

Refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement



As reported in the summer newsletter, both the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008/18 and the Local Area Agreement 2008/11 will be refreshed during 2010/11 to ensure that their key themes and targets continue to reflect the priorities of North Yorkshire's communities.

The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) sets out a long-term, sustainable vision and strategic direction for securing the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of North Yorkshire's communities. To achieve this it has ten key priorities including themes such as affordable housing and health and wellbeing. Each of these has specific linked targets which are deliverable through the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Consultation with NYSP partners, other stakeholders and the general public will begin from January 2010, with key milestones as follows:

Jan – Mar 2010	Do the key themes and priorities of the SCS still reflect the priorities of local communities?	NYSP partners, stakeholders and the public.
Jan – Mar 2010	Identification of performance indicators which will support and progress the key priorities.	Thematic Partnerships and district LSPs.
Apr – Jun 2010	Revised SCS and LAA drafted based on agreed priorities and indicators.	NYSP / NYCC
July – Oct 2010	Consultation drafts of the SCS and LAA shared with all partners for comment.	NYSP partners, stakeholders and the public.
14 Oct 2010	NYSP Wider Partnership conference – another opportunity for partners to input into consultation.	NYSP partners
Jan – Feb 2011	Re-drafts of SCS and LAA to be agreed by NYSP.	NYSP / NYCC
1 April 2011	SCS and LAA come into effect.	

Further details about the refresh and how to feed in your views will be available on the NYSP web site at www.nysp.org.uk in the New Year.

Other NYSP Updates...

Progress is ongoing against all the workstreams of the NYSP Community Engagement and Neighbourhood Management Framework, which included areas such as joint local problem-solving and a joint consultations and engagement database. Of particular note is the considerable progress made on the Neighbourhood Profiles work, which has been highlighted in previous editions of this newsletter. Neighbourhood Profiles have been developed to illustrate what life is like for North Yorkshire's citizens and communities. People can now go to the NYSP web site and look at mapping and data concerning their area – see <http://www.nysp.org.uk/html/neighbourhood-profiles/>.

Following on from the 'Adults' workshop update given on page 2, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is undergoing a refresh early in 2010 to help ensure that those partners responsible for health and care services in North Yorkshire understand the needs of the population so they can plan and organise services that best support individuals and communities. In a change to the process undertaken last year, the refresh will start by drawing on the expertise of the district Local Strategic Partnerships to ensure an early focus on the needs of people within each district and build up from there to produce the countywide picture. By starting at a more local level it is planned that the 2010 update will also have an increased emphasis on identification of service inequalities as well as continuing to identify more general needs. The refreshed JSNA will be published in April 2010.

Join Us

The Wider Partnership meets annually in conference-style to enable partners from across the public, business, voluntary and community sectors to input and share expertise, network with others and help steer the progress of the NYSP. We would be interested to know of any organisations or agencies not already involved in the Wider Partnership who

may be interested in becoming involved or who may simply want to find out more about the work of the NYSP. For further details contact 01609 532750 or see the NYSP website (www.nysp.org.uk/widerpartnership) for information.

Date for the diary

The next NYSP Wider Partnership conference will again be taking place at the Pavilions of Harrogate on **Thursday 14th October 2010**. More information will follow in spring 2010.

Have you visited us yet?

The NYSP website is a useful source of information on recent developments, meeting papers, consultations and for other useful downloads such as the Community Engagement Framework. Go to www.nysp.org.uk for more details.

If you have any comments or feedback on this newsletter, or would like to receive it in a different format, please contact diane.parsons@northyorks.gov.uk or call **01609 532750**.



North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership

Winter 2009

“Facing the Challenges Ahead Together”: 2009 Annual Conference



Cllr John Weighell,
Chair of the Wider Partnership

October 2009 saw the annual gathering of the NYSP Wider Partnership at the Pavilions of Harrogate; another 'bumper' year for this event in terms of delegate numbers and the breadth of topics discussed.

This year's event, which took place on the 15th October, took as its focus the challenges facing NYSP partners now and in the year ahead, with a keynote speech on this theme by The Rt Hon David Curry, MP for Skipton and Ripon.

The conference also gave delegates the opportunity to participate in two workshop sessions covering issues facing the Thematic Partnerships such as Safeguarding and Climate Change, as well as other cross-cutting topics such as community engagement and achieving a "thriving Third Sector". See inside for further details.

As always, delegates enjoyed the opportunity to network with other partners and in particular this year to visit the marketplace area which included some 15 stalls from a diverse range of organisations/themes such as the Credit Union, Welcome to Yorkshire and Safer Neighbourhoods.

Audit Commission Recognises Partners' Work in North Yorkshire

North Yorkshire's first Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) has now been published and the Audit Commission has awarded a 'green flag' for the county's public sector partners in recognition of their achievements and innovation in "helping older and vulnerable people keep their independence". The CAA sets out how local public services are working together to tackle the major issues affecting people in North Yorkshire.

In awarding the green flag, the Audit Commission highlighted the "groundbreaking and sustainable improvement" which has been made to the lives of older and vulnerable people through the effective partnership working among public and private sector organisations. Almost 15,000 people are being supported to live independently in North Yorkshire through investments in technology and extra care housing: this is around 1,000

more people than in similar areas.

The CAA did not highlight any 'red flag' areas for North Yorkshire - namely those where considerable, urgent action and improvements are needed - and the report has highlighted the effective work being undertaken by partners for example in tackling the economic downturn and issues such as domestic abuse. The report also acknowledges the challenges facing partners in delivering effectively under priorities such as, for example, affordable housing and alcohol harm reduction.

The full report is now available to download from the Oneplace website, accessible via <http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk>. Further work will now be taken forward by all partners following the assessment to ensure that effective partnership working continues to provide quality outcomes for local people.

Workshops

The NYSP conference once again gave delegates the opportunity to share their expertise and input opinions through workshop sessions looking at both Thematic Partnership issues and other cross-cutting themes reflecting emerging issues and challenges for NYSP partners. Below are just some of the key points and outcomes arising from each session. A full summary can be found on the NYSP website at www.nysp.org.uk/widerpartnership. Thanks to all the partners who helped to lead these sessions.

Adults

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for North Yorkshire highlighted the fact that communities within North Yorkshire vary in terms of the state of their health and well being. Lifestyles play a major part in contributing to the inequalities in our communities and the time has come to recognise these differences. The future solutions may lie more in developing community-based approaches in conjunction with individual/personalised approaches. The workshop highlighted some approaches for consideration such as sharing resources such as buildings for a range of services, using village 'agents' and developing intergenerational initiatives.

The proposals suggested by the group discussions will contribute to shaping the commissioning strategies which help shape the health and wellbeing agendas in our communities.



North Yorkshire Children's Trust Safeguarding

There is an increasing need to focus capacity and resources on children's safeguarding due to various factors such as an increase in the number of referrals. This in turn presents some big challenges in managing capacity across all services and it is a big challenge to the mainstream preventative agenda and other services which have traditionally been based on grants. It was highlighted that this challenge can be best met by effective prioritisation and doing things differently; through effective partnership-working and for example through greater support for parents and developing parenting skills.

Economy & Enterprise

What will the economy of North Yorkshire look like in 10 years' time?

A local economic assessment will be developed for North Yorkshire to feed into an integrated regional strategy, so the workshop looked at the big drivers to the North Yorkshire economy (e.g. tourism and the food and drink industry) and the key points to be built into a long-term economic vision for the county. Some of the key points provided included:

- Broadband coverage is crucial;
- The need to attract and retain enterprising people;
- Greater investment in transport/infrastructure;
- Making the best use of the skills of an older population; and
- Need a skilled workforce relevant to emerging businesses.

For further information on the local economic assessment contact the York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit on 01904 477970.

Healthier Communities

"Healthy Weight, Active Lives" Strategy 2009/2020

This Strategy sets out local targets and actions for the people of North Yorkshire and York to be supported in achieving a healthy weight and an active life. Group discussions looked at what partners are doing in local communities and some of the key concerns. Points included:

- There is an identified skills shortage in basic cookery;
- Not all solutions to tackling obesity need be costly (e.g. walking); and

- Recognising the benefits of working with grandparents as influencers within the family.

There are programmes underway such as MEND, which runs twice-weekly after-school sessions for families with children aged 7-13 whose weight is above the healthy range for their age and weight. Going forward, various actions were agreed including encouraging partners to use venues such as libraries as part of the Change4Life programme and also developing resources to send out to families advising them of the support available in ensuring their children maintain a healthy weight and active life.

Stronger/Rural Partnership

Climate Change

The workshop considered the impact on North Yorkshire of climate change, the opportunities to be realised in meeting the challenges and also looked at mitigation and adaptation work underway and how this could be delivered by the NYSP. A number of key points were made during the discussion including:

- Acting rapidly and early on against climate change will be cheaper;
- The need to find alternative forms of renewable energy (and alternatives to wind farms where applications for these are turned down);
- Strong actions from partners emphasise the importance of the issue; and
- Partners should see this as an opportunity to help us through the economic downturn and reduce problems such as fuel poverty.

Various actions were identified such as the need to review why district councils all tackle household recycling differently. The group discussions will feed into the ongoing work of the Stronger/Rural Partnership and its evolving agenda on climate change.

York and North Yorkshire Safer Communities Forum

Public Confidence

Public confidence in and perceptions of how effectively the police and other agencies are tackling crime and disorder and making communities feel safe is increasingly important on the government agenda. Group discussion looked at the critical drivers which influence public confidence such as managing the media effectively to ensure that positive messages are conveyed. Key steps to improvement in North Yorkshire could include asking the public what makes them more confident about their communities and engaging the media in promotion of the

fact that North Yorkshire is one of the safest places to live. Public confidence is a focus of attention for the York and North Yorkshire Safer Communities Forum which has recently reviewed its structure and processes to ensure this important piece of work receives the attention it warrants. An update will be provided in the spring 2010 newsletter about the work of the Safer Communities Forum and its priorities, including the topic of Public Confidence.

Working Together with Communities

A NYSP Framework for Community Engagement and Neighbourhood Management



Following on from the launch of the NYSP framework earlier this year, workshop participants were asked to highlight the opportunities to learn more from each other around community engagement, to join up work or share information and to identify gaps. It was felt that more expertise/support are needed generally in relation to creative ways to engage people, particularly hard to reach groups. Concern was expressed that pockets of deprivation and/or isolation, particularly in rural areas, are not forgotten and that engagement is inclusive. Better signposting of current consultations is needed (e.g. a 'one stop' place to look at/website). Allied to this is better signposting of existing consultation structures/networks, so that people can use what is out there rather than setting their own up. It was highlighted that we shouldn't always rely on traditional area forums (e.g. Craven model of 'market stalls' doesn't require individuals to speak out in a large meeting). The need to develop or experiment with the use of online technologies was also a theme which emerged.

This feedback will be reported back to the Implementation Group for consideration in relation to future actions.

Thriving Third Sector

The recession poses challenges for both the public sector and the Third Sector in terms of demand (e.g. debt advice) and resources available. There are also challenges and opportunities for the Third Sector to engage with the commissioning process but there needs to be mapping and dialogue.

It was agreed that the North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations will check to see if they can share information on bidders to the 'Real Help for Communities' package to see if other organisations could work together with the bidders to enhance such bids now and in the future. NYCC will also ensure that their funding opportunities newsletter continues to reach Third Sector organisations and the NYCC Economic Development Unit will consider how it may help the Third Sector in developing skills to exploit funding opportunities/service commissioning. Opportunities will also be explored regarding links to be made between Rural Action Yorkshire, parish councils and the Third Sector via the NYSP Thriving Third Sector Group.

The PREVENT Strategy

Working in Partnership to Tackle Extremism

The main focus of the workshop was to raise awareness that the PREVENT agenda is 'everyone's responsibility' and everyone has a role within it. It is about protecting communities and vulnerable people within North Yorkshire from the threat of either perpetrating or being a victim of violent extremism.

Gaps were recognised with regards to the lack of awareness training with staff within district councils and other partner agencies on how to recognise extremism, what the reporting mechanisms are for potential extremism incidents and the sharing of information about individuals. Partners in North Yorkshire will be developing awareness-raising sessions to ensure that their staff know how and where to report potential incidents.

Equalities

The Equality Framework for Local Government

The workshop provided an opportunity for group discussion on "what is equality" along with small group discussion on "how do we currently engage/involve different communities in our work?" and "what are the gaps?". There were many group definitions of equality which included:

- Not doing the same or treating people the same;
- Not discriminating on the basis of inherent characteristics;
- Being heard, listened to and understood; and
- Equality of access and rights to goods/services.

In terms of examples of good practice shared within the group, these included the work in Selby to support the Polish community which led to the development of a Welcome Pack for Selby and, in turn, to the development of a North Yorkshire Welcome Pack www.nysp.org.uk/welcomepack.

A key challenge for all partners to face together is engaging with the whole community rather than some sections of it. The good practice solutions identified were all partnership solutions where the voluntary and community sectors (VCS) had played a key role, but the challenge is capacity, especially in the VCS and particularly in the current financial climate.

Craven LSP One Planet Living Group

Sharing good practice on tackling environmental issues at a local level.

The "One Planet Living" Group is a sub-group of the Craven Local Strategic Partnership whose focus is tackling environmental challenges at a community level. The session focussed on what these challenges are, projects delivered by the "One Planet" group, group discussion on how communities can tackle environmental issues themselves and the importance of community groups having membership within LSPs. Key issues highlighted included climate change and food security and, as a case study, the group took up the latter in considering how to make communities resilient to food shortages. Solutions included taking a co-operative approach locally, using local resources to best advantage and educating to change attitudes and dietary habits. It was agreed that it is important to engage with local communities, community and environmental groups and there is a need to look at providing infrastructure to enable local production.

