



THE BIGGER PICTURE: Issues facing LSPs in 2010



As we head into the 2010 financial year PtP will examine the big issues facing partnerships in the South East.

As budgets have felt the pressure over the last 18 months and people are facing a new 'more for less' culture we take a look at how we can work together to generate efficiencies and give examples of how we will support LSPs in the South East throughout this year.

The South East England Partnership board signed off the new South East England Strategy in February 2010. One of the six issues facing LSPs is 'Dealing with economic disadvantage'. NEETs, skills and worklessness are 'hot topics' on the agenda of many partnerships in the South East as "Long-term worklessness is damaging for

society and is further exacerbated during a recession" (IDeA 2010). LAA targets continue to be set to reduce worklessness, but in the current economic climate reaching those targets is often more easily said than done. With this in mind PtP will support LSPs by holding Sub-regional sessions with local authorities and partners focusing on Work and Skills plans.

Total Place pilots are proving to be effective in reducing costs in the South East and PtP intend to support new Total Place agendas by commissioning a Practitioner Associate (PA) to develop a

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new module on 'how to work effectively in partnership'. Once this has been completed all LSPs will be informed on how to access this module.

According to the recent NGLN report 'Greater than the sum of its parts: Total Place and the future of public services' localities and national government should come to a new series of deals on devolving public money and delivering responsibilities across a wider range of services such as employment and skills. These Place Proposition Agreements would allow local areas to set out how they could provide improved services for less money as a response to the expected cuts in public sector budgets. Key amongst their recommendations, which also includes greater local control over spend across regeneration, housing and transport, and establishing a new Joint Parliamentary and Local Government 'Total Place Progress Committee' comprised of MPs and local council leaders to scrutinise cross-government activity, relates to strengthening existing Local Strategic Partnership arrangements and moving towards more statutory, incorporated and focused Public Service Boards.

PtP will continue to measure the progress of the LSPs through further analysis of the returned Self Assessment forms and later in the year we'll be asking you to reflect on how you used your Central Fund and the difference it has made to your partnership and local communities. As we head towards a general election and beyond, greater localism and the scrutiny and accountability of partnerships will become increasingly important. We will be developing work strands to support partnerships as they engage with these new challenges and continue to provide support to enable LSPs to deliver on their Sustainable Community Strategies and Local Area Agreements.

Portsmouth LSP Drives Total Place

In February, Portsmouth's LSP held an event where delegates from LSPs across the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) turned out to look at the Total Place agenda.

The event proved to be a great success with speakers Irene Lucas, Director General for Local Government and Regeneration at CLG, Charlie Adie, Chief Executive of Motiv8 and Helen Ball (Service Director) and Kathy Eastwood (Strategy Manager) at Bristol City Council giving a range of perspectives on the Total Place agenda. Partners considered how a whole area approach could enable them to deliver more with less, and explored how they might overcome potential barriers to

Total Place. One key message from the day was that in order for Total Place to be successful partners should "keep it simple, avoid jargon and resist the temptation to badge all partnership activity as Total Place".

For more information on this event and to view the presentations and the full report please go to www.portsmouth.gov.uk/yourcouncil/17633.html or contact Janine Gill at PtP.

Bracknell Forest Partnership Awards 09



People from a wide range of public, private and voluntary organisations gathered at the Grange Hotel in Bracknell last November for the Bracknell Forest Partnership awards.

This was the first and only set of awards within Bracknell Forest that are dedicated solely to the recognition of the vast array of joint working in the borough and the awards were designed to celebrate this.

Top prize winners included a biodiversity project, Bracknell Shopmobility, and a self-advocacy group for adults with learning disabilities. A wide and varied range of organisations were involved in the entered projects, including; Bracknell

Forest Council departments, Berkshire East PCT, Thames Valley Police, cultural groups, Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action, Bracknell Regeneration Partnership, Town and Parish Councils and many more.

The event, which was supported by the PtP central fund, was a great success and Bracknell Forest Partnership is delighted with this opportunity to recognise and celebrate the exceptional partnership working taking place in Bracknell Forest.

Working to engage the Third Sector

'Working Together' is the report of an inquiry into the relationship of the Third Sector and Public Service Authorities in Milton Keynes. The report addresses the urgent need to improve communications, share understanding and build relationships so that Milton Keynes will be in a position to move forward and challenge other local authorities for Beacon Council Status.

The investigation was commissioned by the Milton Keynes LSP Executive and was overseen by a cross sector steering group. Establishment of the 'Working Together Commission' enabled questions to be asked and evidence to be collected to obtain the position and views of both Third Sector Organisations (TSOs) and public sector colleagues. Membership of the 'Working Together Commission' included representatives from GOSE, the Open University, local businesses and the third sector.

Evidence collected showed that: Public sector representatives found the lack of a single voice for the third sector frustrating. Many third sector representatives expressed disappointment at the lack of respect and recognition for their knowledge, skills and experience. Public sector representatives demonstrated variable levels of willingness to consider the role of TSOs in contributing to public life in Milton Keynes and both public sector and third sector representatives agreed that their sectors each had areas that were chaotic, complex and varied.

The 'Working Together Commission' was involved in numerous review processes to explore national and local policy context in order to generate a set of objectives. Some of the objectives included:

- Establishing the key functions Milton Keynes needs of its third sector.
- Identify and make recommendations for resourcing the core third sector infrastructure arrangements necessary to support a thriving third sector.
- Exploring the Council's commissioning process to identify where, if possible, further efficiencies and effectiveness could be made with regard to commissioning the third sector in the partnership arena.
- Establishing a district wide definition of the third sector and its engagement/involvement in the Local Strategic Partnership arrangements.

KEY INSIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Three main recommendations emerged from the research:

- TSOs and public sector bodies need to ensure they are talking to the right people at the right time, improving shared intelligence and communications.
- That Milton Keynes sets up a wide strategic framework for Intelligent Commissioning.
- TSOs in Milton Keynes need to recognise and act upon the maxim 'united we stand, divided we fall'.

As a result of the research undertaken the Milton Keynes LSP Executive has been able to draft a detailed action plan that elaborates on the recommendations and begins to specify the actions needed to achieve the objectives. For a copy of the full report please email janine@seemp.co.uk.





Supporting Worklessness

... in the South East

PtP support for Work and Skills Plans

The number of working-age people in workless households in April-June 2009 was 4.8 million, up 500,000 on a year earlier (figures from the Labour Force Survey). It is unsurprising therefore that worklessness remains a priority issue for LSPs across the South East.

National Indicator 163 (the proportion of the working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher) is the second-most frequently selected indicator in LAAs across the region and NI 117 (16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)) is in the 'top ten' most selected LAA indicators in the region.

The fast pace of an ever-changing worklessness agenda and the impact of the economic downturn means that a number of

a number of localities have risen to the challenge to respond to local needs

localities are facing new issues in relation to worklessness and many reviewed and re-negotiated their related targets in their LAA refresh. Those localities where worklessness was previously a relatively low priority face a particularly tough challenge in responding to changes in local job markets and unemployment rates.

However, a number of localities have risen to the challenge to respond to local needs with multi-agency support from local, regional and national

partners. The regional response is being driven by Improvement and Efficiency South East (IESE) and the Regional Economic Forum (REF), working in close collaboration with the Government Office for the South East (GOSE), the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Communities and Local Government (CLG). Some examples of worklessness support in the South East, supported by IESE funding and contributions from SE authorities include:

- targeted support to newly unemployed groups (young males and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups) in Slough;
- a collaborative approach to NEETs across South Hampshire, where seven sixth form colleges have signed up to joint working to add support to the growing worklessness issue by preventing those at risk from falling into the category of NEETs;
- collaborative work across Kent authorities and the Tizard Centre, a leading centre for research into learning

- disability care, to assist people with complex learning disabilities return to employment. Since October 2009 thirty job seekers with learning disabilities have been placed in employment, fifteen of these are in work for more than sixteen hours per week; and
- apprenticeships supporting the roll-out of the Kent Gateways project, part of the Kent Total Place pilot.

Partners are finding that working collaboratively is critical to successfully addressing local worklessness and skills issues, because it enables valuable links to be made between worklessness, economic development, skills development and community initiatives. Providing a joined-up approach across all potential partners and the different offers, including worklessness support to particular client groups such as youths, vulnerable families, NEETs and young offenders, can lead to a more holistic, preventative approach. The Total Place approach could provide a useful model for drawing together the various inter-related strands of work.

Most authorities in the region will be due to produce an interim Work and Skills Plan by April 2010, with a full Plan to follow in April 2011, which will draw on the Local Economic Assessment (LEA) as its evidence base. Currently only authorities that have submitted a Future Jobs Fund bid are required to produce a Plan, but the Government is considering making it a requirement for all authorities.

The interim Plan is intended to set out what the authority and its partners will do to produce their final Plan and what arrangements are in place for sustaining the activity. The draft (non-statutory) guidance was published in early February, so many authorities are only just getting to grips with what it will mean for them.

Although the onus is on authorities to produce the Plan, it is a strategic partnership document so needs to engage all relevant partners. Indeed the Government is also considering making it a requirement for partners to cooperate in producing the plans.

PtP has developed a programme of support to assist authorities and their partners in producing their Work and Skills Plans and in understanding the implications for partnership working. This programme will include:

- 3 events between March and June to bring together councils and partners across the South East region to exchange information on progress in compiling interim Work and Skills Plans, understand implications of the guidance and scope a package of support to assist them with both the interim Plans and the full Work and Skills Plans over the course of the coming year;
- Individual follow-up sessions with partnerships around the development of their interim Plan;
- Sessions with individual partnerships exploring the implications for partnership working locally and to work through some of these partnership issues.

For more information, please contact Janine on 01962 840 664.



Partnership working between the Army and the Wider Community

Name: Dr Sarah Wareing
Role: Partnerships and Super Garrison Project Officer, 145 (South) Brigade

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

My name is Sarah Wareing, I'm a Ministry of Defence civil servant and I work with the Army establishing partnerships within organisations such as County Councils and the NHS. I work in the Regional Brigade covering Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Hampshire – 145 (South) Brigade. Within this area there are 21,000 Armed Forces personnel.

As a basic introduction to the Army it is worth noting that there are the fighting Brigades that we all see frequently in the press and media, currently on operations in Afghanistan; and then there are the Regional Brigades who operate in the UK and Germany to ensure that those

who are on operations have everything they require. Many people are also not aware that soldiers rotate through jobs every 2 years, which means the soldier and their family may relocate across the country, or indeed out to Germany. Every time they relocate the family has to find new dentists, GP, school, nursery places, local facilities and so on. This gives the families in particular some unique needs. These are detailed further in a report called "The Nation's Commitment: Cross Government support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans". This document has given us the opportunity to liaise with the wider community and to raise awareness of the unique needs. The report can be found at www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/Showcase/ProvidingForOurPeople.htm.

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My role is to look for opportunities where the Armed Forces can help the civilian authorities to achieve their goals and also derive a benefit for the Armed Forces, their families, dependants and veterans. In order to do this we have mapped the needs of the Army onto the Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets of the councils. We've also looked at the relationship between our needs and those stated in other documents such as Sustainable Community Strategies. From

this we can establish local partnerships where working together will benefit both parties.

Can you give an example of a project you are working on at the moment?

We are keen to help in the area of economic development therefore we are looking at how the Armed Forces can help to develop the skills and employment possibilities within an area. We have set up an Economic Development Partnership based in Hampshire where we have drawn together key parties from the Army resettlement team (Career Transitions Partnership), Hampshire County Council, the Job Centre Plus Armed Forces Champion plus others such as the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Enterprise First and Business Link. By bringing these groups together we can develop a consolidated plan for skill development. It's in its early stages but we are all keen to see it progress and meet its objectives and we're currently looking at how to instigate a similar partnership in Oxfordshire.

Could you give a practical example of the partnership working strategy resulting in the MoD achieving an outcome contributing to the overall agenda?

One of the best examples is the national initiative – The Welfare Pathway. We are in the process of working closely with Hampshire County Council to set up a Welfare Pathway pilot scheme. This is a joint MOD and County level programme

that provides information and advice to serving personnel, families, dependants and veterans by providing a single point of contact number. This number will point the caller to the best person to resolve their issue, be that Army Welfare Service, the Veterans Agency, county council or district and borough council. The County Council are taking a proactive lead in providing specialist advice through their call centre and I'm providing support to them. The Pathway was formally launched on the 1 February this year and Hampshire County Council is monitoring usage and the types of calls received.

Developing partnerships and the relationships that make them work is challenging – is there any approach that sticks in your mind as having been particularly successful?

Working in tandem with my Army colleagues is essential if we are to convey the full impact that home life has on the soldier who is out on operations. The approach to partnerships that we see in all the counties works well. I like the thematic approach that is frequently taken, as it draws together a multi-agency approach to dealing with issues that affect the broad community. In the last year we have concentrated on the counties of Oxfordshire and Hampshire. We now need to look at how we extend and continue our partnership working into Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.

This is such an interesting area and there are such great opportunities across a wide range of topics. I truly believe that by integrating the Armed Forces into local authorities plans and strategies, all those involved will benefit.

If you'd like to know more, suggest opportunities or just talk through what we do, then please contact me on 01252 347735 or sarah.wareing675@mod.uk.

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



PtP approves supplementary bids 2010

This year, as well as inviting LSPs to apply for the PtP Central Fund - £6000 per LSP to support local partnership development activities, LSPs had the chance to submit "Supplementary Bids" for additional projects to be funded from any unallocated Central Fund.

95% of LSPs applied to the Central Fund and a total of almost £420,000 have been awarded. As a result we were only able to fund four Supplementary Bids:

Portsmouth LSP will undertake a programme of learning and action based around the concept of Total Place in order to deliver improved outcomes for local people. Portsmouth propose to hold a series of events that will help other LSPs across PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire) develop a shared understanding of the Total Place agenda and allow them to move forward together.

Rushmoor Strategic Partnership will use the funds from PtP to develop a toolkit highlighting best practice around ways to engage with older residents. Rushmoor LSP

will work with external businesses to improve general awareness of the variety of services and activities available. This supports the Hampshire Local Agreement, the Rushmoor Wellbeing Group and Hampshire County Council's Older Persons Strategy.

The joint bid from South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse partnerships will add value through developing place based working, specifically to support the creation of thriving sustainable communities in new housing developments and develop partnership working to support local community-led action plans. The project supports the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 as well as contributing to the 2009 – 2026 SCS.

The Isle of Wight Partnership will use the allocated funding to refresh the South East Sustainable Procurement Project. The project will address performance improvement, capacity building, LAAs and LSPs and sustainable communities, all of which are priorities of the Regional Improvement Strategy. They will develop a transferable model which can be used by LSP member agencies across the region.

For more information, please email Janine Gill at janine@seemp.co.uk.

around about &



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THESE EVENTS PLEASE CONTACT JANINE GILL: JANINE@SEEMP.CO.UK

MK2050 Vision for the Future Workshop

Milton Keynes LSP held a visioning event on the 26 February 2010 at MK Snap. The half day workshop was aimed at participants from the public and private sectors, the third sector and academia. The workshop was facilitated by Arup, and designed to create a consensus as to which critical forces are shaping change for the future of the Milton Keynes borough, and to identify policy areas that could help catalyse the city's transition to sustainability.

Delegates broke out into groups to complete two workshops; the first focusing on the underlying drivers and trends shaping the borough of Milton Keynes to the year 2050, and the second on identifying policy ideas to minimise greenhouse gas emissions and encourage greater resource efficiency.

The first workshop concluded that transport and sustainable development are two key urban concerns in the city of

Milton Keynes and comments made in the second workshop pointed to the need to recognise that risk-taking is necessary in order to achieve new and radical innovation for a positive future.

For more information regarding the day's events please email the MK LSP Corporate Partnerships Officer, Tina Butterwick at tina.butterwick@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

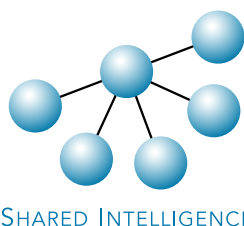
Generating Value for money through partnerships

On the 19 February 2010 Progress through Partnership held an event for elected members to discuss the financial challenges facing the public sector and to consider ways to generate efficiency and value for money by working more effectively in partnership.

The speakers provided a lot of food for thought and stimulated some interesting discussion and debate:

- Cllr Rory Love, Cabinet Member for Strategic Services at Shepway District Council concluded that we need to create space for the team to explain their fears/build a consensus and that we should be building relationships not structures.
- Cllr Michael White, Leader of Havering Council, Chair of Havering LSP, Lead for Havering Improvement and Deputy Leader of London Councils stressed all services meet the changing needs and rising expectations of residents and users.
- Dr Sarah Wareing and Major Nick Andrews from the Ministry of Defence held a workshop on creating sustainable defence communities through partnerships, which highlighted the resources, support and knowledge of the Ministry of Defence that can benefit the wider community.

For further key points from the day and to access the presentations and report from the day please go to www.progressthroughpartnership.org.uk.



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