

August 2010



## Refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement – Work Suspended

Following a decision taken by the NYSP Executive on 24th June 2010, work to refresh the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Local Area Agreement (LAA) has, for the time being, been suspended.

This decision was reached in the context of discussions around whether it is useful or realistic to continue developing the SCS and LAA at this time, given that the Government is considering the future of the LAA and there are to be significant cuts in public sector expenditure. There was general acceptance that NYSP partners should have an agreement in place which defines the key issues for North Yorkshire and how partners will work together to improve outcomes for local people, but that this agreement

could be undertaken in a more streamlined way than was required by the current approach to the SCS and LAA.

The NYSP Executive has agreed that Thematic Partnerships should focus on two or three critical issues which they need to tackle. The Chairs of the Thematic Partnerships will meet on 9th September to discuss the SCS and how this could be developed in a way which looks ahead to dealing with the many challenges to be faced. NYSP partners will be updated as these discussions progress.

## Welcome

to the August 2010  
edition of the  
NYSP newsletter

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## Share your engagement activities

As one of the actions stemming from “Working with communities: a community engagement and neighbourhood management framework for North Yorkshire”, a shared engagement database hosted on the NYSP website has now been developed.

The intention of the database is to raise awareness of engagement activities being carried out by NYSP partners and to try to reduce duplication and ‘consultation fatigue’. It is not intended to contain all information about every activity but to signpost the user to further information. The database is searchable and gives brief details of each engagement activity, as follows:

- title
- description
- geographic area covered
- issues covered
- target group
- contact details to access more information.

The database can be accessed via the NYSP website at

[www.nysp.org.uk/ed](http://www.nysp.org.uk/ed)

For more information contact [deborah.hugill@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.hugill@northyorks.gov.uk) / tel 01609 532978.

## Times are changing...

Since our last edition of the NYSP newsletter, the policy frameworks surrounding the work of public sector partners have already seen significant change and further changes are expected in the coming months. Below is a quick round-up of some of the key changes and announcements that have been made since 6th May and how they impact on the work of NYSP partners.

**Big Society and Localism** - In essence this is about giving more power to communities to determine the kinds of services they get. There will be a greater emphasis on the voluntary and community sector delivering local services.

**Total Place** – this is still very much a live principle, focussing on value for money and partners working together more efficiently to achieve savings across services. Some work has already taken place within the York and North Yorkshire sub-region, facilitated by IDeA. The issue is likely to be discussed further at future NYSP Executive meetings and elsewhere, such as the extended meetings of Local Government North Yorkshire and York.

**Place Survey** – all work on Place Surveys has now been formally suspended and local authorities will not be asked to carry out the surveys for the remainder of the financial year. Local authorities will need to look to other forms of engagement and opinion-gathering (such as Citizens’ Panels) to be able to continue benchmarking and reviewing their services with the public.

**Local Area Agreements (LAAs)** – a paper is currently with DCLG to consider the future of LAAs. Work on refreshing the current North Yorkshire LAA 2008/11 has, for the present, been suspended in light of this government review.

**Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)** – North Yorkshire received its first Area Assessment in December 2009 and was praised for a number of areas of work and, in particular, for partners’ efforts to help older people live to live independently in their own homes. The government decided in May that all work on the next round of CAA should cease, apart from ‘risk-based’ inspection work which, in North Yorkshire, is principally around a flooding inspection.

It is clear that effective partnership working will become more crucial than ever for all NYSP partners as we go forward. Discussions are already underway within the sub-region about **Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)** and the opportunity to review all partnerships and consider whether there is a need for rationalisation to ensure that duplication is removed and that resources are being focused appropriately on the right areas. Further developments on this will be reported in future newsletters.

# Thematic Partnership Updates

## Healthier Communities Thematic Partnership

The Healthier Communities Thematic Partnership continues to meet quarterly. Our focus in the past 12 months has been on our priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy and the targets we lead on in the Local Area Agreement. This includes childhood obesity, alcohol-related harm, smoking in pregnancy, reducing teenage pregnancy, adult participation in sport and tackling health inequalities.

We are really pleased to have achieved a 'partial stretch' with our target to reduce the number of women who smoke while they are pregnant. The national target for 2010 was 15%, and we agreed to try and achieve 13% by the last quarter of 2009/10 in North Yorkshire. We achieved 13.4% which was a significant achievement against a very challenging target. In the future we would like to widen our target to reducing smoking prevalence in general, although we will continue to focus on specific groups such as pregnant women and manual workers.

At the moment the partnership is looking at the most effective ways to spend our performance reward grant from LAA1.

With big changes underway for all partners, we will continue to work together to champion the health and wellbeing of our communities. [helen.christmas@nypct.nhs.uk](mailto:helen.christmas@nypct.nhs.uk)

## York and North Yorkshire Rural Partnership – Stronger Communities

The Partnership has reviewed its terms of reference and membership and has given detailed consideration to its role. The activities of the Stronger/Rural Partnership are very diverse. It has been necessary to make sure that the activities and other partnerships (waste, environment, housing etc) which fall within the remit of the wider thematic partnership are given ample opportunity to inform and influence the Thematic Partnership Group thus avoiding any duplication on unnecessary bureaucracy.

The Partnership has two distinct areas of work and has agreed to split its business into two of the following areas: "stronger community" based on issues of access, transport, third sector, community engagement and cohesion and environment. The Rural Partnership focuses on rural issues and challenges and articulates the needs of the sub region in addition to being the rural advocate. The Rural Partnership supports partners in rural proofing their services and horizon scans to determine future priorities and challenges.

The Partnership has strengthened its commitment to climate change and the environment and to develop a cohesive strategy inclusive of all partners and their differing needs and resources.

A number of partners attended the RIEP Climate Change Leadership Programme, which has helped embed climate change with both political leaders and senior officers. Reports and presentations can be found on the NYSP website at [www.nysp.org.uk](http://www.nysp.org.uk) (see 'Climate Change Leadership Workshops' on the main menu). The Partnership plans to build on the knowledge and commitment expressed by those who attended to create a focus on the issues which will deliver renewable energy and reduction in carbon emissions. [jennefer.cornforth@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:jennefer.cornforth@northyorks.gov.uk)

# North Yorkshire Housing Strategy

The Local Government York and North Yorkshire Housing Board has recently agreed the final draft of the first Single Housing Strategy for North Yorkshire. The six-year strategy, which will run from 2008 to 2014, sets out the priorities and ambitions for tackling the key strategic priorities for York and North Yorkshire. The draft strategy has been developed following consultations with stakeholders, including the public, in 2009/10. Following the most recent consultation phase, which took place earlier this year, the priorities have been extended to form five key areas.



These are:

- Enabling the provision of more affordable homes;
- Reducing homelessness;
- Improving access to housing services;
- Making best use of the existing housing stock; and
- Delivering community renaissance.

The strategy will be used to obtain and direct future housing investment across North Yorkshire and will provide a common framework for the participating authorities to develop their housing policies and initiatives. The strategy does not contain details of specific projects for the sub-region, but will be underpinned by local action plans produced by each of the participating authorities. The strategy will be launched early in the autumn. For further details visit [www.northyorkshirehousingstrategy.co.uk](http://www.northyorkshirehousingstrategy.co.uk).

## Credit Union membership reaches over 3000



The Credit Union has been so popular in the last year that its membership has tripled to over 3000. Formed by York Credit Union extending its services to the rest of the county in May 2009, North Yorkshire Credit Union is a financial co-operative offering savings and affordable loans to people living or working in the county. There are now plans in place for the future growth of the Credit Union, starting with the launch of the Credit Union Current Account this autumn. This will offer full debit card facilities allowing account holders to use ATM "Hole

in the Wall" machines and carry out Direct Debit transactions in shops and on the internet. There are also plans to have development officers in new areas of North Yorkshire, starting with Craven and, depending upon the outcome of funding bids, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Harrogate and Hambleton. This will allow the Credit Union to reach out to community centres, schools, libraries and church groups. For further information, see the Credit Union website at [www.nycu.org.uk](http://www.nycu.org.uk) or phone 01904 676633.

If you have any queries or feedback on this newsletter, or would like to receive it in a different format, please contact Diane Parsons at [diane.parsons@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:diane.parsons@northyorks.gov.uk) or call 01609 532750.

For previous issues of the NYSP newsletter go to  
[www.nysp.org.uk/widerpartnership](http://www.nysp.org.uk/widerpartnership)