

# Stockport Partnership News

## Spring 2009



جريدة أخبار الشراكة فى ستوكبورت  
Biuletyn informacyjny stowarzyszenia Stockport Partnership

ষ্টকপোর্ট পার্টনারশীপ নিউজলেটার বা সংবাদপত্র

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### In this issue

Page

Shaping Stockport – Focus on a Greener Stockport – summary of January’s Forum 2

#### Stockport Partnership Board meetings

- New Taskforce to look at economic downturn 3
- Stockport Partnership Office Manager now in post 3
- Local Transport Plan for Greater Manchester 3
- Stockport Primary Care Trust Strategic Plan 4
- Local Area Agreement – progress report 4
- Postcode Prejudice 4
- Building Schools for the Future 4
- Stockport Housing Partnership Annual Report 5
- Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy 5
- Comprehensive Area Assessment 5

#### News from Partnerships

- Children’s Trust Board 6
- Economic Alliance 6
- Environment Partnership 6
- Learning and Skills Partnership 6
- Safer Stockport Partnership 6
- Stronger Communities Partnership 6
- Health and Wellbeing Partnership 6

#### Other News

- Stockport Officially a ‘4’ star council 7
- My Place citizens’ awards 2009 7
- Stockport’s New Link 8

# Shaping Stockport – Focus on a Greener Stockport



Stockport Partnership Forums are convened twice per year to bring together representatives from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors in Stockport to discuss key issues for Stockport. The aim of the Forum event held on Wednesday 22nd January was to explore how the Stockport Partnership can work together to make Stockport a more sustainable borough.

The one hundred and three representatives from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors who attended the evening event at Alma Lodge were

welcomed by Councillor Dave Goddard, Chair of the Stockport Partnership. There followed a short introduction by Councillor Stuart Bodsworth, Chair of the newly established Stockport Environment Partnership. Table discussions then considered issues in relation to climate change, waste and the local environment. Discussions ranged from reducing carbon emissions to adapting to climate change; from reducing consumption of natural resources to increasing recycling and composting; from reducing environmental crime to developing a network of green and blue spaces (parks, rivers, street trees).



## Discussion review – the Top Ten Ideas

Each of the ten discussion tables was asked to answer the question, 'if the Partnership should do one thing, what should it do?' (these are not ranked in order of priority):

1. Recognise the importance of green space to people and invest more money into this.
2. Educate people about the cost of energy inefficiency. To measure efficiency low-cost SMART monitoring device could be fitted to homes and official buildings.
3. Council tax rebate for people who recycle.
4. Promote, celebrate and reward good practice.
5. Community 'match-making' i.e. putting voluntary groups in touch with appropriate organisations to help them on these issues.
6. Importance of good planting on sponsored roundabouts and hanging baskets.
7. More support for re-cycled products and local services which provide them e.g. milkmen bringing glass bottles.
8. Extend NORMA (recycling system) to non-Council businesses and residences.
9. More education for householders on savings to be made by simple changes in behaviour.
10. The Environment Partnership should undertake an audit to take the lead in climate change matters.



## The Environment Partnership

The newly established Environment Partnership will now use the report from the Forum to set priorities and decide on which ideas can be taken forward.



**Tributes to Councillor Maggie Clay** have been paid to her by many people across Stockport. Councillor Clay represented the Health and Well-being Partnership on the Stockport Partnership until her untimely death at the beginning of April. More information about the tributes to Councillor Clay can be found on Stockport Council's website at: [www.stockport.gov.uk/content/newsroom/latestnews/cllrmaggielclay](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/content/newsroom/latestnews/cllrmaggielclay)

## STOCKPORT PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

Here is a summary of the main items discussed at Stockport Partnership Board meetings in 2009.

### **New Task Force to look at the impact of the economic downturn on Stockport**

Cllr Dave Goddard, the Leader of the Council has called together an Economic Task Force to look at how to work effectively in partnership to provide a focussed and joined up response to emerging issues, including employment and health. Already partners are putting forward ideas and information relating to the way forward. The Stockport Partnership and all its themed partnerships are collecting information for the Economic Task Force which is meeting fortnightly.



### **New Partnership Office Manager in post**

Joanna Foskett, the newly appointed Partnership Office Manager, is now in post. One of the first events that Joanna will organise is a partnership conference to bring together all the thematic partnerships to help make links, celebrate achievements and cover common themes. This conference will become an annual event.



### **Local Transport Plan for Greater Manchester**

Stockport has produced a report dealing specifically with Stockport's contribution to delivering the second Local Transport Plan. Key points include:

- Traffic calming, pedestrian and cycle improvements, accessible bus stops and better disabled parking spaces in the Town Centre and district centres. These have already had a direct link to improvements in shop vacancy levels in Edgeley and Romiley.
- Public transport improvements have included a lift at Hazel Grove Station, a new bus-way cutting through the Portwood and Pyramid roundabouts and free shuttle buses which travel round the town centre, station, Town Hall and market area every day. Non commercial bus routes have been subsidised, more low level buses have been provided and bus stop access improved. A community transport pilot scheme is linking Stepping Hill Hospital to areas of need.
- Emphasis is placed on healthy routes to school to encourage walking and cycling. Innovative play equipment has been installed at St. Thomas' Recreation Ground to encourage walking to school and playing on the way. Road safety for young and old is encouraged by inviting older pedestrians to visit schools to share experiences.



This report has now been published on the Local Transport Plan website at: [www.gmltp.co.uk/localTransportPlanDocs.asp](http://www.gmltp.co.uk/localTransportPlanDocs.asp)



## Stockport Primary Care Trust Corporate Strategic Plan

The plan contains action plans to meet the health needs identified through extensive consultation with the public, patients and professionals. The Stockport Partnership Forum in January 2008 was part of this consultation process.

### Key points:

- The report recognises the need to find the best way to work in each unique community in Stockport.
- Services need to be more accessible.
- Poor health is an issue for some people in each community and it is important not to overlook small areas of health inequalities.

The full report is on the PCT website at: [www.stockport-pct.nhs.uk](http://www.stockport-pct.nhs.uk) - once on the site, go to 'Documents A-Z' to find the Strategic Plan.



## Local Area Agreement – 2008/2009 Progress Report

### Key points:

- Stockport is expecting to receive £6.6million reward grant over the next 2 years.
- The report uses Red, Amber and Green to indicate how well each theme is performing:

Children and Young People	Amber	<p><b>Red</b> = serious risks</p> <p><b>Amber</b> = some risks but actions in place likely to address these</p> <p><b>Green</b> = only minor risks but clear actions in place to address these</p>
Adult Health and Wellbeing – tackling exclusion, promoting equality	Green	
Local Economy	Amber	
Stronger and Safer Communities	Amber	
Environmental Sustainability	Green	

*Although currently the Local Economy is Amber, the current situation is likely to deteriorate in view of the economic slowdown.*

- All the evidence supporting Stockport's achievements under the LAA will now need to be submitted and audited and the first payment of the Performance Reward Grant is expected to be received by March 2010.

## Postcode Prejudice

A report from the Commission for Economic Development, Employment & Skills examined whether or not postcode discrimination by employers contributes to sustained pockets of worklessness in deprived areas of Stockport.

### Key points:

- No evidence of direct discrimination was found.
- A significant proportion of residents **believe** that employers discriminate on the basis of area of residence.
- Only 10% of those asked were aware of "Stockport Into Work" (local employment support initiative). National initiatives have a higher profile.
- Lack of awareness of full range of services available in First House, Brinnington.

## Building Schools for the Future

Stockport has made a bid to the Government's new fast-track scheme. A successful bid would provide funding for improving and rebuilding secondary schools in order to provide a wider range of opportunities for pupils from the most deprived areas of the borough. Wider community use is also an aim. Possible provision could include ICT training, library services, parenting support and more community space. Stockport will find out in April 2009 whether the bid has been successful.



## Stockport Housing Partnership Annual Report 2007/8



A successful year for the Housing Partnership included the new development of housing in Brinnington and Mossbank Homes taking ownership of housing in Stockport formerly owned by Manchester City Council. The report refers to the present problems in the housing and lending markets, problems which will have a major impact on the activities of membership partners. For further information about this report, please contact the Housing Strategy Team, Victoria House, Stockport SK1 3XE Tel: 0161 474 4390 E-mail: [housing.strategy@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:housing.strategy@stockport.gov.uk)

### Neighbourhood Renewal

The new Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy was approved by the Board in March 2009. The new strategy contains 9 objectives to improve Priority 1 Areas in the borough:

- 1: Safer place to live
- 2: Stronger local communities where people feel that they can improve their area
- 3: Improved outcomes for children and young people
- 4: Good quality local environment
- 5: Quality housing and housing services
- 6: Improved economic well-being for local people
- 7: Better health and mental well-being for local people
- 8: Improved quality of life for older people aged 50+
- 9: A positive image of the area



### Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

In 2008 Stockport was invited by the Audit Commission to take part in a pilot project which would look at the best way of assessing an area's performance. The Stockport Partnership was one of only ten areas nationally to take part in the CAA trial. This gave Stockport the opportunity to influence the final framework and taught the Partnership some valuable lessons as preparations are being made for the start of CAA 'for real'.

As its name suggests, CAA is about more than just the performance of the Council. It brings together the Audit Commission and six other inspectorates to provide an overview of how successfully local organisations, i.e. the council and its partners work together to improve what matters to people in each local area.

CAA from April 2009 will be made up of two assessments:-

**The Organisational Assessment** - concentrates on the council's effectiveness by looking at how well it delivers value for money and manages its performance.

**The Area Assessment** - looks at how well the council works with its partners to identify and agree the local priorities and assesses the prospects for better outcomes\*. So in Stockport, the Audit Commission will look at things like the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement (both to be agreed soon) It will highlight any barriers to achieving outcomes and any examples of good practice from which others can learn.

*\* Jargon buster - Outcome is a word which is often used in strategies and plans. It means the overall benefits that result from what we do, for example, an outcome in the draft Community Strategy is that Stockport will be healthy.*

The pilot project identified some challenges and key areas for future improvement in Stockport. It was recommended by the Board that each thematic partnership should take the lead responsibility for areas of improvement relevant to the work of that partnership.



# NEWS FROM PARTNERSHIPS

## Children's Trust Board

Andrew Webb, Corporate Director, Children and Young People, Stockport Council represents the Children's Trust Board on Stockport Partnership Board.

## Economic Alliance

Barry O'Connor from Adidas(UK) represents the Economic Alliance on Stockport Partnership Board. The Greater Manchester Chamber has produced an 'action for business' document to help businesses in the current economic downturn.

## The Environment Partnership

Cllr. Stuart Bodsworth represents the Environment Partnership on Stockport Partnership Board. Two meetings of this Partnership have now been held.

## Learning and Skills Partnership

Peter Roberts, Principal of Stockport College, represents the Learning and Skills Council on Stockport Partnership Board.

Phase 2 of the development of the Stockport College site is almost complete. Because of the recent funding problems at the Learning and Skills Council, the College needs to submit a new bid for Phase 3, but confidence is high that the funding will be granted. Members of the Stockport Partnership Board confirmed their support of the college in submitting the new funding bid.

## Safer Stockport Partnership

Commander Steve Fisher from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service represents Safer Stockport Partnership on Stockport Partnership Board.

Commander Fisher announced a bid to the Prince's Trust to support young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

Chief Superintendent Neil Wain reported to the Board a reduction in anti-social behaviour over the Bonfire Night period last year thanks to campaigns of recent years. He also reported that Brinnington has been put forward as a pilot for funding on the "Home Office Participatory Budgeting Scheme". As part of the neighbourhood policing policy, a number of new police posts have been opened recently at Bramhall High School, Bridgehall and the Heaton Moor campus of Stockport College on Buckingham Road. The aim is to provide a better service to local people by making officers visible in the communities they serve.



## Stronger Communities Partnership

In September 2008, a revised remit and scope was agreed for the Stronger Communities Partnership (SCP). In addition to its third sector and community empowerment role, the SCP now provides a home for work on Neighbourhood Renewal, social inclusion and community engagement. Two meetings have taken place since last September. David Kirwan, Stockport's Community Representative, is the Vice Chair of SCP and he acts as a link between Stockport Partnership Board and SCP. If you need to contact David please get in touch with the Partnership Office. Tel. No: 0161 474 3127 or e-mail [communityrep@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:communityrep@stockport.gov.uk)

Pat McGough, the Director of Stockport Community and Voluntary Services, is also a member of SCP. She reported progress to improve the networking arrangements for the third sector in Stockport. Funding for this has been obtained through BASIS, part of the Big Lottery Fund which aims to assist infrastructure organisations to strengthen links in the voluntary and community sector. Pat also reported to the Stockport Partnership Board that MOVES (Members of Voluntary Executives, Stockport) are looking at voluntary representation on the thematic partnerships.

## Health and Well-being Partnership

The "Kill the Chill" campaign has had a major positive impact this winter.

## OTHER NEWS

### Stockport is officially a "4-Star Council"

**'Stockport Council is consistently improving many services important to local people'**  
Audit Commission Feb 2009

Stockport Council has officially become one of the UK's top performing councils after getting top marks from the Audit Commission in the last ever Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) before it hands over to the CAA.

'4 stars and improving strongly' is the highest possible rating and something the Council has been aiming for, having received '4 stars and improving well' for the last 3 years. It means the era of CPA ends on a real high at Stockport with a rating that can never be taken away. This rating reflects the exceptionally strong progress the Council has made in delivering services for the people of Stockport.

In its '**Direction of Travel**' judgement the Audit Commission said the Council, '**is consistently improving many services important to local people**' and made particular note of performance in housing, environment, adult social care, services for vulnerable adults, services for children (including safeguarding arrangements), crime reduction and recycling.

It concluded that in Stockport '**progress in priority areas is supported by a culture of innovation, enhanced value for money and clearer performance monitoring**'.

#### What is CPA?

For a number of years, the Audit Commission has used the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) to judge the performance of local authorities.

It gives judgements to local authorities in two parts: a '**star rating**' (from 0 to 4 stars) and a '**Direction of Travel**' assessment indicating how likely the authority is to improve in the near future.

2009 is the last year in which CPA will be used as the method to assess local authorities in this way.



**My Place in Stockport** is a scheme set up by the Council to give recognition to Stockport people who make the borough a better place. The award winners for 2009 were announced in February and presented with their awards in March.

Robert Downs won the Sports Personality of the Year Award this year. Robert organises a free weekly 5 km race round Bramhall Park to promote healthy exercise.

Cheadle Heath Community Association won the Volunteering Champions Award for serving its community by supporting the people in its area. The Pavilion, home to the association, is available for the use of other local support groups.

Doreen Cartwright from Bridgehall was the Good Neighbour winner. Doreen is always there to help her neighbours as well as working as caretaker at Bridgehall Community Centre. She also arranges prizes for bingo nights, scout meetings and school parties and she helps out with school runs.



Doreen Cartwright

Doreen helps with Bridgehall Kids Club Junior Rangers, winners of the Green & Glorious Award. These children give up their Saturday mornings to take part in litter picking and recycling waste.

Brothers Sean and James Tetlow run the Colour Room which won the Community Spirited Business Award. Sean and James are hairdressers who help cancer sufferers to come to terms with hair loss as they fight the disease.

Sykes Meadow in Edgeley won the Best Street Award for the caring attitude of its residents. As well as being good neighbours, Sykes Meadow people care for their gardens and the neighbourhood in general.



Inge Challinor and Joe Pienaar

Joe Pienaar and Inge Challinor live on Romiley's Cherry Tree Estate. They won the Children's Champion Award for their efforts to help young people on the estate.

Margaret Brown won the Citizen of the Year Award for her tireless voluntary work at Styal Mill, St. Ann's Hospice and the Royal Schools for the Deaf.



Margaret Brown

Craig Mills managed to turn his life around by dedicating himself to voluntary work and helping others with drug and alcohol problems. Craig was rewarded with the Life Changing Award.

Rebecca Humphries won the Young Citizen of the Year Award. Although only 17, Rebecca has a history of helping others in the community. Lucy Smith, aged 16, was also highly commended in this category for her work with cancer charities.



Peter Roberts

And finally Peter Roberts, a member of Stockport Partnership Board won the Ambassador for Stockport Award. As Principal of Stockport College, Peter has seen the institution go from strength to strength locally, nationally and internationally.

## Stockport Local Involvement Network



The Stockport Local Involvement Network (The LINK) has gone from strength to strength since being launched in October last year. The Stockport Local Involvement Network (LINK) is a network bringing together local people, organisations and groups who want to improve health and social care services in Stockport. Yours, mine, everyone's views matter. It will be the platform in which the community can tell providers and commissioners of health & social care services about their experiences, and how things can be improved. A LINK Core Group (made up of local people) has started to meet to develop the LINK.

### The LINK will:

- Provide a chance to suggest ideas to help improve services
- Ask citizens what they think about local health and social care services
- Convey peoples' views to organisations responsible for commissioning, providing, managing and scrutinising local care services
- Visit premises where care is provided

### Things the LINK might do:

- Get attention for neglected issues or ideas
- Influence those who make decisions about new or existing services
- Help the community speak with a stronger local voice
- Help services provide better care

### How can you get involved?

You can register with the LINK as an individual or as a member of a group, an organisation or a business. You may be interested in general issues relating to local health and social care services or you may have a specific interest in one issue. You may be interested in being part of the Core Group to look at how the LINK can develop. You may want a short term or a longer term involvement in the LINK. If you are interested in becoming involved, please telephone the LINK support Team on 0161 477 8479 or email [links@pebbleenterprises.co.uk](mailto:links@pebbleenterprises.co.uk) or visit visit the new website [www.stockportlink.co.uk](http://www.stockportlink.co.uk)

# Stockport Partnership Contact Details

Stockport Partnership is administered by the Policy Unit at the Council. You can contact us as follows:

The Secretary to the Stockport Partnership is:

- Louise Richardson, Head of Policy & Scrutiny, Stockport Council Tel: 0161 474 3011
- email: [louise.richardson@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:louise.richardson@stockport.gov.uk)

If you need any information about this newsletter, Stockport Partnership or membership of the Board, please contact us:

- Corporate Policy Team, Tel: 0161 474 3174
- email [communitystrategy@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:communitystrategy@stockport.gov.uk)
- textphone: 0161 474 3128
- write to us at: Policy Unit, Stockport Council, Town Hall, Stockport SK1 3XE

A free interpreting service is available if you need help with this booklet/leaflet. Please telephone Stockport Interpreting Unit on 0161 477 9000. Email: [eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk)

如果你需要他人為你解釋這小冊子/單張的內容，我們可以提供免費的傳譯服務，請致電 0161 477 9000 史托波特傳譯部。

W przypadku gdybyś potrzebował pomocy odnośnie tej broszurki/ulotki, dostępne są usługi tłumaczeniowe. Prosimy dzwonić do Interpreting Unit pod numer 0161 477 9000.

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