

Note relating to LSP Meeting 14 Feb 2005

A special meeting of the LSP Board will take place on Monday 14th February, starting at 7pm, to review the Community Strategy, taking into account the issues arising from the buzz groups held at the September meeting, together with the progress against the Action Plans received in November. Other information will also be provided, eg deprivation statistics, to support the review.

It was originally intended that the review would be held at the January meeting but early indications are that, if the review is to be allocated sufficient time, there will not be enough time to consider fully the other issues on the forward plan for January.

The review will enable the Board to take an overview of progress against the Community Strategy and whether the LSP is effectively addressing the key issues facing the district. Arising from the review it is likely that the Board will want to consider some of the issues that cut across the themes in more detail, which may present some opportunities for further partnership working.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY – MOVING FORWARD

A REVIEW OF THE LSP

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2005

7.00pm - 10.00pm

7.00 pm	Introduction and Aims	<i>Cllr Peyton</i>
7.05 pm	A Profile of the District <i>Presentation – deprivation statistics from Office of Deputy Prime Minister</i>	<i>Karen Wheeler, Corporate Performance Officer, SADC</i>
7.25 pm	Where are we now? <i>Presentation – progress with Community Strategy Action Plans</i>	<i>Gill Clutterbuck, HCC</i>
7.50 pm	The Citizens View <i>Presentation - members views from September Buzz Groups</i>	<i>David Keiley, Corporate Policy Officer, SADC</i>
8.05 pm	Briefing for workshop discussions	<i>Angela Parry, Corporate Policy Manager, SADC</i>
8.10 pm	Deciding the Priorities <i>Workshop - key issues for the future</i>	<i>All</i>
8.50 pm	BREAK	
9.10 pm	Delivering the Strategy <i>Presentation - options for managing delivery of the strategy</i>	<i>Gill Clutterbuck, HCC</i>
9.15 pm	Organising Delivery <i>Workshop - identify LSP structure for the future</i>	<i>All</i>
9.30 pm	What Have We Decided <i>Feedback from workshop discussions</i>	<i>All</i>
9.50 pm	Next Steps <i>Plenary discussion - how change will be taken forward</i>	<i>All</i>
10.00 pm	Close	



ITEM 1 A Profile Of The District

ST ALBANS AND DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

REPORT TO : LSP BOARD

DATE : 14th February, 2005

REPORT TITLE : Impact of Deprivation

REPORT AUTHOR: Karen Wheeler, Corporate Performance Officer,
St Albans City and District Council
Tel: 01727 819518, Email k.wheeler@stalbans.go.uk

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Board with information from the indices of multiple deprivation to inform the review of the Community Strategy.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Board considers the report and a presentation on the subject as part of the review process.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Annual Public Health Report of the St Albans and Harpenden Primary Care Trust was presented at a special St Albans District Council meeting on 1st November 2004. This report gave details of deprivation levels for the Wards in the District, and established a link between deprivation and poor health.
- 3.2 At the November LSP meeting Cllr Donald reported that at this special meeting a motion had been passed that called upon the LSP to:
- (a) review the impact that deprivation and child poverty in various Wards actually has on health inequalities and residents health outcomes and their access to health care; and,
 - (b) formulate a strategy to address the issues identified in (a) above to improve residents' health and that the LSP partners be asked to implement this strategy where it is their power to do so. Where change can only be effected through Council leadership on its own, the LSP report to Cabinet and to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny NHS Joint Committee.
- 3.2 The LSP agreed that a report on this matter should be made to a subsequent meeting, and at the January meeting it was decided that the most appropriate occasion would be at the February meeting as part of the review process.
- 3.3 Since the production of the Annual Public Health report, based on indices of deprivation 2000, further data has been published. This latest information, the indices of deprivation 2004, is produced at sub Ward level. By breaking down

the information into these smaller areas, known as Super Output Areas (SOA), it is possible to identify pockets of deprivation.

- 3.4 The presentation will provide the up to date information on the pockets of deprivation in the district.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 The presentation at the meeting, together with other presentations which will summarise the Action Plan review and the MORI report together with member's response, will inform the review process for the Community Strategy.

5 Background Papers

Bibliography

Agenda for LSP
Meeting on 13th
September 2004

Minutes of LSP
Meeting on 13th
September 2004

Agenda for LSP
Meeting on 11th
January 2005

Custodian

Chris Fagan
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File Location

Council's website:
www.stalbans.gov.uk

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ITEM 2 Where Are We Now

ST ALBANS AND DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

REPORT TO : LSP BOARD

DATE : 14 February, 2005

REPORT TITLE : LSP Review – Action Plans

REPORT AUTHOR: Gill Clutterbuck,
Community Strategy Officer, Hertfordshire County Council,
01727 755335, gill.clutterbuck@hertscc.gov.uk

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To remind the Board that at the November meeting of the LSP they received the updated action plans for each theme and presentations on progress and future priorities from the theme leads, and to provide a summary of the outstanding actions identified.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Board considers the report and a presentation on the subject as part of its review process.

3 Background

- 3.1 Actions under each theme were identified in the Community Strategy, 2003 – 2007.
- 3.2 Theme sub groups developed detailed action plans, supporting these actions with targets and timescales, which were presented to the LSP Board in draft at the December 2003 and April 2004 LSP meetings and final action plans presented to the June 2004 LSP.
- 3.3 Theme leads were then asked to review progress against targets in their action plans for the LSP meeting in November 2004, and identify priorities for future work.
- 3.4 A presentation summarising the issues that the theme groups consider are priorities for the future, and where the LSP can add value, will be made at the meeting.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 The presentation at the meeting, together with other presentations on the MORI report findings and the Effects of Deprivation, will inform the wider discussion of the priorities for the LSP.

5 Background Papers

Bibliography

Agenda and papers
for LSP Meeting on
10th November 2004

Minutes of LSP
Meeting on 10th
November 2004

Custodian

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ITEM 3 – The Citizens View

ST ALBANS AND DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

REPORT TO : LSP BOARD

DATE : 14 February, 2005

REPORT TITLE : LSP Review – Buzz Group Response to MORI Report

REPORT AUTHOR: David Keiley, Corporate Policy Officer,
St Albans City and District Council
Tel: 01727 819501, Email d.keiley@stalbans.gov.uk

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To remind the Board that at the September meeting of the LSP they discussed the MORI Survey 2003/2004 in Buzz Groups, and to provide a summary of the outcomes from those groups.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Board considers the report and a presentation on the subject as part of its review process.

3 Background

- 3.1 The MORI Report was commissioned to meet the Council's statutory responsibility to carry out a survey of performance against Best Value Performance Indicators. The indicators chosen for the review were in line with guidance from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
- 3.2 The MORI report identified the factors which the people of the District identified as being most important in making somewhere a good place to live. These were:
- Low level of crime;
 - Health services;
 - Clean streets;
 - Education provision;
 - Parks and open spaces.

The report then listed those which were identified as most in need of improvement. These were:

- Road/pavement repairs;
- Level of traffic congestion;
- Affordable and decent housing;
- Health facilities;
- Level of crime.

- 3.3 At its meeting on 13 September 2004 the Board considered the MORI report and identified a number of issues for further action by the LSP. It was also noted that the Board would review the Community Strategy Action Plans at its meeting in November. It was agreed therefore that the conclusions from the Buzz Groups, together with issues arising from the review of Action Plans, be discussed at a later meeting.
- 3.4 Following a request made at a meeting of the District Council, the LSP agreed at its November meeting to a review of the effects of deprivation on health. This review will enable the LSP to formulate a strategy to address the issues.
- 3.5 The full MORI report was distributed as part of the agenda for the September meeting. The minutes of that meeting include the conclusions of Buzz Groups and a copy of the relevant minutes are appended to this report. A presentation summarising the issues members of the board considered as important as a result of the MORI presentation and buzz group discussions will be made at the meeting.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 The presentation at the meeting, together with other presentations which will summarise the Action Plan review and the Effects of Deprivation, will inform the wider discussion as part of the review process for the Community Strategy.

5 Background Papers

Bibliography

Agenda for LSP Meeting on 13th September 2004

Minutes of LSP Meeting on 13th September 2004

Custodian

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File Location

Council's website:
www.stalbans.gov.uk

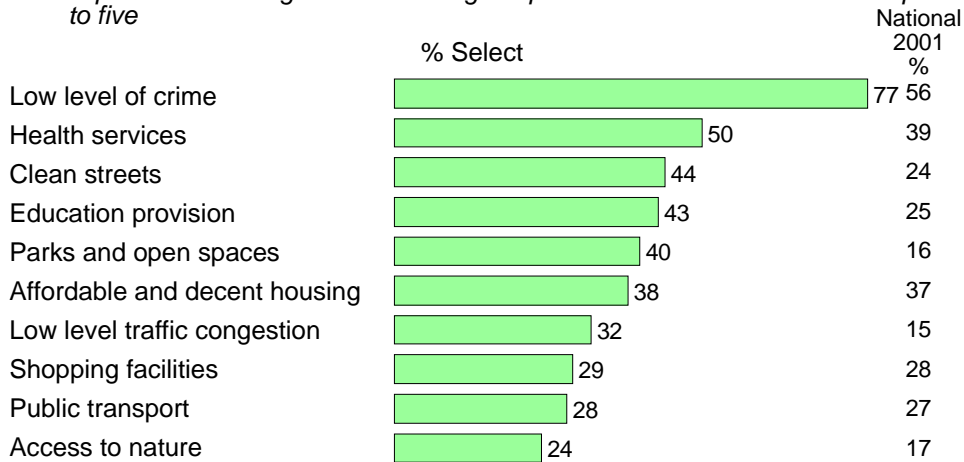
Council's website:
www.stalbans.gov.uk

Appendix

Extracts from MORI Report

What Makes Somewhere a Good Place to Live?

Q *Thinking generally, which of the items on this list would you say are most important in making somewhere a good place to live? You can choose up to five*

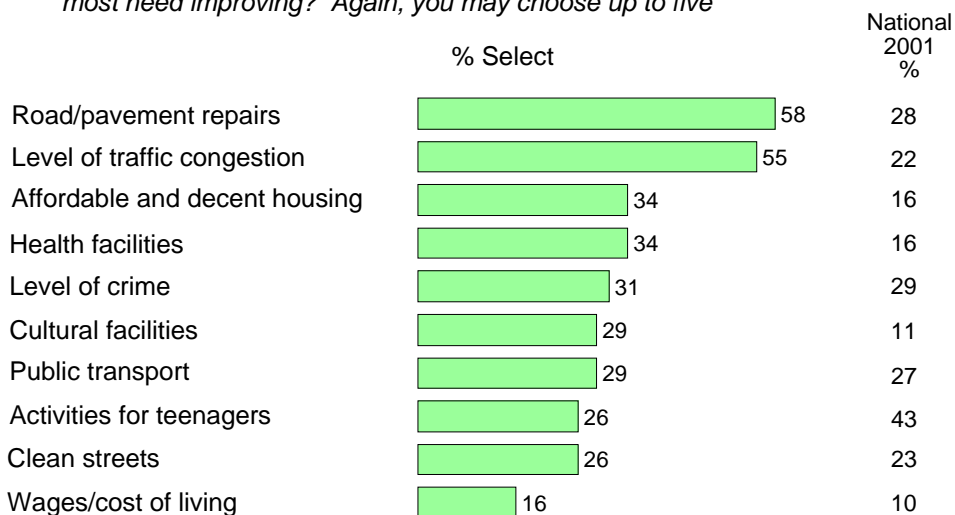


Base: All valid BVPI responses (1,558)

Source: MORI

Most Need Improving in this Local Area

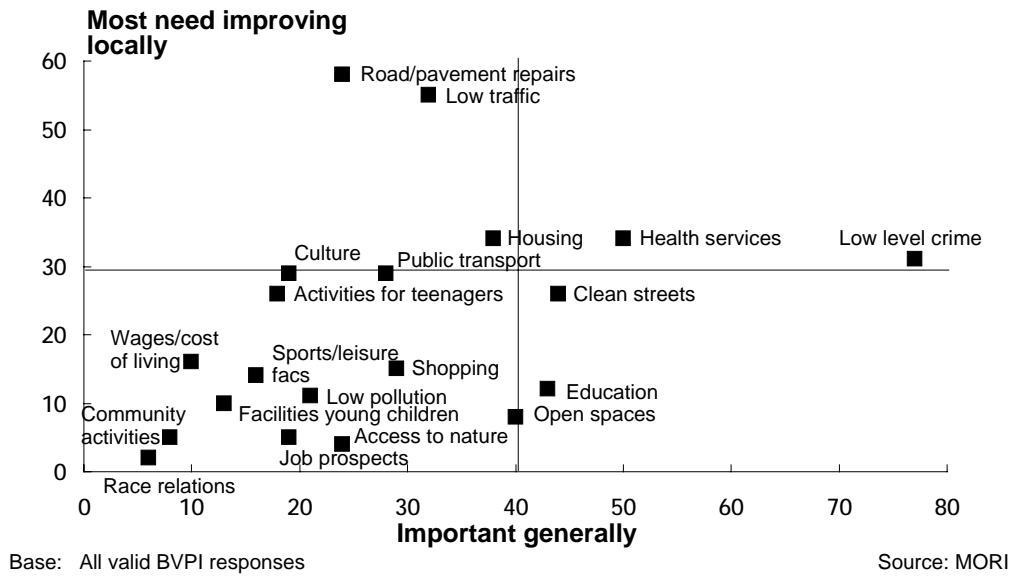
Q *Thinking about this local area, which of these things, if any, do you think most need improving? Again, you may choose up to five*



Base: All valid BVPI responses (1,558)

Source: MORI

Quality of Life - Ideal vs Needs Improving



Minutes of LSP Board Meeting 13 September 2004. Agenda items 4 and 5

4. **MORI RESIDENTS' SURVEY FEEDBACK**

Karen Wheeler presented the results of a general survey which had been commissioned by the District Council and conducted by MORI into residents' perceptions of a range of services provided by the Council. The Government required Councils to undertake surveys of this type in order to establish users' views on a number of Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs).

The conclusions to be drawn from the 2003/04 Survey were that satisfaction levels in relation to District Council services were generally good. There were above average levels of satisfaction for many services and the highest in Hertfordshire for museums and galleries and parks and open spaces. However, satisfaction levels had generally declined since 2000/01, particularly for cultural and recreational services and complaints handling. The survey results provided valuable information to enable the Council to explore some of the issues further and, where necessary, take action to improve services or residents' perception of them.

In response to questions, the Board was advised that the questions used in the 2003/04 Survey were determined by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The OPDM had used random sampling of addresses in the District, so respondents to the Survey were not a representative sample of the demographic make-up of the population of the District as a whole.

Philip Gillmor commented that comparisons between satisfaction levels in this District with those in other Hertfordshire Districts were not important. He considered that results from the 2003/04 Survey for St Albans District alone were key. He urged the Board to examine various quality of life issues in the Survey which were perceived by the public to be worsening; to consider whether that was actually the case and if so, why, and then to consider how the situation could be remedied. One member observed that the Government appeared to be concerned with people's perception of Council services rather than the actual situation. Lesley Culley advocated an investment of additional resources for those quality of life issues which appeared to be deteriorating.

4. **BUZZ GROUPS – DISCUSSION OF FEEDBACK FROM MORI SURVEY AND YOUTH ISSUES**

The meeting divided into "buzz groups" to address the following questions arising from the issues raised in Minutes 3 and 4 above:-

- (i) Looking at the information, what are the key issues for the District in the future?

- (ii) Are these issues covered in the Community Strategy 2003 – 2007?
- (iii) Are they being addressed effectively by the LSP or partners?
- (iv) Do they fit within one of the Community Strategy themes or do they cut across all themes?

In the subsequent plenary session, Philip Waters advised that his group had focussed on the five themes on which people had expressed concern in the survey. The group had concluded that the LSP should spend more time incorporating the management of satisfaction into the Community Strategy, which was not being undertaken at present. While the issues of road repairs and traffic congestion were mentioned in the environment and transport chapters of the Community Strategy, it was considered that there was a need to pay greater attention to these concerns. There appeared to be a contradictory statement in the Strategy in respect of road repairs. While the issue of crime was a high priority in the Strategy, it was not clear from the results of the survey whether respondents were referring to crime as such or fear of crime. In relation to affordable housing, the group considered that there were only limited possibilities to provide more of such accommodation over and above what was presently being provided. With reference to health, it was not clear whether respondents were referring to acute services.

Laura Cronshaw reported that her group had identified communication and how it was managed as being a key issue. The good things that were taking place in the District needed to be emphasised and communicated to the public without being perceived as “spin”. Using the MORI report as a starting point, the group identified several issues that were shown to be important to the public, but which were not perceived by the public to have the same importance in the Community Strategy. These included wages, the high cost of living in the District, leisure and cultural facilities, and affordable housing. In contrast, the group pointed out that the issues of traffic, roads, health and housing were prominent in the strategy as well as in the public’s priorities as outlined in the MORI survey.

The group further indicated that the lack of response from residents in the younger age bracket in the MORI survey, which rendered the survey sample less representative of the District as a whole. With reference to the presentation reported in Minute 3, the group considered that there were future opportunities to strengthen the Community Strategy in respect of Children and Young People.

Philip Gillmor advised that his group had reached the conclusions that, in relation to youth issues, no organisation was responding to what was going on. For example, the MORI survey had identified that young people did not respond to new initiatives. The group had wondered whether the issues affecting children and young people were being addressed in the right way. With reference to the MORI survey, the group had concluded that the public was not being given

communications in a way that would help them understand what was going on, despite the existence of the Community Strategy. The apparent deterioration of sporting and leisure facilities and the lack of cultural activities in the District needed to be addressed because they were quality of life issues. The group had also been concerned that the public did not know how to make complaints to the Council, and this was a matter that needed to be reviewed. Whether these issues were being addressed by the LSP was a matter of judgment. Whilst leisure and sport were priorities and transport was included in the Action Plan, the cross-cutting issues, such as youth, needed to be addressed. The group had also considered that the LSP's partners were probably not addressing these issues.

Angela Parry advised that at the next meeting on 10 November 2004, there would be a six monthly review of the Community Strategy Action Plans to assess what the LSP had achieved so far. There would be an opportunity early in 2005 for the LSP to review the conclusions from the buzz groups held during this meeting.

Lesley Culley and Gill Clutterbuck commented that where the LSP identified an issue as being important, officers needed to consider how matters were being taken forward both in practice and within the context of the Community Strategy.

ACTION

To consider the conclusions arising from the buzz groups at this meeting early in 2005.



ITEM 6 Delivering The Strategy

ST ALBANS AND DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

REPORT TO : LSP BOARD

DATE : 14th February 2005

REPORT TITLE : LSP Structure Review

REPORT AUTHOR: Gill Clutterbuck,
Community Strategy Officer, Hertfordshire County Council,
01727 755335, gill.clutterbuck@hertscc.gov.uk

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Board members with a review of the existing LSP structure and a proposed alternative, to support a discussion and agreement on the right structure to manage the successful implementation of the Community Strategy.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Board notes the contents of this report and discuss alternative structures to support the implementation of the Community Strategy
- 2.2 That in the discussion the Board takes into account the need to develop cross cutting work which adds value.
- 2.3 That the Board agrees an appropriate structure for the future.

3 Background

3.1 The Current Structure

- The LSP Board, made up of representatives of partner organisations and interest groups, sets the strategic direction, and agrees the broad priorities.
- The LSP Core Group, made up of the Chair, Vice Chair and one other LSP Board member and officers from District and County Councils, agrees the agenda and the forward plan and ensures relevant reports are prepared.
- The Theme Sub Groups, which have a Board member and officer support leading them and bring together officers from a wide range of agencies and services, met to draw up the detailed action plans. The lead officers supporting each theme have remained responsible for reporting on progress, but on the whole the theme sub groups have not continued to meet.

3.2 This structure was appropriate to write the strategy and draw up the detailed action plans, but it is worth reviewing this for future work, if the LSP is to achieve added value and a greater degree of cross cutting work.

3.3 **Difficulties with the current structure**

The LSP Board needs to oversee the delivery of the strategy, and continue to set the strategic direction and priorities. However, as the membership is made up of senior representative members from partner agencies, it does not have the capacity to manage the delivery and implementation of the detailed action plans.

The Core Group needs to continue in its present function and does not have the capacity to manage the implementation of the strategy.

The Theme Sub Groups however, which were established as the implementation groups, have experienced difficulties from the beginning, including:

- inconsistent and low level of attendance.
- not all of the other existing partnerships in the district are well linked in to the themes,
- some areas of work are not supported by partnership activity but are progressed by single agencies
- they do not encourage opportunities for cross cutting work across the themes
- as some theme groups are no longer meeting regularly there is a lot of responsibility resting with the theme leads, who have to individually chase and follow up progress on the action plans, and take responsibility for initiating any new project work
- if the theme groups were to continue meeting the officers supporting the LSP cannot support five different sub groups effectively, making co-ordination difficult

The attached diagram shows the existing theme structure, with the other existing partnerships which relate to each theme, the gaps and the cross cutting partnerships which operate in the district.

3.4 **Proposed new structure**

The LSP needs to decide what structure will best support the future implementation of the action plans, to ensure there is genuine added value and to enable more cross cutting work to be initiated.

The following suggestion is offered by the Core Team as a starting place for this discussion.

- a) That the current theme action plans will be renamed Partnership Activity Plans and that their delivery will be monitored by the theme lead officer.
- b) That a new Co-ordinating Group be set up to take forward priorities identified by the LSP Board, monitor delivery of Partnership Action Plans and priorities, and report progress to

the LSP Board. The membership of this group would include the officer theme leads and others such as Chairs of partnerships and representatives of service areas where there are no partnerships.

- c) Priorities will be met through the formation of task and finish groups and project groups which will report to the Board through the Co-ordinating Group.

3.5 At the meeting members will have the opportunity to discuss the future structure in small groups to identify the best way of delivering the community strategy with added value.

4 **Conclusion**

4.1 That the Board notes the report and considers its recommendations.

Themes and Partnerships

Community Safety	Health, Housing and Social Care	Business, Transport and Infrastructure	Environment and Heritage	Learning, Leisure and Culture
Active Partnerships				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Safety Partnership – RAG and Consultation Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health and Social Care Partnership ○ Housing Forum ○ MH LIT ○ Elderly LIT ○ Childrens LIT ○ Learning Disability LPG ○ Children and Families LPG ○ Physical Disability LPG ○ Elderly LPG Community Legal Services Partnership ○ Early Years Partnership ○ Parenting Sub Group ○ Carers Overview Group? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City Centre Management Board ○ Chamber of Commerce ○ St. Albans Highways Partnership Members Panel (more of a management / monitoring group?) <p>Gaps Transport – broader than highways</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environment Forum ○ Tourism Advisory Group? <p>Gaps Heritage?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Learning Forum ○ Creative Homeworkers Alliance ○ District Sports Forum? <p>Gaps Culture – broad across arts Leisure – broader than sports?</p>
Consultation Forums by theme				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Safety Consultation Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Patients Forum ○ LPGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transport Forums – St. Albans and Harpenden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tourism Advisory Group and Environment Forum? 	<p>Gaps?</p>
Crosscutting Partnerships				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Association of Parish Councils ○ Churches Together ○ Access Group ○ St Albans Multi Racial Inter Agency Forum ○ Community Forum 	Gaps – Youth?			
Crosscutting consultation forums				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth Council ○ Access Group ○ Community Forum 				