



The North Somerset Partnership is the local strategic partnership for the district. It brings together senior representatives from public, business, voluntary and community organisations to work together to improve quality of life for everyone in North Somerset

STAKEHOLDER BULLETIN No.6 Jul/Sep 2007

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.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- News from the Board
- Update - Developing the Sustainable Community Strategy
- Update - Local Area Agreement
- News from the South Ward Neighbourhood Management Team
- Local Development Framework consultations – have your say
- News from the Delivery Partnerships

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE:

The NSP Annual Event will **not** be taking place in November. The Event will take place in the first quarter of 2008 when we will launch the new Sustainable Community Strategy. Watch out for your invite.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

July 2007

- The Board agreed to delay the elections for Chair and Vice-Chair to allow continuity of oversight for the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy. Elections will now take place in January 2008.
- The Communities & People delivery group reported that work has been undertaken to develop proposals for use of the Safer Stronger Community Fund monies in Central Ward, Weston-super-Mare. Projects are being developed with input from local voluntary groups and organisations. For further information please contact the North Somerset Council Community Development Team on 01934 644075.
- Updates on the Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement and Neighbourhood Management Programme were given (further information below).

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## **DEVELOPING THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY - UPDATE**

Work has continued on developing our new Sustainable Community Strategy, with both the Board sub-group and officer Project Group meeting again. Work with the Project Group members and Delivery Partnerships followed to gather more detailed information. From this work and a review of Sustainable Community Strategies from other areas a new approach has been taken to developing the structure of the Strategy. Following discussions at the Project Group and sub-group meetings it was suggested, and then agreed at the July Board meeting, that the new strategy should be structured around the emerging shared priorities. These are:

- **Supporting development of strong inclusive communities**
- **Improving health and well being**
- **Ensuring safer communities**
- **Developing a prosperous economy and enterprising community**
- **Ensuring a quality environment**
- With the key shared priority of **tackling disadvantage and promoting equality of opportunity** running through all the themes.

A wealth of information has been collated and progress is being made on developing the Strategy into a clear, easily read document. Unfortunately this is taking longer than first anticipated and it is hoped to have a draft Strategy ready for wider consideration and comment in November and December. This will be available on the North Somerset Partnership website.

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LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT – UPDATE

Local Area Agreements (LAA) are a new form of three-year agreement between central government and local areas. They are intended to help local partner agencies work together more effectively to improve quality of life for local communities. The North Somerset LAA began in April this year.

Each LAA has a number of outcomes that the local area will focus on and performance indicators that measure progress against the targets in these areas. A number of the LAA targets are 'stretch targets'. This means that while a particular level of achievement is anticipated a higher level will be expected and, if reached, will draw in further funding at the end of the three-year period (known as 'performance reward grant'). Further details can be found in the North Somerset LAA.

Government Office South West requires six-monthly progress reports and the first report be forwarded to them in December.

In 2008 LAAs will change. New LAAs will be made up of 'up to 35' targets plus 17 statutory education and early years targets. These will be drawn from the new, national set of 200 indicators due to be published in October. There will also be flexibility to include local indicators in new LAAs, however these will not be subject to government reporting.

For further information please contact Rhiannon Day at rhiannon.day@n-somerset.gov.uk

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## **NEWS FROM THE SOUTH WARD NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Key priorities for the team have been to progress the work programme, develop our communication strategy and deliver our community engagement work.

### **1. Work Programme**

- Since July we have finalised plans for the three shopping parades. Work has been completed on Aller Parade and redevelopment work will commence on St Andrew's Parade and Loxton Road in May 2008.
- The Neighbourhood Management (NM) Board has agreed funding for a community warden scheme, to be set up in partnership with North Somerset Housing. The wardens will add to the street cleaning effort and be additional 'eyes and ears' in the area. We are working towards having wardens in post from December 2007.
- The scoping of parks and open spaces was completed in August and presented to the NM Board. We are now developing a costed strategy to take forward the priorities identified in the study. We have invited tenders to develop a design for Jubilee Park as the first piece of work under the Parks and Open Spaces strategy.
- We will be holding a rhynes action day in partnership with North Somerset Council and the Environment Agency in early November.
- The NM Board has agreed funding for two detached youth workers to engage with young people.
- The NM Board has agreed funding for a reparation worker employed through the Youth Offending Team.

### **2. Community Engagement**

- The Youth Forum continues to meet every two weeks. A core group of young people have participated in a residential event to develop a youth agenda for the area. The members of the youth forum presented their ideas for improving South Ward to a group of decisions makers and service providers at a recent event organised by Barnardos.
- Monthly meetings take place on each of the four estates bringing key service providers together with local residents.

### **3. Communication Strategy**

- We have developed a visual identity for the partnership, including display boards and stationery
- The first edition of our community newsletter will be delivered to all 4,500 households during October.
- The South Ward Neighbourhood Management website will go live in October and will be accessed via [www.southward.org.uk](http://www.southward.org.uk)

The neighbourhood management team can be contacted on 01934 426310

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LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CONSULTATIONS – HAVE YOUR SAY

Consultation on the Issues and Options for the Core Strategy and Weston Town Centre Area Action Plan commenced on the 1st October. This represents the first stage of consultation on the Local Development Framework.

Further information and the consultation documents can be found on the North Somerset Council website <<http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/Environment/Planning+Policy/Local+Development+Framework>> Comments, to be received by **30 November**, can be made in writing using the details given at the end of the consultation documents.

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### NEWS FROM THE DELIVERY PARTNERSHIPS:

#### Communities & People

The group has focussed on contributing to the development of the SCS and starting to develop the Community Engagement Strategy for the NSP.

#### Community Safety

Overall, performance for the last quarter has been positive. There is much good agency and partnership work being undertaken to tackle issues. However significant challenges remain in dealing with violent crime and criminal damage in the area. Action plans have been drawn up to address these issues.

#### Culture, Leisure & Recreation

A successful launch event for the Go 4 Life Strategy took place on 3 July with several hundred children taking part on the day. Information can be found on the NSP website.

A successful Big Lottery bid has been secured to provide play opportunities for children & young people across North Somerset.

#### Economy & Employment

Among the 12 priority actions being taken forward under the Economic Development & Regeneration Strategy are:

- encouraging local purchasing,

- broadening the joint apprenticeship scheme,
- liaising with West@Work regarding employment schemes within developments for North Somerset
- promoting the Weston Town Centre Management model to other areas within North Somerset.

Further links with the West of England partnership are also being developed.

#### Environment

The Environment Group hosted an 'Action for Nature' biodiversity event in response to the Natural Environment Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 on 28 September. It focussed on practical examples of encouraging biodiversity in a variety of situations.

#### Health & Well Being

The Health Inequalities Action Plan has been expanded to include areas of work highlighted through the Black and Minority Ethnic housing Needs Survey and regeneration work being undertaken in South and Central wards of Weston-super-Mare.

A joint strategy is being developed to address key issues regarding alcohol misuse.

The Healthy Schools Programme is working with school meals contractors to promote healthy eating. Improvements to the service in Nailsea School have led to an increased uptake of school meals.

### **Housing**

The Strategic Housing Forum will be working with partners in the West of England to review and update the existing sub-regional Housing Strategy.

Issues to be addressed include the downturn in availability of private rented accommodation and shortfall in housing association provision. Leading to housing needs not being met.

### **Learning & Skills**

A new community learning network has been established in Clevedon. Across all programmes in North Somerset, progression of adults from first steps learning to further formal learning is set to reach 50%.

### **Transport**

The Transport Symposium last met on 13 September.

The work of the group has become more useful over recent months in influencing and lobbying for change to meet local transport needs.

### **Children & Young People**

The new Nailsea School Bid has been submitted to the Learning Skills Council. The £30 million project aims to complete in 2009.

Bids for Young Apprenticeship Scheme and Train to Gain contract for North Somerset have both been successful.

The new college campus within the Coronation area of Weston-super-Mare opened on 1 September.

The Children & Young People's Plan is being reviewed.

If you would like any further information on items mentioned in the Bulletin, or have any comments please contact:

Valerie Kelly – Partnership Support Officer Tel: 01275 884379

Or email: [northsomersetpartnership@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:northsomersetpartnership@n-somerset.gov.uk)