

Quarterly Update

September 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



Parish Planning Helps to Bridge the Gap

The Action with Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK) AGM, held

on 22 October will include the launch of the Parish and Community Planning Prospectus. This is part of a joint project between the Kent Partnership, ACRK, Kent Rural Towns, District and Parish Councils. The prospectus will highlight the advantages of parish and community planning processes to ensure that community views are reflected in policy and planning decisions. This continues the work started last September at the successful "Bridging the Gap" event.

To complement the prospectus the Kent Partnership and ACRK have been collating data from parish action plans, district sustainable community strategies and Vision for Kent to demonstrate the shared priorities across the county. It is hoped that this will raise the profile of parish plan actions and enable communities to successfully influence decision-making processes.

Further info:

elizabeth.sanderson@kent.gov.uk

Dates for the Diary

Kent Partnership Conference:

21st November 2007

Kent Partnership Meeting:

22nd January 2008

Info: gill.sayer@kent.gov.uk



Kent Works inspiring young people through masterclasses

Kent Works will be holding the

first in a series of masterclasses around the county which aim to inspire all 13-19 year olds and help them make informed career choices.

The first event will be held at Brands Hatch on 17 October and the morning session will feature a keynote speech from ex-Olympic high jumper Geoff Parsons and five workshops around management and leadership, entrepreneurship and innovation, self employment, work readiness and employability and values and behaviours.

In the afternoon, various employers will host talks and workshops to give students a taste of their industry. Connexions will be on hand to offer advice to students and Kent TV will film the day to capture best practice and allow teachers to take back information to the classroom.

This is part of Kent County Council's *Towards 2010* ambitions.

Further info: jan.thornby@kent.gov.uk



Kent Agreement Two Consultation Update

Partners from all across the county have been submitting their responses for the Kent Agreement 2 Consultation, which will help to shape the new Local Area Agreement. The consultation ran from 27th July to 20th September and allowed partners to comment on the range of outcomes suggested by the Kent Partnership Support Group. This multi-agency officer group has been preparing the draft outcomes based on the priorities across the 8 Vision for Kent themes over the last 6 months. This builds on the principle that Kent Agreement 2 will become the delivery plan for Vision for Kent.

The Kent Partnership was pleased by the quality of the responses from partner organisations across Kent. The list of potential outcomes will now be revised in light of the comments, and compared to the list of 200 National Improvement Indicators due to be issued by Government in early October as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. Kent will be negotiating up to 35 indicators from this list of 200 that best reflects the issues the county will be focusing on over the next 3 years.

More info: www.kentpartnership.org.uk

Find out more about the Kent Partnership, including latest meeting notes and related documents at our website:

www.kentpartnership.org.uk

New Project Team at the Kent Partnership

The Central Support Team (CST) has recently been set up to support the Safer & Stronger Communities Group (SSCG) and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. The CST at present is a team of 4 comprising: Inspector Mark Pearson (SSC Lead Officer; Programme Manager); Carolyn Michel (Project Manager); Stephanie Mead (Performance Analyst) and Maura Flynn (Performance Analyst).

The initial objective of the team has been to identify quality issues with existing information tools, specifically CrimeView. The CST team believes that CrimeView is a sophisticated information package that requires some adjustment to make it more user friendly. A rapid 'user friendliness' assessment has already been carried out, and recommendations are already being acted upon by our Development team. This is an ideal opportunity for users, to assist in making CrimeView the superior bespoke product we know it can be. We are also considering renaming the product to better reflect the vast array of information it contains, and would welcome your comments/suggestions to carolyn.michel@kent.gov.uk

Sevenoaks District Young People's Action Plan 100% on target

Sevenoaks DC Cabinet recently received the report for YPAP's first year (April 2006 – March 2007), showing all 30 key indicators are on target. The report included a presentation from 3 young people – the Council's "Project Team" which has been involved in visiting and monitoring youth projects across the District. Significant achievements for the plan's first year include 330,167 attendances by young people at monitored activities provided by SDC and its partners; 2 new 8-12's clubs established in Sevenoaks and New Ash Green; 300 young people involved in volunteering; 843 arts workshops delivered for young people and 177 individual contacts with young people through the Connexions service. More info: Sophie Lord on 07132 227000 sophie.lord@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Power Project

The Power Project was piloted by Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership and following its success, was rolled out to Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells Borough Councils. Its aim is to influence young people who, without intervention, may go on to commit crime or anti-social behaviour.

Power Project workers work alongside young people on a one to one basis. They will agree with the young person an action plan setting out personal goals based on individual needs, talents and interests. The worker will maintain close contact and support and will signpost appropriate activities and opportunities as well as putting in place programmes of work to help the young person address their own difficulties. The project offers young people support and encouragement to make positive choices about their future.

The Power Project accepts referrals of young people who are thought to be at risk of committing crime or who are displaying anti-social behaviour but who are not in the youth justice system.

For more information or to make a referral contact: Stephen Hollands, Practice Supervisor – Adolescent Resource Centre, Castle Street, Tonbridge, 01732 364688. Stephen.hollands@kent.gov.uk

Investors in Kent – corporate social responsibility group

Two events have been held over the past twelve months to establish if a sufficient level of interest existed to set up a membership/networking group of Kent employers, sharing best practice and services in Community Investment.

Enthusiasm for a Community Investment network at these meetings was high and feedback positive, although attendees wanted to know in greater detail how this might work, the costs involved and what benefits could accrue before they would be willing to sign up.

The detail of such a network therefore needed developing into a proposed structure with a programme, processes and resources to deliver services at a known cost structure.

Funding has now been secured for this project and CC Works Ltd have been commissioned to undertake this development.

They will build on the feedback from previous events and undertake research to explore with interested organisations in Kent,

- what services they might use
- what events they might be willing to support.
- what they would be willing to pay for services and events.
- and identify key membership areas and services.

If you would be interested in contributing to this development and/ or would like more information, then please contact Christine Jenkins: christinejenkins@ccworks.co.uk

Kent Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships Update



Ashford

The first 'Safety In Action' event was attended by 700 year 5&6 children. The community safety based workshops focused on drug and alcohol awareness, road safety, fire safety, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour/bullying.



Dartford and Gravesham

'Op Safer Streets' and the 'Safer Socialising' scheme have reduced the amount of crime taking place during night time hours in Dartford and Gravesham. The 'Safer Socialising' scheme has partners working together to make the towns safer for people to enjoy at night time, as it deals with drunken people, underage drinking and noise and violence. Dartford has also implemented the 'Grabacab' scheme which operates on Friday and Saturday nights between 11:30pm and 3:30am it enables visitors to pick up taxis from one place (Market Street bus stands) quickly, easily and safely.



Canterbury

'Alcohol Control Areas' have been set-up across nine wards in the district. Anyone of any age can have their alcohol confiscated if they are caught drinking in one of these designated areas and causing, or likely to cause anti-social behaviour. During the summer holidays 'Operation Hound' has been in place, which involved Police officers patrolling areas likely to contain underage drinkers.



Dover

The 'Three Strikes Scheme', used to cut alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour, is having a good effect. Over 337 yellow cards have been issued with only 20 progressing to the red card stage.



Shepway

'SCOTTIE' (Street Scene Co-ordinating Group) have developed a 'bin sticker' to place on commercial bins, to highlight where rubbish should be placed and to deter arson attacks. Businesses are being educated on how to safely dispose of their rubbish and where to position their bins. Lockable bins are going to be distributed so that the number of incidents of deliberate fires may be reduced



Maidstone

Over the summer, the 'Hotfoot' scheme took place. Aimed at 5-11 year olds, it included performing arts, sports & games and visits from the Community Fire Safety Team, Kent Police and many more. For the under 20's, the 'Freefall' programme was run - a collection of sports and youth activities. Both schemes were aimed at enrichment and learning whilst reducing anti-social behaviour





Sevenoaks

The 'Vulnerable Vehicle Scheme' has been introduced. Parking attendants, KCC Wardens and PCSO's inform the DVLA if any unattended car has valuable items on show. The agency can then write to the owner advising them of the time and place that property of value, which may have attracted a car thief, was seen on display in their vehicle. The CDRP also had 2000 parking stickers printed for use in car parks to remind residents using car parks of the same issues.



Thanet

The 'Engage Summer Blast' event ran over the summer and was organised for Young People by Thanet CDRP. It included events organised by Thanet District Council, Hang 10, Sport 4 NRG, Pie Factory Music, Pipeline, Thanet Coast Project, Kent Youth Service, and a whole range of others, who all work with young people.



Swale

Offenders placed in Sheppey prison have participated in an eight-week reparative project. They cleared local parks, cemeteries, car parks and allotments of 25 tonnes of rubbish, with input of over 600 hours between them.

Tonbridge and Malling

'Say No and Phone' (SNAP) music events have been held at Larkfield Leisure Centre and the Angel Centre in Tonbridge. They are fun, safe events, which are free from alcohol, drugs and cigarettes, and encourage young people to live a healthy lifestyle and use the Crime Stoppers hotline to report any criminal activity. This scheme has also been introduced to other boroughs.

Kenward Trust has established the 'Alcohol Support Programme' for underage drinkers who have been involved in incidents at school or in the community. It offers an alternative to school exclusion or possible Police prosecution. During 2006/7, 8 young people from Tonbridge and Malling have passed through the scheme.



Tunbridge Wells

A youth strategy is being developed and will describe how partnership working will improve services for young people and encourage participation in many different activities in the community. An online survey for young people has been undertaken to help develop the strategy. It asks what they think about important issues for example, being safe, having things to do, places to go and being involved in the community,

