

Partnership Matters

March 2010



derbyshire partnership forum



Community cohesion projects

The newly launched Bringing People Together Fund helps to improve community cohesion in Derbyshire. Local community groups can apply

for grants between £100 to £2000 to fund activities that bring different groups of people together. So far, £10,747 of funding has been granted to seven groups in Derbyshire. There is still plenty of time for local community groups to obtain funding for their project as the closing date for applications is 16 July 2010. Some projects coincide with the Bringing People Together Campaign 11 April to 23 May 2010. In support of the campaign, a Bringing People Together Calendar will be made available to members of the public. Partners and local organisations can submit information on projects encouraging community cohesion and they will be added to the calendar. More information on the Bringing People Together Fund is available on www.derbyshire.gov.uk/bringingpeopletogether or by phoning **Call Derbyshire 08456 058 058**.

Projects funded so far

- South Normanton Family Fun Day
- New Mills Community Festival
- Alfreton Party in the Park
- Furness Vale Field Day
- Kirk Hallam Lakeside Festival

The above projects are community celebration days aimed at bringing different groups together within their communities through cultural, sport and nature preserving activities.



- **I, ME, US, WE project** is bringing people of all backgrounds together in creating artwork in the Hasland area.
- **Old Whittington Summer Gala** is a community Gala event to raise funds for local voluntary groups.

Making the voice of the 50+ forums heard

Does your organisation plan and deliver services that are relevant to the 50+ communities in Derbyshire? Are you trying to understand the diverse needs of this group better? If so, Derbyshire Older People Advisory Group (DOPAG) can help to engage with 50+ communities across the county. DOPAG is a network with a representative from each of the 50+ forums in Derbyshire, who have in-depth knowledge of issues at a local level. Through this network,

The aims of DOPAG are to:

- Get involved with local, regional and national issues
- Provide information from and to its members
- Empower the 50+ forum network to deliver positive change to improve the quality of life of the 50+ community in Derbyshire

local 50+ forums are linked to a range of county and regional strategic groups relevant to the 50+ community. DOPAG focuses on supporting positive working relationships with a range of organisations that influence and shape services and on ensuring that the voice of the 50+ communities is heard. For more information contact **Cllr Gill Farrington 01629 539257** or **Diana Higton 01629 532069**.

Partnership Matters



Message from the Chairman



Please take the time to read the newly printed version of the Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 - 2014 and consider how your organisation can help to achieve the challenges and priorities identified. Our newsletter highlights work being undertaken by partners to respond to the economic downturn, community cohesion and safeguarding. By working together we can achieve so much more than if we try to do things on our own. The projects funded through the Bringing People Together Fund demonstrate a real willingness in our communities to promote community spirit. Please take the opportunity to spread the word and encourage groups to put forward proposals in support of the campaign.

Cllr Andrew Lewer - Leader of Derbyshire County Council

Responding to the Economic Downturn

The current slot in the targeted timetable is given over to promote projects responding to the economic downturn. This has been a key priority for the partnership over the last year and many projects have taken place. Local businesses have been supported to grow, and we have supported people to get back in to employment. The county council's Near-Buy, Shop Local campaign encourages people to shop local and supports traders. Changes have also been made to make it easier for local firms to win county council business. These projects, along with Derbyshire Economic Partnership's (DEP) Market Towns Initiative, help to support businesses and individuals through challenging times.

Derbyshire is currently performing better than the rest of the region in terms of businesses showing economic growth. However, challenges still remain because of the rise in the number of people out of work.

Supporting people to get back in to work is a key objective of the Access Alliance Programme, which is supported by DEP. One of the main priorities of the programme is to provide training to those out of work to improve their chances of getting a job. The programme also promotes affordable transport to people who struggle to meet these costs to access employment or training. By the end of 2010, the programme is expected to have delivered 35 new jobs, assisted 1500 people in improving their skills, as well as having helped 574 people in accessing employment. Recently, the Programme has been extended to cover all of Derbyshire. For more information on the Access Alliance Programme, contact sonja.smith@derbyshireeconomicpartnership.org.uk.

As a result of the Near-Buy, Shop Local Campaign, a business fair in Clowne, run by Clowne Enterprise has recently been launched. The fair in March was attended by 40 local businesses who promoted local produce and services. Businesses attending the fair picked up new customers from the event and improved local



Partnership Matters



Engaging with the third sector



Support is at hand for third sector groups and agencies engaging with them. 3D - Third Sector Support for Derbyshire is a county wide partnership of organisations that offer infrastructure support to frontline third sector groups. They offer a range of training and skills development as well as one to one help with all aspects of running a third sector organisation such as

employment, financial and legal advice.

The Voice for the VCS Project works with 3D to improve voluntary sector engagement with Local Strategic Partnerships and the Local Area Agreement (LAA). Over 5000 groups and organisations in Derbyshire play a vital role in delivering a wide range of services. Training sessions have helped voluntary organisations understand the LAA and how they contribute to achieving the priorities set out in it.

The Voice for the VCS welcomes the opportunity to work more closely with statutory partners, and to build mutual understanding between the sectors. They offer free, bespoke training opportunities for staff and management teams of any Partnership Forum member. Training sessions will highlight the contribution of the third sector to partnership priorities and support delivery of NI7, creating 'an environment for a thriving third sector'. For more information contact **Claire Thornber 07827 243800** or email **c.thornber@derbysrcc.org.uk**

Safeguarding Training

Training is available to support the partnership's safeguarding agenda and efforts are being co-ordinated amongst key statutory agencies to help partners deal with safeguarding issues. The projects aim to reduce the number of people in vulnerable positions and train partners to identify and help those considered to be at risk.



Support available

- A conference about the impact alcohol can have on families is being organised. The conference *Alcohol: A Family Affair* takes place on 14 May 2010 at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick. Attendance is free and all are welcome. To book a place at the conference, contact **christine.flinton@derbyshire.gov.uk**.
- A leaflet on how to identify an adult at risk and how to report your concern is available on **www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/staying_safe/protection_of_vulnerable_adults/**. The leaflet is relevant to organisations dealing with potentially vulnerable adults and children and individual members of the public.
- Training courses for professionals on safeguarding can be accessed on **www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/staying_safe/protection_of_vulnerable_adults/guidance/**.

Partnership Matters



Derbyshire Food and Drink Fair

The 2010 Derbyshire Food and Drink Fair will take place on 22-23 May 2010 on the grounds of Kedleston Hall and is part of the week long Derbyshire Food and Drink Festival. The Fair is organised by the county council and sponsored by Derbyshire Economic Partnership. It is an excellent opportunity to build pride in the many local food producers in Derbyshire. Local food produce is increasingly becoming an asset to the tourism sector which in Derbyshire contributes greatly to the economy. The many small scale businesses in the county involved in local food produce as well as crafts will be celebrated and local produce will be promoted to local consumers and tourists alike.

The 2009 event attracted over 10,000 people and it is hoped that the 2010 event will attract even more. You can still get involved in the Fair, either by securing a stall or by sponsoring the event. For more information, see www.derbyshirefoodfestival.co.uk or contact Stephanie Walsh on **01629 538464** or via email on stephanie.walsh@derbyshire.gov.uk



Earth Hour 2010

The annual, global Earth Hour takes place on **Saturday 27 March 2010 at 8.30 pm**. The floodlights on County Hall will be switched off for an hour to show the council's support for the World Wildlife Trust (WWF) campaign. Turning the lights off is a gesture to raise awareness of how switching off items and equipment which consume energy can help to reduce carbon emissions. Reducing carbon emissions across Derbyshire is one of the ways we can achieve



the partnership priority to tackle climate change. Partners can get involved in the campaign by switching off the lights on their buildings or by taking part in community celebrations for Earth Hour in Derbyshire. For more information go to www.derbyshire.gov.uk/earthhour. You can sign up to the campaign on www.earthhour.wwf.org.uk and get more suggestions for Earth Hour activities.

Meeting dates and contact information

The Derbyshire Partnership Forum meetings are held quarterly at County Hall in Matlock on the following dates. All meetings start at 10 am.
25 June 2010

24 September 2010

10 December 2010

For more information about the DPF and to access this newsletter online visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/partnershipforum

To submit articles for this newsletter contact louise.collins@derbyshire.gov.uk