

Welcome: ...

2010 has been a year of success and challenge for the Partnership.

Success came through achieving 16 out of 17 key targets within the 2007-2010 Local Area Agreement. The aim of the LAA was not only to improve quality of life for residents and communities across North Somerset but also to strengthen partnership working across the area. Having successfully completed the LAA we will receive over £2.5m in performance reward grant, which will be used to fund further projects to continue this great work.

However, there were, and continue to be, a number of challenges to partnership activity. Since the Coalition Government came to power we have been working in a rapidly changing environment. Some of the key issues impacting on partnership activity are the cuts in public spending, the Localism and Decentralisation agenda, the Big Society concept, significant reforms to health, education and policing as well as changes to regional government structures.

As well as these changes a number of key partnership work programmes have also been cut or reduced; for example the Comprehensive Area Assessment and future centrally directed Local Area Agreements have been abolished.

However, I believe that our partnership is in a strong position to move forward and we are currently undertaking a review to ensure that we are able to build on the good work that is currently being done.

We look forward to continuing to work with all our stakeholder for the benefit of North Somerset communities in the coming year.

Nigel Ashton
Chairman, North Somerset Partnership

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PARTNERSHIP WORKING BRINGS RESULTS

The successful completion of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) in March 2010 has resulted in the North Somerset Partnership (NSP) achieving over £2.5m of performance reward grant.

The LAA, a three year agreement between central government and the partnership setting out a number of challenging improvements for the area, has been overseen by the NSP since it began in 2007. The LAA was a key piece of partnership work and, by working together, we have been able to make a difference to people's lives by achieving some tough improvement targets for the area. With a 96%+ result this achievement is the best in the South West.

Among those achievements are:

- In 2010 52% of 16-18 year olds achieved 5 A*-C GCSEs including English and maths, a rise of 4.7% since 2007
- An additional 50+ schools are now signed up to the national Healthy schools programme



Lunch club volunteers in Pill

- More people are volunteering
- 183 obese people have lost at least 5kg through personalised management programme
- 348 more adults and older people have self directed care packages

- More than 1500 people have stopped smoking thanks to the NHS Stop Smoking Service

Case Study

A father of one from Weston-super- Mare has successfully gone smokefree having successfully kicked his 20 to 30-a-day smoking habit with the support of North Somerset NHS Stop Smoking Service.



"I tried my first cigarette when I was 19 years old," Pan said. "I then bought a packet of cigarettes during one of my lunch breaks and that was it."

After smoking for 20 years Pan said "I can't believe I didn't do it sooner. I have stopped coughing and I feel like I have much more energy now. I'm better off financially too. When I used to smoke, I had to go to the cashpoint every other day to make sure I had the cash to buy my next packet of cigarettes. The money in my pocket stays there for much longer now, and I hardly ever go to the cashpoint!"

- More incidents of domestic violence have been tackled

- There have been less drug related deaths
- There were 1145 fewer criminal damage offences in 2010 than 2007
- Increasing numbers of people have been encouraged to take regular exercise
- 260 lone parents or people on inactive benefits have been helped into sustainable employment



Case Study

North Somerset Enterprise Agency assisted a Mum of 2 young daughters to set up her own web design business with the support of her partner.

“The Ready4work Job Grant was a great as it helped towards my rent and to put food on the table during the early days of developing my business.”

Emma has been featured in Cosmopolitan Magazine as an example of changing your life and starting your own business

We are keen to build on and sustain these improvements for local people so the performance reward grant will be used to fund a number of projects across the area over the next two to three years, including:

- Developing new ways of working with families
- Further supporting older people with their communities
- Developing an alcohol outreach service
- Continuing and developing domestic abuse services
- Supporting development of a business centre providing managed workspace and advice for local businesses and start ups
- Supporting development of Weston College’s Green Technology Training Centre
- Supporting the Neighbourhood Management programme to expand into Central Ward, Weston-super-Mare
- Developing and piloting a Community Investment Fund

Work on these projects will start in April 2011 and further updates on progress will be provided in the future.

Other partnership achievements

- The strength of partnership working in North Somerset has been recognised in a number of external reviews. Comments included:

- (The NSP) ... has effective partnerships and high quality relationships at a senior level
- (The NSP) ... is seen by its component groups as influential and delivering on tasks which would not be achieved without it
- The NSP is driving and delivering change (work on LAA Reward Grant is a good example)

In addition we have:

- Established an integrated performance management process that monitors progress towards delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy shared priorities at all levels of the partnership
- Worked together to meet local needs by pooling and targeting resources to sustain domestic violence services and setting up a partnership recession fund to support voluntary and community organisations experiencing hardship
- Developed a partnership Recession Action Plan to mitigate the effects of the recession on local communities and businesses
- Worked together to address cross cutting issues such as tackling health inequalities, child poverty and climate change

Listening to our stakeholders

Back in November 2009, Stakeholder Event participants heard about some of the local issues arising from the recession. During a number of workshops they discussed the Sustainable Community Strategy aims considered to be the hardest to achieve and had the opportunity to identify possible partnership actions that could help to deliver these.



These suggestions were then considered by the NSP Executive and delivery partnerships to identify whether actions were already underway or could be taken forward through 2010.

Among the actions that have been or are being developed are:

- Promoting volunteering across the area
- New 'in North Somerset' brand and website developed to encourage businesses to move to North Somerset and local purchasing
- Improving hospital discharge processes
- The priorities identified at the stakeholder event also helped the NSP Executive to identify 10 key areas of focus for performance reward grant project bids from delivery partnerships
- One of the PRG projects will build on the suggestion of 'village agents' to encourage volunteering and provide support to isolated older people and early signposting to services.

The Event report with workshop suggestions can be found on the NSP website at www.northsomersetpartnership.org.uk

Responding to the recession

During 2010 the NSP re-visited the partnership Recession Action Plan developed during 2009. This plan identified a number of actions that could be taken as a partnership to reduce the impacts of the recession on local communities and businesses.

Among the successful actions highlighted by partners and delivery partnerships were:

- Implementation of the Recession Impact Fund established through partner contributions. The Fund supported nine voluntary and community groups experiencing hardship to continue their work.
- Information sharing across organisations has improved with frontline staff now better able to 'signpost' people to appropriate services and advice
- North Somerset Enterprise Agency provided advice and support to 119 new start up businesses with 176 new jobs being created
- A North Somerset Public Sector apprenticeship promotional event attracted 200 interested people
- Westonworks – one stop shop for training, employment and volunteering opportunities helped over 1,000 since opening in October 2009 and the end of 2010
- A GP led health centre opened in Central Weston-super-Mare in February 2010
- A Health Information Centre staffed by health trainers opened in March 2010

South Ward Neighbourhood Management Programme

The Neighbourhood Management programme is overseen by the NSP. It was awarded £3.7 million of government funding to improve the quality of life across South Ward, Weston-super-Mare, and in particular to tackle the disadvantage experienced by people living in one particular area within the Bournville.



The Neighbourhood Management programme brings together the local community and local service providers at a neighbourhood level to tackle local problems and improve local services.

The funding has been used to deliver significant improvements to the neighbourhood, responding to the concerns and priorities raised by local residents. This has included delivering change in the following areas:

- Reducing crime and anti social behaviour
- Improving the quality and quantity of parks and open spaces
- Developing joined up responses to the needs of younger people
- Tackling the area's high levels of worklessness and low levels of skills
- Involving local residents in shaping and directing change

The major projects delivered during 2010 include:

The arts strategy, which has involved the creation of a series of pieces that reconnect people with the forgotten landscape and history of the area. Local residents have worked with artists to rediscover the unique character of the neighbourhoods that make up South Ward.

Recently completed pieces include:

Golden Dandelion
by Andy Hazell





The diatom designed by artist Rod Harris, located at the entrance to Millennium Green Park on the Potteries, celebrates the area's historic link to the production of clay objects.



Donkey Crossing
by Sally Matthew

The Windermere Communal Garden, has been developed, in partnership with NS Housing, from disused drying and garage areas to create a beautiful space for residents to enjoy.

Other major projects include ...

- Refurbishment of 3 local shopping parades
- Redesign and enhancement of 3 local parks
- Development of a community warden scheme
- Creation of a neighbourhood youth project



Neighbourhood Management in the future

As the programme winds down we are looking forward to the next phase which will see the development of a neighbourhood partnership to enable local residents to continue to meet with service providers to plan and prioritise service delivery.

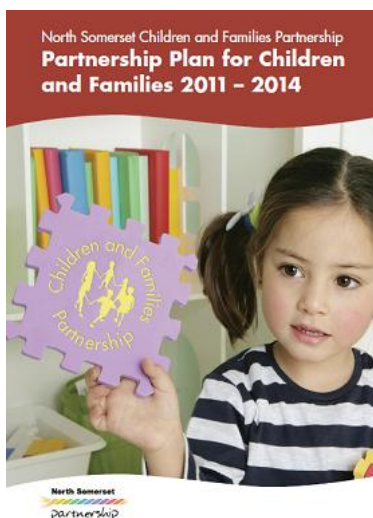
For further information see the South Ward website at: www.southward.org.uk

Delivery Partnership News

During the last year a key part of each delivery partnership's work programme has been to make sure that the final LAA targets were achieved and to develop project bids around the key areas of focus identified by the Executive for Performance Reward Grant finance. However, there are many other areas of work that the delivery partnerships are involved in.

Children & Families Partnership

The North Somerset Children and Families Partnership was formed to replace the Children's Management Trust Board. The Children and Families Partnership brings together representatives from a range of organisations working for the benefit of children and young people and their families across the area.



It will take a lead on the aims and improvements specific to children and young people whilst also contributing to and working with the other delivery partnerships where appropriate.

Priorities for the Future

- Reviewing and developing its role within the changing partnership landscape
- Supporting development of new working practices and service delivery models
- Strengthening links across partnerships
- Delivery of the recently published Children & Families Partnership Plan
- Delivery of the Child Poverty Strategy

Safer Stronger North Somerset

Alcohol Awareness Week 2010

Alcohol Awareness Week 2010 (AAW), took place from 18 – 23 October. The theme for the week was 'Alcohol and Childhood', looking at both the issue of alcohol use by young people and the impact on children of parental drinking.

Key points for North Somerset noted in the report on the week include:

- Overall the week was delivered effectively, with a wide range of activities delivered from different locations, making use of many different communication methods, including; formal training, the internet, posters, leaflets, peer led art programmes and alcohol screening assessments. The picture (right) shows the window display at the Health Central Service.
- Inclusion of the alcohol retail sector was a very positive addition to the week and further joint work is planned for this year. Activities including retailers displaying Retail of Alcohol Standards Group posters warning about the consequences of underage and proxy sales.
- The peer led activities delivered from the "grass-roots", drop in support service (Somewhere To Go) had some positive success and resulted in some great feedback which will be incorporated into similar events in the future



Community Engagement Toolkit

Community engagement is becoming more important as the Big Society and Localism agenda develop. When community engagement is done well it results in improvements in the quality and effectiveness of services to local people.

During 2010 the Stronger Working Group, part of the Safer Stronger Partnership, developed a community engagement toolkit which looks at the issue of community engagement, proposes a model for practical use in the work place along with tips and advice. The toolkit provides best practice of the tools and techniques that can be used in community engagement.

It is hoped that this approach will be delivered by partners as part of the Strategic Partnerships commitment to good practice.

Link to Community Engagement Statement and Toolkit:

<http://www.northsomersetpartnership.co.uk/usefulinformation/communityengagementstatementandtoolkitv10partnershipamended.pdf>

Priorities for the future

- Reviewing and developing its role and structures in response to changes in the Police and Social Responsibility
- Preparing for introduction of Police & Crime Commissioners and Police & Crime Panels
- Continuing to monitor progress against the current Safer Stronger Partnership priorities of maintaining reductions in serious acquisitive crime and assaults with less serious injury, reducing offending and increasing public confidence, engaging communities, volunteering and supporting co-ops, mutuals and social enterprises

Transport, Economy & Environment

The Transport, Economy & Environment Group has set up a Climate Change Adaptation Group. This partnership group is looking at the implications of the projected changes to climate for North Somerset and how we can prepare for this. An Action Plan is being developed and awareness raising opportunities being considered.

The group has also been looking at carbon reduction schemes and the work of transition towns across North Somerset. Transition towns are a community-led response to the challenges of climate change, pressures on fossil fuels and economic changes with the idea of reducing a town's impact and environmental footprint on the world.

Priorities for the future

- Reviewing and developing its structure and role within the changing partnership agenda
- Responding to the Local Economic Assessment for North Somerset
- Developing links with the West of England Local Economic Partnership

Health and Wellbeing

During 2010 the Health and Wellbeing Partnership has considered how it will respond to various government reviews around health and social care, for example the Marmot Review on health inequalities. It has also responded to government consultations on the future direction of health care and the NHS.

As well as its day to day work the partnership has led on the development of the Older People Strategy for North Somerset and continues to monitor delivery of the alcohol harm reduction strategy and actions resulting from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Priorities for the future

- Development of a new Health & Wellbeing Board with new responsibilities in response to the Health and Social Care Bill
- Continuing to monitor progress against the current Health & Wellbeing Partnership priorities of tackling health inequalities, homelessness and active lifestyles

Events

Although the NSP did not host a Stakeholder Event in 2010 there were partnership events during the year.

Transport, Economy & Environment

During 2010 a number of Climate Change events were held.

In April 2010, the Climate Change & Your Business Event was attended by over 100 businesses. The event offered opportunities to get advice from experts around the implications of climate change and environmental issues for businesses.

Health and Wellbeing

In October 2010 the Health and Wellbeing Partnership hosted a joint event with NHS North Somerset.

The 'Working Together for Health & Wellbeing' event was a mix of speakers, workshop sessions and an exhibition from various agencies and organisations. 83 people attended the conference and took part in the workshops with nearly 160 people visiting the exhibition.

The speakers were Gabriel Scally from the South West Public Health Observatory, Chris Born, NHS North Somerset and Jane Smith, North Somerset Council.

Future of the Partnership

The coming year will be a challenge not only for partner organisations but also for the partnership as a whole as the new policy agenda develops and financial constraints begin to bite. The changes will demand new ways of working and improved partnership working across organisations and communities to ensure that services are provided in the best possible way to meet local needs.

The partnership itself is well placed to play a key role in this new agenda and, although it was reviewed in 2008 and new structures and governance mechanisms

introduced, a further review of partnership structures and functions is currently being undertaken with a view to decisions being made by the end of July 2011.

Key areas of work for the future will be overseeing and monitoring of projects funded by performance reward grant, continuing to provide strategic direction for work programmes and establishing key shared priorities.

For further information about the North Somerset Partnership please visit:
www.northsomersetpartnership.org.uk

or ring the Policy & Partnership Team on 01934 634888 or 01275 884379



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