

The Project Team



The PtP support team is made up of:
Peter Johnson – Programme Manager
Sarah McDuff – Programme Coordinator
Nicola Locke – Programme Administrator

Extension of the programme

PtP is preparing proposals to access funding and extend our programme beyond March 2008. We will use the PtP Conference to capture your ideas and thoughts on how the next stage of the programme should look and, more importantly, be delivered.

We want to hear from you!

PtP is a peer led programme and we want to build on the success of the past 6 months by involving you further in the next stage of the programme.

We want to know:

- Are we on the right track?
- Has the programme been useful to your own partnership?
- What do you want from the programme in the future?
- What added value has the capacity building programme given?

Please send us your thoughts using the feedback form on the PtP website:

www.progressthroughpartnership.org.uk

PtP Conference – 22nd November 2007

The Brit Oval, London

The PtP Conference will provide an opportunity for partners and practitioners to meet and share their ideas and experiences.

Speakers will discuss the development of the local government Bill and provide news and feedback on LAAs and LAA pilots that have taken place in the region.

We will also use the conference to present our ideas for the future of the PtP programme and capture the views of delegates to ensure we remain a peer led. Some of our innovative ways of capturing feedback will include the use of the latest audience participation voting equipment.



Audience participation equipment in action

Introducing Cllr Neville Whiteley, PtP Chairman



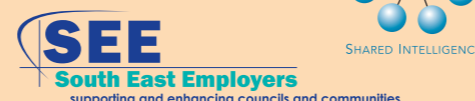
Cllr Neville Whiteley is an elected member for Test Valley District Council. He is a champion for partnership working and will be the Chairman for PtP. Neville will act as an advocate for the programme and be the member representative for PtP on the board of the South East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership.

Member engagement is one of the hot topics identified through the PtP programme and Neville's commitment and support to the programme will make a huge difference.

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This programme is led by South East Employers and Shared Intelligence.



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PtP working differently to build capacity...

Progress through Partnership is proving to be a powerful resource, helping to build networks and relationships on a regional, sub-regional and local basis. Our peer led approach is helping identify the issues for partnerships on the ground and developing solutions that make sense for practitioners and partners working in LSPs. We have been pioneering approaches that make use of new technology and using relationship building techniques developed outside of the public sector.

What difference has PtP made in the region...

There is an evidence base that will help focus capacity building activities

"PtP has highlighted deficiencies in my LSP practice and how to start putting them right"

LSP partners and practitioners are in contact with each other
"PtP is essential for networking with other LSPs, chairs & partners"

LSPs see PtP as a driver to create partnership development plans
"...Progress Through Partnership is an extremely useful tool"

What PtP has done so far?

In the first five months of the programme PtP has:

- Held six regional events on hot topics for partnerships
- Established good communication with LSPs the region via our newsletter, newswire and website
- Launched the PtP Community of Practice (a virtual meeting place for practitioners and partners)
- Established a group of Practitioner Associates (peer support for LSPs)
- Set up a liaison team who have made contact with every LSP in the region to support negotiations to draw down the funds available to each LSP
- Developed 'Themed Learning' to address issues identified through the self assessments completed by LSPs in the region
- Helped coordinated the pilot work to help develop LAAs

Capacity building issues for partnerships

The LSP self-assessments coordinated by PtP, and anecdotal evidence from PtP events, have helped identify seven issues to address; these will act as themes to focus the work of the programme.

These are:

- Member engagement is weak
- Governance arrangements are causing concern
- Scrutiny of partnerships is poor
- LAA delivery arrangements are confused
- Community and Spatial Planning needs to be aligned
- Performance and Risk Management is inadequate
- Effective sub-regional LSP Practitioner and Chair networks help



The PtP Practitioner Associates

What will PtP be doing over the next three months...

Practitioner Associates

A group of 15 practitioners and partners from across the region have been drawn together to help provide peer support on a variety of topics. The group includes elected Members Chairs, Partners and Practitioners.

This group will help provide tailored peer-to-peer support to LSPs: we will be publishing their profiles on the PtP website shortly. The Practitioner Associates are an additional resource to complement the credit individual LSPs can draw down.

Use a PA to provide an independent and external perspective and draw on their experiences to help you address issues or tensions that your LSP might be facing.

"PtP are engaged and an excellent resource"

Community of Practice (CoP)

The Progress through Partnership CoP has been launched and is available to anyone who has an interest in partnerships. It is an interactive on-line forum that supports discussion and the sharing of ideas without the need to meet face to face.

It is a great opportunity to chat with colleagues from across the region and beyond; raise a query, start a discussion topic, or challenge our hot seat guests with those difficult questions.

Draw-down Funding

Each LSP may draw down £6000 to use as they see fit to build capacity. The PtP liaison team has been busy negotiating with LSPs on how best to use this money. Most two tier authorities have chosen to pool some of the funds available for joint activities.

Winchester City Council has led the way by being first to draw down their funding and we hope to have agreed how all the funding will be spent shortly.

Practitioner networks have been enormously helpful in helping to agree the pooling of funds and in strengthening joint working in general. This has encouraged PtP to focus

some of its activities on strengthening regional and sub regional networks in order to help people share their ideas and experiences and work together.

"The entire policy agenda cannot be delivered without effective LSPs"

Themed Learning

PtP will be coordinating learning using a variety of approaches on the following themes:

- Performance Management in Partnerships
- Supporting Health Theme Members of LSPs
- Scrutiny of Partnerships and Member Engagement
- Linking the Local Development Framework (LDF) with the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)

These activities will allow LSPs to share knowledge, experiences and ideas in order to develop best practice that PtP will then help share.

What is 'Cultural Champions'?

Cultural Champions is a pilot study aimed at building the advocacy skills of culture-sector representatives working with local authorities and LSPs in the Thames Valley. The work is being led under the banner of the Cultural Regional Improvement Group (CRIG) and delivered through the PtP programme. The pilot runs until November 07 and seeks to develop cultural champions in the Thames Valley so that they can provide leadership in raising the profile of culture and sport at the local priority level and influence the strategic planning of LSPs.

"PtP are providing a strong evidence base for capacity building activities"



Brighton & Hove LAA Pilot

Interview with Simon Newell
2020 Community Partnership Officer, Brighton & Hove City Council



Simon is the 2020 Community Partnership Officer who manages the Brighton & Hove Local Strategic Partnership and is developing the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

What were the main objectives of the pilots?

The LAA Pilots were delivered by the Leadership Centre and aimed to give LSPs the opportunity to get their partnerships together to start planning the next round of the LAA. The Leadership Centre provided consultancy support in the development and delivery of each pilot event. The pilots focused on the opportunities new LAAs offer to help us bring a stronger local influence to the development of the region.

How did you get involved?

GOSE helped coordinate the pilots to ensure representation from across the region and suggested we were approached. We welcomed the opportunity to get involved.

What are the current achievements of your LSP?

We have established a 'Family of Partnerships' with the LSP recognised as the 'Partnership of Partnerships'; we have built up trust between the different groups on the LSP and most importantly between the council and the LSP.

We have an independent chair from the business sector and growing engagement from the voluntary and community sector. The LSP has grown in credibility and is now a driver for change.

We have established shared outcomes and an objective, pragmatic, and non-political way of tackling issues.

From your learning, how could your LSP be more effective?

We need to continue as we are now but also:

- Clarify the roles of the various groups that support the LSP
- Ensure 'themed discussions' link more fluidly

- Encourage more joined up activity between partners
- Build in a project management structure for delivery
- Build on the newly developed website to capture the impact partnerships make
- Ensure we have sufficient administrative support and resources

What were the outcomes of the pilot?

The pilot gave us a better sense of direction and increased our shared commitment to achieving outcomes together:

- An external facilitator gave a fresh pair of eyes in reflection and feedback.
- We have a clearer vision for the role of the LSP
- We are shifting towards a more strategic delivery of outcomes
- The new administration see that the LSP is not a monster but an effective way to do business

What were the most significant messages?

That it is worth-while spending time getting partners together for discussion; the rewards are reaped over the long term. The pilot helped us to strengthen relationships with partners and develop a better understanding of how the partnership works.

A key message was that we need to keep senior people engaged on an on-going basis and be brave enough to re-structure the way we deliver priorities in order to make collaboration more mainstream and part of partner's day jobs. The process highlighted a genuine interest in working together and increased our sense of good will.

What did you identify as priority LAA areas?

Some of the potential priority areas for the next LAA are:

- Narrowing the gap – inequalities, worklessness, expanding economic opportunities
- Creating more affordable space – sustainable housing, space for business growth
- Increasing employability – young people in employment, education or training
- Community Safety and Engagement – tackling alcohol and drug abuse and building up a real understanding of communities
- Climate Change – reduce the city's carbon footprint and create climate change champions

Did the PtP programme enhance the work of the pilot? How?

Yes, the self-assessment process provided a good starting point and helped us focus on the areas of partnership we need to improve on. We will be feeding in the learning from the pilot to address the areas of weakness we identified.

What next for Brighton & Hove LSP?

We want to have a more consistent approach and prioritise our actions for the next year. We have already identified themes for future meetings. "We have learnt that you need to allow the exchange of ideas to improve delivery".

How do we find out more?

Visit our website at:
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk
Contact:
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