

Newsline

Tameside Strategic Partnership Newsletter

Issue 3

July 2003

www.tameside.gov.uk

CONGRATULATIONS

To John Nugent, Chief Executive of the Stamford Group. John was awarded an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours for services to education, skills and business in Greater Manchester. A well-deserved award.

GOODBYE AND HELLO

Goodbye to Martin Higgins, who has co-ordinated the Partnership for the past 14 months. Martin is moving to the council's social services team.

And welcome to John Eley who will become Partnership co-ordinator in August. He will be joining the council's policy unit from Cheshire County Council, where he runs the countywide local strategic partnership.

NHS JOBS FOR TAMESIDERS

Research is now underway to identify the current make-up of the NHS workforce in Tameside – and estimate the short, medium and long-term recruitment needs of the health service here. This is the first step in a Partnership action plan to attract more local people into local NHS jobs.

Partners are also establishing what training is available locally to help people get the relevant skills to apply for the jobs. The group will report back to the Partnership once this research is complete, when a marketing strategy for NHS recruitment will be created.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The final strategy is now going to print and will be distributed widely during the summer. The inclusive programme of consultation – which directly involved over 2500 people – has culminated in a strategy supported by all partners.

Copies of the booklet will be available from the council on 342 8355 or email communitystrategy@tameside.gov.uk It is also on the Partnership website.

Strategy consultation

Consultation on the draft strategy aimed to provide a reality check. 90 per cent of those responding felt both the themes and the measures were about right. The Board agreed some minor changes at the June meeting.

Sixty-two responses came from the Stamford Group, producing strong endorsement for the draft strategy.

Partnership agreements

Each of the key strategic partnerships are now finalising their agreements with the Tameside Strategic Partnership Board on what they agree to do to deliver the Tameside strategy.

A formal agreement will be signed, detailing the commitments on both sides.

Each agreement also contains a list of agreed key outcomes for each of the seven themed partnerships: Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People, Crime and Disorder Reduction, the Economic Forum, Health and Social Care and Modernisation Board, Housing, Community Cohesion and the Community Legal Services Partnership.

Each partnership will produce an annual report and will provide further information on their performance against targets to the Board. They will also support work in publicising successful initiatives.

The Board will take forward the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, to ensure continued access to government funding. The Board will have the overview of the strategy, produce a development plan each year and develop a joint framework for better co-ordination of consultation and communication.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Neighbourhood Renewal Unit has produced a framework for LSPs which is currently being piloted. The framework is a considerable document, which covers the effectiveness of

partnership processes, structure, behaviours, roles and responsibilities

It also requires partnerships to measure how well they are performing against their priorities, and provides a template for the actions the LSP needs to take to improve.

The unit has stated that it will not be compulsory for LSPs to adopt their framework, but that all LSPs must have a performance management system which meets certain 'core criteria'. Neither the timetable for adopting a framework, or what the core criteria will be has been announced yet.

For more information Megan Nurse on 342 2852

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

For the first time, all children's services by partners are to be co-ordinated through a new strategy, which should be in place by September.

More information from Steven Pleasant on 342 3148

FUTUREBUILDERS

The government's 2002 Spending Review announced a £125 million "futurebuilders" fund, spread over three years, 2003-04 to 2005-06, to help the voluntary and community sector in their public service work.

HM Treasury is now consulting about the fund, with a closing date for comments of July 21.

The consultation presents proposals for :-

- Principles to guide the use of the fund
- Ways in which the fund could be targeted at public services
- The way in which the fund could be set-up
-

The fund will contribute to four key government public service priorities

- Health and social care
- Crime and social cohesion
- Education and learning
- Support for children and young people

The principal test will be whether the investment enables an organisation, or groups of organisations, to expand to improve their delivery of public services.

The consultation document in full is available at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk website. Partners can send their comments direct to HM Treasury or to Phil Spence at the council (phil.spence@nxcorp1.tameside.gov.uk) who is co-ordinating a response.

PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE

People are logging on to our website. In April and May, there were 960 'hits' on the draft community strategy page and 152 people logged on to read Newsline issue 2.

The next stages in our communications plan include more PR networking across the partnership and the development of the website. The council's communications unit will be

bringing together PR representatives from all partners to set up this more co-ordinated communications.

More information from Lindsey Macdonald on 342 3061

HEALTH SCRUTINY

The government's modernisation agenda set out a commitment to meet people's expectations for high quality public services. This is being met by redesigning the system around the service user.

Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2000 gave local councils powers to improve the well being of people as well as introducing the concept of scrutiny.

Scrutiny is the means by which the council's executive can be held to account and how non-executive councillors can become involved in policy review and development.

The Health and Social Care Act 2001 extended this power to enable local authority scrutiny panels to scrutinise, from 1 January 2003, local health services.

The aim of health scrutiny, including scrutiny of local NHS provision, is to act as a lever to improve the health of local people. This will be done by addressing health inequalities and working with health partners to secure the continuous improvement of health services.

For further information about scrutiny including health scrutiny, please visit our web site on www.tameside.gov.uk/scrutiny

CRIME AND DISORDER UPDATE

Work across all five key priorities during 2002/3 – the first year of the updated crime and disorder reduction strategy 2002 – 5 – has led to a 4 per cent cut in recorded crime and a 2 per cent cut in disorder. Partners are working together to ‘mainstream’ crime and disorder reduction as part of their action plans.

Prolific offenders – over 40 repeat offenders have been targeted across the borough and crimes by these people have been cut by 50 per cent.

Domestic burglary – During 2002/3, the number of reported burglaries rose by 17.9 per cent but this was largely due to a change in the way the figures are recorded. Previously criminal damage is now recorded as attempted burglary.

To tackle the issue, over 100 alley-gating schemes involving 1200 households have been completed by the council. There is a 38 per cent reduction in recorded burglaries in alley-gated areas and they also boost community spirit.

The partnership has also run an information campaign to prevent distraction burglary – or bogus callers - where 89 per cent of victims are elderly women. 300 householders have had a free package of help, including Identislots for their front doors, which allow visitors to pass their identity cards through a slot without the householder having to open the door.

Tackling drugs and alcohol – The 45 per cent increase in recorded drugs offences is linked to more

proactive policing, including regular raids, covert CCTV and intelligence gathering.

More arrested people are now being referred to appropriate services for access to treatment.

The council and police have been targeting off-licences suspected of under-age alcohol sales through test purchasing.

Improving safety in town centres

– Extended CCTV is helping: in the second half of 2002 nearly 300 incidents were identified by CCTV, leading to 129 arrests. A number of town centre car parks have been made more secure and vehicle crime is down 12.3 per cent in Tameside.

The council’s patroller service works closely with the police and they are now on duty until 10pm.

Tackling youth nuisance and anti-social behaviour

– Five anti-social behaviour orders have been granted, a further seven are pending and 31 warnings have been given to young people.

A major step forward has been multi-agency problem solving task forces in local areas and a new team, the anti-social behaviour team, within the council’s community safety unit, which includes a police officer and will include registered social landlords.

Just launched is ‘Tameside mediates’, where trained mediators aim to build bridges in neighbour and community disputes at an early stage.

More information from John Johson on 342 2171

UPDATE ON LIFELONG LEARNING

The partnership, now in its seventh year, works to an annual action plan, focusing on: basic skills for adults; re-engaging disaffected pupils; providing training for level 4 and 5 NVQ qualifications; using computers to help learning; and widening participation.

There are now 34 ICT learning centres across the borough, including all the council's libraries. These priorities were chosen after the partnership had looked at current courses offered locally and identified gaps.

They are also in response to a basic skills survey in 2000 which showed that Tameside people were slightly better than the national average in literacy but below on numeracy. The survey highlighted two target groups with high needs – those aged 16 to 24 and unemployed people.

More information from Catherine Moseley on 342 3297

BENEFITS CAMPAIGN

The Partnership, championed by Ian Munro, from New Charter Housing Trust, is to look at a benefits take-up campaign, following a presentation on benefits and older people to the Board.

Members are to consider how they can publicise benefits information through their channels.

Paul Dowthwaite, council strategic director, told the Board about Tameside's involvement in a national project to provide 'one stop shop' services for older people,

bringing together government agencies such as pensions with local council services. This would help avoid older people being passed from pillar to post and would build on the council's growing 'In Touch' centres in libraries and customer service centres.

The funding has been agreed – but not yet released to the council.

The team is consulting locally using existing groups such as Age Concern, Better government for older people and the social services Really Important Questions conference.

More information from Paul Dowthwaite on 342 3550

BEACON EVENT

Tameside's Beacon year for the Community Legal Service Partnership ended on a high.

An event held on 11 June to demonstrate the variety of support services available to carers was a tremendous success. Over 200 people attended and saw the new Tameside Carers website launched www.tameside.gov.uk/carers.

NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL – IT'S UP TO US

Ashton Renewal news

The message from the Ashton Renewal Team was – improve Ashton and that will accelerate improvement in the rest of the borough.

And presenters Sara Todd and Ken Knott, joint chair of the Board,

called on agencies to examine their service delivery in the area to see how it could be improved and co-ordinated with others.

The Ashton Renewal Area was declared in October 1996, so has three years to go. But it is still in the worst 5 per cent of areas in the country, on the Index of Multiple Deprivation – and external funding was going down.

Though much progress had been made, there were still issues around health – worse than the rest of Tameside; unemployment, twice the Tameside average; education – pupils' below Tameside achievement rates; housing – 75 per cent fit or needing urgent repair; environment – local people's single biggest issue.

The message from the presenters was: by working together and improving our existing work, we can make a bigger difference.

NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND

Tameside will get at least £1.34m funding a year for 2004 to 6. But the government is wanting the funds to be used to support mainstreaming ie using the fund to support long-term changes in services rather than one-off, time-limited projects which don't produce lasting improvements.

FAIRSHARE LOTTERY FUNDING

Tameside is allocated an £818,000 annuity fund over 10 years, to support community and voluntary sector development initially in Droylsden, then Micklehurst. After

delays in receiving the money, this work should be up and running in August/September, by the Greater Manchester Community Foundation with the Third Sector Coalition.

NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT

As independent review of the neighbourhood management pathfinder's first year of delivery (2002/3) was undertaken during April and May. The review is part of a national evaluation exercise of all 20 pathfinders.

**Information from Hazel White on
368 2096**

COLLEGE MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS

Tameside College has been recognised for its close work with employers as part of the Learning and Skills Council's recent Modern Apprenticeship Awards.

The college recruits and trains apprentices for C+M Joinery of Oldham, who were nominated for an industrial employer award.

Colin Thompson, owner of C+M Joinery said: "The trainees go to college once a week, and though we do miss them it is worth it. We've had times when we've had to keep them here but the college is very flexible. The college has also been great at focussing the training on certain areas of work that we have pointed out."

PUPILS ACHIEVEMENTS

The Stamford Group has agreed to sponsor the "Pupils' Achievement Awards" to be introduced in September in Tameside schools.

The awards will acknowledge the importance of high attainment and rapid, sustained. They will be awarded to celebrate attainment and progress of nominated pupils from all Tameside schools at a special ceremony. Successful pupils will also have their name recorded on the annual TPAA Wall of Fame on the council's website.

Additionally, three local youngsters have been awarded this year's Tom Pendry Scholarships, again to be presented in September, worth a collective £20,000 over four years.

NORTH TAMESIDE SCOUTS DEVELOPMENT WORKER

Ashton and Droylsden Scouts now have a full-time paid worker to develop scouting for the next two years funded by the Community Fund.

He is Paul Smith, who is based at 130 Stamford Street Ashton with TAVYO (Tameside Association of Voluntary Youth Originations) and TACO (Tameside Association of Community Originations).

His role is to develop more young people in to joining Scouting for boys and girls from six years to 25 years and also to get more adults to help as leaders or helpers from 18 years to 65 years.

He will also be helping the eight existing groups develop

themselves to make Scouting more attractive to young people.

Paul can be contacted at the office on 0161 343 8340.

HATTERSLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT

Hattersley Neighbourhood Management Partnership is making good progress since being given the go ahead to run with the Pathfinder in November 2002

A main partnership group and five theme groups have been set up to co-ordinate work within identified priorities.

The partnership group consists of senior decision makers from key service providers such as Tameside Council, GM Police, the Primary Care Trust, Manchester Housing, Jobcentre Plus and Sure Start Hattersley – together with a good representation from residents and community groups.

The theme groups reflect the priorities for action including jobs and training, health, housing management, community safety, environment and children and young people.

The basic idea of Neighbourhood Management is to change the way mainstream services are delivered long term, rather than rely on short term project funding. Agreements so far have seen the arrival of a new dedicated environmental team, a jobs and training co-ordinator, and a community development team, with proposals for a new youth facility high on the agenda.

The Neighbourhood Management Team were recently given a mandate by all partners to take on a co-ordination role across key groups and service providers working in Hattersley.

A focus will be on community engagement, communication and raising the profile of the area. This will assist Hattersley to impact on existing priorities and future opportunities such as the proposed transfer of the Manchester City Council housing stock.

MIDAS NEWS

As part of the Tameside Economic Development Zone activity, MIDAS (Manchester Investment and Development Agency Service) is currently recruiting for the following position- Assistant Inward Investment Officer- based in Tameside, with salary up to £18,500.

Based in Ashton-under-Lyne, the successful candidate will be part of the "M60 Invest" project marketing team working to support investment in and around Tameside's Economic Development Zone.

The individual will provide support in generating new enquiries and in order to fulfil this challenging role they will have broad-based marketing skills and the ability to coordinate a range of group activities. The individual will also play a vital role in developing a radical e-commerce approach.

The closing date is July 3.

More information from
sinead.lennon@midas.org.uk or
call her on 0161 877 3000

COMING UP...

At the October Partnership meeting, there will discussions on:

- Housing, the environment, transport and young people
- Update on Quality of Life indicators
- Learning Action Plan
- revised terms of reference for the Partnership Board and portfolios/job descriptions for our Champions, who lead on specific areas of work
- Review of representation on the thematic partnerships

Any comments or news?

Please contact:

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