

LEICESTERSHIRE TOGETHER (LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP) BOARD

Monday 3rd September 2007

REPORT FROM LEICESTERSHIRE TOGETHER FORUM MEETING

Report of Leicestershire County Council

Background

1. Following the messages in the Peer Challenge report about better engagement between all levels of the Leicestershire Together partnership and communities of interest in the county, a Forum meeting was arranged to enable representatives of communities of interest (all those identified within the new LT structure were invited) to find out more about Leicestershire Together and engage with its development.
2. The Forum meeting is very much seen as a first step in improving engagement with Communities of Interest and creating a vehicle for ensuring that they are consistently involved in the work of Leicestershire Together and, specifically, the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and second Local Area Agreement.

Event Attendance

3. The following communities were represented at the Forum:
 - Young People (representatives from CYCLE & The Jitty)
 - Older People (Older Peoples network)
 - Action Deafness
 - VISTA
 - Leicester Ethnic Minority Partnership (LEMP)
 - Leicester Gypsy Council Liaison Group
 - CLASP
 - Refugee & Asylum Seekers
 - Voluntary & Community Sector
4. Theme partnership representatives were invited along to the event to meet community representatives and discuss issues of importance with them. The following LAA theme partnerships were represented at the forum; Stronger Communities; Safer Communities; Older People; Economic Development; Cleaner & Greener; and Healthier Communities.

The Programme

5. The Forum was facilitated by Oliver Goode and Maggie Rust of Links Consulting. The afternoon session began with two presentations, outlining the background to the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and 2nd generation Local Area Agreement (LAA).

6. The proposed Comprehensive Engagement Framework was also highlighted at the Forum, and attendees were encouraged to suggest ways in which communities of interest should be involved in consultation exercises.

Workshops

7. Following the context setting presentations, three workshops were held focussing particularly on cross-cutting areas suggested by the theme partnerships as areas where they would welcome input and ideas:
 - o Access to Services and Lifelong Learning
 - o Health
 - o Stronger Communities
8. Each workshop had an independent facilitator and looked at the following key questions:

Why is this topic important?
What do we know about it and what don't we know?
What have we missed? Are there any gaps?
What key messages do you want us to take away about what is important to you
9. There were some very useful discussions in workshops; notes from each of the three workshops can be seen in **Appendix 1**.

Next Steps

10. Feedback from participants has been very positive, and proposals for a further event in October to enable representatives from Communities of Interest to input into the draft SCS at an early stage were welcomed.
11. The notes from the forum have been circulated to all attendees. They will also be forwarded to the theme and cross-cutting partnerships for consideration in developing the SCS and LAA.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board notes the success of the first Leicestershire Together Forum and the output from the Forum workshops.

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