



## **LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT HIGHLIGHTS 2006-2008**

### **SAFER COMMUNITIES**

#### **Reducing First-time entrants to the Youth Justice System**

Closer working between the Youth Offending Service and Police has led to a reduction of over 30% in the numbers of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time by preventing criminalising of young people where it is not appropriate. Almost 400 less young people became part of the criminal justice system in 2007/8 than 2005/6.

#### **Increasing Reporting of Hate Incidents**

Resources from the LAA and Leicestershire Together partners have supported the expansion of the county racist incident monitoring project to encompass all types of hate incident. Since its launch in February 2007 the Hate Incident Monitoring Project (HIMP) has been successful in meeting gaps in reporting to the police, particularly encouraging reports of hate incidents that are not crimes and those that are not racist, such as disability incidents. In the first year after its launch the project saw a 7% increase in Hate Incidents reported overall to the Project, Police and Schools.

#### **Reducing Offending by Prolific and Priority Offenders**

Average reductions of almost 70% in offending by those offenders responsible for the largest numbers of crime in the County have been achieved by the Multi-Agency Prolific & Priority Offender Management (MAPPOM) programme. The MAPPOM programme brings together a wide range of practitioners to give intensive supervision to, and work with offenders to address their offending behaviour and reduce their offending to reduce crime and make communities safer.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## **LEARN 2 EARN (L2E)**

The Learn 2 Earn Project has over 600 people registered, predominantly claimants of Incapacity Benefit (or a related benefit). To date, L2E has given advice and guidance on employment to 187 people, engaged 208 participants in skills development, helped 48 people into 'Permitted' (part-time) work and supported 59 people into sustained full-time work.

Many of those registered with the Project have been out of work due to mental health difficulties and struggle to think positively about their future. Very often work is the furthest thought from their minds as they battle with the everyday tasks of living.

For this group of people, particularly, the outcomes of this project have been tremendous – these are some quotations from learners:

- *"I was very worried about what the future held for me, so this project was a great support"*
- *"I feel more confident in knowing I am not on my own and others are going through the same as I am"*
- *"It has improved my confidence and kept me going at a potentially lonely time"*

These are the softer outcomes of the L2E project that are difficult to match against set targets but which are the very changes to people's lives that will provide stability and sustainability to their future employment prospects, ensuring that the project provides long term solutions for its participants.

One of the strengths of the project is the partnership between Leicestershire Adult Learning Service and The Breaking the Barriers Employment Service which provides a fully-supported transition from participants' starting point away from the labour market through learning opportunities and into the world of work.

The comprehensive employment service that the Breaking the Barriers team offer, including job coaching for participants with complex and varied needs, has resulted in real success stories.

Below are two learner's story in their own words – (names have been initialised to protect identities)

Participant M wrote

*"The Learn2Earn project has done a great deal for me. I started off with very little confidence and the confidence-building course showed me ways of dealing with this and I would say now that my confidence is at a much greater level.*

*The relaxation course was great as well - learning how to take time for yourself and getting into a relaxed state before going to bed and getting a good night's sleep. It's nice on the Learn2Earn project to find out that you're not alone and there are lots of people out there with the same problems as you.*

*My Learn2Earn Worker also introduced me to someone from Breaking the Barriers; she is helping me to get back into work and now I'm doing a placement at the Marlene Reid Centre in Coalville on a Monday and I'm really enjoying that. Thanks a lot Learn2Earn."*

Participant A wrote

*"I just want to say a big thank you to all the Learn to Earn Project team. I am disabled and have been on benefits including Incapacity Benefit for a long time. I have not had a full-time paid job for 27 years. I did do a part-time job for two years 15 years ago, but had to leave because of my disabilities.*

*I joined the Learn to Earn project in February 2007, after seeing an advert in the local free paper. Since then I have been assessed with dyslexia and I am now doing an English course at the Bassett Street Centre in South Wigston, which is ideal for me because I live in the area. My tutor is excellent and very understanding of my needs.*

*I have also done a confidence-building course and am presently doing a Health and Fitness course and a "Move On" course which is helping me to look at my options towards hopefully returning to work, possibly starting with some voluntary work.*

*At 52 I thought that it was too late for me to both learn to read and write better or get back into employment.*

*My life has completely changed over the last few months. I can now go out on my own and even use the buses to get around. My self-esteem has never been this good before and I feel that the door has been opened for me that I always thought was impossible for me and I am sure that if I can do it then so can other people who are in similar situations to me.*

*I am looking forward to the future and it's all thanks to the Learn to Earn Project."*

# HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

## **Young people quitting smoking in droves**

The programme to reduce smoking prevalence in 14 to 16 year olds within 6 target schools serving deprived areas, has been efficiently and effectively executed to give some really incredible results.

The target for 2007/08 was to achieve **98 fewer smokers** which is a 10% reduction from a baseline of 981 smokers obtained from a major school questionnaire (2,574 respondents from the 6 target schools) carried out in March 2007. We have just analysed our latest questionnaire (2,459 respondents) and we have achieved a reduction of **180 fewer smokers**. This brings the smoking prevalence rate down from 23.4% to 19.1%, all within one year.

What is even more encouraging is that 30% of current smokers said that they found it difficult to buy cigarettes from a shop compared to 18% in the same period last year. This has been brought about with the help of our trading standards partners who are specifically targeting retail establishments in the targets schools catchment area with regular test purchases. We hope to do even better next year.

Another encouraging result is that the 2,459 respondents from the 6 target schools stated that in the last 12 months, 21% have stopped smoking, 8% have tried to stop smoking and 11% have cut down on the number of cigarettes smoked.

The partners involved in this project (PCT, Trading Standards, nominated School Nurses and Healthy Schools) have done a really great piece of work planning and co-ordinating this programme on the ground. This programme finishes in March 2009 and we hope to report another set of good results. There is still a lot of work to do but hopefully these interim results give us all great encouragement that we are on the right tracks.

## **Active Together**

Another of the main priorities for the Healthier Communities area of the Leicestershire LAA is to improve health by increasing physical activity. In 2006 the Active Together project secured funding of over £750,000 from the Leicestershire LAA, Sport England's Community Investment Fund and local partners involved in the Local Sports Alliances.

*The aim of the project is to "Increase the % of adults participating in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport and active recreation on three or more days a week by 4.66% of the baseline set by the 2006 Active People survey – this equates to approximately 5300 people."*

The project has a network of eleven Physical Activity Coordinators – one for each District in Leicestershire and four joint specialist posts shared between Districts.

### Key achievements 2007-08

- 2,134 adults completed at least 3 x 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity per week from April 2007 up until March 2008, exceeding the county target
- High profile marketing of Active Together with prime time coverage on BBC East Midlands Today, “New Year New You” promotion and air time on Radio Leicester in addition to regular articles and features in local press.
- Quarterly programmes of sport and physical activity opportunities produced for each District
- Wide range of activities available from Nordic Walking and Dance to Dodgeball and 5 a side football.

### Number of adults achieving 3 x 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity through the Active Together Programme

Figures from April 2007 – March 2008

Blaby	274
Charnwood	447
Harborough	263
Hinckley & Bosworth	341
Melton	129
North West Leicestershire	326
Oadby & Wigston	354
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,134</b>

### **Partner comment**

*“I would like to give huge praise for the work that our Active Together Physical Activity Coordinators have delivered in our partnership. They have added huge value to physical activity provision in the Borough and have really made a difference to participation levels”.*

Chairman of CSARA (April 2008)

## **Active Together Charnwood Success Story!**

Andrea Pusey first got involved with the Active Together project in January 2007 when staff at Charnwood Borough Council took part in a pedometer challenge. Andrea's initial activity levels were low; averaging one badminton session per week. Through the pedometer challenge Andrea attended lunchtime walks wearing the pedometer to calculate her activity levels.

By becoming more active and eating a healthier diet Andrea has reduced her blood pressure, lowered her resting heart rate and has lost a staggering 29lbs.

*Andrea says 'I have really noticed the benefits from becoming more active. I have more energy and have dropped a dress size, I feel really good! It's hard to imagine that only two years ago I struggled to cycle around Rutland Water and I now cycle 9.6 miles nearly everyday!'*

Andrea also runs at least half an hour each week, and enjoys participating in large cycling events including a 40-mile charity bike ride, something she would never have considered before she started the Active Together Programme.

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **Increase in % of school children spending a minimum of 2 hrs per week on high quality PE and school sport.**

School Sports Partnerships were established in 2006, with all schools within Leicestershire participating. The programme is funded nationally by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and enables each partnership to employ a Partnership Development Manager who in turn is supported by the County Sports Partnership. The role of the Partnership Development Manager is to develop strategic links with key partners in sport and the wider community. Their role is to also support the work of the Schools Sports Co-ordinator in Secondary Schools and the Primary Link Teachers in Primary and Special Schools.

Leicestershire's 7 Partnership Development Managers meet sub-regionally with Leicester City and Rutland, and are considered nationally to be a high performing partnership. The School Sports Partnerships within Leicestershire have exceeded the target for Year 2 of the LAA by 2%.

### **Improved Sex and Relationship Education for young people**

The Leicestershire Healthy Schools Programme is an Education and Health partnership between the Local Authority and the Leicestershire County & Rutland Primary Care Trust, with Leicestershire County Council 'hosting' the programme.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department for Health jointly sponsor the National Healthy Schools Programme and set out a national quality assurance mechanism for the local programme whilst ensuring a degree of flexibility to reflect local needs and priorities. The programme is an education and health investment programme with a 'healthy school' understanding the importance of investing in health to assist in the process of raising levels of pupil achievement and improving standards.

Locally there is strong education and health partnership between the Local Authority and the Primary Care Trust with both senior management teams understanding the importance of the programme as being a key delivery vehicle for some key outcomes for children and young people such as Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Make a positive Contribution, Enjoy and Achieve and Environmental Sustainability.

The number of schools achieving 'Healthy Schools' status exceeded the target for Year 2 by 4%, and 96% of schools in Leicestershire are participating in the Healthy Schools programme.

## **Reduced % of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET)**

The progress in NEET reduction has been aided by regular assessment of progress and close partnership working across the Leicestershire County and Leicester City boundary through the NEET Action Forum. This consists of Connexions Leicester Shire, Leicestershire Learning and Skills Council and Leicestershire and Leicester City Local Authorities.

The group uses regular analysis of the NEET group and multi-agency activities to address barriers to Employment, Education and Training for young people, including the planning of future provision. The analysis includes in-depth analysis of vulnerable groups.

Preventative work with young people identified as being at risk of NEET begins in Year 9 and includes support and supply of impartial information, advice and guidance at critical transition points.

# **OLDER PEOPLE**

## **Having a Say**

Over 30 groups have now registered with O.P.E.N., the Older People's Engagement Network and as a result of the LAA we are now linking up to over 300 older people across Leicestershire. O.P.E.N. provides older people with a voice and influence over local services to older people, with several O.P.E.N. members now having a place at a number of key planning and strategy groups across the County. As a result of funding through the LAA, an older people's handbook has been produced providing essential advice and contact details of sources of support for people as they age. Ageing Well In Leicestershire is available in Libraries, Advice Centres, Age Concern shops and through Adult Social Care and GP surgeries. An electronic version is available on the County Council Website at:

[http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/social\\_services/older\\_people/ageing\\_well\\_in\\_leics.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/social_services/older_people/ageing_well_in_leics.htm)

## **Re-connecting with hobbies and interests**

130 frail older people are receiving a direct payment as an alternative to attending day centres, helping them to enjoy individual leisure and cultural activities in their own neighbourhood. The LAA target is for 200 older people to be using Direct Payments for this by 2009. People have used their payment to pay for transport and personal assistants who can take them to their chosen activity, for, example, shopping for themselves, fishing and attending bowls clubs are some of the interests people have picked up again as a result of this more flexible service.

## **Increased incomes for older people**

Whilst meeting the stretching targets for increased benefits in the LAA has been challenging, there has been excellent progress made on partnership working with the Pension Service, District Councils, Age Concern Leicestershire and Rutland and Leicestershire County Council. By the end of 2007 over 4090 older people had claimed Attendance Allowance since the project started (2182 of whom were assisted by the partnership). Tom, 86 years old is one of them. He lives alone since his wife died and was struggling to pay for the little extras, he says: 'it might not be much but it (attendance allowance) can make a big difference between going to the cinema, to town now and again'. His and other success stories can be seen on the DVD 'It's Yours Claim it' on Leicestershire County Council Website

[http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/social\\_services/older\\_people/entitlements\\_older\\_people.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/social_services/older_people/entitlements_older_people.htm)

## Keeping People Safe at Home

Two innovative projects developed through the local area agreement are helping older people to feel safer at home.

The SIGNAL bus run by Age Concern Leicestershire and Rutland tours the County offering advice on home safety and security and demonstrates the vast range of equipment that can be purchased for use at home, like community alarms linked to call centres and assistive technology to assist people with memory loss.

As a result of the LAA, use of community alarms in the County has increased significantly with 2,775 new service users registered between April 2006 and March 2008.

The Falls prevention project started in Oadby and Wigston and has now expanded to NW Leicestershire to assess people at risk of falls and provide advice and equipment to prevent falling and reduce likelihood of injury. Over 150 people were approached and 75 people have been assessed and offered support from the project so far. Mr X from Wigston has benefited as his wife who has dementia needed constant supervision from him in case she fell. She was supplied with a Falls Detector which triggers an alarm and a call is sent to the control centre then to Mr X's mobile phone so he could respond.

This has meant that Mr X can now join in the community activities in his sheltered housing scheme knowing that he will be called if any problems arise, and the needs of this wife attended to quickly. He is now able to be more independent whilst continuing to support his wife's independence. They are now safer at home. He described it as;

*“Brilliant - I can go out, have a game of cards with friends, go to the shops without worrying that I'm going to find her on the floor, hurt. It has given me real peace of mind.”*

# **BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES**

Neighbourhood Workers from Voluntary Action Centres around Leicestershire have been working with communities to help them become stronger. This involves working on things like sense of belonging, trust in each other, neighbourliness, volunteering and inclusion. Examples from two 2 different communities in the County are given below:

## **Growth of Voluntary and Community Organisations**

From a local meeting arranged by the Neighbourhood Worker in Oadby it emerged that the nearby park was in great need of attention. The Neighbourhood Worker helped the community to establish a "friends of the park" group. The Borough Council will be redeveloping the park this year as part of a rolling programme and have worked in partnership with the group to consult residents, including leaflets through doors, a questionnaire and an event on the park. Local residents helped with the event in lots of ways which meant they met and mixed with each other and with some of the people who provide services in the area, including the local police officer.

The Neighbourhood Worker feels that the event on the park created community spirit in itself, but sees the redevelopment of the park itself as a real focus for further activity and cohesion building. She said, *"The group is hoping to lift the perception of the neighbourhood and increase people's sense of belonging to the area"*.

## **Partnership Working**

The need was identified for a community centre in Egerton, Melton, as residents currently have to meet outside the area. A housing association offered to build a community centre alongside some flats being developed in the area. The Neighbourhood Worker worked with residents to influence the design of the community centre, which has evolved into a multipurpose children's centre.

From this, other projects have developed. The local residents group has strengthened and volunteer youth workers have been established. A graffiti project also took place for young people to do artwork on the building site. Further to this, the Neighbourhood Worker has set up a credit union after debt and moneylenders emerged as a significant issue in the area.

The Neighbourhood Worker said, *"The Borough Council involved us all the way"* and this involvement has added value to the Neighbourhood Management work already taking place in the area. The process is working very well and the model will now be replicated in another area.

The Neighbourhood Worker believes the perception of the neighbourhood has already changed and participation in local community activities has increased.

Building work has started on the new community centre, which will provide space for residents to mix – most importantly because they have been involved in planning and designing the building, they have a sense of real ownership of the project.

## **New Interfaith Forum for Leicestershire**

One of the Stronger Communities outcomes in the first Local Area Agreement was the development of a Faith Forum for Leicestershire to bring together people of different faiths to consider common issues and provide an opportunity for joint working and enhanced understanding. Following a number of preparatory discussions, the first meeting of the Forum will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> July with Dr Harriet Crabtree of the Inter Faith Network for the UK as guest speaker. There is an open invitation to this launch.

The forum includes anyone who has an interest in networking and developing a closer relationship with people from other faiths. Currently there are representatives from Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh faiths involved but people from a range of other faiths will hopefully also attend Forum meetings, for example Bahá'í, Jewish, Pagans and Buddhist.

## **Supporting Rural Communities**

The aim of Defra's Rural Social and Community Programme (RSCP) was to support sustainable rural communities and tackle rural social exclusion. Work on the RSCP in Leicestershire was co-ordinated by the Leicestershire Rural Partnership, who agreed to focus on four priority areas:

- Rural Stress and Social Inclusion
- Affordable Rural Housing
- Community Consultation and Development
- Social Enterprise Support

The following case studies are taken from the RSCP Review Leaflet which is also included in your pack.

### A new home in Swannington

Julie Siddles has moved into her own home in the village where she grew up thanks to a new development of affordable homes. Julie has most recently has been living with her mum who she helps to care for. Now though, she has been able to move into one of five affordable homes in built in Foan Hill thanks to the Leicestershire Rural Housing Association, North West Leicestershire District Council, East Midlands Housing and Swannington Parish Council.

"It's absolutely fantastic" said Julie, whose family have lived in Swannington since 1912 "I love my new home!"

### The Power of Youth

A group of young people in Heather has been accused of vandalism and graffiti and decided to do something about it!

Although they had doubts at first about whether anyone would listen to them and thought that they wouldn't be able to change anything, with help from the Rural Community Council and Leicestershire County Council they established a Youth Group and raised over £50,000 for a sports pitch, playground equipment and youth shelter with solar powered lighting and radio.

Two members of the group now regularly attend Parish Council meetings to debate youth issues and provide a youth perspective on local issues.

"The young people have really taken pride in what they have done" Jan Shepherd, Heather Parish Council Clerk