

## **Herts 2021 Bulletin**

**January / February 2009**

These monthly bulletins update partners on the development and work of Hertfordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), Local Area Agreement (LAA1), LAA2 and CAA.

### ***HF Website and Communications***

Hertfordshire Forward's website is being updated and the SPU team are reviewing partnership communications more broadly. Stay posted for details of the site's '09 re-launch but in the meantime your thoughts would be appreciated, including:

- To what extent these bulletins are helpful
- What you would like to see on the website
- Whether thematic pages would be of use
- What you would like to have more of and what we can leave out
- Whether updates need to be more regular

Please contact [stewart.martin@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:stewart.martin@hertscc.gov.uk) with your thoughts.

### **This month**

[Sustainable Community Strategy](#)

[Local Area Agreement 1](#)

[Local Area Agreement 2](#)

[Getting Ready for CAA](#)

[LSP Network](#)

[Economic Participation Programme 2009/10](#)

[Community Cohesion](#)

[Hertfordshire Forward Annual Conference](#)

[Last month](#)

[Future dates](#)

[Contacts](#)

Summary version available online

The latest on LAA1 performance and PRG LAA2 'Review and Refresh'

CAA prep, self-assessment & 4<sup>th</sup> March 26 Jan meeting

Contract and tendering details

Latest on the Strategy's development Presentations and 2009's Conference

Key dates from last month (and Dec 09)

HF Core Group dates for 2009

Who, what, where...

### **Sustainable Community Strategy**

A summary version of the strategy has also been produced providing an accessible overview of the 2021 vision and objectives. Hard copies are available on request from [joan.green@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:joan.green@hertscc.gov.uk) while the pdf version is available [here](#).

### **Local Area Agreement 1**

**Performance Reward Grant (PRG)**

Performance data has recently been updated. Due to the impact of the recession, performance in two key indicators has deteriorated – please see the Core Group's 4<sup>th</sup> February papers which can be found [here](#). This will affect the final PRG estimate - now standing between £15 – 18m. This means District LSP's will receive between £750,000 – 900,000 should performance continue at its current rate. For more contact [victor.wan@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:victor.wan@hertscc.gov.uk).

Hertfordshire Forward have commissioned the 2021 Delivery Group to produce a package of proposals for spending the countywide element of PRG (facilitated independently). More details will follow in due course. In the meantime contact [keith.shephard@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:keith.shephard@hertscc.gov.uk).

## **Local Area Agreement 2**

Thematic partnerships have now produced action plans for all LAA2 targets.

The LAA *review* is essentially a retrospective look at performance across targets thus far. Given the Agreement (LAA2) was only signed off in summer 2008, performance data is limited, and Government Office for the East of England (GO-East), with whom the review is conducted, have used a combination of proxy data and soft assessments of Hertfordshire's capacity to deliver in order to reach a judgement about our progress. Harder data will be available in March.

The *refresh* is the opportunity to amend, remove or add targets within the LAA to reflect changing circumstances and priorities over its three-year duration. GO-East have not insisted upon negotiating additional targets. Local partners however, through Hertfordshire Forward, are keen to re-negotiate some existing targets that have been adversely affected by economic conditions, namely:

- NI152 – Working age people on out of work benefits
- NI154 – Net additional homes provided
- NI172 – % of small businesses in Herts showing growth
- NI116 – Proportion of children living in poverty

The maximum Performance Reward Grant attached to LAA2 is around £7m – substantially reduced from LAA1. We are awaiting national guidance on the details of how that sum will be dispersed and any minimum thresholds which have to be met before it can be captured.

## **Getting Ready for Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)**

On behalf of Hertfordshire Forward and alongside the Audit Commission, the Strategic Partnerships Unit is preparing for Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) which assesses the county as a whole rather than purely focusing on individual organisations. There are a number of strands to this work, which focus on the Area Assessment element of CAA. These include the need for a Hertfordshire self-assessment by May 2009 (consisting of district and thematic chapters), in-depth work to assess partners' views of partnership working in the county, work to better coordinate engagement activity and improve performance information. On 4<sup>th</sup> March a partnership event will be bringing LSPs and thematic partnerships together to discuss their work, look at opportunities for joint-work and CAA – more on this in next month's bulletin. Contact [stewart.martin@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:stewart.martin@hertscc.gov.uk) for more.

## **Hertfordshire Forward LSP Network**

The Hertfordshire Forward LSP Network, chaired by Rosie Sanderson, has redrafted its Terms of Reference and remit. In its most recent meeting (26 January) it covered the previous Core Group meeting, getting ready for CAA, the partnership survey, new reporting arrangements for district children's trusts partnerships, LAA1 performance, Community Cohesion, Leadership and Regional LSP Networks. It is to be a key group in helping to produce Hertfordshire's self-assessment, not least working on the district chapters. Contact [rs.projects@broxbourne.gov.uk](mailto:rs.projects@broxbourne.gov.uk) for more.

## **Hertfordshire's Economic Participation Programme 2009/10**

The new EEDA funded Hertfordshire Economic Participation Programme (EPP) is the follow on to the Investing in Communities Programme (IiC) which is due to close on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. The EPP will allocate 2.04M toward the support of specific LAA targets to enhance existing activity and add value to work that is being undertaken in the county on jobs, prosperity and skills. The programme is for one year only.

The process to allocate the funding will be through a tendering process which is due to go 'live' online by the end of January 2009. Tenders are expected to be returned in March 2009 and contracts to be awarded in April 2009.

- LAA NI 152 Reducing the number of people on out of work benefits  
Revenue £300,000 1 x year contract
- LAA NI 163 Increasing the proportion of population qualified to skills level 2  
Capital £580,000 1 x year contract
- LAA NI 163 Increasing the proportion of population qualified to skills level 2  
Revenue £382,000 1 x year contract
- LAA NI 172 Increase percentage of small businesses showing employment growth  
Capital £650,000. 1 x year contract

- For more information on the EPP LAA targets contact: John Pryor LAA Theme Lead ([Johnp@hertsprosperity.com](mailto:Johnp@hertsprosperity.com)).
- For more information on the EPP process contact Fiona Breaker-Rolfe Economic Participation Manager [fiona.breaker-rolfe@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.breaker-rolfe@hertscc.gov.uk),
- Update information on contracting will become available when posted on [www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward](http://www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward) and [www.delta-ets.com](http://www.delta-ets.com)

NB: The final figures are subject to EEDA confirmation and contractual arrangements in February 2009.

## **Community Cohesion Strategy**

Designed to act as the beginning of the process to develop the Community Cohesion Strategy, a workshop was held on 11 December seeking to secure agreement from partners and stakeholders on the scope and approach to the Community Cohesion Strategy and the creation of a Community Cohesion Network to drive forward the development of the Strategy. Participants were actively encouraged to discuss what the evidence looks like for Community Cohesion in Hertfordshire, what partners in the county are doing well and what we could do better together. To help them with their task delegates received presentations on a national, regional and local level.

The workshop agreed the need to establish a Community Cohesion Network that will operate as a sounding board to help drive forward the development and implementation of the Strategy and that it should meet 2-3 times a year. The role of the Network will include:

- Oversight and co-ordination of the development of the Community Cohesion Strategy for Hertfordshire.
- Leading on community cohesion and advising, monitoring and supporting the work of Hertfordshire Forward LSP in relation to this agenda

The workshop agreed the need to establish a smaller officer group (Community Cohesion Strategy Development Group) to drive forward the agenda and to develop the strategy. Contact [Andrew.burt@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.burt@hertscc.gov.uk) for more.

## **Hertfordshire Forward Annual Conference**

Presentations from the 2008 Conference that focused on Health and Wellbeing are now available to download by clicking [here](#). Contact [stewart.martin@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:stewart.martin@hertsc.gov.uk) for more. Next year's event (topic to be decided) will be on 6 November 2009 at the Fielder Centre.

## **Last two months**

- 9 Dec 08** Hertfordshire Forward Core Group
- 11 Dec 08** Community Cohesion Workshop
- 26 Jan 09** Hertfordshire Forward LSP Network

## **Future dates**

- 4 Feb** Hertfordshire Forward Core Group meeting, Fielder Centre, Hatfield. – papers can be found [here](#) with minutes to follow soon after.
- 4 March** Partnership Conference, Fielder Centre, Hatfield – exploring district LSP and countywide thematic partnership working and Comprehensive Area Assessment
- 23 March** LSP Network – among other items this meeting will cover performance management, the use of a partnership toolkit and the CAA self-assessment.
- 2009** Core Group also meeting: 20 May, 30 September and 9 December

## **Contacts**

### **Strategic Partnerships Unit, HCC**

Keith Shephard, Head of Strategic Partnerships Unit

[keith.shephard@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:keith.shephard@hertsc.gov.uk)

Ben Wood, Team Leader - Community Strategy & Delivery

[ben.wood@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:ben.wood@hertsc.gov.uk)

Stewart Martin, Policy Officer

[stewart.martin@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:stewart.martin@hertsc.gov.uk)

### **Theme Leads**

Children & Young People (*CYP*)

[Ian.Knowles@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.Knowles@hertsc.gov.uk) or [Rebecca.Price@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Price@hertsc.gov.uk)

Economic Development & Enterprise (*EDE*)

[Johnp@hertsprosperity.com](mailto:Johnp@hertsprosperity.com) or [Adam@hertsprosperity.com](mailto:Adam@hertsprosperity.com)

Healthier Communities & Older People (*HCOP*)

[Mark.Lobban@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Lobban@hertsc.gov.uk) or [Carol.Hill@herts-pcts.nhs.uk](mailto:Carol.Hill@herts-pcts.nhs.uk)

Housing & Character (*Housing*)

[Anne.Freimanis@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Anne.Freimanis@eastherts.gov.uk)

Safer & Stronger (*SSC*)

[Peter.Ollis@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Ollis@stevenage.gov.uk) or [Emma.Tucker@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.Tucker@stevenage.gov.uk)

Transport & Sustainable Development (*Transport*)

[John.Wood@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:John.Wood@hertsc.gov.uk)

### **Herts Forward Website**

<http://www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward>

(Previous bulletins: [click here](#))