

**Oxfordshire Partnership**  
**24 February 2010**  
**County Hall, Meeting Rooms 1&2**  
**2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
**Lunch will be served from 1:30pm in Meeting Room 3**



**Main purpose of meeting:**

- To discuss the current policy issues and drivers affecting partnership working locally and nationally;
- To discuss and agree a list of partnership priorities to focus on in the medium term;
- Valuing and Inspiring Volunteering - the role of the Oxfordshire Partnership in developing a broader vision of volunteering in Oxfordshire.

No.	ITEM	Note	Person responsible/ Report given by	Action required	Time allocated
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>		Cllr Keith R Mitchell, Chairman	Note apologies.	14:00-14:05
2.	<b>Notes and actions from previous meeting held on 25 November 2009</b>		Cllr Keith R Mitchell, Chairman	Ensure actions from previous meeting are progressed.	14:05-14:10
3.	<b>Declarations of interest</b>			Any declarations of interest to note.	14:10-14:15
<b>Policy and strategy</b>					
4.	<b>Horizon Scanning</b>	The current policy issues and drivers affecting partnership working locally and nationally.	Cllr Keith R Mitchell, Chairman	For information and discussion.	14:15:14:40
5.	<b>Oxfordshire 2030 Delivery Plan</b>	Oxfordshire Partnership agreed at the last meeting that the delivery plan should be refreshed.	Stephen Capaldi, Assistant Chief Executive, Oxfordshire County	Oxfordshire Partnership members are recommended to:	14:40-15:10

No	Item	Note	Person responsible/Report given by	Action required	Time allocated
No.	ITEM	Note	Person responsible/ Report given by	Action required	Time allocated
		<p>Work is underway with partnership leads to review delivery activity to fulfil Oxfordshire 2030's commitments</p> <p>This report sets out the process on refreshing the delivery plan and that a limited number of 'big issues' are considered.</p>	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agree a key list of issues for consideration through the review process</li> <li>- Invite thematic partnerships to develop proposals for consideration at the Partnership meeting in July</li> <li>- Invite the county-wide Chief Executives Group and the LAA Steering Group to oversee and steer the process.</li> </ul>	
6.	<b>Presentation from Oxfordshire Stronger</b>	What the Oxfordshire volunteer centres are achieving as part of	Alison Baxter/ Lindsay Watts	For discussion	15:20-15:50

No	Item	Note	Person responsible/Report given by	Action required	Time allocated
No.	ITEM	Note	Person responsible/ Report given by	Action required	Time allocated
	<b>Communities Alliance (OSCA): 'Valuing and Inspiring Volunteering in Oxfordshire'</b>	<p>the OSCA business plan 2008-2011 and the LAA volunteering target NI6; and the role of the Oxfordshire Partnership in developing a broader vision of volunteering in Oxfordshire. The presentation will cover the role of volunteering in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building and maintaining strong and resilient communities</li> <li>• Contributing to the local economy</li> <li>• Supporting service delivery</li> <li>• Accessing skills, training and jobs</li> <li>• Building social corporate responsibility</li> </ul> <p>It will propose a role for the Oxfordshire Partnership in supporting and developing volunteering</p>			
<b>7. Items for Information</b>					

No	Item	Note	Person responsible/Report given by	Action required	Time allocated
No.	ITEM	Note	Person responsible/ Report given by	Action required	Time allocated
	<b>Update from the Partnerships team</b>	An update to partners on activities undertaken to support the OP since the last meeting and upcoming activities	Claire Evans: Partnership Manager	These items are for information: any questions please let Claire Evans know.	15:50-15:55
<b>Other business. Next Meeting Forward Plan</b>					
8.	<b>Any Other Business</b>	Topics for the next meeting – please let the Partnership team know in advance of the next meeting if there are any topics you would like to discuss.			

No	Item	Note	Person responsible/Report given by	Action required	Time allocated
No.	ITEM	Note	Person responsible/ Report given by	Action required	Time allocated
9.	Dates of future meetings	<p><b>2010:</b>  Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July (2pm) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refreshing the 2030 delivery plan (proposals back from thematic partnerships for consideration)</li> <li>• Director of Public Health Annual report</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December (2pm)</p> <p><b>2011:</b>  Wednesday 30/3 (2 pm)  Wednesday 13/7 (2 pm)  Wednesday 30/11 (2pm)</p> <p><b>2012:</b>  Wednesday 28/3 (2 pm)  Wednesday 11/7 (2 pm)  Wednesday 28/11 (2pm)</p>			

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**Oxfordshire Partnership Board  
Note of 25 November 2009 meeting**



No	Item	Notes	Action
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	<p>Apologies and substitutions were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chief Superintendent Brendan O’Dowda, Thames Valley Police</li> <li>- Mary Harpley - Cherwell Local Strategic Partnership</li> <li>- Cllr Catherine Hitchens – West Oxfordshire/Town/Parish Councils</li> <li>- John Knights – Learning and Skills Partnership (Sally Dicketts substituting)</li> <li>- Dr Julie Maxton, Oxford University (Joe Barclay substituting)</li> <li>- Sarah Maxfield - Oxford Inspires</li> <li>- Cllr Bob Price – Leader Oxford City Council</li> <li>- Warren Ralls - SEEDA</li> <li>- Brigadier Miles Wade – MOD (Sarah Wareing substituting)</li> <li>- Bob Walding – Learning &amp; Skills Council</li> <li>- Linda Watson - Oxfordshire Rural Community Council</li> </ul> <p>Members present are listed at Annex A (including substitutes).</p> <p>Officers in attendance:</p> <p>Joanna Simons, Stephen Capaldi, Joanne Clegge, Claire Evans, Claire Phillips and Deborah Miller (Oxfordshire County Council).</p> <p>Melbourne Barrett, Oxford City Council; David Doughty, OEP; Shakiba Habibula and Jonathan McWilliam (Oxfordshire PCT/Oxfordshire County Council);</p> <p>The following new members were welcomed to the Oxfordshire Partnership Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brigadier Neil Baverstock, MOD</li> <li>• Rob Hathaway, Audit Commission – not a member - observing</li> <li>• Simon Hughes, Environment Agency</li> <li>• Dr. Craig Klafter, Oxford Brookes</li> <li>• John Knights, Oxfordshire Learning &amp; Skills Partnership</li> <li>• Cllr Lesley Legge, Vale Parish/Town Council</li> <li>• Steve Rowell, Thames Valley Police</li> <li>• Matthew Tait, Oxfordshire PCT</li> </ul> <p>Nancy Braithwaite, Principal Administrator to the Conference of Colleges was also welcomed to the Meeting as an observer.</p>	

2.	<b>Notes and actions from previous meeting</b>	<p>The note of the meeting held on 4 June 2009 was agreed, subject to the following amendment:</p> <p>Annex A, page 2 - <i>Vale of White Horse</i>: substitute the text 'Cllr David Wood' with 'Cllr Ian Charlton' and 'Present' with 'Not Present': and <i>Cherwell</i>: substitute the text 'Not Present' with 'Present'.</p>	
3.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	None	
<b>Policy and strategy</b>			
4.	<b>Oxfordshire 2030: Progress Report.</b>	<p>The Partnership considered a report (<b>OP4</b>) setting out the achievements of the thematic partnerships over the past year against the four strategic objectives of the Oxfordshire 2030 Strategy.</p> <p>A presentation was given by Claire Phillips, Partnership Officer, setting out the key achievements and future targets of the thematic partnerships.</p> <p>Cllr Mitchell stressed the importance of accountability and of Leaders addressing how information was disseminated back through various boards and bodies.</p> <p>He reported that at Oxfordshire County Council, the Thematic Partnership Chairmen and officers from each board would be attending the Strategy &amp; Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to talk about their work.</p> <p>Members of the Partnership asked if future reports could include some form of trend data/balance sheet could be provided to enable the board to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• where things were going well and where areas needed improving;</li> <li>• quality of life indicators;</li> <li>• key targets for Oxfordshire;</li> <li>• how the voluntary sector were surviving in the current climate;</li> <li>• areas of concern that needed prioritising – what would be cut or was under threat – what could be done in partnership (in light of cut backs)</li> <li>• priorities of thematic partnerships</li> </ul>	<p><b>Claire Evans/ Claire Phillips</b></p>

		<p>Stephen Capaldi reported that this report was an update on the current position and that the end of year review would look at performance against performance targets set out in the plans and quality of life targets. The Public Service Board would be reviewing performance of the Local Area Agreement and Oxfordshire 2030 on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils requested that towns and parishes have greater involvement in the Stronger Communities Alliance</p> <p>Ms Baxter undertook to discuss the issue of better communication to parishes with ORCC.</p>	<p><b>Alison Baxter</b></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Breaking the cycle of deprivation</b></p> <p><b>(a) Breaking the Cycle of Deprivation in Oxford and Banbury:</b></p>	<p>The Oxfordshire Partnership received a report (<b>OP5(a)</b>) prepared by the 5 Chief Executives of Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust and Thames Valley Police on taking a way forward to tackling the areas of multiple deprivation in City and Banbury..</p> <p>The following points were raised during discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All three colleges in Oxfordshire should be involved in this.</li> <li>• expertise needed to be taken forward to smaller areas;</li> <li>• there had been no mention of this project at school level;</li> <li>• the Voluntary Sector needed to be involved early on;</li> <li>• Young Careers should be involved in the project.</li> </ul> <p>Following discussion the Oxfordshire Partnership thanked the 5 Chief Executives for taking the agenda forward and <b>AGREED</b> that Sally Dicketts, Oxford &amp; Cherwell Valley College be appointed as the 6<sup>th</sup> Chief Executive to the Project.</p>	<p><b>Matthew Tait</b></p>

<p><b>(b) Briefing on Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in Oxfordshire</b></p>	<p>The Oxfordshire Partnership received a Briefing (OP5(b)) and presentation by the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council on Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council asked the Partnership to consider what further action the partnership and individual organisations could take to engage those young people rapidly in education, employment and training.</p> <p>The following points were raised during debate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Partnership welcomed the idea of a joint Summit to establish what work is going on in this area</li> <li>• poor attendance in early years affected NEETs;</li> <li>• employers could be approached about providing apprenticeships, but only with the support of colleges;</li> <li>• Oxford Racial Equality Council asked for a further breakdown of different ethnic groups of NEETS;</li> <li>• contractors could be approached to use NEETs;</li> <li>• an exit strategy was needed for when government funding dried up;</li> <li>• opportunity for volunteering would prepare NEETs for paid work;</li> <li>• the sport industry should be utilised;</li> <li>• If problem was not solved could lead to anti-social behaviour;</li> <li>• need to focus on work around breaking the cycle of deprivation – long term project;</li> <li>• need to make young people ready for employment;</li> <li>• many creative solutions already exist around the County that the Partnership could tap into.</li> </ul> <p>Following the debate, the Partnership thanked Cllr Mitchell for his presentation and AGREED to pursue National Lobbying for a change in how benefit was given to NEETs.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Keith Mitchell</b></p>
<p><b>(c) Council themed debate: Breaking the Cycle of Deprivation</b></p>	<p>The Oxfordshire Partnership received the outcome of a themed debate held at the full Council on 3 November (OP5(c)) on breaking the cycle of deprivation.</p>	<p><b>Steven Howell</b></p>



	<b>b) Data Observatory</b>	<p>event to be held on 14 December 2009 12.30 – 2.30 pm at County Hall, Oxford.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Partnership noted the first annual report by the Oxfordshire Data Observatory on progress made over the last twelve months and challenges for next year.</p>	<b>Ben Smith</b>
<b>Other business. Next Meeting Forward Plan</b>			
<b>9.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	None	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Dates of future meetings</b>	<p>The Partnership <b>AGREED</b> the following meeting dates for future years – all meetings to be held at County Hall, Oxford:</p> <p><b>2010:</b>                      Wednesday 24 February (2pm) Lunch at 1:30                      Wednesday 14 July (2pm) Lunch at 1:30                      Wednesday 1 December (2pm) Lunch at 1:30</p> <p><b>2011:</b>                      Wednesday 30 March (2 pm)                      Wednesday 13 July (2 pm)                      Wednesday 30 November (2pm)</p> <p><b>2012:</b>                      Wednesday 28 March (2 pm)                      Wednesday 11 July (2 pm)                      Wednesday 28 November (2pm)</p>	<b>All to note</b>

Organisation / sector	Name	Members	Present?
County Council	Cllr Keith R. Mitchell CBE	Leader of the Council	Present
Health	Fred Hucker	Chairman, Primary Care Trust	Present
	Matthew Tait	Interim Chief Executive	Present
Thames Valley Police	Steve Rowell	Assistant Chief Constable, Thames Valley Police	Present
District Councils	Cllr Bob Price	Leader Oxford City Council	Not Present
	Cllr Ann Ducker	Leader South Oxfordshire District Council	Present
	Cllr Barry Norton	Leader West Oxfordshire District Council	Present
	Cllr Barry Wood	Leader Cherwell District Council	Not Present
	Cllr Tony de Vere	Leader Vale of White Horse District Council	Present
District Lsps	Revd John Robertson	Chair, Vale Partnership	Present
	David Neudegg	Chair, West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership	Present
	Bishop Colin Fletcher	Chair, South Oxfordshire Partnership	Present
	Jackie Wilderspin	Chair, Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership	Present
Parish / Town Council	David Wood	Cherwell	Present
	Lesley Legge	Leader, Abingdon Town Council and Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils representative	Present
	M.J. Leeding	Forrest Hill with Shotover Parish Council	Present
	Ian Charlton	Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (Representing Parish Councils in the Vale of White Horse)	Present
Learning, skills, education	Joe Barclay (substituting Julie Maxton)	Oxforfs University	Present
	John Raftery	Oxford Brooks University	Present

Oxfordshire Partnership Board meeting:

<b>Organisation / sector</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Present?</b>
	Sally Dicketts	Oxfordshire Learning & Skills Partnership	Present
Private Sector	Kelvin Thomas	Oxford United Football Club	Present
	David Doughty	Oxfordshire Economic Partnership (Officer)	Present
	Frank Nigriello	Chairman, Oxfordshire Economic Partnership	Present
Government Office for the South East			
SEEDA			
Voluntary, Community and faith sectors.	Romy Brian	Elected Member for Voluntary and Community Sector	Present
	Alison Baxter	Chief Executive, Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action	Present
BME Sector	Patrick Tolani	Oxfordshire Equality and Human Rights Council	Present
Military	Sarah Wareing	Supergarrison Project Officer, 145(s) BDE	Present
Culture, Tourism & Leisure			
Environment	Robin Buxton	Elected by Environment & Waste Partnership	Present
	Simon Hughes	Environment Agency	Present
Rural communities			

Oxfordshire Partnership Board meeting:

<b>Others who attend as required / by invitation.</b>	
County Council	Stephen Capaldi, Assistant Chief Executive, Oxfordshire County Council Joanna Simons, Chief Executive, Oxfordshire County Council
City Council	Melbourne Barrettt, Oxford City Council
Health	Jonathan McWilliam, Director of Public Health Shakiba Habibula, Deputy Director of Public Health Matthew Tait (Primary Care Trust)
Other ...	
Support Team	Partnership's Unit & Democratic Services Unit, Oxfordshire County Council

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## OXFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP – 24 FEBRUARY 2010

## HORIZON SCANNING

**Introduction****Context and Policy Drivers**

This paper explores some of the current policy issues and drivers affecting partnership working locally and nationally.

**A. Oxfordshire 2030**

The Partnership agreed the Oxfordshire 2030 strategy in 2008. Thematic partnerships are currently working on strengthening measures and targets to deliver the objectives in the strategy as set out in the delivery plan. This work will be discussed in more detailed elsewhere in the agenda for February's meeting.

Evidence supporting the Oxfordshire 2030 strategy will change over time and the strategies supporting it will be refreshed. We will need to review performance against our priorities and how the quality of life is changing in the county to ensure that we continue to focus on what is important.

**B. Financial outlook**

The financial outlook for the public sector is not optimistic in the medium term because government, of any colour, will have a huge budget deficit to address. 2010/11 is the final year of the current Comprehensive Spending Round and it is expected that all public sector organisations will have to make savings, efficiencies and indeed cuts in the next spending round. It is within this context that there are opportunities for greater efficiencies through working in partnership.

***Total Place***

The government's 'Total Place' initiative looks at how a 'whole area' approach to public services can lead to better services at less cost. It seeks to identify and avoid overlap and duplication between organisations – delivering a step change in both service improvement and efficiency at the local level, as well as across Whitehall.

Total Place has different elements;

**The counting process** will map money flowing through the place (from central and local bodies) and make links between services, to identify where public money can be spent more effectively.

**The culture process** looks at the way existing cultures (the way we do things at the moment) actually helps or hinders the process.

Together, these strands aim to identify potential efficiencies and help people and organisations work together to achieve them.

Thirteen areas across the country have been piloting Total Place and are due to report their findings by March. It is expected that government will introduce a national partnership initiative based on the learning from Total Place.

Oxfordshire county council has recently started discussions with partners about Total Place and how we might use this in Oxfordshire. Initial indications are that we would like to use the methodology to focus on reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Early work suggests that there is a lot of activity across partners but that it is not well aligned or joined up. Through the Oxfordshire Learning and Skills Partnership we are hoping to undertake an 'audit' of current spend and activity in the spring, followed by identification of gaps and duplication and subsequently for all partners to align future work in accordance with a new overarching strategy. A significant barrier to undertaking this work is the current lack of available resource to support this project (project management and external facilitation / challenge).

### **C. Comprehensive Area Assessment**

2009 was the first year of the Comprehensive Area Assessment. Unlike previous inspection regimes the focus is on an 'area' rather than the performance of one organisation. Our area assessment was published in December 2009.

In the Area Assessment, green flags are awarded for exceptional performance from which others can learn; red flags are used to highlight significant concerns where action is needed. Oxfordshire received no red flags or green flags. We were praised for a number of strengths including:

- protecting the environment for future generations
- good partnership working to keep young people out of trouble
- responding well to the summer floods in 2007 and 2008

Overall the Audit Commission indicate that people in Oxfordshire get good value for money from their public services. The Audit Commission would like to see the pace of action quicken in relation to work to address the cycle of deprivation. Educational attainment was also flagged as an area that requires further partnership working. Congestion on Oxfordshire's roads was also mentioned, as was provision of affordable housing particularly in rural areas.

The areas highlighted for improvement provide no surprises for the Partnership and plans are largely in place that address the issues raised by the inspectors. The inspection report notes our current and planned partnership work to improve performance in areas such as:

- Reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill
- Reducing the numbers of people going into hospital by improved preventative work
- Fear of crime
- Teenage conception

There are specific areas for which the inspectors have said they wish to see a change in pace. These are: -

- Oxfordshire Economic Partnership – to ensure delivery

- Those Not in Education Employment and Training – to follow through on plans
- Educational attainment – to see evidence of improvement

There are additional areas where the Audit Commission and other inspectorates intend to do specific follow up work in 2010. They will seek evidence of a quickening pace to address the cross-cutting priority of breaking the cycle of deprivation. They will also turn a spot-light on:

- How successful we have been at meeting our carbon reduction targets
- Provision of affordable housing particularly in rural areas
- Community cohesion in Oxford and Cherwell
- Reducing the impact of alcohol consumption especially in Oxford City.

There is a multi-agency group of lead officers taking responsibility for the CAA and ensuring plans are in place to address priorities.

#### **D. National political direction**

We know there will be an election later in 2010 and all three major political parties have indicated the importance of working in partnership. There is a clear shift towards localism and putting decision making and influence with local communities. Added to the pressure for public sector to be more efficient there is scope for strategic partnerships to take a key role going forwards.

#### **E. Best practice from other areas**

The Partnerships and Communities team are currently visiting other areas such as Buckinghamshire and Gloucestershire and will report back at the July meeting.

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## OXFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP – 24 FEBRUARY 2010

### REFRESHING THE OXFORDSHIRE 2030 DELIVERY PLAN

#### Purpose of paper

The Oxfordshire Partnership Board agreed at the last meeting that the Oxfordshire 2030 Delivery Plan should be refreshed to reflect:

- Progress over the last 2 years
- Changing circumstances – particularly the economic climate and new priorities

#### Refreshing the Oxfordshire 2030 Delivery Plan

Work is underway with partnership leads to review delivery activity to fulfil Oxfordshire 2030's commitments. We will be working with thematic partnerships to:

- Review whether existing LAA targets remain priorities and if so what new targets need to be defined.
- Clarify and sharpen the focus of the shorter (up to 2014) and longer term actions within the delivery plan
- Review targets that are 'business as usual' and can be excluded from the delivery plan.

Thematic partnerships will report back their recommendations for consideration at the next Oxfordshire Partnership meeting in July.

#### Focusing on key partnership priorities

To aid the process it may help to stimulate the review process by suggesting that a limited number of 'big issues' are considered. The following list is suggested:

- Congestion
- Breaking the cycle of deprivation (how we will measure success of projects in Oxford City and Banbury)
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- People not in education, employment or training
- Climate change.
- Others that emerge from thematic partnerships.

None of these issues are new but the metrics to measure success are limited and/or un-coordinated across agencies.

No doubt other issues will emerge from thematic partnership discussions. However, to be successful we will need to use scarce resources carefully which suggests that

ultimately we will need to settle on a small list of medium term priorities which are widely supported and owned.

The county-wide Chief Executives Group and the LAA Steering group will help to provide a clear steer for this work.

**Recommendations:**

The Partnership is recommended to:

- Agree a list of key issues for consideration through the review process
- Invite thematic partnerships to develop proposals for consideration at the Partnership meeting in July
- Invite the county-wide Chief Executives Group and the LAA Steering Group to oversee and steer the process.

**Stephen Capaldi**  
**Assistant Chief Executive**  
**Oxfordshire County Council**

**Annex A: Key stages, Activities and Dates**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>
Oxfordshire Partnership approve the action planning process and timetable	24 <sup>th</sup> February
Mapping and gap analysis and target setting – working with the thematic partnerships (led by the liaison officers from the corporate performance team, OCC)	February-April
Update to Chief Executives	4 <sup>th</sup> March
Identifying and securing target champions/target leads	March-April
Drafting of the delivery plan/agreeing what the format looks like	April
Update to Chief Executives	20 <sup>th</sup> May
A workshop session will be held with thematic partnerships to look at the revised delivery plan so they can discuss the cross-cutting issues	By the end of May
Draft circulated to Oxfordshire Partnership and Public Service Board members	21 <sup>st</sup> June
PSB papers out	24 <sup>th</sup> June
PSB meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> July
OP Papers out	5 <sup>th</sup> July
Thematic Partnerships bring back proposals to Oxfordshire Partnership for consideration.	14 <sup>th</sup> July

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## Valuing and inspiring volunteering

Oxfordshire Partnership meeting 24 February 2010

### Background briefing

- **How many people volunteer?** RAISE Hidden Asset 2009 ([www.raise-networks.org.uk](http://www.raise-networks.org.uk)) estimates 657,780 volunteers across the south east (1 in 10 of the adult population).
- **How does Oxfordshire compare?** Place survey 2009 shows that 28.6% of those surveyed in Oxfordshire had given unpaid help at least once a month in the past year. This compares to 24.8% overall in the South East. Broken down by district this figure is made up as follows:
 

Oxford City - 26.6%	Cherwell - 26.6%
West Oxfordshire - 28.6%	South Oxfordshire - 31.4%
Vale - 30.5%	
- **How reliable is the data?** Research commissioned by OCVA in 2007 suggests that volunteer numbers are likely to be underestimated, in part because of the difficulty in identifying 'informal' volunteers ([www.oxnet.org.uk/research](http://www.oxnet.org.uk/research))
- **Local Area Agreement:** Oxfordshire has adopted NI6 'Increase participation in regular volunteering by local people' as a target. We are aiming to increase levels to 30.4% in the next Place Survey 2011. OSCA is responsible for this target and its associated action plan.
- **Action plan targets:** April-December 2009 1,685 people contacted the volunteer centres about opportunities to volunteer (annual target 900); 1,252 opportunities to volunteer in Oxfordshire are advertised on [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk) (annual target 650). 79 people classified as 'vulnerable' have been assisted into volunteering by the OCVA Volunteer Centre over the past 18 months.
- **What is the value of volunteering?** If paid minimum wage they would be worth £2,397 million annually to the economy in the SE.

- **Who benefits?** Both statutory and voluntary sectors. For example, Oxfordshire has over 4,000 school governors and an estimated 25,000 charity trustees.
- **What do volunteers do?** They sit on management committees, provide transport to hospital, run activities for young people and older people, act as advocates for disabled people, preserve the environment, fundraise, provide administrative support, offer companionship.
- **Why do people volunteer?** A 2009 survey of users of the Volunteer Centre showed that top benefits were meeting new people, gaining a sense of achievement, and helping others or putting something back.
- **Who volunteers?** People of all ages, employed and unemployed people, students, people of all cultures and religions
- **Impact of the recession on volunteering:** There has been a 150% increase from 2007 to 2009 in enquiries to the OCVA volunteer centre.

## OXFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP - 24 FEBRUARY 2010

### UPDATE FROM THE PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITIES TEAM

The Partnerships and Communities team within the Partnership Working unit of the county council is responsible for supporting and developing the Oxfordshire Partnership. The following paper provides an update on the team and others' recent activity to support the Oxfordshire Partnership.

#### **Oxfordshire 2030 delivery plan**

There is a separate paper to the meeting about how the work to strengthen the delivery plan is progressing and the process to agree it.

#### **Comprehensive Area Assessment**

In December we received the findings of the first area assessment for Oxfordshire. Oxfordshire was praised for a number of strengths including:

- protecting the environment for future generations
- good partnership working to keep young people out of trouble
- responding well to the summer floods in 2007 and 2008

Overall the Audit Commission indicate that people in Oxfordshire get good value for money from their public services.

Preparation for the assessment was led by a multi-agency team which is now working to address the areas identified for development.

#### **Partnership working**

- **Communications:** The Oxfordshire Partnership website [www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk](http://www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk) has undergone a facelift recently. The new look site provides improved layout and site navigation and more information about thematic and district local strategic partnerships. It is really is your first stop for information on partnerships in the area.

As always any comments and suggestions on the website are welcomed.

- **Networking event:** On 14<sup>th</sup> December we held the first networking session for those involved with all levels of the partnership. The session enabled members of the boards and those delivering partnership priorities to network and discuss their work.

Feedback from the event was very positive and we will be offering regular opportunities to network from now on. We will be adapting the structure following suggestions to enable more discussion of partnership activities.

The next event is scheduled for **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 12-2pm** so put the date in your diary.

- **Partnership Development Group:** The group continues to meet to join up working across partnerships and Provides an important link between the central team supporting partnership working and thematic partnership leads.

The group has been effective in sharing learning between partnerships and is working more closely with district LSPs.

- **Progress through Partnerships (PtP):** We are running a varied programme of PtP funded events to build capacity in partnerships. These include skills building in the voluntary sector, developing the commissioning role of partnerships and building stronger partnership networks.
- **Partnership assessment and development plan:** We will be working with thematic partnerships to assess progress and identify areas for development through development meetings.

### **Local Area Agreement**

As we approach the end of the second year of our Local Area Agreement there are a small number of economic targets that will be finalised as part of the 'refresh' process. Negotiation of these targets has been delayed until now due to the changing and uncertain economic situation. We will soon be entering the final year of our LAA.

We are awaiting the first reward grant payment from central government for our successful LAA1 targets. We have already claimed £8.5m to be paid over two years and hope to make a further claim for our adult skills target. The Public Service Board has agreed proposals for the use of reward grant to support partnership initiatives across the county.

**For further information contact:**  
**Claire Phillips**  
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**01865 323967**