



Partnership news for the Voluntary, Community & Faith sectors

COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT

Audit Commission Findings:

Two officers from the Audit Commission attended the LSP board meeting, held on 15th September 2009, to give a verbal update on the current position of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) process and a summary of the draft assessment for Reading.

The summary covers each of the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities, with a chapter on each of the three assessment questions: How well the Partnership had identified local priorities; how well outcomes were being delivered; and what were the prospects for future improvement?

AREAS OF STRATEGIC FOCUS

The Board considered their three chosen areas of strategic focus, as listed below. Original work on these three areas was done informally among small groups of Board members, and the Board discussed whether more formal leadership or reporting was required to ensure that progress was made between meetings. Alan Magness, LSP Coordinator, reported that he had circulated a template for project governance and reporting and would be available to support Board members in its implementation.

Updates were provided on:

- Reduction of Public Sector estate carbon footprint
- Supporting young people not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)
- Locality-based family intervention project

Page 1. Comprehensive Area Assessment

Page 2. A New Vision for Reading

Page 3. LSP Forum Event/Update

Page 4. Reading Declaration Survey and Conference- 'Stephen Lawrence 10 years on'

Page 5. Partnership News-ROPP Reading Older People's Partnership

Page 6. Partnership News-DACG (Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Group) and Forum Voices Vacancy

Page 7. Partnerships News-Healthier Partnership

Page 8. Other Updates-Vetting and Barring Scheme

Page 9. Stronger Together News

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or visit:

<http://www.strongertogether.org.uk/localareapartnership.aspx>

A NEW VISION FOR COMMUNITIES OF READING

Way back in 1999 Reading Borough Council developed the 'City 2020' long-term vision for the area in consultation with local people.

A lot has changed in the 10 years since, not least the credit crunch and the recession that has followed along with the big impact that taking measures to combat damaging Climate Change will have for shaping the future well-being of our community and the way we live our lives.



A new Vision for Reading

The Local Strategic Partnership brings the public sector, voluntary and business sectors together and has a statutory role in creating a shared vision and priorities for a place – the communities of Reading.

At their meeting in September the LSP board members agreed that the time had come to develop a new Vision for Reading and this will feed into the review of the Sustainable Community Strategy, which sets out the strategic priorities toward achieving that vision.

Developing this new vision and strategic priorities will involve a fundamental look at what sort of local society we want for Reading. This will embrace all the things that are important to making local people's lives better: education, health, employment, culture, sport & play, community safety, transport and so on.

All local partners, such as the Council, Primary Care Trust, Police and Fire services will be involved alongside Voluntary, Community and Faith sector organisations and the forums that bring them together and represent them.

Engaging Local People and Groups

However, the LSP board members also emphasised that these formal agencies and organisations need to involve people and groups in the communities of Reading at grassroots level. So, there will be a process of engaging with them over the coming year as the new Vision and strategic priorities are developed and shaped into a new Sustainable Community Strategy to run from April 2011.

This important process will start at the LSP Forum 2009 to be held on 17 November at the Town Hall, where keynote speakers will set out the backdrop and you can engage with Councillors and senior staff from the statutory agencies and start to shape this Vision and how to take the process forward.

Paul Harper Development Worker

Stronger Together Team

READING: Future challenge, Future Change

**Reading 2020 Forum 2009, Town Hall - 17 November
4.30 – 7.30 p.m. (refreshments and networking to follow)**

Your chance to engage with Councillors, Senior Staff from the Council, Primary Care Trust, Police and other agencies, local Business representatives and your colleagues from the Voluntary Sector in looking at how Reading has changed over the last 10 years and what the key issues are for building a more sustainable community for the future.

This event will be the start of a year-long process that will develop a new Vision for the future of Reading's communities and a new Sustainable Community Strategy that maps the road to achieving it.

Make sure you are there to hear important keynote presentations and participate in the workshops that will highlight the issues and shape the process.

To book your place Email: Reading2020.forum@reading.gov.uk or contact Summreen Sheikh Tel: 0118 939 0100. For more information on the Voluntary and Community Sector input to this process contact Paul Harper Email: paul@volaction.demon.co.uk

CONFERENCE AIM

The LSP Conference aims to start the process of developing the next version of the SCS (Sustainable Community Strategy) and to increase the audience who could be engaged in this process by inviting members of the:

- Climate Change Partnership
- Healthier Reading Partnership
- Reading UK CIC network
- Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership
- Other key personnel within LSP partner organisations
- Existing members of the LSP Forum.

Invites have gone out for the Forum through a briefing pack with summaries of the current structure, composition and priorities of the LSP Board and the main thematic partnerships.

The desired outcomes of the event are a common understanding of some of the significant changes in the context for updating the vision for Reading and the SCS, and to start an ongoing engagement process through the following year across a wide range of organisations, sectors and individuals.

READING DECLARATION CONFERENCE 'Stephen Lawrence – 10 Years On'.

9 November 2009
9.30am - 4.30pm
Town Hall

DOREEN LAWRENCE: I WISH MY SON COULD HAVE SEEN BARRACK OBAMA ELECTED



Stephen Lawrence's mother
Doreen Lawrence
will be the keynote speaker.

6 workshops on the
themes are shown below.

- Inclusive Citizenship
- Children Attaining their full potential/Education
- Fairness and Equality in Employment
- Wealth inequality/Child Poverty
- Physical and Mental Health/Well being
- Keeping People Safe

The Reading Declaration for race equality was commissioned jointly by the Council, Thames Valley Police and RCRE as Reading's public response to the recommendations of the Macpherson Inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, and set out the principles of race equality and anti-racism that public sector agencies would uphold.

At the annual meeting of the Reading Declaration partnership in January 2009 it had been agreed to hold a '10 Years On' conference to consider current race equality issues, how partners were delivering race equality, and what future priorities should be, e.g.

Join the debate by following this link

<http://www.reading.gov.uk/consultations/2009consultations/General.asp?id=SX9452-A78436A8>

PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Reading Older People's Partnership (ROPP)

The Big Care Debate

Over 120 people including many senior citizens attended the 29th September debate on the future of care services. Two speakers from the Department of Health were there to talk through and outline the key questions

- The vision for the future – prevention services, national assessment, a joined up service, information and advice, personalised care and support, and fair funding
- How might the vision become a reality
- What might funding care and support look like – 3 options included partnership, an insurance based approach and a comprehensive system.

Details are available online at www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk or obtain your questionnaire by telephoning 0300 1231002.

Your response is due by **13th November 2009** so don't delay if you wish to have your say.

Some of the concerns which delegates expressed clearly were the need for:

- better communications so that older people knew where, what and how services could be accessed;
- more and better joined-up working in the delivery of services;
- no more of the postcode lottery for delivery of services.



The later meeting of the ROPP Board (only it's second meeting in the new partnership form) looked at the initial responses from the debate and the detailed report from the earlier ROPP launch event in July. Some of these concerns are already being addressed by the mapping of current services to develop a Resource Directory which will eventually become web-based.

The group looked at demographic data to understand population projections which in turn inform future needs and the new Older People's Strategy which is currently being revised to encompass both Health and Welfare strategies.

Anne Laing

Manager Stronger Together Team

Drug & Alcohol Commissioning Group

I feel very new to this group after 2 meetings using acronyms that are still strange to me but I have found it an interesting and informative learning curve.

The group meets monthly to monitor the delivery of the Drugs and Alcohol Programme and reports into the Drug and Alcohol Group, a sub-group of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership.

Information continues to be made available to the Audit Commission for the Comprehensive Area Assessment which will become a public document in December.

World HIV/AIDS Day – Reading Programme

Plans are now in hand for the 2009 Reading Programme. Any ideas, contributions or enquiries should be sent by email to: Denise.sayles@reading.gov.uk

We are still seeking a permanent VCS Representative Forum Voice for this group, I am currently 'holding the fort' to use a wild west analogy. Someone who is able to attend the monthly meetings and share knowledge and information (non-confidential) with the wider VCS to enable engagement of appropriate groups in the development of services as well as receiving feedback on the service needs to feed back into this group. Any new representative will benefit from a full updating of the ongoing agenda and will link to the VCS via the Stronger Together Team into this newsletter.

Contact: anne@strongertogether.org.uk

Anne Laing,

Manager Stronger Together Team

Forum Voice-Vacancy

Reading Climate Change Partnership Representative

Reading's new Climate Change Partnership (RCCP) will work in partnership across the Voluntary, Business and Public sectors to deliver urgent, appropriate action to mitigate and adapt to Climate Change in Reading. See further information below;

<http://www.rvsforum.co.uk/whoweare.aspx>

There are two places for Voluntary and Community sector representatives on the RCCP – one is drawn from Greater Reading Environmental Network and the other is open to nomination for any interested and suitably qualified candidate from a Reading voluntary or community group.

For more information about the RCCP and a copy of the person specification please contact Anna Fowler, The Forum Coordinator.

Tel: 0118 958 4849

Healthier Reading Partnership (HRP)

The Partnership

The restructured HRP had previously agreed to support the Partnership work through a management support team and Chris Turner of Reading CAB was nominated to provide VCS representation on the group. Members agreed to holding an awayday for the partnership in early December to consolidate knowledge, understanding and effective working by looking at: the evidence base; a policy overview; change and transformation agendas; and developing the health and Well-being Strategy (see below).



Local Area Agreement (LAA)

A report on the targets highlighted areas of concern and where activities from a wider partnership of agencies might show a more positive picture as to what is happening in Reading, perhaps through VCS group activities. The management group were tasked to look at how this might be captured.

Sport & Physical Activity – Are we recognising your involvement?

Meantime, the numbers of adults participating in sport or physical activity might well be larger than is presently recorded through statutory means. If you know of, or hold, activities that are not already linked to the Sport Reading Partnership, do get in touch with Anne Laing, see the email contact below.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Bev Searle, Area Director, NHS Berkshire West proposed the timetable for the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, an overarching guidance document including a relatively short strategy, with the emphasis on the definition of clear objectives within the action plan focusing on the delivery of specific outcomes through partnership working. It is planned that a Consultation Draft be ready by the end of the year with wide circulation from January to March 2010; producing a final draft in April. The document will go out to the VCS during the consultation period.

Contact Anne Laing on anne@volaction.demon.co.uk

Anne Laing

Manager Stronger Together Team

Other Updates

Vetting and Barring Scheme



The new ISA (Independent Safeguarding Authority) Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) will have a major impact on the recruitment and monitoring practices of people working or volunteering with children and vulnerable people.

Created under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, the new VBS replaces the current List 99, Protection of Children Act (PoCA), Protection of Vulnerable Adults (PoVA) and Disqualification Orders regimes. The ISA will decide who is suitable to work or volunteer with

vulnerable groups and will make its decisions by pulling together information held by various agencies, government departments and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

Once the scheme is fully rolled out, and this will happen over the next five years, it will be illegal to hire someone in regulated activity who is not registered, and has therefore not been checked by, the ISA. The new scheme will cover employees and volunteers in the education, care and health industries, affecting some 11.3 million people.

To register for updates on the new scheme or obtain further guidance and information on who will be affected, see below.

Please note ISA-registration for the Vetting and Barring Scheme does not start for new workers or those moving jobs until **July 2010 and ISA-registration does not become mandatory for these workers until November 2010. All other staff will be phased into the scheme from 2011.** Further information on how to apply for registration will be provided in due course.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/vettingandbarringscheme/vettingvandbarring/>

The Stronger Together Team will be organising information sessions with voluntary and community groups during the winter period. Watch this space for future dates.

Contact Tel: 0118 958 4849

Stronger Together Events

SAKOMA NEWS

Create Inspiring Youth Projects

Does your group have a club or project for young people? Get some ideas for training, awards and employment programs!

- Start a youth club or project that captures young people's imagination
- Get help with funding, training and resources such as equipment
- Get young people to volunteer and run volunteering award schemes
- Information about NVQ's and other training which lead to employment

Date: Thursday 5th November 2009

Time: 9:30am to 12:30pm

Venue: RISC, 35-39 London Street Reading RG1 4PS

For further information and booking forms contact Yasmin Bador yasmin@strongertogether.org.uk or visit www.sakoma.co.uk

READING FAITH FORUM

RE Matters

- Develop a multi-faith RE session for local schools with other faith communities
- Support your local schools through Religious Education and Assemblies
- Discussion Forum and practical advice
- RE Matters is delivered in two sessions especially aimed at faith;

In response to requests from local schools, a new religious education training programme will support volunteers in engaging school children in Faith issues through assemblies and RE classes.

RE Matters is a voluntary initiative and is of particular interest to anyone from a faith community, who is able to be creative and engage with pupils of varying ages and available during school time. No previous teaching experience is required.

Monday 9 & 16 November 2009 10am-2pm at Park United Reformed Church, Palmer Park Rd RG6 1DN ([map](#))

Delegates should have the support of their leader of the faith community

For further information contact Jan Hearn jan@strongertogether.org.uk or visit <http://readingfaithforum.com/home.aspx>