

Appendix 3: Thematic Partnerships Update - 2nd Quarter 2008/09

The following is a narrative update from thematic partnership groups for the period covered by this six month performance report.

Children's Trust

The overall responsibility for securing achievement of the LAA Targets for the Children and Young Peoples Theme lies with the **Children and Young Peoples' Strategic Partnership Board**. The Board has now been in place for 6 months and signed off the LAA Targets. The following organisations are partners in the Stockport Children's Trust:

- Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
- Stockport Schools and Colleges
- Learning and Skills Council
- Together Trust
- Stockport Primary Care Trust
- Stockport Community and Voluntary Service
- Greater Manchester Probation Service
- Greater Manchester Police

The Board meets on a 3 monthly basis and agrees the key priorities, the individual targets for each of the outcomes and the reporting mechanisms. Below the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership Board there are 8 tactical boards. Each of these have responsibility for managing the action plan for the key LAA Targets and each leading on separate key areas around Children's services. These are:-

- **Inclusive Communities Partnership Board**
- **14 - 19 Partnership Board**
- **Education Partnership Board**
- **Children and Young Peoples Disability Partnership Board**
- **Workforce Development Partnership Board**
- **Youth Offending Service Partnership Board**
- **Integrated LAC Partnership Board.**

For each of these Boards the Terms of Reference and the Key Priorities have been confirmed

The **Purpose of the Children's Trust** is as follows;

- To bring partners responsible for the major delivery of services to children, young people and their families within Stockport into a single framework

- To provide strategic leadership to ensure the development and delivery of improved outcomes for children, young people and their families
- To agree and implement the, annually reviewed, Children and Young People's Plan and specific LAA targets.
- To act cohesively to implement the strategic decisions of the Children's Trust
- To encourage joint commissioning arrangements including operating pooled or aligned funding arrangements
- To implement and manage information sharing processes
- To support practitioners working in their individual agencies to behave as part of a community of Stockport children's workers, interconnected with others, and able to see their role in the wide range of provision and services.

A handbook has been produced recently which summarises the arrangements that are in place between Stockport's Children's Trust partners to underpin approaches to plans, business planning, commissioning, budgeting, target setting and performance management. It describes how Trust Partners relate to one another and provides procedures and guidance to underpin decision making. The handbook is intended to provide guidance for all leaders, managers and practitioners within the Children's Trust to enable them to work together as an integrated whole.

Safer Stockport

Although the majority of the designated targets have not yet been negotiated some of the key issues for the Safer Stockport Partnership in delivering the LAA 'Story of Place' have been:-

Tackling serious crime

The Safer Stockport Partnership reduced crime by 26% last year and crime continues to fall. The last six months compared to the previous shows a 9% fall. However, although serious acquisitive crime is forecasted to achieve its milestone target for this year the burglary rate has risen. This is primarily due to early release of prolific offenders and the continued targeting of Stockport by Manchester offenders. Bespoke Operations have been put in place within crime prevention measures and agreement has been reached with partners such as the Fire Service for the delivery of security advice and property marking.

Serious violent crime is projected to marginally fail to reach its milestone target. However the LAA reward target for alcohol related serious wounding is on target. A new serious violent crime action plan will be produced that maps out interventions from offender management to managing the night time economy and domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Coordinator will be collocated with GMP DV Staff.

Improving participation and perception through our Citizens Focus

Our Neighbourhood Policing teams and local partner continue to roll out community participation meetings and promote the work of the partnership through the media. A

very successful Not in My Neighbourhood week saw three meetings in one week held. Capacity has been increased by the creation of a Citizens' Focus Officer post and the deployment from GMP of a local marketing and communications officer. GMP have conducted two local surveys in the first six months on perceptions issues and this data is being used to understand more about our local communities and their expectations. Policing Pledges are being produced by the Neighbourhood Policing Teams following meetings.

Delivery in our priority areas

The SSP chose to make Reddish its crime priority ward alongside our commitment to invest in the three LAA priority areas of Adswold Bridgehall, Brinnington, and Lancashire Hill. Significant investment is being made in these priority areas to reduce the inequalities of crime trends and their impact. This includes additional staff for both Police and Partnership and locally based accommodation. The Bridgehall post was opened in November. This has led to reductions in crime in all but one of these priority areas at a rate higher than the Stockport average

Joint work with the Children's Trust on priority issues

Joint work with Children's Trust has been undertaken on Children's Homes, Youth Groups and Gangs and Knife Enable crime to roll out in new calendar year. Joint SSP/Children's Trust delivery of anti bullying week.

Developing a three year Substance Misuse strategy

There is already holistic integration around the reduction of offending and effective drug treatment with a collocated offender management unit and partnership sub groups. The SSP has taken a decision that its treatment objective will be that based on a 'recovery model' Discussions are ongoing on the joint commissioning of alcohol and drugs. Drug related offending continues to fall.

Implementing our Alcohol strategy

This strategy has clear links into Health and Wellbeing, Older people, and Children as well as serious violence and anti-social behaviour. Letters regarding retailers and responsible promotion of alcohol have been distributed to leading retailers. There is improved joint enforcement between the Council and the Police and the introduction of pre-reviews. Funding is being sought for an expanded Town Centre Safer scheme and the Town Centre New Years Eve Contact point (staffed by Police, Health and CSU) will be implemented again. There have been two successful pilots of Place of Safety schemes where intoxicated young people are taken to and parents summoned.

Developing our approach to Preventing Violent extremism

Engagement work with the Muslim community on this area has commenced and briefings will take place for all partnership staff.

Recession Risk Assessment

It is too early for any real trends to be discerned but, based on Home Office forecasts, there is a

- Potential rise in acquisitive crime.
- Potential for increase in anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.
- Potential increase in substance misuse especially alcohol
- Increased competition for employment could impact on reducing re-offending.

Stronger Communities

The specific challenges **in creating a more socially inclusive community in Stockport** set out in the 'Story of Place'. The Stronger Communities Partnership has a clear leadership role in the following areas:-

- The stark disparity between affluent and deprived parts of the borough means that tackling inequalities will continue to be a cross-cutting priority.
- Working and engaging with local communities and building on area working to encourage cohesion and integration and to counter fragmentation.
- Developing local community engagement mechanisms that enable local people to influence policy, and inform decision making processes across the Stockport Partnership.
- Strengthening and expanding the role of the third sector, and ensuring a thriving environment that places voluntary and community organisations central to the design and delivery of local public services

To address these challenges work has been undertaken to clarify priority areas for interventions, using both the Indices of Deprivation from 2007 and consultation findings from local people. Priority 1 areas for Stockport are Brinnington, Adswold & Bridgehall, Lancashire Hill and Heaton Norris and – newly added in 2008 – the Town Centre. Stockport's approach to tackling spatial inequalities is through the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy which is overseen by the Stronger Communities Partnership.

The Stronger Communities Partnership has recently broadened and consolidated its remit. The purpose of the partnership is to enable communities to engage and contribute to local well being as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy. The partnership will develop and publicise Stockport's ambitions for a thriving 3rd sector, community engagement and empowerment, Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) and social inclusion, ensuring that measures are in place to actively performance manage process. In this way the partnership will contribute to improve the overall wellbeing of people in Stockport, whilst striving to improve the quality of life for people who live in priority neighbourhoods.

To support this remit, the membership of the partnership has been broadened so that it is inclusive of a wide range of sectors and organisations, but also small enough to retain a strategic focus. To enable both approaches a dual format for meetings has been proposed, with a core strategic meeting proposed four times a year, with an additional wider meeting of the full membership of the partnership every six months. The first of these wider meetings will take place on the 17th December and take the Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) Strategy as its theme.

Stockport's approach to NR has also been undergoing a refresh. A new strategy has been developed which pulls together plans for all of the priority areas in order to have a more effective and coordinated approach and make it easier for partners to engage and contribute. The strategy is managed by the Neighbourhood Renewal team who have been reorganised to reflect the new approach. Each manager within the NR team has responsibility for up to 2 objectives; the managers have been building relationships with relevant service managers and strategists to ensure that the strategy can be taken forward through a partnership approach. The role of the NR team is to work with partners to identify local activity to achieve the outcomes - taking

a leadership, supporting, influencing or monitoring role as appropriate. The objectives of the strategy are:

1. The neighbourhood is a safer place to live
2. There is a stronger local community where people feel that they can improve their area
3. There are improved outcomes for children and young people
4. There is a good quality local environment
5. There is quality housing and housing services
6. There is improved economic well-being for local people
7. There is better health and mental well-being for local residents
8. There is an improved quality of life for older people
9. The area has a positive image

There are 3 cross-cutting priorities for the strategy based on findings from the Indices of Deprivation: Employment, Health and Skills.

Progress in achieving the objectives of the NR strategy will largely be measured using indicators from the National Indicator Set, which have been collected at small area level where possible so that the findings can be disaggregated to the priority neighbourhoods. This will enable us to show impact against NR objectives and outcomes and make comparison to other areas, including Stockport. As part of the February 2009 refresh there will be the option of choosing some neighbourhood level targets to work towards alongside the borough level ones. It is anticipated that likely neighbourhood level targets identified from the disaggregated NIS data will be presented to members of the Stronger Communities Partnership in early February for their consideration to put forward as neighbourhood level designated priorities.

The 2nd challenge - working and engaging with local communities and building on area working to encourage cohesion and integration and to counter fragmentation – is addressed for the priority areas through objective 2 in the NR strategy. Community Development specialists within the NR team work with local people on a range of initiatives in order to improve local skills, improve wellbeing and ensure that local people have opportunities to influence decision making. Steve – do you want to add something here in terms of community cohesion?

The Stronger Communities Partnership has made a commitment to ensure that the environment for the third sector in Stockport enables voluntary organisations and community groups to thrive. This will be achieved through the successful implementation of the revised Stockport Compact and Codes of Practice, which are designed to inform joint working and strengthen the relationship between the third sector and public sector partners on a day-to-day basis. The Compact Code of Practice on Funding and Commissioning is being further developed through the work of Council's Scrutiny Committee, commissioned on behalf of the Stronger Communities Partnership, which is looking at ways of improving the commissioning process used by both the Council and PCT.

The aim is to make it easier for third sector organisations to access funding opportunities by simplifying and demystifying tendering processes, providing different procurement options that meet the different needs of organizations across the sector, and designing schemes that encourage new and innovative services to be developed and piloted in Stockport.

The principles of the Compact, Codes of Practice and findings from the Scrutiny review are already being put into practice. New service and funding opportunities are being explored jointly with the third sector in Stockport as part of the Governments Transforming Social Care Proposals. Based on the results of this process the Stronger Communities Partnership will lead the way in rolling out both the Stockport Compact and best practice on commissioning across the Stockport Partnership.

Developing the role of the third sector – rolling out the Stockport Compact across the Stockport Partnership, exploring the role the sector can play in transforming and delivering local public services, develop the skills of the sector to meet these new challenges, and overseeing actions that contribute to NI7 'Environment for a thriving Third Sector'.

Risks in achieving the outcomes are likely to come from the effects of the credit crunch. Increased fuel costs and food prices will hit the most deprived severely. Activities to minimise the impact include a Credit Crunch Public Information Event held at Netto to provide advice and information to Lancashire Hill residents and an event for older people in Bridgehall to publicise ways of managing money, keeping warm and finding help and advice.

Health and Well-being

The Health and Wellbeing Partnership has over the last 6 months consolidated its role in inclusively bringing a range of partners together in pursuit of improving health and wellbeing outcomes for Stockport's diverse communities. The partnership comprises statutory commissioning and provider organisations, key voluntary sector input and is developing direct community representation through the emerging LINKs network in Stockport, and itself oversees a broad range of partnership work and innovation for public health and specialist care, including the successful All Our Tomorrow's Partnership for older people. The partnership has established ten clear priorities for improvement based on the recent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), and a comprehensive performance framework including but not restricted to the designated NIs in the LAA is in place, mapped to the JSNA priority areas. These partnership priorities are already clearly influencing the differential and targeted investment activity of commissioning partners, and the Council and PCT is working hard to integrate commissioning approaches in pursuit of improved outcomes for the Stockport population.

In terms of the specific challenges set in the Story of Place where the Health and Wellbeing Partnership has a clear leadership role in the LSP, there is much positive progress:

- **Tackling health inequalities; reducing deaths from circulatory diseases and cancer and reducing levels of smoking, alcohol and obesity** - The Health and Wellbeing Partnership performance framework and local public health priorities contain clear work programmes and ambitious targets in each of these areas, including but not restricted to the designated NI targets seeking to reduce circulatory disease and rates of smoking, Eleven health trainers are now providing innovative lifestyle advice and peer support in our most deprived communities, and we have prioritised the funding of a Tackling Obesity Co-ordinator in recognition of the need for more strategic focus on this issue.
- **Understanding and reducing the differences in the mental and emotional health experienced between residents, with a focus on inequalities** - Mental

'wellbeing' is an emerging local public health priority, with the exploration of appropriate work programmes targeting efforts to improve the resilience and emotional wellbeing of individuals in Stockport. Our social inclusion approach to mental health continues to accrue positive benefits in terms of service outcomes that promote positive opportunities for volunteering, education and training, and employment.

- **Promoting the independence of older people to maintain them safe, well and at home where possible** - The work of the All Our Tomorrow's Partnership continues to go from strength to strength, and a recent major consultation exercise has helped to reshape the strategic priorities to enhance our efforts to address fear of crime, improve the quality of information and advice available, and to help to build social networks. Benefit take-up and schemes to support business start-up continue to be successful, the partnership has recently secured £250K EU funding to further developments in this area
- **Recognising the needs of carers and supporting them with appropriate services** - The Health and Wellbeing Partnership considered substantively at its last meeting improving carers' outcomes in Stockport, and has asked for specific focus in 2008/09 to be given to enhanced local strategic planning to ensure the contribution, understanding and commitment to this agenda is maximised. Innovative targets to improve recognition of carers' issues with GPs are being pursued.
- **Maximising employment opportunities and promoting independence for adults with a disability** - Strong performance continues in this area, with the selection of NI150 supporting secondary mental health service users into employment as a designated LAA target clear evidence of local ambition to make further improvements. There are of course risks that the economic downturn may be detrimental to plans in this area
- **Providing services that meet the demographic and birth-rate changes and addressing the lifestyle factors affecting health and well-being** - JSNA is commissioned and led through the Health and Wellbeing Partnership and has helped improve our understanding of demographic change over the next few years, which is being factored into commissioning plans. Work on 'social marketing' to delve deeper into the lifestyle and behavioural factors that lead to poorer outcomes for families and individuals in more deprived areas is being innovated locally, with Stockport hosting a smoking cessation pilot in partnership with the DH National Social Marketing Centre
- **Reducing the rising impact of alcohol both on health and community safety** - Local measures have been set, as part of the broader Health and Wellbeing performance framework, which capture our ambitions to provide more targeted early intervention for alcohol issues, with targets for reduction of alcohol related admissions to A&E reported through the PCTs Vital Signs process

In terms of risk to delivery, the recent economic downturn has potential for very specific impact in the delivery of the designated NI150, and other aspects of stated ambitions to reduce inequalities where the wellbeing of the broader economy and the relative prosperity of individuals have such clear health determinants.

Environment

In May 2008, the Stockport Partnership Board supported the establishment of a new Environment Partnership for Stockport as part of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

The Environment Partnership is responsible for leading on partnership efforts to support the environment agenda in Stockport, guided by partners' priorities and the national perspective and contributing this perspective to the Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement and other local strategies.

Given the breadth of the environment agenda, the first task of the new Partnership has been to establish its scope, role and membership in more detail, prior to establishing more formal Partnership arrangements. An initial informal meeting was convened in September with representatives from the organisations and sectors represented on the Partnership Board along with other key agencies with responsibility for environmental matters.