



The North Somerset Partnership is the local strategic partnership for the district. It brings together a range of partners from public organisations, private businesses and voluntary and community groups to work together to improve quality of life for everyone in North Somerset.

STAKEHOLDER eBULLETIN

2010 – 1

Welcome to the North Somerset Partnership (NSP) E-Bulletin. Our aim is to keep you informed about the work of the NSP and its associated delivery partnerships.

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Stakeholder Event – Delivering in Changing Times

Around 90 delegates joined the NSP at the Annual Event hosted by the NSP Board on 23 November 2009. Participants considered the impact of the current financial climate on public sector budgets and identified local partnership solutions to assist the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The Key messages to emerge from the discussions at the Event include:

- The importance of support for development of the voluntary and community sector through improving links with the public and private sectors and an emphasis on encouraging volunteering
- Ensuring people have a voice in planning services, facilities or physical developments to ensure delivery of quality programmes that are appropriate and value for money
- An emphasis on education and early interventions around health issues including misuse of alcohol
- Addressing the needs of older people including reducing social isolation in our urban and rural communities, ensuring appropriate local services and better communication about these, as well as improving coordination between services
- Forward planning to develop a range of housing options to meet community needs and integrated communities with local facilities
- Identification of innovative ways to support new and existing businesses

Actions identified by the workshop groups will be considered by the delivery partnerships and an update on how these could be or are being taken forward will be available on the website in due course.

The full Report of the Event is now available on the NSP Website.

NSP Board Update:

November Meeting –

The Board received a report on the work of the Executive and considered progress against the Local Area Agreement targets and initial findings of the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

During the seminar session our voluntary and community sector representatives spoke to the Board about how they work with colleagues locally and within the sub-region (the West of England area) and how this can impact on and support local priorities as well as how local issues can influence sub-regional partners.

Public sector representatives also spoke about sub-regional working with the West of England Partnership and the development North Somerset Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy provides a broad, long-term vision for strategic planning policies in North Somerset to 2026. It is about more than land use – it is about place shaping, creating sustainable communities, and links to health, education and wellbeing. The Core Strategy has been shaped to relate to the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) with themes similar to those of the SCS shared priorities.

The draft Core Strategy is now out for consultation. The consultation is open until 19 February and you can view the documents on the consultation pages of the North Somerset Council website at: <http://consult.n-somerset.gov.uk/inovem/consult.ti/CoreStrategyCD/consultationHome>

There was no January meeting.

NSP Executive Update:

Partners have been progressing a number of areas of work for the Board. Among these are aspects of the **North Somerset Recession Action Plan** such as:

- **The Recession Impact Fund** (an emergency fund for voluntary and community groups). Set up with £40,000 from partners and Quartet Community Foundation applications were invited during September and considered during October. Nine bids were agreed, supporting a range of groups across the area.
- **Advice & Information Services** A number of organisations have come together to share information and improve signposting to advice for individuals, communities and businesses struggling in the recession. The Executive is also looking at how this improvement to advice and information services could be continued and improved in the longer-term.
- **Green Recovery Plan** - The Transport, Economy & Environment delivery group is looking in more detail at how they can support promotion of sustainable lifestyles and action on climate change issues outlined in this part of the Recession Action Plan.

The key topic discussed at the December Executive meeting was **Neighbourhood Management**. The meeting was held at the For All Healthy Living Centre in Lonsdale Road, Weston-super-Mare, where the Neighbourhood Management Team is based. The Executive heard from the Manager of the programme and a number of residents about the impact of Neighbourhood Management in the area. Funding for Neighbourhood Management comes to an end in March 2010 and the Executive is considering how it can support succession planning for the programme.

The Executive continues to monitor progress against the Local Area Agreement, which is on course.

Delivery Partnership Updates:

Children & Young People

- The Children's Trust Management Board (CTMB) has approved its 2008/09 Annual Report setting out progress over the last year and outlining some of the challenges ahead.
- A number of work areas have been identified for the future:
 - To identify the services involved in supporting families with the greatest needs and opportunities to better coordinate services
 - To continue to develop volunteering opportunities and positive activities for teenagers to avoid anti-social behaviour, teenage pregnancy etc.
 - To ensure emotionally resilient young people
 - To develop effective mechanisms to support children and young people in their transition between school settings and between young people and adult services

Safer Stronger Communities

- Neighbourhood Policing is developing its network of Partnership and Community Together (PACT) meetings
- The Place Survey, which surveys local people's attitude to their communities, shows a reduction in the perception of antisocial behaviour causing concern
- The delivery partnership recently held a workshop at which it agreed two key priorities around the Stronger Communities agenda. These are:
 - To work towards narrowing the inequalities gap between our more deprived communities and the area as a whole
 - To improve the council and partner agencies flexibility and responsiveness to local community needs

Health & Wellbeing

- The partnership has set up a planning group to support the main partnership.
- The partnership has considered the aims under the Health & Wellbeing shared priority of the Sustainable Community Strategy and agreed a number of priorities. An action plan to implement these priorities is being developed. The priorities include:
 - Full engagement in Go4Life
 - Develop innovative ways to address entrenched in-equalities in health
 - Develop prevention work for people at risk of becoming homeless

Transport, Economy & Environment

The Transport, Economy & Environment (TEE) group has identified three particular actions from its action plan based on the environment and economy shared priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy. These are:

- Developing new approaches to encourage business to relocate to the area and encourage growth of existing businesses
- To set up a carbon reduction scheme to help people reduce their carbon footprint as an alternative to carbon offsetting through airlines.
- To establish a local charter to encourage more local procurement and to simplify procurement processes to make it easier for smaller businesses to tender for contracts

As mentioned above, the TEE Group is also looking at part of the recession action plan

The Comprehensive Area Assessment

Public sector organisations in North Somerset are working well together according to a new report published by the Audit Commission.

The Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) assesses partnership working between North Somerset Council, the police, fire service, NHS and other services.

The report, published on the new [oneplace](#) website, considers how important local issues, such as clean streets and people's health, are being tackled and the prospects for them improving. The CAA also includes an assessment of how public sector partners use their resources and manage performance.

The North Somerset Report highlights a number of successful areas such as:

- 85% of people are satisfied with the area they live in
- Local public services together with voluntary and community organisations have been successful in helping more people live at home longer
- Public services and partners are working together to help local people and organisations cope with the impact of the recession

Areas for improvement include:

- Local people are not very satisfied that they can influence local decisions
- Local people are not very satisfied that local public services seek their views

Cllr Ashton said the NSP and the council have ambitious plans to improve this. 'I think the key word from this report is 'partnership'. No one public body can change everything for the better on its own. We have excellent and effective partnerships which are delivering strong performance'.

More information on CAA can be found on the [Audit Commission](#) website

Sustainable Community Strategy Summary

A summary of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) is now available. Find it online at the NSP website or contact us for a copy. The Summary highlights the aims under the Shared Priorities and also outlines the new NSP structure agreed following the Partnership Review that took place last year.

If you would like any further information on items mentioned in the Bulletin, or have any comments please contact: northsomersetpartnership@n-somerset.gov.uk