

September 2008



North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership Key Messages

The **North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership** (NYSP) met on 11th September 2008 at County Hall. The meeting was chaired by Councillor John Weighell, Leader of North Yorkshire County Council. It was agreed by members that - following a recent nominations process – Councillor Weighell will continue as Chair for a term of two years. The Chair also welcomed a number of new members to the Partnership, including the City of York Council.

The meeting marked part of the official launch of the recently-published Sustainable Community Strategy 2008/18 (SCS) and linked Local Area Agreement 2008/11 (LAA) and as such began to focus on some of the key priorities of the SCS, namely **Alcohol** and **Affordable Housing**. In terms of alcohol harm reduction, a presentation was given on the progress of and challenges for the York and North Yorkshire Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008/11, combined with input from the Primary Care Trust's perspective. Key points arising from this session included:

- funding challenges, including the fact that the re-commissioning of drugs services in North Yorkshire has highlighted gaps in provision for alcohol-related abuse;
- effective progress of the Strategy will also rely on closer engagement with the third sector (such as Alcoholics Anonymous) and the alcohol industry; and
- three Accident and Emergency projects are planned for hospitals in Scarborough, Northallerton and Harrogate to assess and reduce the impact of alcohol-related harm.

To download a copy of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy please see 'Policies and Consultation' on the NYSP website (www.nysp.org.uk) or for further details contact Jonathan Spencer in the first instance – jonathan.spencer@northyorks.gov.uk.

The session on **Affordable Housing** focussed on areas such as the progress of the North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Board, tools developed to help draw more affordable housing out of the planning process and the partnership programme with Supporting People to provide older people and vulnerable groups with affordable housing. Key discussion points raised by members during the subsequent discussion included:

- the apparent tensions between having a large deficit of affordable housing in North Yorkshire whilst also having an underspend on private sector housing;
- ensuring the right balance between providing for key workers in rural areas and re-housing local people; and
- the lack of available land for affordable housing schemes.

For further details please contact Colin Dales at colin.dales@richmondshire.gov.uk.

Copies of both presentations are available to download from the NYSP website at www.nysp.org.uk.

A presentation was also given by North Yorkshire Police's Counter Terrorism Security Advisor (CTSA) regarding the role played by this unit in identifying and protecting local vulnerable sites across the County and developing proportionate multi-agency responses to the threats posed by terrorism. The CTSA also has a role in delivering other aspects such as site security audits and training and briefing packages. The CTSA will be liaising with local authorities in the next few months on the various aspects of the CONTEST strategy.

A brief report was given on the **Local Area Agreement 2008/11** (LAA) highlighting both areas of particular progress (such as figures for recycling) and areas of concern (for example young offenders in education, training and employment) where more targeted action has been required. It was noted that whilst still early days, progress against the LAA is overall very positive. Contact Hugh Williamson at hugh.williamson@northyorks.gov.uk for any further information.

The Partnership agreed that the two meetings scheduled for 2009 will both be held at County Hall (details below). Members were also reminded of the forthcoming annual **NYSP Wider Partnership conference**, to be held on 17th October at the Pavilions, Harrogate, for which invitations have already gone out to members. The conference will provide an opportunity to participate in workshops themed around the ten priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy and there will also be a keynote speech from Paul Johnstone, Regional Director of Public Health on delivering sustainable communities from a public health perspective. For further details contact Diane Parsons at diane.parsons@northyorks.gov.uk.

Dates for the Diary:

2009 Partnership meetings:

- Thursday 12th March 2009, 2:30pm, County Hall, Northallerton; and
- Thursday 10th September 2009, 2:30pm, County Hall, Northallerton.

Wider Partnership Conference: 17th October 2008, 9:45am, Pavilions of Harrogate.

A full minute of this meeting will shortly be available on the NYSP website (www.nysp.org.uk).

For further information about any aspect of these key messages and the work of the NYSP please contact Diane Parsons at diane.parsons@northyorks.gov.uk or see www.nysp.org.uk