

Get Engaged

April 2008

Local Strategic Partnership developments

Report from the LSP Board meeting in March 2008

"The PCT have appointed two Community Development Workers seconded from the Race Equality Council.

There is no date yet for the follow up training for Board members on Race Equality.

There was agreement to look at moving the Respect festival to the summer as part of the City Festival, the Exec will follow up.

The Economic Theme Group has been working on the new European Funding stream replacing Objective 2. Under Urban Enterprise 124.7 million euros will be allocated to the South West, awards must be matched by public sector funding. This means that public sector funding needs to be aligned.

The City Development Company has now appointed a Chair and Chief Executive.

The Voluntary and Community Sector (Third Sector) strategy has now been circulated to Board members.

A discussion considered the ongoing funding of the Local Strategic Partnership back office. Concerns were expressed from the Third sector reps that grants from various public sources, and "special funds" have for a number of years been used to "prop up" work that should be mainstreamed.

The Local Area Agreement indicators have now been reduced to 35. A discussion considered how to make some issues cross-cutting with one of these being the need to raise the aspirations of young people."

Roger Pipe
Community Representative
LSP Board



Safe and Strong Theme Group

Voting in the election for a representative to this Theme Group has just closed as we went to press and we will be announcing the successful candidate next month. Thank you for all those groups who took the time to vote in this election which fielded a strong range of candidates.

Invite a rep to your meeting

PCP and the community reps have attended several residents' meetings to explain their role and to hear the concerns of local people.

In the last two months they have attended meetings of the East End Partnership, the Devon and Cornwall Housing Active Community Tenants and the Mutley Greenbank Network.

If you would like a rep to attend your meeting please contact Rachel Silcock on 202590.

Report from the Safe and Strong Theme Group February Meeting

“The main thrust of the meeting appeared to be fears and anxieties around funding. It seems that some funding streams are going and others are coming or being renamed. However the funding that is coming or being renamed is not as much as the funding that is going. Who gets this money, what it is for or how it will be allocated is unclear to me at this stage.

Local Area Agreements were discussed but there still seems to be some confusion around how many key indicators there should be and what is likely to be achievable.

The third sector involvement and views were discussed which was encouraging.

Feed back from representatives regarding the safer stronger communities fund was mainly driven by the crime agenda.

The meeting did seem a bit confusing to me and there appeared to be different views as to what was happening with a few being able to report on the whole picture. There was lots of coming and going and reporting against targets.”

Jocella Peck
Community Representative
Safe and Strong Theme Group



Wise Theme Group Question Time in North Prospect

On Monday 31st March a Question Time meeting was hosted by PCP and the Wise Theme Group. On the panel were Cathy Campbell, Chair of the Wise Theme Group and Partnership Director for the Learning and Skills Council; Carol Henwood, Principal Advisor for Children's Services for Plymouth City Council; Liz Cahill, Extended Services Co-ordinator for Plymouth City Council (South West Locality); Councillor Grant Monahan, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Plymouth City Council and the session was chaired by Liza Packer of PCP.

There were 13 residents at the meeting and other members of the North Prospect Partnership. The Local Strategic Partnership paid for a playworker to run a session to enable parents to attend the meeting and there were 9 children in the play session. In advance of the Question Time session the North Prospect Partnership had arranged for a group of parents to meet up and put together questions, a process that was supported by Rachel Silcock of PCP. The questions focussed on concerns around a lack of activities for the under 11s in the area.



Carol Henwood told the meeting that there had just been an announcement of £1 million for play in Plymouth which can be used to refurbish play areas and employ play leaders as well as to create an adventure playground. She also mentioned that the new Childrens Services Plan involved creating teams in each locality that would consist of a range of workers including youth workers, education welfare, child mental health workers and police community support workers amongst others. The idea being that these teams would work together to improve services for local people. There was a lively question and answer session which resulted in a commitment by all concerned to closer partnership working between the statutory service providers and the voluntary and community sectors.

To raise an issue in the next edition of 'Get Engaged' please contact Rachel Silcock or send her an article or question you would like to ask. Phone 202590 or email rachel.silcock@pcp.org.uk