

## **Herts 2021 Bulletin**

**March 2009**

These monthly bulletins update partners on the development and work of the Hertfordshire Forward partnerships family – governance diagram for which will soon be available [here](#).

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

Thank you to those who provided feedback on the bulletin and communications more generally. The points raised will go into the melting pot and influence future editions of the bulletin as well as the forthcoming relaunched Hertfordshire Forward website. If you have any further thoughts to add please let [stewart.martin@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:stewart.martin@hertscc.gov.uk) know.

### **This month**

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General approach and self-assessment

Summary version available online

LAA1 performance

Review & Refresh and perf management

'Interim' measures and future development

26 Jan meeting and next meeting

Latest group and Strategy's development

Presentations and 2009's Conference

Key dates from last month

HF Core Group dates for 2009

Who, what, where...

### **4<sup>th</sup> March Partnership Event**

Last Wednesday (4<sup>th</sup> March) the six countywide thematic partnerships and the county's ten district LSPs came together for an event designed to develop their understanding of each other and raise awareness of CAA. The programme for the day can be found [here](#) while the presentations can be found [here](#). Delegates heard from the six countywide partnerships about their structures, work and focus, from two district LSPs providing challenge and inspiration as well as from Gary Hammersley the CAA Lead for Hertfordshire who outlined the new performance framework. The day also included presentations from PwC regarding their work on developing a performance framework for county partnership working, from ORS who carried out the Place Survey, from Rosie Sanderson regarding the Partnership Survey, and from Richard Roberts, Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Partnerships, HCC.

For those that attended and if you have not already done so, please could you take literally a couple of minutes to provide feedback on the day event – by following the link to complete the survey: [www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=w3zAd1gUTD9szlHjbXDlKA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=w3zAd1gUTD9szlHjbXDlKA_3d_3d)

## **CAA (inc self-assessment)**

Final CAA Guidance can be found [here](#)

The IDeA's self-assessment guidance can be found [here](#)

On behalf of Hertfordshire Forward and alongside the Audit Commission and Government Office, 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 end April 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.

The *self-assessment* outline timetable:

- 20<sup>th</sup> March – district LSP chapters first draft (for discussion at 23<sup>rd</sup>'s LSP Network)
- 25<sup>th</sup> March – thematic partnerships first draft
- 1<sup>st</sup> April – thematic partnerships second draft (for discussion at 3<sup>rd</sup>'s Delivery Grp)
- 6<sup>th</sup> April – final deadline for all partnerships' drafts (editing/testing by project team)

Sign-off process with a view to submitting a draft to the Audit Commission at the end of April and a draft going before HF Core Group on 20 May (any resulting changes to be resubmitted to Audit Commission afterwards – it is an iterative process). Contact [stewart.martin@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:stewart.martin@hertscc.gov.uk) for more.

## **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 data has recently been updated (to end September 2008). 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 LSPs 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).

## **Local Area Agreement 2**

Thematic partnerships have now produced action plans for all LAA2 targets. The latest LAA2 performance data has been collated and will be made available shortly. Going forward, LAA2 performance data will be made available on a quarterly basis.

*Review and refresh:* the LAA2 template has now been 'refreshed', has been legally approved via Herts Forward and HCC's Policy and Resources Panel and will now be verified by Government Office before being sent to DCLG as the latest iteration of what Hertfordshire has signed up to deliver. This template will be posted on the Herts Forward site shortly ([here](#)), but in the meantime the full template can be found [here](#) and the supporting paper that went to P&R Panel can be found [here](#).

*Performance Management:* using funds secured from Improvement East, PriceWaterhouseCoopers consultants will be working in Hertfordshire to help build performance management capacity. Their work will focus upon district LSP contributions and accountability to LAA2 targets. The focus areas will be:

- Dacorum LSP and "business climate" - focusing on NI 172
- St Albans and District LSP and "achieving independent living" - focusing on NI 125
- Hertsmere LSP and "family resilience" - focusing on NI 116

For more please see [Ciara Magee's slides](#) or contact [Ben.Wood@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:Ben.Wood@hertscc.gov.uk)

### **Hertfordshire Forward Delivery Group (interim)**

In responding to the recent partnership survey and resulting follow-up fieldwork, combined with already known areas of strength and weakness, the HF governance arrangements are being reviewed. The emerging structure will inevitably include a cross-cutting senior group to drive and deliver the overall HF work programme pulling together the various themes and/or agencies. In the meantime an 'Interim Delivery Group' has been set up to carry out urgent tasks including the commissioning of the countywide performance reward grant (PRG) process to an external facilitator, shaping the self assessment for CAA (see [above](#)), and shaping the performance scorecard. All these issues will be taken to the HF Core Group for their meeting on 20 May.

The Interim Delivery Group's membership is as follows (others will attend by invitation for specific items and administration will be provided by SPU):

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| • John Wood            | <i>Chair</i>  |
| • Anne Freimanis       | Better Places to Live                                 |
| • Ian Knowles          | Children and Young People                             |
| • Laura Cronshaw       | VCS – Herts Infrastructure Consortium to confirm      |
| • Dr Raymond Jankowski | Healthy Communities and Older People                  |
| • Peter Ollis          | Safer and Stronger Communities                        |
| • Adam Wood            | Herts Prosperity Limited to 31/03/09)                 |
| • Chris Miller         | Assistant Chief Constable, Hertfordshire Constabulary |
| • David Scholes        | Transport, Access and Sustainable Development         |
| • Rosie Sanderson      | Chair of the LSP Network will also attend             |
| • Keith Shephard       | Head of Strategic Partnerships Unit will also attend  |

### **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 a key group in helping to produce Hertfordshire's self-assessment, not least working on the district chapters. *It is next meeting at Stevenage BC on 23 March where draft district chapters will be discussed.* Contact [rs.projects@broxbourne.gov.uk](mailto:rs.projects@broxbourne.gov.uk) for more.

## **Community Cohesion Strategy**

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.

15 officers from Districts, Police, Health, VCS, Faith, Housing, and BME sectors will form the Community Cohesion Strategy Development Group that will meet for the first time on Friday 6th March. The meeting will take the form of a half day workshop to agree the content and tone of the Strategy. An Evidence Base has been commissioned from the Community Information Unit at HCC to inform the shape and content of the Strategy.

- *HCC Diversity & Community Cohesion Board* held an awayday on Monday 23rd February for senior officers and frontline staff during which there was presentation and two workshops on Community Cohesion. The workshops were tasked with looking at the impact of recession and examples of good practice across HCC services.
- *Hertfordshire Equalities Council* - Plans are moving forward to develop an independent Hertfordshire Equalities Council. A Project Worker is being appointed shortly who will make it a priority to engage with as wide an audience as possible - something that is seen as necessary to the ultimate success of the organisation.
- *Inter-Faith Dialogue* - discussion are taking place about the possibility of establishing other IFG's at both the local and county level.
- *Hertfordshire Volunteering Strategy* - Volunteering is seen as a key component in securing stronger more cohesive communities. A workshop is planned for March 26th at the All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney to discuss the tone and content of the Strategy. Workshop attendees will hear from Justin Davis Smith, Chief Executive of Volunteering England who will set the scene for a highly interactive morning.
- *VCS Strategic Engagement* - Funding has been secured from HCC for an additional two years for the post of VCS Strategic Engagement Officer. The post forms part of a package of key strategic services commissioned from the Herts CVS Group in the form of a Strategic Leadership contract to help the VCS engage on the strategic agenda. Funding has also been agreed for the VCS representative on the Hertfordshire Forward Core Group for a similar period of time.

## **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@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:stewart.martin@hertscc.gov.uk) for more. Next year's event (the economy as the main theme) will be on 6 November 2009 at the Fielder Centre. Contact [david.hughes@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:david.hughes@hertscc.gov.uk) for more.

## **Last month**

- 4 Feb** Hertfordshire Forward Core Group meeting, Fielder Centre, Hatfield. – papers can be found [here](#) with minutes to follow shortly.
- 4 March** Partnership Conference, Fielder Centre, Hatfield – exploring district LSP and countywide thematic partnership working, the Place Survey, PwC's performance framework work and the Comprehensive Area Assessment

**4 March** Interim Delivery Group meeting to discussed the role of the group, the countywide [self-assessment](#) (see above), performance management, governance project, LAA1 PRG and feedback to the Core Group.

### **Future dates**

**23 March** LSP Network – among other items this meeting will cover performance management, the use of a partnership toolkit and the CAA self-assessment.

**3 April** Interim Delivery Group meeting

**21 April** Interim Delivery Group meeting

**20 May** HF Core Group meeting

**2009** Core Group meeting: 20 May, 30 September and 9 December

## **Contacts**

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### **Herts Forward Website**

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

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