



News Update

The statement of purpose for the Test Valley Partnership is as follows;

‘By working together we will use our combined resources to better effect to bring about a sustained and measurable improvement in the quality of life of the people of Test Valley, especially those in most need.’

As Partnership Manager I have now been in post for almost a year which has been both an interesting and very busy time. In this time I have been well aware of the need to spread the news about some of the excellent work with which the Partnership is involved and so here is the first of a series of monthly bulletins to keep everyone informed about what is happening.

‘From Talk to Action Event’

Last Monday 7th November was an important day for the Partnership. The purpose of the day was to help us to improve the way that we plan community projects so that we are better able to demonstrate both to ourselves, and others, the results of our combined efforts.

The event in Winchester Guildhall was funded through a joint bid to the Hampshire and IOW Capacity Building Fund and was organised by Test Valley, Winchester and Basingstoke Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) managers. It was attended by over 180 people with representatives from almost all LSPs in Hampshire as well as some from further afield who had expressed a particular interest in attending.

In the morning, the presenter, Mark Friedman, who hails from the USA, brought us the benefit of a wealth of personal experience of partnership working in community planning at many levels, both in his own country and internationally. He is acknowledged throughout the world as an expert in his field. Mark familiarised us with a very simple and clear method for converting talk into action. It is a simple 7 step process which starts by identifying the result that you want to achieve and the indicators that you will use to measure progress. The strength of the model is that it is quick, uses simple language and, most importantly, builds in a process which can be used to report whether or not you are making a difference and what difference you are actually making.

Mark is already very well known in Hampshire as he has worked with Portsmouth LSP to produce their Community Plan using his framework, following a successful event there 18 months ago. The framework was also used in the development of the new Children Act.

In the afternoon Test Valley LSP members had an opportunity to put learning into action using information gathered in connection with the Turnaround Project (see below for details of this important Partnership project).

Feedback from the event was very positive with many advocating the use of the framework by the Partnership. Notes from the event will be produced for consideration by the Board at the next meeting which is on January 20th. I shall be promoting the use of Mark Friedman’s Results Accountability framework both in reviewing our Community Plan and in taking the work of the Turnaround Project forward.

Turnaround Project

The Turnaround Project has its roots in the discussions which led to the adoption of the slightly revised statement of the Partnership's purpose printed at the top of this bulletin. We aim to improve the quality of life for all, but we are aware that some parts of the borough have particular problems and recognise the need to concentrate our efforts where need is greatest.

As many of you will know, the Indices of Multiple Deprivation clearly demonstrate that the residents of three wards in the borough (Alamein and St Mary's in Andover and the Abbey ward in Romsey) are relatively disadvantaged when compared to the rest of the population.

It was agreed that we would concentrate in the first instance on Andover's Alamein ward by setting up a project with a clear geographical focus that would aim to make a real difference to the lives of the people who lived there.

The first step was to undertake a Participatory Needs Assessment (PNA). In simple terms this is an informal way of gathering information from those who live in the ward by means of door knocking, meeting parents at the school gate, speaking to children and young people in schools and youth centres – even the local pub was targeted.

A number of people from different agencies were trained to undertake the PNA work which is an imaginative way of finding out what people think about where they live, in all aspects. A small steering group led the work. At the same time research was carried out into multi-agency service delivery both present and planned. GPs, school staff and refuse operatives were interviewed as part of the process. Knight's Enham School permitted the use of the field at the school and a very successful community day was held to further the consultation process with residents. In addition to this a stakeholder event took place with further consultation.

Following this research two reports have been produced one relating to the PNA community consultation which has a number of recommendations and the other a summary report on the stakeholder day. These are both available on the Partnership website at www.yourtestvalley.gov.uk

So how will the project proceed? It is agreed that Partnership Action Groups will be asked to consider the report as a priority and to identify what action they can take to implement the recommendations. This information will be reported to the Turnaround Implementation Group by the end of January 2006. A further stakeholder event is planned for April 2006 to agree priorities and actions.

Recent Partnership Matters

- The whirlwind introduction of the Hampshire wide Local Area Agreement has meant consultation at a fast pace for Local Strategic Partnerships. A Local Area Agreement (LAA) is the latest Government approach to bring together local partners to achieve better outcomes agreed between them and the government. Partners are able to negotiate the bringing together of a range of funding streams which will help the outcomes to be achieved. We were one of the 35 responses to Hampshire Strategic Partnership. In it we outlined our local priorities ensuring that Test Valley is well represented at county level.

The initial submission of the Hampshire LAA was submitted to the Government Office South East (GOSE) on 28th October and it can be viewed on the Hampshire Strategic Partnership website on the following link

<http://www.hampshirestrategicpartnership.org.uk/pages/LAApage.htm>

- We have submitted LSP responses to both consultations regarding Andover and Romsey Hospitals setting out our concerns about achieving the right balance between hospital care and community provision. Several points were made including the possibility that changes to the provision of service could affect the community adversely by requiring people to travel to other areas without adequate transport provision.
- The October Board meeting was presented with the first performance report from Action Groups which highlights the very varied work of the Partnership. The report is available on the Partnership web site www.yourtestvalley.gov.uk Action Groups will report to the Partnership Management Group and then to the Board on a six monthly basis. Future copies of this newsletter will highlight some of the excellent work that is represented through the Action Groups.
- At a recent event at Paulton's Park which was held to consult at local district level on the Hampshire Children and Young People Plan it was identified that there is no forum in Test Valley that brings together those who deliver children's services. It was also identified that young people do not have a collective voice and that it is difficult, therefore, to consult with them as a representative and inclusive group. Anthony Fielding who represents the Hampshire Youth Service on the Partnership Board has agreed to bring his initial ideas to the January Partnership Board meeting as a first step in taking this forward.

The agenda for the next Partnership Board meeting on 20th January 2006 will include:-

- Planning - the Board will receive a presentation on the Local Development Framework (LDF) which effectively replaces the present Local Plan Process
- Andover Vision – we will be looking at developing ideas for the future of Andover
- Hampshire Market Towns Initiative (Romsey Healthcheck) – which is a similar exercise for Romsey
- Planning for our AGM in 2006

Recent News

In September the Test Valley Partnership chairman, Barbara North and I spent an interesting evening at the Association of Parish Councils AGM. We were very pleased to have the opportunity to brief representatives from Test Valley's Parish councils on the role of the Partnership and to inform them generally about our work.

Upcoming Events

The launch of the Test Valley Compact is to take place at King's Somborne Village Hall on Tuesday 15th November between 12 and 2pm. The Compact is an agreement between the voluntary sector and statutory agencies which is to facilitate consistency in working relationships between partners.

Date for Diaries

Please note that the Annual General Meeting of the Test Valley Partnership will take place at a venue to be notified on 15th June 2006 in the early evening. On behalf of the Partnership I warmly invite you to attend to hear about, and join with us to celebrate, our achievements of the past year.

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