

Shaping our District together for 2021



St Albans & District Strategic Partnership: Annual Report 2010/11

In 2009 the Sustainable Community Strategy was refreshed to reflect new priorities and challenges for the District as well as capturing aspirations for the District to 2021. With that in place our attention in 2010 turned to delivering against our short, medium and long term objectives using the Performance Reward Grant monies as a catalyst for a programme of small community projects and large commissioned projects all targeted at addressing the gap's identified in the Strategy.

As set out at the community conference in 2010 our work programme over the last year has focused on effectively steering use of resources and outcome delivery against the priorities. The Partnership identified three key strands of work for the year:

- Delivery** – against strategic priorities, emerging issues and agreed target areas
- Communication** – across the partnership and to wider stakeholders and residents
- Future Thinking** – to mainstream partnership working and demonstrate joined up services

THE BIG IDEAS

The Partnership developed an initial list of 20 ideas for strategic commissioning which were developed and refined during the early part of 2010. These ideas were then refined into a shortlist of 12 commissioning proposals for projects that would help to address the seven targeted gap areas in the Sustainable Community Strategy. The overall programme of commissioned projects was agreed by the Board in February 2011 for implementation with an allocation of approx £263k across the 12 projects.

ACHIEVEMENT OF TARGETS

During the year we have continued to monitor progress against our improvement targets.

- 66.7 % of people feel that they belong to their neighbourhood, up 6.8% since 2008
- 30.3% of people feel that older people receive the support they need to live independently at home, up from 23% in 2008
- 51.9% of people feel that the Council and Police are dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues, up from 28.2% in 2008
- 19.4% reduction in serious acquisitive crime in 2010/11 with an overall 10.7% reduction in 'All Crime' during the same period
- 33.7% of people feel they can influence decisions in their locality, up 7% from 2008
- 6.5% reduction in CO2 emissions between 2005 – 2008.
- 50.25% recycling rate achieved for 2010/11 with a target of 53% for 2011/12.
- 245 people helped to get back to work through the Executive Forum support programme
- 111 additional units of affordable housing provided in 2010/11, including social rented, shared ownership and intermediate rented housing



TARGETING THE GAPS

Providing accessible facilities and activities for young people

- Inaugural Youth Forum event held in November 2010 to bring together key organisations and groups working with young people across the District
- Youth Action Group established as the new multi sector forum focusing on gap areas for 11-19 year olds
- £13k of funding allocated for research and development of a Youth Café facility

Spotlight – Dragons' Apprentice 2010/11

Led by the Centre for Voluntary Services, the Dragons' Apprentice challenge is unique to St Albans District as an innovative and creative project which combines the public, private and voluntary sectors whilst supporting young people to develop their entrepreneurial skills for the good of their local communities, supported by local business 'Dragons'.

Starting with just £100 each and the help of a local business mentor, 12 teams of budding entrepreneurs from St Albans and Harpenden schools managed to raise a total of £15,761 for local charities in just five months, and gained a much better understanding of their chosen charity along the way.



Helping to build the capacity of the voluntary sector to provide preventative and support services

- 20 local charities supported through the Building Better Boards programme and annual trustee recruitment events
- £15,761 raised for local charities through the successful Dragons' Apprentice programme
- £54k of funding allocated to support capacity building projects



Spotlight – Marlborough Pavilion

The development of Marlborough Pavilion is a project aimed at encouraging an inclusive community where everyone has the opportunity to take part and contribute to community life by developing the site into a local community centre for Sopwell.

Residents were consulted on what facilities they would like to see at the centre and initial plans for the building have been developed to include a temporary weights room and additional storage. Further plans have also been developed to allow additional facilities as use increases and need is identified.

Encouraging and promoting community engagement and participation

- 'Getting Involved' programme roll out from summer 2011 to encourage and support local residents as 'active citizens', particularly targeting under represented communities & groups
- Refurbished Cunningham Community Hub opened providing day services for those in the community with learning disabilities as well as a centre for local community use
- Public consultation held on phased approach to developing Sopwell Community Centre (formerly Marlborough Pavilion)



Spotlight – Home of Wi-Fi

£25k of funding has been allocated by the Strategic Partnership to work with a local business to develop free Wi-Fi access at key indoor and outdoor community locations across the District, building on an existing piece of work around the city centre.

The aim is for the District to be at the cutting edge of digital technology and a key location for residents, visitors and business people, thereby increasing footfall in our high streets and ensuring access in key community venues as well.

Promoting sustainable local economic development

- Over 245 local residents have participated in the Executive Forum support programme since its launch, of which 46% have returned to employment
- St Albans Business Directory & Keep it Local campaign set up and promoted throughout the town and villages
- £10k of funding provided to Heritage Trail project to promote the history and rich heritage of Wheathampstead

Spotlight – Falls Drama Project

Following the success of the Targeting Change Drama for Older People project, additional funding was provided to the Buskin group to produce a short film promoting the prevention of falls by engaging older people using theatre techniques and interactive workshops.

The aim of the project is to raise awareness of issues surrounding falls, educate the participants and audience members on how to reduce the risk of falling and restoring confidence for those that have experienced a fall related accident in the past.



Meeting the needs of an ageing population

- Partner & Provider Forum event supported bringing together statutory and voluntary agencies offering support to older people in our community
- Further funding provided for Drama for Older People project to deliver a targeted piece of work around falls and falls prevention
- £20k of Health Inequalities funding allocated to community projects, such as mental health provision and targeted healthy lifestyles programme



Spotlight – Sustainable Schools Ambassadors

The Sustainable Schools Programme aims to encourage young people and teachers to protect and enhance the environment and improve sustainability within their school community.

The training programme aims to equip the Sustainable Schools Ambassadors with the skills to implement one new initiative or project per term to help make their school community more sustainable and achievements are celebrated at an annual awards event hosted by St Albans City & District Council. Ideas are also taken home and into local communities by children who are inspired to make a difference.

Reducing our impact on the environment

- Sustainable Schools Ambassadors project inspiring children in schools to develop environmental projects
- Education in Electricity Project taking electricity monitoring activities into schools, clubs and community groups
- Launch of transport partnership network map, mobile m-ticketing and 'Fresh Ways to work' projects
- £15k of funding set aside for research and development of environmental projects

Spotlight – Cunningham Hub

The Strategic Partnership has set aside £20k over 2 years to help with the development of the Cunningham Hub as a community centre, following a £1 million refurbishment by Herts County Council.

The refurbished building provides modern services for adults with a learning disability living in St Albans and Harpenden, but also provides a much needed centre for the local community which is being developed and coordinated through a steering group of local residents.



Reducing Inequalities

- Public consultation on phased development of Marlborough Pavilion as a community centre for Sopwell
- Extensive work with community in Cunningham to develop a local user group to coordinate and develop the Community Hub
- Inclusion Strategy for the District launched with a vision for "An inclusive community where everyone has the opportunity and capability to take part and contribute to community life"

LOOKING FORWARD

Different Ways of Working

Strategic Partnership members are working to improve access to services further by looking at how we might provide front facing customer services together through a joined up information and advice approach for both city and community locations.

The aim is to provide a range of services in one place, offer more convenient access for members of the public visiting either in person, by telephone or via the web, saving both time and money. Residents will be able to talk to a number of key organisations face to face, over the phone or via internet access, depending on their enquiry and the method of communication they prefer. Hopefully resolving complex issues more quickly with a single visit.

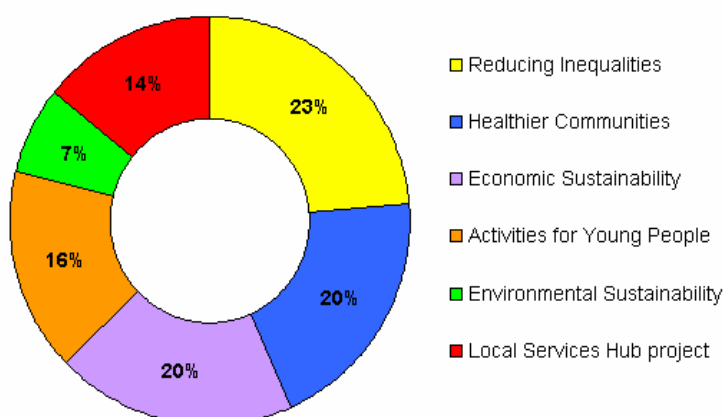
The pilot phase of this project is being implemented at the council offices from October 2011, providing a hub of local services from four key partners initially.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Where the money is spent

The Local Strategic Partnership's funds are spent on a range of projects targeted at the priorities and gap areas set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Project Expenditure



Total of £476k allocated over 2 year programme (2010—2012)