



## THE NEW GOVERNMENT in this edition... and what this means for Partnership working



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

The Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats are implementing new reforms and signing off policies that will affect the future of partnership working.

With that in mind the question on everyone's lips is 'how will this affect our LSP?' 'The Coalition: our programme for government' released on the 20 May is the government's five year programme that aims to, rebuild the economy, unlock social mobility, mend the political system and give people the power to call the shots over the decisions that affect their lives.

The communities and local government section of The Coalition document states that measures will be put in place to shift the control of power from Westminster to 'the people' and that decentralisation and democratic engagement will put an end to the top-down style of leadership of previous years. New powers will be given to local councils, communities, neighbours and individuals so that they are more aware of

how taxpayer's money is spent in their area. It will devolve power so that individuals have an increased say on what funds are allocated to what projects and where.

There are commitments to reducing government inspection. However, with the phasing out of the ring-fencing of grants to local government and an apparent commitment to a 'Total Place-style' approach, partnerships look set to remain a crucial way to increase efficiencies and reduce savings.

Similarly, with the cuts to central bureaucracy and quangos, and the shift from regional to local control of policy and spending decisions, the role of local partnerships would seem to be as important as ever.



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## WDSP Conference

2 June 2010

University of Winchester



Over a hundred delegates turned out to show their support to find out what the future of partnership working would hold for WDSP.

The event opened with a presentation from Phil Swann on the 'Total Place' pilot in Dorset and how the project mapped the spending of public money on services in order to improve efficiencies and collaboration between partners. The second presentation of the day, '24 Hours to Save Winchester', reported on a visualisation meeting that was held over a 24 hour period. Over 100 people volunteered their time that would have equated to £70,000 worth of paid consultancy work to contribute to the vision. The event provoked interesting discussions around urban design and the regeneration of Winchester City to fit into the changing sustainable climate we are now entering.

The half day event concluded by examining the WDSP Community Strategy 2010-15. Outcomes will result in the strategy becoming more focused highlighting what is important, urgent and assessable to reach the targets of Winchester becoming an active community, having a prosperous economy and a high quality environment, leading on to a more sustainable community.



## Making a difference through cross-partnership working

South Oxfordshire and Vale Partnerships paired up to successfully apply for 2009/11 PtP central and supplementary funding.

They are using this funding to work together to help local communities tackle unique challenges across Berinsfield, Didcot and South Abingdon. We spoke to Toby Warren, Community Partnerships Manager, to find out how the activities are progressing and the rationale behind the joint application.

The partnerships have identified three communities where a better understanding of the issues will make a real difference. Berinsfield is a rural village only seven miles from Oxford, it has had relatively high unemployment for many years, and many households have lower than average incomes. South Abingdon also has many households with lower than average incomes and, despite considerable investment and many initiatives over the years, residents feel more needs to be done to improve their part of the town. Didcot has not had the range of shopping, leisure and community facilities that other

towns of a similar size have enjoyed. New housing growth is providing an opportunity to address these issues, but there are concerns that many new residents will work outside the town and as a result will not become part of the existing community.

Funding provided from PtP via the central fund and the supplementary fund means that the partnerships will be able to learn more about community needs that have been identified at a grassroots level. Future plans will concentrate on community 'self help' initiatives but partners have to know what support is required to establish these initiatives and keep them running.

The outcome of the 'Community Places' project will be to build a transferable model to show how other local partnerships, with limited resources, can help to transform communities. Follow the October issue of PtP news to find out how activities are progressing.

# A city for all ages

Southampton hosted a tea-time conference, organised by the Southampton Intergenerational Network (SIGN) supported by the Southampton Partnership in May.

The conference succeeded in recognising the range and value of Intergenerational (IG) activities already happening in the city. Southampton is already building stronger links across partners to secure more joint working on projects, sharing good IG practice from elsewhere and identifying how to secure a more sustainable approach for the city to benefit from IG working in the future. SIGN was established through the Southampton Partnership's Later Years Partnership who secured funding through the Cities in Balance project. Cities in Balance organised an event in all 10 European cities to help celebrate the European Day of Solidarity between Generations.

The Southampton Intergenerational Network involves 70 organisations sharing good practice and information, trying to build intergenerational practice into their mainstream activity. Intergenerational practise aims to bring people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities which promote greater understanding and respect between generations and contributes to building more cohesive communities.

The event was attended by over 80 people from across the south east and was co-chaired by Pat Presland of the Seniors Council and Nathan King, the city's youth MP. The event attracted speakers from a wide range of organisations who are involved in building Intergenerational practises (IGP) into their mainstream activity.

Louise Middleton of the Centre for Intergenerational practice (IGP) emphasised the role that IGP can play in achieving a wide range of LAA and National Indicator targets. She highlighted the value of IGP in delivering 'more for less'.

Peta Halls, National Youth Agency, highlighted the ways IGP is being used to address Community Safety issues and to breakdown stereotypes and contribute to improving outcomes for young people focusing on delivering national and improvement priorities. Examples were used from Birmingham, East Anglia and Derbyshire to illustrate work already taking place.



## KEY INSIGHTS AND FEEDBACK

- 100% of respondents agreed that the City for all ages event helped to stimulate their interest in using Intergenerational practice as part of their work.
- 91% agreed the event had developed their understanding of Intergenerational practice and how to apply it to their service.
- 82% agreed the event enabled them to build positive networks with others from different sectors.
- 85% of attendees will be looking to develop more Intergenerational projects and partnerships as a result of the event.
- 85% were interested in supporting the existing programmes already happening in Southampton.
- 50% of respondents heard about SIGN for the first time as a result of the event. (73% of these now want to become a member of SIGN)

A full copy of papers and references from the day are available on the Southampton Partnership website [www.southampton-partnership.com/partners/SIGN](http://www.southampton-partnership.com/partners/SIGN).

Representatives from Grandparents plus, Age Concern Southampton, Solent Youth Action, Everybody Sing project and the Rotary Clubs in Southampton all took part in the evening's events to produce some interesting key insights and recommendations.

# Policies & Priorities

the future of partnership working, outcomes and focuses

The first PtP event since the coalition Government came into power took place on the 14 June 2010 at the LGA, Local Government House.

Over 40 delegates took part in the event that was opened by the PtP chairman, Councillor Neville Whiteley. The event included presentations from Ben Lucas, Director of the 2020 Public Services Trust, Nigel Keohane, New Local Government Network and Davy Jones, an independent consultant who specialises in areas around citizen empowerment, participatory budgeting, performance management and Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs).

Councillor Whiteley opened the event with encouraging thoughts on how partnerships can strive for better outcomes and that LSPs sharing thoughts and experiences can add value and generate efficiencies. Mark Palmer, South East Employers (SEE) and PtP Development Director facilitated the day's proceedings and introduced the key note speakers.

Ben Lucas was the first key note speaker of the day who explored 'Collaborative Localism' and the future of partnership working. The presentation explored immediate pressures left by the financial deficit and it was discussed that the real pressures will arise when public services try to produce outcomes that are of a similar or equal level of service with fewer resources. Ben discussed how the parameters left from the legacy of Beveridge that is over 60 years old produces a static view of problems and issues facing the public sector, when what we really need is to take a dynamic

approach and look at prevention, capabilities, responsibilities and innovations. Ben presented two possible futures that the public sector may face; 'Retrenchment and residualisation' or 'Citizen engagement and reform'. Either way there needs to be a shift in culture from social security to social productively.

The first workshop of the day asked the LSPs what they thought the likely challenges would be for them. The majority of responses concluded that the role of the elected member, LSPs being grouped into geographical 'silos', what is localism and how local do we go as well as the risk of increasing differences and fragmentation (otherwise known as 'post code lottery') would be the biggest challenges. The second question in the workshop asked 'How do you think your partnership will meet these challenges?' Groups responded in a variety of ways but many ideas grouped around leadership and





**Retrenchment & residualisation or 'Citizen engagement and reform'. Either way there needs to be a shift in culture from social security to social productivity**

organisation. Allowing LSPs to bring budgets to the table and for LSPs to feature in the business plans of organisations was seen as key to meeting future challenges.

The afternoon session began with a presentation from Nigel Keohane, Head of Research at NLGN, on the recent report 'Greater than the sum of its parts: Total Place and the future shape of public services. Nigel, the author of the report, looked in detail at what the public sector can do to meet the uncertainty and that if public services are able to intervene early enough, final outcomes are prevented i.e. Tackling the NEETs issue (16-24 year olds not in employment, education or training) will reduce the growing costs on the public sector.

The second workshop of the day presented the delegates with two questions, the first;

'Where can efficiencies be made and how can partnerships help?' produced interesting outcomes, some key point included;

- First step: transparency, second step: share evidence and third step: outcomes
- The ability to think 'out of the box'
- Remove all ring-fencing
- Establish a single priority
- Have a 'zero based budget' approach

Key points from the second question, 'How will efficiencies be made in your area and what will be the impact of those efficiencies locally?' included;

- The merger of East Hampshire and Havant
- Use the local knowledge of partnerships to drive effective cost reduction
- Build on existing community engagement mechanisms
- Increase productivity that has reduced over the last three years
- Transfer services to neighbourhood community groups

The day concluded with a lively presentation from Davy Jones. Davy examined the degree of centralisation in this country, citizen involvement and policy changes that have occurred in the last few months and that are set to occur in future months. Key themes emerged from the presentation; the debate on public sector cuts, Total Place and how it maybe re-branded to 'Single Place', Localism and how the devolution of power will be brought down to the citizen and moving forward, how more elections and constant interaction will lead to an increase in accountability. The event concluded on a positive note towards other policy changes. The consensus focused on one particular point; that one body needs to be in place to bring accountability together.

**For more information and to view the presentations from the day please go to the PtP website or contact Janine Gill on 01962 840664.**



# Views from a voluntary and community sector partner

**Name:** Mr David Livermore

**Role:** Deputy Director, Milton Keynes Council of Voluntary Organisations

## Please introduce yourself, your roles, your main work priorities and any special areas of interest

My name is David Livermore and I am the Deputy Director at Milton Keynes Council of Voluntary Organisations (MKCVO). I manage the service delivery aspects of our organisation and between myself and the Director, the cross-sector strategic partnerships. In Milton Keynes we have more than 1,400 voluntary and community groups which mean we are one of the most concentrated areas for community activity in the region. The majority of groups (around 70%) have incomes of less than £10,000, whilst 5% have an income of over £1,000,000. This leads to a really broad level of activity which means that support needs are incredibly varied, as is the engagement with the general community of Milton Keynes. A recent

survey showed us that there were as many as 84,000 volunteers active in the area!

## What motivates you to work within the voluntary and community sector?

I have managed to find myself working in the sector since I left University, the lure is probably the same for me as it is for many of my colleagues. The vibrancy of the people and organisations we work with is a real attraction, people get involved in the sector because they have a particular interest or affinity with a cause or an area, this leads to a real commitment to achievement and a background in getting things done despite scarce resources! The ability of the sector to be responsive and flexible in their approach is also something which never ceases to intrigue me, we remain able to respond to emerging needs and we are able to establish what current issues are most important to people and adapt the way we deliver services appropriately.

“We will need to support our local authority partners in thinking creatively about how we can deliver better outcomes within a very different funding climate”

Could you give an example of a project you are working on at the moment that incorporates partnership working?

Recently we have been involved in a small cross sector task group established through our LSP

to consider responses to the economic recession. It was recognised by the LSP that the Voluntary and Community Sector would be most able to coordinate appropriate actions to support the theme ‘Individuals and Communities.’

This led to the development of an action plan through a range of VCS partners with specific key actions, and then resourced through the local authority. The projects that were enabled through this partnership include; an expansion of CAB services, a grant fund to maintain levels of community activity, practical support for young people to develop work readiness skills and developing the volunteering offer to those leaving employment. They have all been individually and collectively successful in achieving their aims of support to people in need. This partnership approach has since been held up as exemplar practice in responding swiftly to the needs of communities.

‘Total Place’ is an example of several pilots that have been run amongst local authorities to improve delivery of services with shared resources to improve efficiency and reduce cost. Is there something similar happening amongst MKCVO or are you feeling the effects of the recession in another way?

We are currently working with the Police and the NHS regarding the employment of community workers such as PCSO’s and Health Trainers. At CVO we also have a team of community workers

– the Community Mobilisers. These three individual workforces are based in similar areas across Milton Keynes and are comparable in their size. We have come together to consider what the shared elements of their roles are and to understand if there are better ways that we can work together to reduce costs and to deliver better outcomes.

We are working under three main themes – Coordination, Support and Training and have developed a series of objectives around these. This will provide us with opportunities to consider shared management, back office support, joint training programmes, shadowing, structured information sharing, alongside a common approach to engaging communities, a commitment to feedback and a responsibility for dealing with individual issues regardless of the agenda presented.

**What do you think the next big challenge for the voluntary and community sector, in relation to partnership working, will be?**

The effective commissioning of services. We will need to support our local authority partners in thinking creatively about how we can deliver better outcomes within a very different funding climate.

There is a wealth of positive work out there and we will need to understand how we can most effectively establish a supportive commissioning environment which is based on delivering against the outcomes which are in most need within our own communities. This will need to be an open and honest debate. I also feel that the current climate has the potential to be very helpful for the development of effective partnerships, resources need to be shared much more than they have been and organisations will have a necessity to work together to deliver programmes of work.

*The views of the author may not necessarily represent those of PtP and the Host Agencies, South East Employers and Shared Intelligence.*

## Channel Chamber helps unemployed youngsters

Channel Chamber of Commerce in East Kent is a scheme that was set up out of the Future Jobs Fund (FJF) that helped to play a key role in getting local unemployed young people into work.

Since February, Channel Chamber has been busily recruiting a total of 30 young people, aged between 18 and 24 years, as part of the Government's Future Jobs Fund which was being managed locally by Thanet District Council.

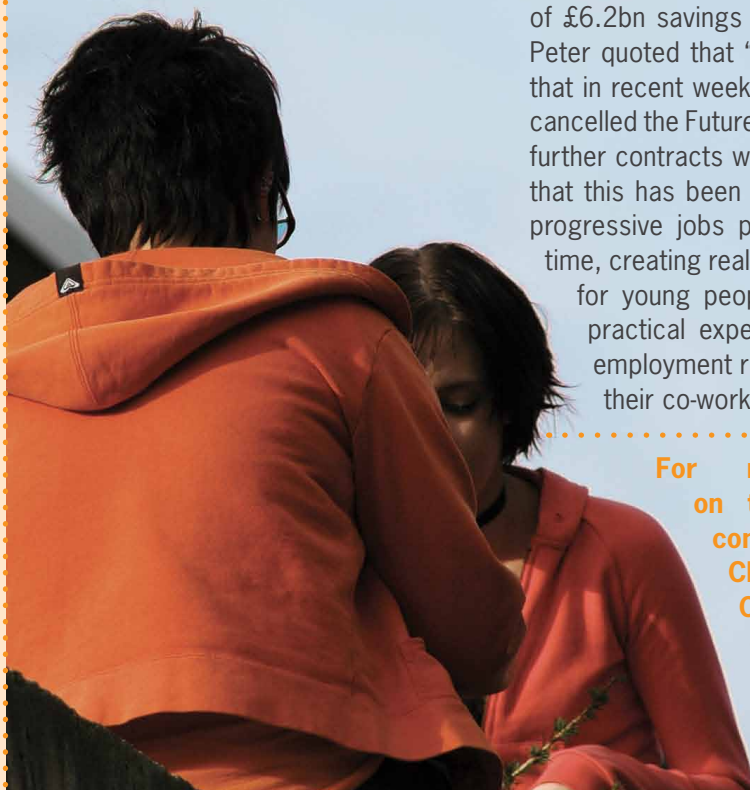
The collective group of young people all live in Thanet and have been unemployed for almost a year. As a result of the FJF initiative they are now working as a team at Channel Chamber's new offices in Ramsgate and have been for a period of six months. During this time they were also provided with an intensive skills development programme via the Chamber's accredited training arm – Channel Chamber Training. This aimed to provide these young people with much needed on-the-job skills and real practical experience of dealing with all types of customer enquiries.

Peter Hobbs, Chamber Chief Executive is delighted to be leading this exciting challenge to help local young people into sustainable work.

"The Chamber of Commerce offers the perfect opportunity for many youngsters to make their first steps into work. We have a wide variety of different roles within our organisation - some customer-facing others in administration and IT. The common element is that everyone is focused on helping to support the local business community and this brings our youngsters into direct contact with business people in different sectors on a regular basis."

It's unfortunate that as of May 2010 the FJF has been no longer available. The announcement to close the scheme was made as part of the Government's list of £6.2bn savings earlier on in the year. Peter quoted that "It is such a great pity that in recent weeks the Government has cancelled the Future Jobs Fund and that no further contracts will be offered. I believe that this has been the most positive and progressive jobs programme for a long time, creating real, albeit temporary jobs for young people and offering them practical experience with the same employment rights – and duties – as their co-workers."

**For more information on the project please contact Peter Hobbs, Chief Executive, Channel Chamber of Commerce via Janine Gill at PtP.**



# LSP MOVES

## Kent County Council

**Katherine Kerswell** joined Kent County Council as its Group Managing Director in June 2010. She is a former Chief Executive of Northamptonshire County Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Redditch Borough Council. She is currently a non-executive Director of the Department of Education and the President of SOLACE – the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers.



## Ashford Borough Council

**Councillor Bartlett** is the new Leader of Ashford Borough Council. **John Bunnett**, Chief Executive of Ashford Borough Council, is now the chair of the Ashford Partnership.

**Please help us keep up to date by letting us know about any changes within your LSP: [janine@seemp.co.uk](mailto:janine@seemp.co.uk)**

## Enhancing Local Democracy Conference 2010

Friday 16 Jul 2010

*Local Government House, Smith Square, Westminster, London SW1P 3HZ*

Book your place on the SEE annual Enhancing Local Democracy Conference. This year the focus is on the future for local government following the General Election. The conference will provide the opportunity to look at the impact of localism in more detail. There will also be the opportunity for delegates to enjoy informal networking and to visit a number of exhibition stands. To book your place on the event follow this link or contact [Helen@seemp.co.uk](mailto:Helen@seemp.co.uk). [www.seemp.co.uk/index/eventsnet](http://www.seemp.co.uk/index/eventsnet)

## Room hire in Winchester

SEE offers an outstanding corporate venue, ideal for hosting meetings, seminars and training events. Located in central Winchester, the venue is only a five minute walk from the railway station with direct links from London and the south coast. Call our friendly Event Coordinators, for further information on 0196 840664 or follow this link:

[www.seemp.co.uk/index/intro/roomhire](http://www.seemp.co.uk/index/intro/roomhire)

# PtP Events

## PtP Masterclass in Family Intervention Projects

Wednesday 28 July 2010

*Shared Intelligence, 1 Fitzroy Square, London W1*

The event will bring people together in a focused morning session to find out more about how partnerships can work together to reach improved outcomes for those families most at risk. Lorraine Testro, Family Intervention Projects at Derby Homes Ltd will be facilitating the event.

## Fourth Annual PtP Conference

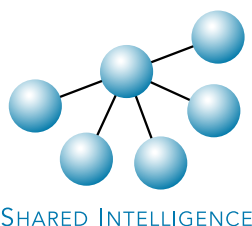
Friday 22 October 2010

*Brit Oval, London SE11*

The fourth annual PtP conference is for LSP partners and practitioners to share good practice and discuss the latest partnership challenges.

## Attendance is free of charge for most PtP events.

For more information on any of the events above please contact [leah@seemp.co.uk](mailto:leah@seemp.co.uk).



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