

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 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 14th 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 21st 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.

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