



Partnership news for the Voluntary, Community & Faith sectors

Local Strategic Partnership - Latest News

Comprehensive Area Assessment

The members heard an initial presentation from the Audit Commission on the current progress of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), looking at outcomes and particularly partnership work on shared priorities. The Commission is looking at value for money and asking 3 key questions:

1. How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?
2. How well are the outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?
3. What are the prospects for improvement?

The Commission is using the Sustainable Communities Strategy as a baseline for understanding what the Partnership is trying to achieve.

Findings are confidential at this stage, however launch of the public document is 10th December 2009. Research continues.

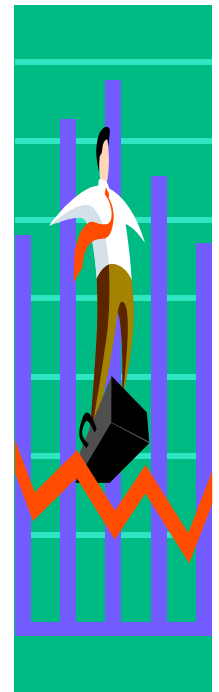
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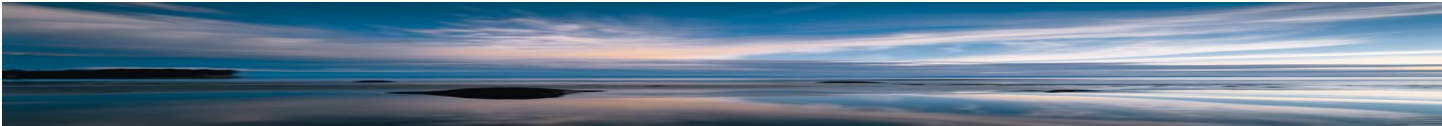
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Economic Downturn

Zoe Hanim presented a report from the Credit Crunch group showing two sides to the economic picture with some early signs of recovery showing in the business sector whilst re-employment lagged behind. It was agreed that the programme below continue in order to mitigate the effects of the downturn on people in Reading.

- Mortgage Rescue Plan
- Benefits take up campaign
- Advice and Information for the newly unemployed
- Promotion of Credit Union
- Sustainable Travel
- Promote Volunteering
- Local Skills Package
- Apprenticeships package for young people
- Your Reading Passport – discount scheme
- Thriving Neighbourhoods
- Pay businesses on time
- Celebrating Reading & Promoting Reading





LSP FOCUS AREAS

Cleaner Greener

It was agreed to widen the approach to this issue taking account of the new statutory duties. The work of the Climate Change group in developing a new partnership means that it can develop a common approach.

The newly formed ***Climate Change Partnership*** presented its proposal for a multi-agency partnership and their Guiding Principles which include:

- Reporting directly to the LSP;
- Up to 12 wide partnership members (2 from the VCS, 1 of whom will be from the Greater Reading Environmental Network);
- The Environment Agency to Chair the group initially.

It was agreed that the carbon management issue would link immediately to the Cleaner Greener priority for the LSP.

NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training)

Current provision includes: Education to Employment 12 week course; Apprenticeship opportunities e.g. with RBC parks. An appeal was made for wider opportunities to come forward. Other interventions included; courses at TVU extending the stay-on rate; business sector to disseminate the apprenticeship message; voluntary work applications have grown.

The Autumn LSP Forum would highlight young peoples opportunities as one of the 3 priority areas. The initial date for this event is 17th November 2009.

Neighbourhood focused impacts

A Family Intervention Project had been identified by Education and Children's Services and it was proposed that a sub-group would look at widening the partnership in terms of the strategy, development and delivery using a more holistic approach. The VCS Representatives noted that there are active VCS groups in this area whose work should be part of the delivery. Haste in making the application could mean that those links are not made. Due to time pressures outline funding had already been sought but it was noted that wider inclusive planning would need to take place. It was agreed that LAA Exemplar Project funding could be used to provide evaluation.

LSP Forum Event – Tuesday November 17th

The 2009 Event will again be held at the Town Hall in November and is likely to take the form of a debate on issues such as a review of the long term vision for Reading. Whilst that will mean that the VCS may not be exhibiting as it has over the last 2 years, nevertheless, we will be key players in voicing needs and thinking about services for the short and longer-term future.

A sub-group is preparing the detail of this work over the Summer and news will be available in September. Details will be available through the Stronger Together office, tel. 0118 9584849 or watch for news on www.strongertogether.org.uk.

OTHER LSP MATTERS

Preventing Violent Extremism

Whilst the LSP acknowledged that some BME members of the Reading community see the process as negative and would say that it is generating the very problem it is intended to target, the partners were not in a position to choose not to deliver. They would nevertheless ensure that the concerns on this national issue get back to Government.

The proposal before the meeting was to deliver an inclusive range of local activities through local partners which would provide ongoing benefits directly to communities.

It was noted that criticism should be challenged as to whether it related to local delivery or to the broader national issue.

Community Development Strategy (CDS)

Members were asked to comment on the document now under review to ensure that each agency takes a full part e.g. in areas of training. The training programme to date has aimed at multi-agency/front line staff and at all levels in joint skill development sessions. Government Office are keen that the document should show how the 'Duty to Involve' is addressed within this area of work. A revised draft would be presented to a later meeting.

OTHER PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Reading Older People's

Partnership (ROPP)

The Board of ROPP held its first event on June 24th 2009 to introduce the new structure for an older people's partnership to a wide audience of care and health professionals, agencies, VCS groups and clients, but also to present a current picture of health and well-being and to begin a debate on the barriers, concerns, needs and services for Reading's older people.

The ROPP aims to bring together the public, private, voluntary and community sectors and representative voices of older people to work together to improve the quality of life for older people who live in Reading.

The ROPP will be made up of a wider Reference Group which meets to debate issues, concerns and needs generally, but not exclusively, on the morning prior to an afternoon Board meeting. The timing should give a clear opportunity for that wider group to influence the Board whose role is to set a shared vision to shape the future strategic priorities for older people in Reading.

The ROPP Board is accountable to the Healthier Reading Partnership who in turn is accountable to the LSP. Board representation includes NHS Berkshire West Nursing & Care Commissioning, RBC Adult Care & Strategy, VCS groups serving older people and their carers, a Forum, a LINK and a Sakoma representative. In addition to a voice through voluntary groups older people are represented by the Chairman of the 50++ Forum which now has a number of older people's local group meetings to discuss issues of concern.

Further information contact Stronger Together on 0118 9584849.



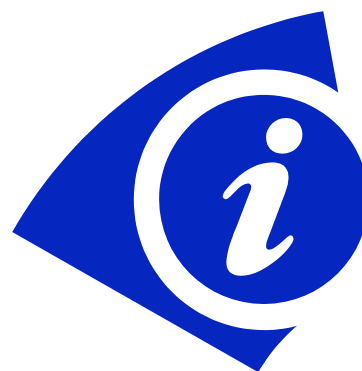
MORE ON PARTNERSHIPS

HEALTHIER READING PARTNERSHIP

This partnership too has been reviewing its purpose and structure in recent months and a report setting out draft Terms of Reference and other arrangements was presented for ratification by the newly constituted Healthier Reading Partnership (HRP) Board. It also set out further work required to develop a more detailed Partnership Agreement for consideration at its next meeting.

The Board agreed a Management Group to consider key themes for the HRP and produce a forward plan. Six meetings each year would include 2 away days to discuss the big picture issues.

The intention would be to create a framework of agenda items for the year ahead from key themes, with flexibility to add extra items as necessary. Items were likely to emerge from discussions on the JSNA, and the HRP should focus where possible on preventative rather than reactive issues, and areas where partnership working could add value.



Broad Street Mall

Walk-In Health Centre

Bev Searle, West Berkshire Area Director, NHS Berkshire West, updated the meeting on progress to establishment of a GP-led Walk-In Health Centre in Broad Street Mall in partnership between NHS Berkshire West, Assura and a number of local GPs.

She reported that the five year contract for the centre would start on 10 August 2009, the centre would provide a flexible range of bookable appointments, walk-in services and other services for both registered and non-registered patients (as long as they lived in Berkshire West), and it would be open from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week.

She said that all those involved were keen to make the most of the opportunities afforded by the new centre, especially in relation to making contact with and providing services to non-registered patients. It was reported that non-registered patients, as well as registered patients who could not get GP appointments as quickly as they wanted, often clogged up Accident & Emergency departments and that there was a need to educate the public on healthy lifestyles and the appropriate uptake (or not) of health services and that this could be considered at a future meeting.

The meeting discussed the importance of publicity about the new centre, not just so that patients knew about the new service, but also to inform the public about how health service money is being spent on services for them.

Other Updates

Reading Declaration

In response to the Macpherson report into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, public sector providers and community leaders in Reading joined together to launch the Reading Declaration - a plan of action aimed at stamping out racism and promoting equality. Key statutory and voluntary services signed up to the declaration at its launch in June 2000. Each partner developed a race equality action plan to improve: translation and interpretation; staff training to deliver race equality; recruitment and retention; dealing with racist incidents; and response to community needs.

Now 10 years on the group is reviewing the impact of its work and look at what action is needed in the future. They would like to know your views about race equality in Reading generally and in local public services such as the Council, Police, Health, Fire and Education and what individuals and community groups think are the important things that remain to be done. Findings from this research will be presented at a Reading Declaration conference on 9th November and will be used to decide what needs doing differently in the future.

If you have any questions about the survey, closing date **18th September 2009**, please contact Equalities Team, Reading Borough Council. The link below will take you to the RBC web page to access the on-line surveys:

Reading Declaration Survey for Individuals
Reading Declaration Survey for Community Groups

www.reading.gov.uk/readingdeclarationsurvey

Thriving Neighbourhoods Programme

The Thriving Neighbourhoods Programme Steering Group meet quarterly to consider the programme of work covered by Community Development Officers in:

- Southcote
- North Whitley
- Central Whitley
- Whitley Wood
- East Reading
- Amersham Road
- Dee Park



Local surveys have been completed and analysis is providing significant information to enable the first stage of Neighbourhood Plan Leaflets to be prepared for each area. The leaflets will outline programmed activities for the following year and identify past actions.

Contact points such as website links will be shown which provide local people and agencies with an ability to follow up on progress against plans.

FORUM VOICE REPORTS

Early Years Partnership - Jackie Oversby

Jackie highlighted the RCVYS AGM and RCVYS support of its voluntary sector members. The evaluation workshop had been used as a training exercise as well as an evaluation of RCVYS. There are encouraging signs that more voluntary pre-schools will join RCVYS.

Last year there was a significant improvement in the attainment of Reading's children at the Foundation stage. The Early Years group looks at achievement in the different schools; there are frequent surprises. It tries to see patterns in the factors which may have led to success or failure and tries to decide how to raise the standard of the poorer performing schools.

RBC will fund 66 two-year old children to attend nursery for ten hours each next year. The selection will be targeted by area of deprivation in which the family live and on benefit claims.

Voluntary & Community Sector Quick Survey

This brief survey went out to all groups in early July and is intended to inform support agencies as to the level of satisfaction in their services and in their relationship with the voluntary and community sector (VCS). The resulting information will be set alongside the national and local picture of third sector agencies produced by the Office of the Third Sector at the beginning of 2009. That picture included many agencies who would not see themselves as VCS and therefore it is difficult to know whether the picture is representative of the VCS in Reading.

The short survey, which takes just 5 minutes to complete, has so far received a very poor response and I would like to encourage those of you who have not yet responded to complete an electronic version. If you have not yet had a chance to complete it then watch for an email copy offering a word document or an online survey link. Alternatively go to the Stronger Together newly developed website www.strongertogether.org.uk/reports

New Websites

Keep up to date with 'What's On' by using the new websites of the Stronger Together partner fora

www.rvsforum.co.uk

www.sakoma.co.uk

www.strongertogether.org.uk

Soon to be available the revised Reading Faith Forum website. Meanwhile log onto the current site

www.readingfaithforum.com

RE Matters

Mondays 9th & 16th Nov 10am—2pm

These training sessions provide a discussion forum and practical advice for members of faith groups wanting to support their local schools through Religious Education and Collective Worship.

RE Matters is delivered in two parts with the second day providing a unique opportunity to develop an RE session with delegates from all faith groups in a local primary school.

The event is free to members of faith communities that belong to Reading Faith Forum. To book contact Jan Hearn at jan@volaction.demon.co.uk Delegates should have the support of the leaders of their faith community.

FORUM VOICES 2009

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LSP Representatives	Tim Clewer	0118 941 8005	Tim.clewer@themustardtree.org
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	Anna Fowler	0118 958 4849	annaf@volaction.demon.co.uk
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Reading Learning Disability Part/shp	Abu Said	0118 958 4849	annaf@volaction.demon.co.uk
Healthier Reading	Chris Turner	0118 952 3060	ceo@readingcab.org.uk
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HRP Management Group	Chris Turner	0118 952 3060	ceo@readingcab.org.uk
	Anne Laing-deputy	0118 958 4849	anne@volaction.demon.co.uk
Reading Older People's Partnership	Tomiko Morley	0118 958 4849	comedancewithme@btconnect.com
Reading Children's Trust	Sarah Mayhew	0118 926 3941	office@communicare.org.uk
	Dave Seward	0118 923 1267	ceo@bacyp.co.uk

FORUM VOICES 2009cont

Partnership	Forum Voice	Tel. no.	e-mail
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RCT Joint Commissioning Group	Laura Johnson Collard	0118 950 9499	laurajc@childrensinfo.org
RCT Early Years Group	Jackie Oversby	0118 942 9518	hsreading@ic24.net
RCT Youth Crime & Substance Misuse Prevention Group	Chris West	0118 958 4849	annaf@volaction.demon.co.uk
RCT School Improvement Group	Joe Akem-Che	0118 986 3377	info@spaakeducation.co.uk
RCT LDD Strategy Group	Leah Yeoman	0118 327 7424 07590 036179	leah.yeoman@dingley.org.uk
RCT Emotional Well-Being Group	Barbara Perry	0118 901 5649	info@no5.org.uk
Children's Workforce Dev't Grp	Dave Seward	0118 923 1267	ceo@bacyp.co.uk
Locality Steering	Cathy Lamsdale	0118 947 4529	cathy.lamsdale@talk21.com
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LSG - East	Dave Seward	0118 923 1267	ceo@bacyp.co.uk
	Sarah Mayhew	0118 926 3941	office@communicare.org.uk
LSG – West	Tim Clewer	0118 941 8005	tim.clewer@themustardtree.org
	Karen Dwyer	0118 958 4849	annaf@volaction.demon.co.uk
Locality-Based Prevention Panel-South	Ray Ellis	0118 958 4849	annaf@volaction.demon.co.uk
Locality-Based Prevention Panel-West	Tim Clewer	0118 941 8005	tim.clewer@themustardtree.org
Local Safeguarding Children Board	Ben Cross	07872 958501	info@rcvys.org.uk
NEET Taskforce	Nick Wooldridge	01635 500858 07917351444	nick.wooldridge@bacyp.co.uk
RCT Improving Health Outcomes Group	Mary Jacobs	0118 945 4209	maryjacobs@readingcrossroads.org
Local Safeguarding Children Board	Ben Cross	07872 958501	info@rcvys.org.uk

FORUM NEWS

FULL HOUSE AT THE 'HEARING VOICES' CONFERENCE

This highly successful conference led by Reading Faith Forum and Sakoma on 2nd July at the Business Centre Green Park welcomed a hundred people from health agencies, service users, voluntary community and faith organisations.

Dr Qulsoom Inayaat (a specialist psychologist) spoke on 'Working with faith communities in the NHS'. A service user spoke bravely on his own experience with schizophrenia and his faith, and finally Ken Blanton (former Chaplain to Prospect Park hospital) spoke on 'East meets West'.

After lunch there were three workshops, designed to identify the gaps, find out what the faith communities are doing and what can be improved.

Some key issues emerged: the need for more service user life accounts to be heard; training in the community; a Directory of Mental Health provision for faith leaders and holistic care; and greater interaction of faith leaders with healthcare providers.



THE FORUM

The next event for The Forum on September 30th will focus on reviewing the vision for the VCS in Reading in the coming 10 years ensuring that the VCS is able to articulate its aspirations at the LSP Forum in November.

The VCS Forum event will be 30th September 4.00 – 7.00 pm including buffet and networking opportunities.

For booking forms go to the website www.rvsforum.co.uk or contact Anna Fowler on 0118 9584849.

COMING EVENTS



SAKOMA Achievement Awards @ SAKOMA AGM

Thursday 24th September 2009
7.00 – 9.30 pm

Venue: RISC 35-39 London Street
Reading RG1 4PS

The Achievement Awards will recognise the tireless work done by individuals and groups in Reading's Black and Minority Communities.

To find out more
email yasmin@volaction.demon.co.uk or
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