

Thematic Delivery Groups Performance Update

1. Borough Housing

Borough Housing Partnership has not met since the last LSP meeting at the end of November 2008. The next meeting is on 11 March 2009.

2. Stronger Communities

The Stronger Communities Group had its second meeting on 9th October. Key points arising were as follows:

Membership - resulting in additional members being invited to join the group including AXA PPP, West Kent Primary Care Trust, and YMCA.

Volunteering Event – discussion took place regarding holding a volunteering event, with several aims including recruitment of volunteers and raising the profile of volunteering. This will help in the delivery of NI 6 (Participation in regular volunteering). A proposal is currently being drawn up for a week of events for National Volunteers Week in June.

Migrant Welcome Pack – the group was told about the Migrant Welcome Pack and invited to send in information to be included. Suggestions were made at the meeting and the draft pack will be circulated to the group for their additions.

Engaging the “hard to reach” – the group discussed links each organisation has with particular “hard to reach” or “seldom heard” communities, and looked at how we can use each others links to improve our own engagement for the benefit of these communities.

3. Safer Communities

A number of partnership meetings have taken place over the last couple of months, including the Community Safety Strategic Partnership meeting in December, which looked at, amongst other things, the Strategic Assessment.

Lizzie Goodwin, Partnership Engagement Officer has been working with a number of other agencies and has been involved in the development and handing out of playing cards which featured messages around alcohol, violence and harm reduction, etc. These were given out in the run up to Christmas around TW and High Brooms railway stations, the town centre, Pembury, Paddock Wood and Cranbrook.

Lizzie has also worked with Connexions liaising over the contents of the Connexions Pack, handing them out to young people in the centre of the town and liaising with TN2 and Number One Community Centre, Showfields so they can also hand the packs out to young people. Again the packs had an alcohol-focus

Lizzie has already built up relations with the Courier to the point that a journalist asked for an update on the work of the partnership and this resulted in Liz Jarvis and Insp. Mark Hutcheon attending the Courier Offices for an interview.

Partnership agencies are working with the Police with the Safer Winter Campaign/ Operation Zap. Town centre officers will be supporting the countywide Safer Winter campaign with a number of events and initiatives. The mobile police station will be at the Pantiles on 14 December and Calverley Road Precinct on 20 December.

Officers and STP will be available to give advice and to discuss local concerns. Police patrols in the town centre will continue on weekend evenings. In addition, local retailers and off- licences will be visited to ensure they are not selling to underage drinkers and will also be warned of the dangers of 'proxy purchasing'. Multi-agency licensing checks to pubs and clubs will also be carried out, and taxi marshals were provided for the railway station rank on Friday 19, Saturday 20, Wednesday 24 and Wednesday 31 December. Town centre car parks was also subject to increased patrols. A similar kind of Op was run in Paddock Wood and Cranbrook

4. Health and Older People

The group is progressing well and has a draft plan in place. This will be circulated to partners in January for their contributions with the aim of being agreed in March. Membership is also growing with 13 members contributing at the last meeting

Migrant worker review update had raised some issues for further exploration. The hospital does not record this status of patients. They are able to offer translation and advocacy to anyone who requires it. There is also an internal network of staff with language skills. Many migrant workers are employed by the trust as non clinical staff. Cllr. Mayhew added that this request was due to concern that migrant workers access the hospitals rather than GPs for minor complaints. AS added that staff do ask who is the GP of a patient, but not employment status. Migrant groups are not causing a problem for the hospital in terms of service demand. Cllr. M also noted that migrant workers were found to have very high internet useage and access. NHS choices has health info and advice in many different languages

Dr Brendan O'Connor will chair the next meeting but will be standing down after that as he leaves the PCT. His replacement will chair in his place.

5. Families and Children

It has been agreed that the existing Local Children Services Partnerships (LCSP) will jointly perform the function of the Children and Families Thematic Group. The two LCSP's cover Tunbridge Wells and Cranbrook and Paddock Wood. The work of the thematic group will be carried out at existing meetings of the LCSP's and will be coordinated by the managers of the LCSP and the Head of Leisure and Wellbeing at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. The terms of reference for the group was agreed at a meeting of the LCSP managers and Head of Leisure and Wellbeing on 16 October 2008.

6. Economic Development

This group met for first time on 16 October 08. The Next meeting will include finalisation of the ToR, focus on transportation, with discussion on economic downturn and support for businesses and on the KA2 national indicators.

7. Cleaner and Greener

The Cleaner and Greener group has not meet since the last PSB.

We are on track in relation to the street scene and recycling performance targets and performance will be further assisted following the award of the council's waste and cleansing contracts to Cory Environmental from March 2009.

At our next meeting at the end of this month we will be looking at actions to support the Climate Change Indicators, following a county workshop meeting on 13 January looking at high level actions for the Kent Agreement.

Minutes from each of these meeting are held on the Tunbridge Wells Together website: www.tunbridgewellstogether.co.uk