seek the views of all the partners on the focus and priorities of Stockport's initial Local Area Agreement to be submitted to Government Office North West by September 30th 2005.

After the initial presentations and background information, representatives were asked to join one of the following discussion groups based on the four Local Area Agreement themes of:

- Children and Young People
- Safer and Stronger Communities
- Healthier Communities and Older People
- Economic Development and Enterprise

The issues identified under each of these themes are set out below.

Children and Young People - two workshops

Facilitator: Mark Rogers
Scribe: Darren Pegram

Elaine Mounter
Peter Rowe
Lesley Thompson
Dianne Stead
Cllr Colin Foster
Simon Morton
Vicki Caulton
Rory Nolan
Jon Bridge
Fiona Clear
Rene Hill

Facilitator: Caroline Gallogly
Scribe: Nisha Kapoor

David Ackroyd
Cllr Tony Johnson
Sue Parkes
Sam Price
Doreen Cartwright
Sue Kardahji
Ian Roberts
Mike Brown
Tudor Owen
Jenny Gnomes

Consider the barriers and opportunities in addressing the polarisation of richer and poorer parts of the community?

Barriers

- Misconceptions and not enough understanding of teenage pregnancy, family pattern of young girls wanting babies?
- Parents' interest makes a difference – how do we motivate them? Having the confidence to enter schools
- Prejudice between different areas of the borough needs to be tackled
- Need to access information at appropriate venues
- Overcoming fear of 'being judged'
- How do you raise expectations? Need for higher expectations especially with Looked After Children

- Family learning – overcome by expectations/parents previous experience
- Information/services for young people should be widely available – and age appropriate
- Need to create a feeling of value in parents that can be passed on to young people
- Need to look at areas/neighbourhoods (one has 147 'No Ball Games' signs)
- Listening to young people – on their terms – and empowerment
- There will always be a limited amount of money – but we can spend it more wisely
- Integration of services is seen as important – but ultimately it doesn't matter to young people whose budget it is
- Bullying is an issue
- More flexibility in teaching – teachers under pressure/ need to listen to pupils
- 'Increasing flexibility' – vocational opportunities should be available to all pupils
- Higher levels of attainment - more flexibility
- Better access to mental health services and more money needed for early intervention
- Conversion rates from Key Stage 2 to 4 Perhaps overlooked because support is not given to doing well
- Not enough understanding of behavioural problems to reduce exclusion rates
- Parenting classes seen as 'nannyish'
- Family breakdowns
- 'hard to reach' families – how do we identify them?

Opportunities

- Conversion rates from Key Stage 2 to 4 - alternative curriculum
- Single sex lessons? Different teaching styles? Need evidence for reasons why difference to come up with the correct solution
- Reduce exclusions by putting resources in highest areas of need
- Secondary schools starting to use further education facilities
- Promote positive role models
- Fun opportunities
- To highlight problems and make people aware of problems LAC face
- Reduce teenage conception rates by getting young mums talking to other young girls
- Building on good work of Moat House
- Awareness raising of smaller services that do meet CAMHS needs
- Research into finding out the causes of mental health problems e.g. male suicide
- Encourage youth workers to work with younger children
- Excellence Cluster model
- Tax credits/benefits can have impact

Ways of breaking down barriers that exist between the themed partnerships

- Need to be more ambitious, supported by finances to back them up
- Children's centres, extended schools rolling out Sure Start model to promote multi-agency working
- Make sure best providers are found to deliver services – use good practice
- Have joint objectives across all partnerships, so they all address same outcomes
- What can each partnership offer/contribute
- Forum to task each partnership to see how they can contribute to shared outcomes
- Operational practice needs to be strengthened – balance between strategies and practice
- Must make sure we don't detract resources from areas currently achieving.

Safer and Stronger Communities

Facilitator: Steve Brown
Scribe: Sue Thomas

Facilitator: Nigel Preston
Scribe: Julie Farley

Steve Fisher
Peter Ryan
Antonia Seedhouse
Emma Stones
Dave McNulty
Amanda Peers
Helen Johnson
Cllr Pam King
Barbara Haley
Dave Shaw
Cllr Sue Derbyshire
Cath Moss

James Russell
Matthew Feehity
Rob Pengelly
Adam Duffill
Cllr Paul Porgess
Janet Matthewman
Jannett Creese
Jim Lunney
Cllr Mark Weldon

Consider the barriers and opportunities in addressing the polarisation of richer and poorer parts of the community?

Barriers (covering safer communities, stronger communities and cleaner, greener communities)

- Lack of understanding of needs of older age range (60+)
- Perceptions/ what counts as anti-social behaviour? – harm caused by illegal drugs
- Older children vandalising play areas - sustaining improvements
- Need to recognise different needs – have to involve local people – young and old - otherwise won't be owned, might be vandalised
- Lack of funds
- How funds are distributed – do some areas get funds at expense of others?
- Council is bureaucratic, other agencies have other approaches – accountability
- Socioeconomics – difference in salaries, educational attainment, job availability
- Cycles of deprivation – expectations, hard to see potential for improvement
- External perception of community – both of deprived and affluent areas, e.g. North Park Road, same as Bramhall
- Developing local communities must target geographic areas and communities of interest as well
- 'consult to death' but don't actually involve people in discussions - reporting mechanisms that feed back
- Look at building on neighbourhood management arrangements – building on area committees and area health structures, show people how they make a difference
- Need to communicate more effectively with local communities
- Younger people would get involved but need a forum that doesn't just meet to criticise young people
- What's in it for us – some incentives offered
- Poor image of some areas within the community
- Need to feel safe – reduce the fear of crime
- Sometimes green spaces can be places for some people to congregate – have drink and 'spill over' into other local problems
- Perceptions of young people using the park at night
- Political – finite use of resources in non-targeted wards

- Resources into areas of greatest need – not necessarily at ward level – could be neighbourhood level
- Open spaces, play areas – nothing for 8+ years: clear up litter, glass etc; supervision and maintenance important

Opportunities

- Being in school – raise expectations, opportunities for parental involvement
- Communities – start with families – family values – grandparents
- Perceptions between communities through drama, art: integrate areas = better understanding; respond to people's interests – break down physical barriers
- Involve young people in all aspects of community: respect for young people; better image of young people; feel safer; young people will respect facilities
- Use area committees to involve local people especially young people, Improve and make more accessible, less formal, better structures, more accessible documents, less jargon, better communications
- Police and Community Safety role in patrolling local green spaces – target patrols at problem times – tie this into local committees
- Look at existing neighbourhood models, Adswold & Bridgehall, Brinnington, Werneth – different approaches
- Not just money – how can we deliver services more effectively in partnership
- Profiling Stockport - excellent mapping of social indicators to inform partnerships
- Media focuses on crime issues all the time – need more positive publicity – replace 'crimestoppers' with 'percentage down ...'
- Build on existing community groups

Priorities

- 1 Clean environment – crime and grime, facilities attractive
- 1 Improve communication across communities - more & different feedback
- 1 Publicise opportunities for community involvement – make it clear what's involved
- 1 Promote success
- 2 Better understanding of local need and demand – reality checking – not just vocal individuals
- 2 Evidence based decision making – intelligence led – redirect resources
- 2 One stop shops
- 2 Local plans – neighbourhood agreements
- 3 Prioritise priorities
- 3 Clarity about vision and aims
- 3 Support throughout the organisation – golden thread
- 3 Don't be scared to tackle priorities
- 3 Break down attitudes of older people about younger people
- 3 Publicise quick wins, but sustainable **Action not words – common theme**
- 4 Consistent approach
- 4 Clarity about solutions and timescales – don't spend too much time on planning

Overcoming barriers

- One stop advice for local groups
- Less competition
- Prioritise work with children to ensure long term change
- More opportunities for young people, developed by young people and advertised to them, e.g. non-alcoholic bars
- Local partnership working with local businesses

- Facilities for young people – need to feel safe – true for everyone
- Community safety - have one reporting point or contact number that can co-ordinate the most appropriate response. Map out available officer resources and bring resources together. Also bring into this Park Management
- Consider the line management/ownership of wardens/police patrols etc and bring into one place and pool funding
- Capacity of local people to engage – need to re-think how the Area Committees might come together with local policing, education, health, economic development - but don't call it a committee
- Look at all partners resources going into neighbourhood management and look at efficiency savings
- Need 'health warning' about how representative the representatives from the community are
- Need to have effective scrutiny of neighbourhood management
- Local citizens panels – more representative of local views
- Need to channel/reshape? mainstream funding from all partners to target vulnerable communities

Ways of breaking down barriers that exist between the themed partnerships

- Better communication across the LSP – effective data sharing at all levels – ACTION NOT WORDS!
- Right people on partnerships – decision makers
- Effective leadership, clarity about what is being done

Healthier Communities and Older People

Facilitator:	Steve Watkins	Jane Ball	Warren Heppolette
Scribe:	Stephanie Roffe	Chris Franklin	Vicki Teal
	Jim Scott	Sally Massey	Peter Blake
	Cllr Derek Whitehead	Brenda Fullard	Janet Golding
	John Russell	Moira Wilson	James Bromfield
	Cllr Maureen Walsh	Chris Mycock	Cllr June Somekh
	Cllr Les Jones	Chris Burke	Cllr Peter Scott
	Richard Poplewell	Helen Scott	Cllr Hazel Lees
	Kristina Ladd	Yvonne Spurrell	Ged Lucas
		Valerie Riley	
		Margaret Kelly	

Consider the barriers and opportunities in addressing the polarisation of richer and poorer parts of the community?

Barriers

- Poverty of aspiration – low expectation
- Voluntary sector – bureaucracy
- Lack of resources within the NHS
- Lack of specialist skills
- Low knowledge
- Some older people are asset rich but have little disposable cash
- Council tax issues for some older people
- Which group would benefit most in concentrating attention i.e. – possibly young (future generation) but older people also priority as growing sector in society.

- Middle age group issues also need addressing
- The cost and lack of public transport impacts on almost every issue for older people (transport to sport facilities, to good shops, to hospitals and health centres, to social outlets, to Council services) need for free transport for older people - need routes that suit the people. Need to identify routes to enable them to be subsidised. **Transport was seen as the most important fundamental barrier especially for older people.**
- Transport also relevant for younger people especially those with disabilities
- Geography of deprived areas (isolation physically) is an issue
- Need for older people to make their own way to access council services, more empowering than being 'taken'
- A lack of affordable social outlets for younger people
- Lack of awareness of citizenship issues in people generally
- Better communication needed between service providers and older people
- Barrier because of stigma attached to some services
- Long waiting lists for auxiliary services
- Return to employment schemes
- Increase physical activities
- All these would help address a lot of mental health issues
- Limited capacity and scope to influence poor conditions in private housing sector.
- Disagreements that can't be resolved
- Few funding streams (no NRF/Spearhead money etc)
- Pension regulations and insurance
- Smoking in low income environment – cost of damage to health,
- Quality of food
- Services more likely to respond to articulate groups
- Poverty in affluent parts of the borough - older people may be property rich but cash poor.
- Information – access to it, knowing where to find it, easy to understand
- Access to learning – subsidies for OP cut.

Opportunities

- By addressing transport issues – help to create safer environments
- Organisations working together to help educate vulnerable people
- Schools – need to instil citizenship. Raising expectations to increase living standards
- Security – need for youth facilities, youth shelters would help older people feel safe in the streets
- Better balance needed for the members attending the partnerships in order to get better representation.
- More frank and open discussions
- Further develop the COMPACT to encourage productive healthy relationships between sectors
- Fire hazard awareness is working well.
- Diet and exercise improvements
- Increasing independent living options
- Volunteering opportunities for older people through SCVS, Council and NHS
- Tele Care – huge potential for older people
- Engaging Chamber in opportunities for over 50s
- Follow Safer Stockport Partnership e.g. all public voice groups work together
- Joining information and analysis resources
- Joint delivery, co-location of services

- Aligning budgets to achieve savings, maximise impact
- Community Strategy - Common local objectives.
- Growing political interest in polarisation – local and national
- Targeted health provision.
- Strong civic culture and sense of decency
- Improving community transport
- Learning and skills councils
- Area committees and scrutiny committees – involving people, having meetings in different parts of wards, themed meetings, more accessible.
- Harness voluntary sector

Priorities

More information needs to inform priorities (evidence based)

- 1 Transport (key priority) - community transport – make better use of existing facilities; share resources. Efficiency of delivery and sensitivity of purpose
- 1 Improve existing transport services (Ring & Ride) so that it offers an option [nearly] as good as a private car – needs to be suitable/affordable/attractive to young people and others who cannot drive, e.g. those with mental health problems or disabilities
1. Helping people with mental health problems into employment as appropriate – umbrella groups involved, e.g. Chamber – commercial/public sector partnership
2. Increased levels of physical activity – green gyms, leisure key – creative ways of engaging people and getting them involved in physical activity – liaise more with local voluntary organisations
3. Invest in knowledge to the individual: communication and support; education, schools, colleges; media, community radio; peers, role models
4. Increase benefit take up: solution to a lot of other things, e.g. leisure opportunities become more affordable

Priorities - not ranked

- Housing key health issue (especially private rented sector)
- Supporting “Cinderella” services i.e. voluntary sector mental health
- Missing cross over drugs/alcohol
- Voluntary activity for older people separate point
- Too biased towards older people – priorities listed e.g. should look to reduce smoking across all age groups.

Ways of breaking down barriers that exist between the themed partnerships

- Better working between sectors i.e. voluntary and public sector. Mutual understanding – not working in competition but together. Need to avoid tokenism
- Make sure strategic objectives of different partnerships do not conflict, e.g. Learning Partnership/LSC – cutting subsidies for learning opportunities for older people – conflicts with objectives for All Our Tomorrows
- Better information flows – unclear about the purpose/function of some partnerships
- More localised ways of delivering services - eg mobile health services for young and older people
- Better ways of engaging young people eg ‘speed debating’ has been successful.
- More outreach in local areas needed.
- Key barrier = transport Partnership?
- Need mechanisms for taking forward priorities – what happened to transport debate?
- Better information about community transport (this service needs better planning and use)

Economic Development and Enterprise

Facilitator: Jack Glonek
Scribe: Helen Walters

Ian Johnson
David Pye
Tina Cain
Carol Morrison
Bev Sellen
Jane Bracewell
Sue Rawlinson
Paul Kirkham
Roger Tripp

Consider the barriers and opportunities in addressing the polarisation of richer and poorer parts of the community?

Barriers

- Education – different parts of the borough, both young people and adults
 - Access, attainment, transport
- Lack of affordable and mixed housing
- Cycle of low self-esteem – breaking the cycle
- What do you enjoy doing – linking to career path
- Advice for those who are in jobs but want to use other skills
- Careers advice – not just for young people but for those in lower paid jobs
- Finance, e.g. deposit for childcare
- More integration between agencies – flexibility
- Hard to reach services as opposed to hard to reach groups
- Those on incapacity benefit – encourage them/support them back into employment
- Accessing timely, good quality information and advice
- Communication and jargon – can exclude people
- Lots of red tape (e.g. claiming benefits)
- How you communicate, use appropriate media to reach target audience e.g. world wide web
- Shortage of carers – impact given we have ageing population

Opportunities

- Have economic potential
- Close and strong partnership working
- Working with employers to meet skill issues – pre-recruitment training (learn from Tesco – could be approved)
- Transport – encourage businesses on an I-E to work together
- Work more cohesively – began in SRB areas, needs to be built on – not all agencies work on local area boundaries
- Flexibility with funding, reduce regulations, aligning funding, e.g. LSC with LAA – step in right direction
- Clusters – how do we address?

Contribution to Children and Young People's theme

- Young people – being told how they can put what they enjoy into practical use/career
- If parental guidance isn't available who provides information and guidance
- Schools do get funding for enterprise related initiatives, NB to engage adults/parents
- School and employer links – partners working closely together, e.g. Chamber, LSC, Connexions. LSC commissioned BEST to deliver EBP activities in Stockport
- Corporate social responsibility high on company's agenda – therefore willingness of companies is there
- Major companies – SMBC, Police, PCT should lead by example – council is looking at the way it recruits

Contribution to Healthy Communities & Older People theme

- Need to encourage ageing population to stay in work – economy relies on this group more in future due to likely skill shortages
- How do you target ageing population?
- Need to engage with employers to promote benefits of employing older people
- Valuable role of voluntary sector and their contribution
- Flexibility – paid employment and voluntary work
- Use skills that you've acquired over the years for the benefit of others

Contribution to Safer and Stronger Communities theme

- District centre partnerships involving local businesses working well – have ability to engage local community – facilitate joint working
- Town centre doesn't attract large numbers in the evening
- More people living in the town centre – help to create a safer community
- NB to learn from other towns and cities
- Fear of crime can inhibit regeneration activities – fundamental issue for economic regeneration of town centre – solution: better design, better management – more people living there
- Open space, greenery, high quality public realm – huge benefits, sense of well-being

ATTENDANCE AT STOCKPORT PARTNERSHIP FORUM - September 2005

Doreen Cartwright	Adwood & Bridgehall Community Forum
David Ackroyd	Beacon Counselling
Sue Rawlinson	Brinnington Community First Trust
Roger Tripp	Churches Together in Marple & District
Helen Scott	Citizens Advice Bureaux
John Russell, Emma Stones, James Russell, Matthew Feehity, Rob Pengelly, Adam Duffill, Vicki Caulton, Jon Bridge, Peter Ryan, Antonia Seedhouse, Rory Nolan, Kristina Ladd	Corporate Youth Strategy/Youth Council
Bev Sellen	Credit Union Forum
Dr Steve Watkins	Director of Public Health
Peter Rowe	Disability Stockport
Mike Brown	Education Service/Connexions
Sally Massey	Eyeline Stockport, Institute for the Blind
Fiona Clear	Family Info Link
Steve Fisher	GM Fire & Rescue Service
Jenny Gnomes, Janet Matthewman, Brenda Fullard, David Pye, David Higham	Government Office North West
Paul Kirkham	GM Chamber
Chris Mycock	GM Fire & Rescue Service
Dave McNulty	GM Passenger Transport Executive
Supt Nigel Preston	Greater Manchester Police
Ian Johnson	Jobcentre Plus
James Bromfield	Johnnie Johnson Housing
Jane Bracewell	Learning & Skills Council
Jim Scotte	Marple Community Council
Sue Parkes	Relate, GM South
Amanda Peers	SCES/Adswood & Bridgehall Community/Learn 4 Life
Lesley Thompson	Stockport Childminding Association BOSCMA
Dianne Stead	Stockport Childminding Association BOSCMA
Councillor Brian Millard, Councillor Colin Foster, Councillor Derek Whitehead, Councillor Hazel Lees, Councillor June Somekh, Councillor Les Jones, Councillor Mark Weldon, Councillor Maureen Walsh, Councillor Pam King, Councillor Paul Porgess, Councillor Peter Scott, Councillor Sue Derbyshire, Councillor Tony Johnson	Elected members - Stockport Council
Mark Rogers, Darren Pegram, Stephanie Roffe, Chris Franklin, Warren Heppolette, Vicki Teal, Jack Glonek, Helen Walters, Louise Richardson, John Schultz, Steven Longden, Sandy Penfold, Simon Morton, Helen Johnson, Carol Morrison, Peter Blake, Caroline Gallogly,, Ged Lucas, Julie Farley, Steve Brown, Janet Golding, Nisha Kapoor, Sue Thomas, Ian Roberts, Tudor Owen, Dave Shaw, Cath Moss, Moira Wilson	Stockport Council
Rene Hill	Stockport Council for Voluntary Youth Service

Tina Cain	Stockport Credit Union/BCF
Margaret Kelly	Stockport CVS
Elaine Mounter	Stockport Disability Database
Jane Ball	Stockport Foundation Trust
Jim Lunney	Stockport Housing Partnership
Chris Burke	Stockport NHS Foundation Trust
Richard Popplewell	Stockport Primary Care Trust
Sue Kardahji	Stockport Primary Care Trust -
Yvonne Spurrell	Stockport Sports Council
Sam Price	Stockport Women's Aid
Barbara Haley	Victim Support and Stockport Civic Society
Jannett Creese	Victim Support and Witness Service
Valerie Riley	Victim Support and Witness Service