

# Partnership Matters

June 2010



## Message from the Chairman



We are now at the end of the first year of the Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2014, and this is a good time to look at how we are performing against the priorities we have identified. I would encourage all partners to contribute to the development of our Partnership Annual Review, which will stand us in good stead as we move forward into more challenging times. As money gets tighter, the benefits of partnership working should become even more important. I keep hearing the expression “People must not retreat in to their silos,” and whilst that can get a bit annoying after a while it does have a basis of truth to it. The test of a good partnership comes in hard times. Those times are upon us.

**Cllr Andrew Lewer - Leader of Derbyshire County Council**

## Derbyshire First Contact

A new scheme offering preventative support to vulnerable people is now operating in High Peak, Derbyshire Dales, Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire and Bolsover. The First Contact scheme involves a number of partners who upon their initial contact with a local resident, offer to fill out a simple checklist, which helps to identify support the person could benefit from. Based on the checklist, an electronic referral is sent to the local agreed provider of the appropriate service. The scheme aims to improve people’s quality of life and wellbeing by improving access to supportive services and community resources. The scheme will be rolled out in South Derbyshire by September 2010 and in Amber Valley and Erewash by April 2011.

Partners include the County Council, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Police, district and borough councils, NHS Derbyshire County, Age UK and other voluntary sector organisations. For partners working with people who require low level, preventative support, the scheme allows you to refer people to outside agencies. For more information on the First Contact Scheme, please contact Cathy Ayrton on [CAyrton@derbys-fire.gov.uk](mailto:CAyrton@derbys-fire.gov.uk)



## Annual Review

Performance against the LAA indicators is one way that we can measure our achievements against the priorities in the Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2014 (SCS), but not the only one. Other activities undertaken within our organisations will contribute to achieving the partnership’s priorities, and we need to capture them within our annual review.

A workshop is being held following the DPF meeting on 25 June 2010 to enable the Partnership to review progress against the priorities set out in the SCS. The workshop will focus on key achievements over the last year, how partners have contributed to these and the difference their actions and projects have made. Information from the event will be made available at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/partnershipforum](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/partnershipforum) where there will be an opportunity to provide details of the projects and actions your organisation has contributed to the achievements identified.

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## Derbyshire Prepared

The Local Resilience Forum have launched a new website, where partners and local residents can find information and advice to help prepare for county wide or local emergencies. The Local Resilience Forum is made up of a number of Derbyshire Partnership Forum members including Local Authorities, NHS Derbyshire County, Chesterfield Royal Hospital, Derbyshire Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services, the Environment Agency and the Highways Agency.

The work undertaken by the Local Resilience Forum supports partnership priorities around community safety, community cohesion, health and adapting to climate change by identifying local risks and available resources which can help communities respond more effectively to emergencies and reduce risks. Partners can support the Local Resilience Forum by raising awareness of the new website and by identifying groups which may be useful contacts in case of emergency. For more information, visit [www.derbyshireprepared.org.uk](http://www.derbyshireprepared.org.uk).



## Carers Week 2010

National Carers Week ran from 14 June to 20 June. It followed the period in our targeted timetable focused on supporting carers. Derbyshire has the highest proportion of unpaid carers in Britain and this is likely to increase as a result of the growing elderly population. Supporting carers is therefore a key partnership priority. Carers Week in Derbyshire was organised by Derbyshire Carers, supported by the County Council and NHS Derbyshire County. During the week, different events and projects provided respite and support to carers, including relaxation/therapy events, a Carers' Service and social events. Information on on-going support to carers was available and they were encouraged to register for an Emergency Carer's Card.

### Support available for Carers

- Advice on benefits
  - Advice Derbyshire:  
[www.advisederbyshire.org](http://www.advisederbyshire.org)  
lists nearest advice centre
  - Welfare Rights Unit
    - Call 0845 1202985
- To apply for a Carer's Assessment or an Emergency Carer's Card
  - Call 08456 058 058
- Support sessions from Derbyshire Carers: 'Caring with Confidence'
  - Call 01773 743355 to book

Identifying and addressing the needs of carers is extremely important and work is taking place to encourage them to have a needs assessment. By recognising the valuable work carers do and providing them with the right support we can also help to provide even better care, supporting more people to live independently in their own home.



Support for carers remains a priority beyond Carers Week and partners can help contribute by providing advice and information about support services available.

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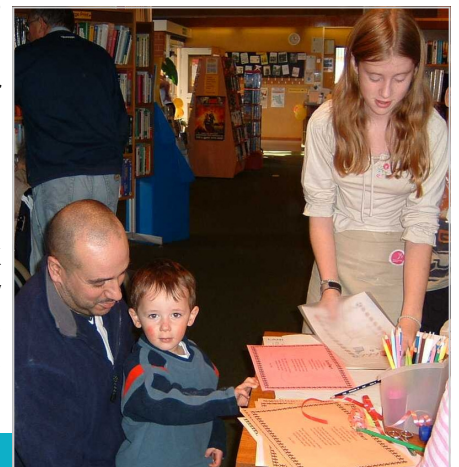


## Partners in Literacy

If you work with, or know of families who might benefit from better reading and communication skills you could participate in the Derbyshire Partners in Literacy project. Last year, Derbyshire was chosen to participate in the pilot led by National Literacy Trust. Together with seven other local authorities we are developing a strategic partnership approach to supporting improvements in reading and communication within families. Initial findings show that skills and enthusiasm for communication and reading begins in the home and that carers can influence children's further learning.

Improving literacy can help improve standards of living in a number of ways since poor levels of literacy has been linked to poor health and housing as well as lack of employment. In the long run, improving literacy can also help increase skills and qualifications.

Within the Derbyshire Partnership Forum, many colleagues work with families who need support and can help improve their literacy skills. If you would like to contribute to the strategy or know more about the work, please contact Annette Lowe at Read on Write Away: 01629 535463 or email [annette.lowe@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:annette.lowe@derbyshire.gov.uk)



### Local Derbyshire Partners in Literacy pilot projects

- In Children's Centres in Bolsover and Erewash, volunteers buddy up with carers to help them find ways to explore, enjoy and develop reading with children.
- In Ripley, the Children's Centre, Nursery and Library are working together to help parents discover how they and their children can enjoy and benefit from library activities and resources.
- In both Chesterfield and South Derbyshire the idea of reading cafés is being explored .

This work is being supported with appropriate training and resources to help everyone involved with families to be able to help with reading and communication.

## New Funding Forum

All members of the Derbyshire Partnership Forum involved in funding of voluntary and community groups, as well as those who provide funding advice to groups, are invited to attend to the new Derbyshire Funding Forum. Establishing a Funding Forum was one of the actions identified by the NI7 Steering Group and will support the partnership priority to 'create an environment for a thriving third sector.' By sharing information on funding issues and concerns, the Funding Forum aims to provide a strategic approach to improving the funding environment. In the initial meeting, a number of ways to achieve this were proposed, including looking at ways of making applications and monitoring easier as well as promoting a county wide overview of funding opportunities.

**Current members of the Funding Forum:** Representatives from the County Council and district and borough councils; 3D - Third Sector Support for Derbyshire; Councils for Voluntary Services (CVS); Derbyshire Community Foundation; Big Lottery and One East Midlands.

The next meeting of the Funding Forum will be on 6 July 2010. Future meetings will take place three times a year. For more information on how to be involved with the Funding Forum, please contact [Louise.collins@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Louise.collins@derbyshire.gov.uk).

# Partnership Matters



derbyshire partnership forum

## Working together on climate change

New initiatives are supporting partners to reduce carbon emissions. In March, the County Council, supported by Rural Action Derbyshire and Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire, hosted a successful Climate Change Conference. The conference was attended by local community groups and individuals interested in reducing their carbon footprints, and gave newly established groups the opportunity to draw on the experience of more established groups, get advice on how to set up projects to reduce carbon footprints and get local people more involved.

The Current Cost Monitor Loan Scheme lends out electrical devices that record the electricity used by electrical equipment. Initial findings from the scheme show an average saving of 2 Kwh per day for those households using a monitor. This equates to a £60-70 saving a year and a 0.3 tonne reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> per household per year. There was very high demand for the first set of monitors, and further monitors have recently been made available.

There are now about 1000 monitors which can be borrowed free of charge from local libraries. A pilot is also being developed to extend the project to lend monitors to small businesses.

The partnership is currently achieving its planned CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions. However, continued partnership effort is required as targets for carbon reductions are expected to further increase in future years.



### Ways partners can support the carbon reduction agenda

- Promote the Current Cost Monitors to staff and individuals in your daily work. Promotion materials are available by emailing [Maggie.bishop@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Maggie.bishop@derbyshire.gov.uk)
- Take steps to further monitor and reduce carbon emissions in your organisation

## Bringing People Together deadline coming up



The final deadline for the Bringing People Together Fund is fast approaching. Local organisations and community groups can apply for grants until 16 July 2010 for projects that increase community cohesion. Applications are being considered by a panel which have already met on three occasions. 47 projects have been funded so far with a total of £54,770 spent. After the final closing date on 16 July, the panel will meet to award the remaining money in the fund. The money awarded will have to be spent before 30 September 2010. For more information, go to [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/bringingpeopletogether](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/bringingpeopletogether).

### Meeting dates and contact information

Derbyshire Partnership Forum meetings are held quarterly at County Hall in Matlock on the following dates. All meetings start at 10 am.

24 September 2010

10 December 2010

For more information about the DPF and to access the DPF papers, presentations and this newsletter online, visit [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/partnershipforum](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/partnershipforum)

To submit articles for this newsletter contact [lia.ottosen@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:lia.ottosen@derbyshire.gov.uk)