

**North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership - Executive**

**7 January 2010**

**NYSP conference 2009 – evaluation and update**

**1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To update members on the NYSP Wider Partnership annual conference 2009.
- 1.2 To seek the endorsement of members on some changes to the format and shape of the 2010 event; and
- 1.3 To seek views from members on whether further changes need to be made to ensure the continued success and development of this event.

**2 Delegate Feedback and Actions for Consideration**

- 2.1 The annual Wider Partnership conference took place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at the Pavilions of Harrogate. Including exhibitors at least 230 people attended the event, another increase on last year's numbers.
- 2.2 The conference took the theme of "Facing the Challenges Ahead Together" and focussed on some of the challenges facing NYSP partners in the year ahead. The Rt Hon David Curry MP delivered a keynote speech on this broad theme and delegates again had the opportunity to attend two workshop sessions centred on Thematic Partnership issues and other cross-cutting issues such as equalities and community engagement. This year, the marketplace area was also extended to include 15 stalls from a variety of organisations and themes such as the Credit Union, Safer Neighbourhoods Teams, Local Strategic Partnerships and Extra Care housing.
- 2.4 Delegates were provided with an evaluation form for the event although only 28 were returned this year. Appendix 1 shows a breakdown of the responses received from those who responded, against areas such as the keynote speech and registration. However, due to the small number of responses we have been unable to satisfactorily break down results for individual workshop sessions.
- 2.5 Generally speaking comments received on the feedback forms were positive:
  - "Very good. Good food. Good networking".
  - "Excellent opportunity for county-wide networking."
  - "Interesting workshops – good balance input and debate".
  - "Very interesting."

The broadening of the marketplace area was a success and delegates enjoyed the range and variety of workshop options made available.

- 2.6 Critical comments and suggestions for improvements focussed around the perceived inappropriateness of a politician providing the key note speech; the early start time of the event; the view that the workshop session events were slightly rushed; and that some delegates had difficulty hearing some of the workshop chairs due to room layouts (chiefly relating to the two workshops held in the Aire Room in Session 1). There was also a sense in which there needed to be more continuity between each year's events with an emphasis on progress since the previous year. Moreover, it was apparent that there is perhaps more of a balance to be struck between having workshop sessions which are informative and more 'lecture-style' and those which involve delegates more actively in group work etc. Many delegates prefer one approach or the other and the most appropriate approach may depend on the issues to be discussed, but there possibly needs to be more of a balance between inclusion of participative working across sessions and also knowledge-sharing/awareness-raising.
- 2.6 While all feedback will be valuable in moulding the 2010 event, there will clearly always be issues for the logistical team around encouraging/promoting the continued success of this event and its consequent manageability. For example, while there were some issues this year surrounding the spread of workshop sessions and this leading to delays in re-convening in the plenary area, the Pavilions is one of few venues roughly central within the county which not only enables good disabled access but can adequately cater for the type and format of event we hold every year. Similarly, there continue to be some difficulties in mitigating against delegates who have not pre-registered and who turn up on the day, thereby impacting on general manageability in trying to allocate delegates to fully-booked sessions at the last minute.
- 2.7 It is proposed therefore that some small changes be made initially to the format and planning of the event in response to the feedback received, namely:
- 1) Commence the conference at 10:00am to enable delegates from across the county to get there for the beginning of the event;
  - 2) Consider making the conference a 'ticket-only' event to help prevent people turning up on the day unregistered;
  - 3) Consider limiting total numbers (delegates and exhibitors) to under 200 to make the event more manageable, recognising that this will require some rationing of ticket allocations;
  - 4) Ensure more of a focus within the workshops on partnership progress and updating on discussions from the previous year; and
  - 5) Encourage workshop leads to consider making their sessions more focussed on group work and participation (depending on the issue discussed).
- 2.8 The 2010 conference will be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at the Pavilions of Harrogate. A newsletter will shortly be sent out to all Wider Partnership members and others who attended the 2009 conference to update on outcomes from the workshop sessions and also to highlight the date for next year.
- 2.9 Further thoughts from the Executive on how this event could be shaped in view of the feedback received – and also in light of the current review into arrangements for the NYSP Partnership – would be particularly welcome.

**3      Recommendations**

3.1    That the Executive:

- (a) note the update provided on the 2009 NYSP conference;
- (b) endorse the initial changes proposed for the 2010 event at paragraph 2.7; and
- (c) consider whether further changes need to be made to ensure the annual conference continues to develop and be responsive to the needs of partners.

**4      APPENDICES**

8.1    Appendix 1 – Breakdown of Evaluation Form Scorings Against General Conference Aspects

Diane Parsons  
Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer.

15<sup>th</sup> December 2009

**Appendix 1 – Breakdown of Evaluation Form Scorings Against General Conference Aspects**

There were 28 completed returns.

**Scoring: 1 = Excellent/Very Useful  
5 = Poor/Not at all useful**

**Pre-conference information**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
8 (28.6%)	10 (35.7%)	7 (25%)	3 (10.7%)	

**Registration and delegates' pack**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
8 (28.6%)	12 (42.9%)	6 (21.4%)	2 (7.1%)	

**Venue**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
12 (42.9%)	11 (39.3%)	3 (10.7%)		2 (7.1%)

**Refreshments**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
12 (42.9%)	12 (42.9%)	2 (7.1%)		2 (7.1%)

**Length of event**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
8 (28.6%)	11 (39.3%)	6 (21.4%)	2 (7.1%)	1 (3.6%)

**Key note speaker's address**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
6 (21.4%)	11 (39.3%)	5 (17.9%)	3 (10.7%)	3 (10.7%)