

Newsline

Tameside Strategic Partnership Newsletter

Issue 4

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www.tameside.gov.uk

TAMESIDE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAY

Tameside Strategic Partnership Board members and Chairs of Thematic Partnerships have been invited to a special development half-day at Stalybridge Civic Centre on the morning of December 4.

The event will allow partners to consider in depth how effectively our partnership structures are operating, the challenges ahead and the priorities and key tasks we must achieve to implement the Community Strategy. It will also give members a chance to look at the increasing expectations from government for Local Strategic Partnerships to deliver on issues such as partnership and plan rationalisation, pooling of budgets and performance management.

Please confirm your attendance with John Eley 342 3529 (LSP Co-ordinator) if you have not already done so.

GOVT ACCREDITATION

The national accreditation scheme for Strategic Partnerships is changing. Government Office will no longer be checking our work

and issuing an annual accreditation letter.

Instead, there will be a new system of evaluation – a Performance Management Framework– with Audit Commission validation. Partnerships are required to have completed their first performance review by April 2004.

It looks like it could mirror the existing inspections carried out on public bodies – eg Best Value, It looks like it will mirror the existing inspections carried out on public bodies – eg the Best Value Performance Indicator scheme, where councils, police and other public bodies report their achievements against both local and national targets – and then publish them widely in the local area.

This is the latest information we have:

The Neighbourhood Renewal Unit has developed a Performance Management Framework to support all local strategic partnerships.

This model has been developed by a working group made up of representatives from: local partnerships, government offices, the unit itself and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's local government team.

Although partnerships do not have to use the particular model framework provided by the unit, any alternative that is used must meet the core requirements issued via government offices. All frameworks must:

- capture accurate information on each of the following sections: reviewing delivery, reviewing partnership working and improvement planning
- be made available to the public and presented in a clear and understandable way
- build on accreditation guidance and the work identified in the accreditation action plan produced by partnerships in February 2002 and 2003
- ensure that the action plans of partnerships are 'SMART' (specific, measurable, achievable, resourced, realistic and timetabled) and have clear lead individuals/agencies.

Furthermore, all partnerships in receipt of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund must use a framework to assess their performance and must discuss their framework at their annual meeting with their government office.

The model is made up of three sections:

- reviewing delivery
- partnership working
- improved planning.

Copies of the framework can be obtained from:

<http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/formatteddoc.asp?id=559>

SHARING GOOD RACE EQUALITY PRACTICE

Public sector partners on the Board are being asked to nominate a representative to take part in a working group that will share good practice on the delivery of Race Equality Schemes. The Board heard that, under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, all public bodies have to publish and annually update a Race Equality Scheme, which sets out how they will deliver the statutory duty to promote race equality.

The role of the group will be to identify and share best practice, agree common areas for joint action and how this can be delivered. Although it is currently only public sector organisations that must produce a Race Equality Scheme, the Board has indicated that it would like the LSP partnership as a whole to learn from the work of the group and adopt good race equality practice.

The group will draw up a progress report to present to the Board next June and all members will be encouraged to implement the good practice in their own organisations. Relevant partners will be contacted by letter or you may also wish to contact Sarah Newsam on 342 3938.

CONSULTING THE COMMUNITY... TOGETHER

All members of the Tameside Strategic Partnership have been invited to nominate a representative to participate in developing a joint consultation framework for the partnership. This was identified as an action in the 2003 LSP Development Plan.

Many of the partnership partners carry out their own, often extensive, consultation with the community but there is potentially a great deal of scope to work together to improve the way we co-ordinate our consultation processes and share results. Nominations from interested partners are invited in order to form a group who will look at these issues and propose solutions. The progress of the group will be reported back to the Partnership Board next year.

There is a potential overlap between the membership of this proposed working group and the existing Marketing and Communications group. It may be that the Marketing and Communications group can expand its remit and this will be explored. If you have any queries about this piece of work, please contact Sarah Newsam on 342 3938.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Implementation of the Community Strategy is being undertaken via eight thematic partnerships (Community Cohesion, Children & Young People, Lifelong Learning, Crime & Disorder, Health, Housing, Economic, Community Legal Services). These partnerships have agreed to sign formal agreements with the Board specifying the aims and measures they will work and report on.

All but one of the eight agreements between the Board and the thematic partnerships have now been signed. Copies of the agreements will soon be made publicly available on the Internet.

STRATEGY FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Ian Munro from New Charter presented the Partnership with an overview of services for older people. A new strategy will be developed through the thematic partnerships.

The strategy would have four aims

- Providing help at home
- Encouraging active citizenship
- Developing economic participation, by take-up of benefits and jobs and training opportunities
- Promoting healthy living

Ian pointed out that there are lots of services already available by public and voluntary bodies - but there's a low level of awareness of those services by older people themselves and by other service providers. Already, with the council and health services jointly commissioning services for older people, we are making sure statutory services are co-ordinated. But more needs to be done – and there should be continuing consultation with older people.

In Tameside:

- 42,000 people are over 60 – and this will grow
- nearly 15 per cent of the population is over 65
- 57 per cent have a long term illness
- 37 per cent live alone

FUTUREBUILDERS – FUNDING

A meeting this month will decide what bids to make to the government new voluntary/community sector funding pot, Futurebuilders.

After consultation over the summer, central government has revised its funding to the community/voluntary sector and has created the Futurebuilders fund, a pot of £100m capital funding and £25m revenue funding nationally spread over the next three years.

The pot is to enable community groups to improve their delivery of public services. And government priorities are crime, social cohesion, education and learning, health and social care.

The Third Sector Coalition has been consulting with the borough's voluntary and community groups about what bids they wish to make – and the council has had discussions with the commissioners of services. These two sides are coming together this month to finalise the bids.
Contact Phil Spence/ Moira Cunningham for further info.

NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND

In the three years 2001 to 2004, £3.1m has been spent on projects in Tameside, largely through our existing regeneration groups – very local partnerships involving local residents with the public, private and voluntary sectors. These are: the Tame Valley Partnership (£823,491), the Ashton Renewal Area (£569,321), Hattersley (£865,905). A total of £519,000 has gone on projects to improve education and £335,000 on cross-cutting projects.

For the final two years of NRF funding- 2004/6 – investment of the £2,680,000 budget will change emphasis. More will be spent

through our thematic partnerships and less through the regeneration groups:

Cross-cutting themes (through thematic partnerships)	£1,287,000
Ashton	£792,000
Tame Valley	£386,000
Hattersley	£215,000

The thematic partnerships are now to gear themselves up to use this funding to:

- Produce tangible outcomes (ie the number of people into jobs)
- Act as a catalyst to improve mainstream services
- Make sure both the Community Strategy and national priorities are met

FAIRSHARE FUNDING

Micklehurst and Droylsden will be the main beneficiaries of the £818,000 New Opportunities Funding through the Fairshare scheme over the next 10 years.

Now, a local community panel is to be set up to oversee the use of this funding. The panel will be set up by the Community Foundation of Greater Manchester, who are managing the Fairshare Fund across the county area. It will include residents plus representatives from the voluntary, public and private sectors that deliver local services.

In Tameside, our Neighbour Renewal thematic partnership will receive regular reports from the panel to make sure their work fits in with our neighbourhood renewal strategy – and the overall community strategy.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

The Green Paper 'Every Child Matters', published in September, will have a major impact on local authorities and other agencies providing services for young people.

The government has published the consultation paper in response to Lord Laming's enquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié, which concluded that much of the fault lay in a break down in communications between social services, health, police and the voluntary sector.

The aim of the paper is to improve that communication and improve the accountability and integration of services. It proposes:

- A new law to create a local council member for children
- A director of children's services, to including education and children's social services
- Rationalising plans, funding and accountability
- By 2006 create Children's Trusts for each authority area, including all education, children's social services, youth services and Connexions the youth offending team and some health services – with the Trust inspected by Ofsted
- Appoint an independent Children's Commissioner for England to champion children's views

The Trust would be part of the council.

At the moment in Tameside there are 32 agencies delivering services to young people and they already work in partnership. That partnership is developing a strategy – due to be published in December.

The Paper will obviously affect its work.

Already, as a result of the government's actions and with £100,000 government funding, the council is having to produce a database of all people aged 0 to 21 in the borough, which will be linked to all local agencies. The database will enable tracking of individual young people if more than one agency has flagged up issues relating to them.

MANCHESTER KNOWLEDGE CAPITAL

Manchester: Knowledge Capital is the major initiative for the sub-region. It is a key element of the Greater Manchester Strategy and the NWDA's Regional Economic Strategy. A definition for the initiative is provided as follows:

“A city securing success out of a highly competitive combination of assets, including a major international airport, world-class universities, high growth businesses and knowledge intensive industries – all feeding off widespread and vibrant intellectual capital.”

The purpose of the initiative is to ensure that the city region is at the forefront of global knowledge economies – the economies of the future. Initial physical development is likely to focus on the 'arc of opportunity' – the area between Salford University / Oxford Road / Piccadilly – but with the benefit spread around the sub region and beyond through enhanced business competitiveness and access to jobs for local people.

In order to drive the initiative forward a Strategic Board and Executive Team has been established. The Chair of the Strategic Board is Professor Sir Martin Harris (in his capacity as Deputy Chairman of the NWDA) and Mike Shields is Chief Executive.

A Knowledge Capital prospectus was launched at the Core Cities Conference on the 5th/6th June in Newcastle, which sets out under seven themes, the plans, projects and headline components that will take the initiative forward - this can be accessed via the following - www.manchesterknowledge.com). Currently a detailed Action Plan is being prepared.

DO YOU LIKE THE LOGO?

Suggestions for a new Partnership logo – or a strapline to the existing logo – will be considered by the Board in February.

The Partnership's communications professionals met for the first time in autumn and are now:

- Creating a database of partner publications
- Widening the distribution of this newsletter
- Devising a media relations protocol for the Partnership
- Planning revisions to the website

ENTRY TO EMPLOYMENT

Entry to Employment or E2E is a brand new learning programme funded by the Learning and Skills Council, which has been available to young people in England since August. The programme aims to help young people who are not yet ready or able to start a Modern

Apprenticeship or a Further Education course or employment.

E2E is for young people aged 16 to 18 who aren't currently taking part in learning and who would benefit from a personal development programme which would provide a stepping stone to further learning and / or a job. The E2E programme is based on the needs of each individual learner and so can be a relatively short period of development to help them prepare for a Modern Apprenticeship, employment or further vocational learning or can be over a longer period if the needs of the young person are more complex.

*In Tameside a partnership has been formed between **Tameside College, Ashton Careerlines, Employment and Regeneration Partnership and Training and Manpower**. This partnership is made up of established providers with a track record of providing access and support into training and employment; all provide access to a wide variety of training and work-based activities. Rathbones although not a member of the partnership will still continue to deliver and support E2E programmes within Tameside.*

New larger premises are currently being re-furbished very close to the Connexions building in Stamford Street, Ashton. Young people will attend their E2E programme from anywhere between 16 and 40 hours per week, though there can be exceptions to this, and will receive a Training Allowance in of at least £50 per week plus all of their travel expenses. As well as the Training Allowance young people will also receive a bonus for starting their E2E programme and for positive outcomes such as gaining a qualification.

Staff from the Connexions services in Tameside will advise young people about the different E2E opportunities available in our area. Other agencies such as social services or Youth Offending teams can also help young people to find out what E2E opportunities they can access.

The programme will vary greatly based on individual needs but activities can include Key Skills, work sampling, developing personal motivation and confidence, citizenship skills and vocational qualifications.

For more information, contact Connexions Tameside on 0161 330 1528 or drop into their office in Stamford St in Ashton or visit the Connexions Greater Manchester website at www.connexions.gmcra.org.uk

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

New Charter is pleased to announce the winner of its Modern Apprentice of the Year 2003 is apprentice electrician Christopher Hand.

Christopher, who lives in Glenville Way, Denton was selected from the first three years intake of apprentices taken on by the landlord. Over 40 modern apprenticeships have been offered since New Charter started business.

This is the first year of the award and reflects the commitment of both apprentices and employer to the modern apprentice ethos. New Charter was created to improve dramatically the rented housing in Tameside and spent over £50million in its first three years alone to improve people's homes.

But the landlord can provide real opportunities in developing young people alongside the physical improvements.

NEW CHARTER

New Charter has been nationally recognised by the Home Office for its pioneering work on tackling anti-social behaviour.

The government invited New Charter to the national launch of Together, the reaffirmed commitment to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour. It's a package of financial and practical measures to support the various agencies involved in tackling anti-social behaviour and is linked to the current passage through parliament of the Anti-Social Behaviour Bill.

New Charter was the second housing association in the country to obtain an Anti Social Behaviour Order, following the powers granted to associations and others in December 2002

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE

Tameside Council has launched the new Economic Development Zone to developers and agents. Around 150 property experts were given a coach tour of some of the main development sites before visiting an exhibition and enjoying a buffet lunch.

The Zone, covering Droylsden East and West, Ashton St Peters, Audenshaw and Denton West wards, has been awarded over £7m in European funding. But, that is expected to attract around £50m private-sector investment, as

businesses move in to areas – many of them semi-derelict or in need of improvement - pinpointed for new build.

NEW COUNCIL CHIEF

Janet Orchard, Council Chief Executive, is to chair the new Association of Greater Manchester Authorities new thematic group on investment and marketing. Janet joined the council in September and was welcomed at the October Board meeting.

A solicitor by profession, Janet was born and raised in Droylsden and went to school at the town's Fairfield High School for girls.

She joined Tameside after 14 years at Knowsley Council in Merseyside, where she rose through the ranks to assistant chief executive in 1993 and director of corporate and customer services in 2000. She started her local government career at Manchester City Council in 1986.

COUNCIL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT

Tameside Council will be taking part in the second round of government public service agreements, due to start next April – straight after the end of the council's first agreement. The council was promised around £5m extra government funding in return for meeting a number of service targets.

The council is now looking at possible targets for the new agreement, which will be finalised after discussions with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The targets, however, are likely to

follow the main themes of the Community Strategy. Watch this space in the next newsletter for more details.

HEALTH FORUM

A panel of chief executives and clinical bosses from the Glossop & Tameside NHS Primary Care Trust and the Glossop & Tameside NHS Acute Trust were put before over 50 members of the public who came along to ask questions and 'have their say' at a 'lively and frank' public forum.

The event, organised jointly by the Tameside Third Sector Coalition and the two NHS trusts, was at Stalybridge Civic Hall on November 11.

The 'have your say' forum was chaired by BBC Northwest Tonight reporter Dave Guest.

Nearly 30 people attended the network event for representatives from voluntary groups working in Tameside's health sector before the forum. They put together a joint response to the government consultation on Strategic Partnership Agreements between the DoH, NHS and the community and voluntary sector.

NEW COUNCIL POST

Ameena Ahmed has taken up the newly created Tameside Council post to head up a combined children and young peoples service unit. Her role is to develop strategies, policies and practice aimed at benefiting young people in Tameside.

The post was created to bring together and coordinate all the

different work across the council that affects young people from 0 to 19. It involves working with different areas of the council and external partners to manage the provision - reporting to the children and young people's partnership.

COUNCILLORS TRAINING

Around 40 councillors attended an evening training session this month on the work of the Partnership and the role of councillors and the council in it. This included discussions on working in partnerships and delivering the Community Strategy. One of the main conclusions of the event was that more communication was needed.

AND FINALLY.....

The next Board meetings are:

13 Feb	9.30 am –12pm
2 July	9.30 am –12pm (tbc)
15 October	9.30 am –12pm

Any comments or news?

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