

Quarterly Update

June 2007

Welcome to the Kent Partnership newsletter, reporting on some of the key issues that the Partnership and its working groups have been focusing their efforts on recently
www.kentpartnership.org.uk



National Award for Compact Work

Compact
working together better together

Kent received a national commendation during a review of local compacts at the Compact Annual Meeting Commendations 2006 in London. The agreement between government and the voluntary & community sector to improve their relationship for mutual advantage has led to Kent receiving one of the commendations issued each year to recognise compact excellence. A record 28 commendations were made - including a win in the Compact Promotion, Championing, Proofing and Use Category for the *Compacts in Kent Group*. This group has shared and spread best practice between districts and partners via a network of Compact champions, a family of quality arrangements and strengthened sector infrastructure for Kent. This is paving the move for a Kent Partners Compact, aligned with Sustainable Community Strategies, LSPs and LAA.

Further info: colin.maclean@kent.gov.uk



High Speed Link

The Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) has been renamed as "High Speed 1".

High Speed 1 or HS1 will become the name that users and beneficiaries of the line will use to describe the railway.

With Eurostar moving from Waterloo to its new home at St Pancras International, HS1 will open for commercial services on 14th November 2007. Journey times from the centre of London to Paris will be 2h15m and journey times to Brussels will be under two hours. As from 2009 domestic journey times will be dramatically reduced with the introduction of the new high-speed commuter services on the line. In the meantime lobbying has continued to maintain the Ashford-Brussels service.

Improving Prospects

The Kent Partnership's Kent Economic Development & Regeneration Framework - Kent Prospects (2006-2012) - was endorsed by KCC's Cabinet at its 12th March meeting.

Evolving from the direction of travel set by the Vision for Kent, the framework aims to:

- Strengthen the county's accessibility, connections and infrastructure
- Combat deprivation through growth & regeneration opportunities
- Develop opportunities for enterprise, growth, skills, jobs, competitiveness and innovation across Kent
- Promote business opportunities that address environmental & climate change issues

The Kent Economic Board will play a leading role in facilitating the delivery of Kent Prospects.

Further info:
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Focus on Health at the Public Service Board

At its meeting on 30th April, the focus was on health issues within Kent with Primary Care Trust Chairmen and Chief Executives and Meradin Peachey (Kent Public Health Director), outlining the need for the next Kent Agreement to focus on delivering key improvements in public health.

Further info: colin.maclean@kent.gov.uk

Kent View Update

The Kent View project commissioned by the Public Service Board will be delivering its initial analysis to the next meeting of the board in July 2007. The project seeks to identify, analyse and develop common information on a shared technological platform between partners, supported by a team of expert researchers, data managers and analysts.

Further info: peter.welsh@kent.gov.uk

Kent Agreement Monitoring

The End of Year 2 Kent Agreement Monitoring Report is now available on the News section of the Kent Partnership website. To access a full copy please click on the link [here](#)

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No Use Empty

In January 'No Use Empty', the East Kent empty property initiative, hosted the third in a series of training workshops for empty property officers from across Kent at the Shepway District Council Chamber in Folkestone. The aim of the training was to improve knowledge and understanding of legislation, which will help bring more empty properties back into use.

Over 43 delegates, representing all Kent's district councils attended the seminar as well as representatives from various other departments including legal, planning, building control, council tax and environmental health.

Susan Pledger, Project Manager of No Use Empty said; "Authorities have a wide range of powers to encourage owners to bring their long term empty properties back into use. While every effort is made to work with owners, we recognise that in some cases, a council will need to use its enforcement powers, if we are to counter the negative impact empty properties have on communities in East Kent. EDMO's and the enforced sales procedure are only ever used as a last resort, if all other courses of action have failed and the owner is not constructively engaging with the council." The training was led by Andrew Lavender, Principal Consultant for Professional Partnership Services (PPS Ltd), a consultancy working in partnership with the 'No Use Empty' campaign.

Free help and advice is available to property owners:



www.no-use-empty.org

No Use Empty hotline 08458 247605.



The Future Is Retail

The Gateway project has been moving forward at a rapid pace in the last few months. The Strategy document "The Future is Retail", which has been pulled together with input from a range of partners, has been finalised and is in the process of being circulated. A DVD outlining the vision of Gateways has also been produced.

Maidstone Gateway has received formal approval and plans for the Thanet project are well underway. The mobile Gateway, which will operate in more rural areas, is due to be launched in May and will be present at the County Show. In addition, discussions are underway with other parts of the county, such as Tunbridge Wells, Gravesend and Dover. Gateways have received a positive response internationally as well with invitations to speak being received from Sweden, Canada and USA all of whom wish to replicate Kent Gateways. The interest nationally has also been significant with keynote speaking events and visits to the Ashford Gateway occurring regularly.

The first Gateway Advisory Board met in early March and was very successful, with support from across the public sector. The first pilot with Lloyds Pharmacy offering free health checks took place at Ashford at the end of February and this was a resounding success. Lloyds are keen to work with us to make this a long-term feature of the Ashford Gateway and any future Gateways. This has been an exciting few months for Gateways and the future is bright. **Further info: jane.kendall@kent.gov.uk**

Kent Sports Leadership Project

Headed up by Stuart Butler and based at Meopham School, this project is now in its second year. Funded by the charity Sports Leaders UK and KCC the project's overall aim is to encourage community groups to undertake Sports Leadership courses and use the skills gained to then help others or progress themselves as individuals.

Key partners in the project include the Kent Sports Development Unit, Community Wardens, Youth Offending Service and Kent Youth Service. With around 40 tutors already qualified and several centres across the county accredited to run the awards, delivery will increase across the county during the summer months. A variety of awards are available starting from day courses to 30 hour nationally recognised qualifications.

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If you have any suggestions for future articles in the Kent Partnership Newsletter please contact elizabeth.sanderson@kent.gov.uk

Kent Leadership Programme

Led by KCC's Strategic Development and Personnel & Development Units on behalf of the Public Service Board, this programme offers an innovative approach in which both public and private sector partners collaborate around the theme of 'Taking Kent Forward'. Co-facilitated by a bespoke partnership formed between the University of Kent – Business School and Imperial College London – Tanaka Business School.

This academic partnership is supported by a number of world-class global and local companies including Accenture, Pearson Education, Pzifers, LBi and Saga. In addition to directly contributing to the quality and diversity of learning on the programme, the commercial partners are also represented on the Kent Leadership Programme Board which co-ordinates the marketing, communication and strategic development of the programme.

A pilot programme was launched in September 2006 with an induction module for its first cohort. The first module was held in the New Year to a cohort of 11 cross sector delegates. The programme aims to enable participants to identify what works in Kent and in its business, and how we can do more of it more often by working collaboratively. The programme seeks to build and enhance a strong identity of doing business in Kent.

The programme involves a number of 'learning pillars' hosted at the University of Kent business school as well as a rich and engaging action-learning element that draws upon the extensive resources of the commercial and academic partners in progressing real-time problems facing organisations.

The partnership surrounding the programme has already seen other wider benefits, such as the commitment of one of the commercial partners, LBi, Europe's largest digital media agency to visit the University of Kent with a view to forming a partnership focused upon offering student placement and learning opportunities. Recruitment is underway for participants. The launch will be on 28th September 2007.

Further info: coral.ingleton@kent.gov.uk or tanya.oliver@kent.gov.uk



Charlton A Winner At Big Tick Awards

Charlton Athletic Community Trust picked up three awards at the Business in the Community Awards for their work, coaching youngsters in football activities in local communities. The awards included:

- Big Tick Winner for building safer, stronger, flourishing communities - Kent Programme
- Silver Big Tick Winner in the Jubilee Award in recognition of 10 years work within the community
- Category Winner for impact on the South East by a small company - Kent Programme

This achievement underlines what a success the programme has been in Kent and the impact it has both on young people, and the area they live in. Congratulations to Alan Dennington and Steve Waggott for submitting this year's application for the Big Tick awards. The Charlton Athletic Community Trust will be celebrating their success at a gala dinner on 2nd July. **Further info:** jason.morgan@cafc.co.uk



A&E Project

A project initiated in Shepway to gather anonymous data on violent assaults from Accident and Emergency and Minor Injuries Departments has revealed some interesting trends, mainly around alcohol related night-time economy violence and domestic violence in the home. The findings will help the agencies working to combat violent crime create a targeted, intelligence-led approach.

The project has helped to identify locations where assaults were taking place that were previously unknown to agencies working with young people or those concerned with underage drinking. Other intelligence gathered from questionnaires, given out to victims of assault attending emergency care facilities, has successfully identified problems with certain licensed premises and with schools suffering high levels of violence. The information will be used by partners to ensure local communities are safer and feel protected from violent behaviour. **Further info:** caroline.davis@ekcpct.nhs.uk

**Ashford**

Police Surgeries are continuing to offer advice and support to residents on anti-social behaviour issues. A tourist guide & Top Ten Tips to Safer Socialising information cards are just some of the creative advertising techniques being used to promote responsible drinking.

Canterbury

In Canterbury Kent Police have been selling and loaning car alarms and extra Police patrols have been tasked in affected areas. A marking scheme for car radios with second hand car dealers is also being trialled.

Dartford

Dartford's Theatre programme on Anti Social Behaviour has been delivered to a considerable number of secondary schools in the area, focusing on the consequences ASB has on communities and individuals.

Gravesham

In Gravesham, Westcourt local volunteers have been recruited through Groundwork Kent-Thameside as local 'walkie-talkies' – who patrol the local estate at specific times and provide information to local people about activities and initiatives as well as being a point of contact for residents if they have any particular concerns.

Dover

Dover's Three Strikes scheme continues to be very effective in tackling alcohol related crime and disorder in the town centres, currently running at only a 5% re-offending rate.

Maidstone

In Maidstone, earlier this year Domestic Violence reporting had increased by 15% resulting from a Ticketmedia campaign highlighting the Domestic Violence Reporting Line on the back of bus tickets.

Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks crime fighting website now enables on-line reporting of Anti Social Behaviour.

The Cascade programme at Swanley School sees students help out with the lunch time drop-in to give advice and mentor younger pupils regarding drugs and alcohol issues. Two students went on to receive an award from the Prince's Trust.

Shepway

In Shepway outreach patrol work is targeting truanting young people, making good use of the PCSO's to provide local knowledge and information.

Work with schools is going well, with some highly targeted interventions taking place with the BEST team.

A new project is being established to provide go-karting and a mobile gym as a reward scheme for young people in the Marsh area.

Swale

Kent Safe Schools continue to deliver peer mentoring and youth action group sessions at Swale Schools.

Thanet

Work is continuing with Thanet Safe Ltd, a retail crime partnership to increase the membership of Thanet Pub Watch to include not only pubs and clubs but other retailers such as take aways, 24hr garages and taxi firms who trade in the night time economy.

Tonbridge & Malling

100% membership of Pubwatch in Snodland has been achieved.

Tunbridge Wells

In the last year, town centre operations in Cranbrook, Paddock Wood and Tunbridge Wells aimed to reduce the number of incidents of retail crime and nuisance behaviour and provide a reassuring presence.

Dates for the Diary

Kent Partnership Meeting

26th June 2007

Kent Partnership Conference

21st November 2007

For further information on the Kent Partnership:

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