

Annual Performance Report (2009/10)

Background

This report provides the Lancaster City Council Budget and Performance Panel with a performance update for 2009/10 of the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership and the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). It is based on the end of year reports from the seven thematic groups and the end of year reviews of current LSP funded initiatives. The report also provides an update of the LDLSP Management Group proposals for the use of the Performance Reward Grant allocated to Lancaster District LSP from the Lancashire Partnership.

Management Group Update

The year 2009/10 has involved a range of activity across the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership that has included strengthening the operational frameworks, developing new action plans and continuing to deliver against the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) priorities whilst considering the potential use of Performance Reward Grant.

The Management Group continues to mature in its relationships, however future development of the Board and Management Group can only enhance the way the groups do business and increase the success of the LSP in delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy vision, "Working together we will improve the quality of life for everyone in our District".

The Management Group has continued to allocate second home money to thematic groups to further the partnership initiatives that meet strict criteria to deliver on the priorities within the Sustainable Community Strategy and aim to deliver our vision.

The absence of an LSP Manager has meant that progress has not been as fast as the Management Group would like however this absence has resulted in closer partnership working between LCC and other partners particularly NHSNL in taking forward the LSP. The recent appointment of an LSP manager and a review of administrative support will strengthen and concentrate progress towards delivering of the SCS as well as consolidating and embedding the recently developed Community Engagement Strategy, Performance Monitoring Strategy and will ensure greater visibility of the LSP through the developing communication processes.

Thematic Group Update

The Thematic groups were asked to report progress by responding to two questions:

How well are outcomes and improvements being delivered?

What are the prospects for the future?

The individual annual year reports are attached in Appendix 1. (except for Children and Young People)

All the Thematic Groups have made significant progress in delivering on the priorities assigned to them and the second homes monies used to develop and support many of the activities that have enabled them to do so. All end of year reports for the funded projects can be viewed at

<http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/a-to-z//local-strategic-partnership-lsp/> under the Thematic Groups. A selection of projects are highlighted below.

Addressing fuel poverty:

495 packs were distributed winter 08/09 and a further 500 Stay Warm packs were distributed to agencies in Nov/Dec funded by the PCT. The packs were mainly for awareness raising purposes and included tips on staying warm, information on sources of financial help, and recipes - but also contained some practical support in the form of a thermometer, a fleece blanket, an insulated mug, and a hot drink sachet. Displays of information went out to between 170 and 200 venues. 10 information events were run, with 196 people benefitting. 3 days of electric blanket checks were held with 160 checks being carried out in Lancaster Morecambe and Carnforth.

Uniformly positive feedback from agencies, including quotations from people who benefitted: eg "We had excellent feedback. People were very impressed with the quality of the items, particularly the blanket and the cup. They were also impressed with the quality of the information included, finding it both relevant and helpful. We had very positive comments from all who received a pack."

Providing support through the Credit Union:

- Adult members net increase from 913 to 992 over past year
- Total membership now 1067 including junior members
- Value of adult savings up from £200,213 to £229,344 despite members needing to make withdrawals to meet their increased current expenditure
- No of Loans 218 over past 12months No in quarter 66
- Value of Loans £133,176 over past 12months
- Currently lending 60% of adult savings
- Average loan balance £611
- Survey showed 73% had a household income of less than £14.500
- 49% main source of income is Welfare Benefits
- 24% are disabled
- 32% do not have a bank account
- 78% had no savings other than MBCU
- 46% spend more than 10% of their income on fuel

There has been an increase in the number of members having their benefits, including Housing Benefit and disability benefits, paid directly into their Credit Union account to help manage their finances.

Sports & Arts Diversionary

The project has been running for 12 months in the following hotspot areas as identified via MAPS.

Poulton (Morecambe High School), Heysham (Heysham High School, Regent Park Studios, More Music), Carnforth (Carnforth High School), Marsh (Marsh Community Centre), Ridge (Ridge Community Centre & Central Lancaster High School), Lancaster Central (Dukes DT3). Activities take place on either Friday or Saturday evenings.

To date the project has engaged with 938 young people (234 Female & 704 male, including 10 young people with a disability and 8 young people from a minority ethnic group). The project is not marketed/promoted, young people are referred via the police and other referral agencies, with some young people attending via word of mouth. The Police suggest that anti social behaviour has significantly reduced by around 20% and up to 40% in some areas and they attribute this to the project.

POMOCNA DION (HELPING HAND)

Task 1 Polish Association

- The Pomocna Dion Polish Association has been formally constituted under a founder member constitution, with 10 signatories (Polish and British)

Task 2 Drop-in service

- The drop-in continues to offer fortnightly sessions and sees between 8 and 10 cases per session (38 during this reporting period). It now has an agreement with certain agencies (Lancashire Constabulary, Balmoral Children's Centre, LDWA, Fire Service, Lancashire County Council) to send a bi-lingual member of staff to the drop-in to assist clients. This means it can offer specific assistance and information and transfer specialized knowledge to our volunteers and the Polish community. It helps increase access to services for Polish migrants and the agency representatives can help guide the drop-in service and add to its professionalism.
- It has moved the project to a new location: the Trinity Methodist Church and now operate the drop-in from the new building, which is ideal.

Translation and Interpretation service

- It continues to employ one interpreter 4 days a week and 2 more interpreters on a casual basis one day a week. Additionally there are 2 more interpreters that can be called upon weekends and other times as necessary. During the period this reports covers, it has assisted approximately 65 Polish people with face to face interpretation. We have a client base of approximately 500 people.
- It is drawing up an agreement with Strategic Housing to provide face to face community interpretation as they are seeing more Polish clients. This is a cheaper and more satisfactory option than telephone translation such as Language Line. It hopes to expand the number of agreements it has with various statutory agencies.
- It is implementing additional training from statutory agencies (benefits, strategic housing, job centre plus, mental health) for both community interpreters and drop-in volunteers.

Research amongst agencies

- The only concrete numbers it has received are from the VCFS sector (LDWA). It is clear statistics are not collected on the basis of nationality and although limited estimates have been given in one or two instances, overall this is not the case. It will discuss this with statutory agencies in particular as the project provides interpretation services in the main for statutory agencies (job centre, housing, benefits, tax credits, etc).

Research amongst the Polish community

- It has received updated information from the police in relation to hate crime and other crime where Polish people are victims (hate crime currently less than one per cent). It will meet with the police to develop a training schedule for PCSOs and ways to improve integration and trust in an attempt to increase reportage rates.

- As problems around employment still occur, it is working to arrange training from CAB, Migrant Workers North West and trade unions for community interpreters and drop-in volunteers around workers rights and regulations. It will try to flag and monitor employment related issues with the Polish community through contacts at the drop-in and community interpreting.

Bi-lingual newsletter

- A second edition of 'Jedno Miasto' was printed the first week of March. Distribution is to 250 known Polish households, Polish shops, Heysham High school, Balmoral Children's Centre, LDWA, etc. This newsletter is a mixture of public interest stories from the English language press and important information from agencies. It also serves to advertise the services Pomocna Dlon offers.

Staffing

- A project Coordinator remains in place with one Community Development worker; 2 additional community interpreters are employed one day a week, they also work on community engagement and development.

Statistics

- 38 Polish migrants have accessed our drop-in service during the period September to November 2009 (seven sessions). The drop-in is held every other Friday from 6.30 to 8.30pm.
- We have a client base of 500 – this is the number of Polish migrants that have approached the project for some kind of assistance since June 2009.
- During this present funding period, we have assisted 65 Polish migrants with face to face interpreting and provided over the phone interpretation to additional numbers (funded by Migrant Impact Fund).

Morecambe and Lancaster have the highest number of Polish students enrolled in schools within Lancashire.

Lancaster and Morecambe Worklessness project

The project's main aim is to promote long-term sustainable lifestyles by addressing root causes and barriers to work, dealing with a wide range of issues and supporting clients along the journey through into training, volunteering, education and employment opportunities. It has a specific focus on LAA target communities which are experiencing the highest levels of people on out of work benefits and receives referrals primarily through housing-related sources.

During the first year of the project (to the end of March 2010) the Team, comprising a Project Manager and two Outreach Workers, was established and relocated from offices in Albert Road, Morecambe, to Morecambe Town Hall. Good progress has been made during the first year towards achieving overall project outputs, especially taking into account the need to establish the team: a total of 77 individuals have been engaged and linked with specialist services (against a total target of 125 over two years) 26 clients have signed up to educational/training courses (against a target of 80 over two years) 21 clients have been assisted into volunteering, work placements and jobs (against a target of 40 over two years).

Through active outreach and engagement, the project has supported a number of individuals who would not otherwise have engaged with services and whose circumstances would almost

certainly have worsened. These include people who had been out of work for a considerable period of time and who faced multiple barriers to work readiness. These barriers can relate to a wide variety of issues, including health, poor housing, education, criminal records, addictions, childcare and transport. It is the project's ability to engage 'hard to reach' individuals, address these multiple issues by working with a range of agencies, and maintain support over the course of the route into work, or work-related activity, which sets the project apart from mainstream services and adds value to them.

Domestic Abuse Outreach Service

Over 100 referrals directly to the outreach service and 463 referrals overall between April 2009 and March 2010 to LDWA.

Have clearly shown the need for this service. The outreach service and its links with Morecambe children's centres has been hailed as an example of best practice across Lancashire

Partnership working between strategic housing and LDWA has involved training days and shadowing of workers between both agencies. This has led to a deeper understanding of both the needs of service users and the way in which each agency works towards its action points.

Recent assessment for the recognised Quality assessment framework has rated LDWA and the service it delivers as level B and 'excellent' to service users and in view of the robust policies and procedures LDWA has, this highlights the level of professionalism LDWA has achieved in the past 12 months and the hard work of the Staff.

There is substantial evidence that a Domestic Abuse outreach service has a huge impact on

- the support to low / medium victims and also high risk victims who do not wish, or are unable to pursue the civil court route for perpetrators
- support for individual's families, children, accommodation issues, financial referral, safety issues
- the outreach worker currently completes initial assessments (triage) and risk assessments
- All monitoring and assessments are reported quarterly to coordinator.
- Outreach worker does substantial prevention of homelessness work, recovery work, runs support groups, runs confidence courses and coordinates the free counselling service LDWA run. All this saves a substantial amount of money to the economy and emotional costs
- The outreach worker delivers specific work to children and families when supporting the family as a whole

Climate Change Co-ordinator

The Climate Action Co-ordinator was recruited in July and has since linked into the County and Regional work on NI186.

Information has been collected from a number of organisations across Lancaster district on their carbon emissions, carbon reduction targets and activities. Gaps in our ability to deliver the NI186 indicator have been identified, and the Co-ordinator has started to set up or work with groups able to address some of these. The final report on the status of carbon reduction activity

across the district, gaps and proposed actions is being finalised and should be completed by the end of April.

In the last quarter, the Co-ordinator has: developed a joint project with the Health & Wellbeing Group to help tackle fuel poverty and submitted funding bids to start the proposed Home Energy Service; run a workshop for public sector on the Carbon Reduction Commitment and initiated discussions on a CRC support group; worked with landlords through Lancaster City Councils' Registered Social Landlords' & Private Landlords' Forums; worked with City Council officers to develop an energy-efficiency project that could attract CERT funding.

In February the Halton Carbon Positive project was selected as a *Low Carbon Community* winner. The Co-ordinator has been working with the community and DECC to submit further applications to secure the £400,000 investment and to develop an engagement plan. The carbon savings associated with the hydro project alone are 500 tCO₂ per annum. The Co-ordinator has also worked with Lancaster University to submit an ESRC Energy & Community bid to carry out a 5 year climate change action-research project in the district. If successful this bid includes support for the district to develop a whole-street energy efficiency retrofit project.

Rent Grant Scheme

The Rent Grant Scheme provides assistance for start up and early stage businesses by providing grant funding towards the first year's rent on new leases for business premises. Taking into account the time lag between offers and payments, the project made good progress towards achieving its target outputs for the first year. Over the period April 2009 to March 2010 a total of 7 businesses had been assisted, including 4 new businesses created. A total of 9 jobs had been created. This compares with first year targets of 10 businesses assisted, 4 businesses created and 10 jobs created. However, total projected outputs for all businesses offered funding in the first year will, if achieved, exceed these targets

Although the Scheme is not targeted exclusively at knowledge economy businesses, in practice a high proportion of the businesses supported are in knowledge economy sectors and especially the digital and creative industries and environmental technology sectors. This is reflected in the premises occupied by the assisted businesses which include The Storey Creative Industries Centre, Lancaster Environment Centre and CityLab. Consequently, the project is making a positive contribution towards the growth of the knowledge economy locally. By engaging businesses through the Scheme many businesses are also 'plugged' into the other support services available through other organisations.

Key challenges for the future

The LDLSP faces unknown challenges over the next few years in part mainly due to:

- The impact of the recession
- Reduction in funding levels and / or provision of resources
- Withdrawal of partners from partnership working.

Performance Reward Grant (PRG) Update

The LAA 2006/09 included 12 stretch targets the majority of which ended on 31 March 2009. These targets represented key Lancashire Partnership priorities and also had the potential for Performance Reward Grant (PRG) if specific performance targets were achieved. Guidance indicated that PRG would be paid in 2 instalments.

The Lancashire Partnership agreed a PRG protocol for distribution of the money. (available at www.lancashirepartnership.co.uk)

The first instalment of the PRG has been distributed by Lancashire County Council, as the accountable body and banker of the funds received from Central Government, at the agreed distribution rate of 40% to the Lancashire Partnership and 60% to be divided equally and paid to the District Councils who will receive the money on behalf of the 12 Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs).

The Lancashire Partnership agreed that the Performance Reward Grant should be invested in the future of Lancashire with the over-riding aim of “narrowing the gap”. The use of PRG should follow the golden thread of priorities which set out the outcomes needed to achieve this over-riding aim in:-

- Ambition Lancashire
- The Local Area Agreement
- Sustainable Community Strategies (District level).

Following the recent changes of Government and the current economic situation the LSPs have recently been informed that the second instalment of the PRG will no longer be available. Therefore the Management Group will be required to reflect this in final decision making regarding use of the PRG. Lancaster City Council who will act as accountable body for the LDLSP have confirmed that £478, 384 has been received.

LDLSP Management Group have agreed to use the PRG to commission appropriate interventions that will add value and be delivered in partnership to address the 5 key priorities recently identified for Lancaster District and align with those identified for Lancashire. These are:

Health Inequalities
Climate Change
Social Cohesion
Affordable Housing
Worklessness and the Economy

The recent Partnership event held in May has resulted in a list of suggestions for delivering real change and adding value to current approaches within Lancaster District. These are currently being reviewed by the Thematic groups and a decision for next steps will be taken at the next Management group meeting later this month as set out below.

Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership

What?	When?
Production of Report outlining recommended PRG themes and ideas	By Monday 10 th May 2010
Report sent to LSP Thematic Groups for discussion and recommendation (In advance of Environment Group meeting 17 May)	Week of 10 th May
Recommendations from Theme Groups to LSP Management Group	By 26 th June
LSP Management Group discuss Report and recommendations from LSP Chairs at LSP Management Group meeting	20 th July 20

Future Work

The LSP faces a busy year in 2010/11 with the refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy due and the implementation of the Performance Reward Grant Programme. Alongside this the LSP needs to further strengthen its performance management processes and increase its visibility amongst partners and the community.

Conclusion

The Lancaster District LSP has had a successful year during 2009/10 and the partnership continues to develop and mature. This will set it in good stead for the forthcoming challenges in the years ahead.

Jacqui Thompson
Chair
Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership

Appendix 1

**LDLSP - 2009/10 Year End Position Report
ECONOMY THEMATIC GROUP**

SCS PRIORITY	Comments requested around: <i>How well are outcomes and improvements being delivered?</i> <i>What are the prospects for the future?</i>
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Increase economic opportunity in the whole district, facilitate access to our natural and built environment, and implement an integrated transport solution to bring the major urban centres in the district together.

Actions:

- 1. To develop detailed Investment Strategies for each of the Vision themes.**
- 2. To establish and maintain management and delivery arrangements to ensure economic priorities for the district are achieved.**
- 3. Maximise employment and economic activity in the Knowledge Economy**
- 4. Develop an M6 Heysham Employment Corridor where accessible economic opportunities will bring our communities together.**
- 5. Regenerating and Reinventing Morecambe as an attractive choice to live, work and visit.**
- 6. Place shape Lancaster City and Riverside as a regionally significant visitor and shopping destination a competitive employment destination with an outstanding waterfront.**
- 7. Develop Carnforth as a Northern Gateway to increase economic activity in rural areas and facilitate access to the natural environment.**

How well are the outcomes and improvements being delivered?

• *Summary of performance against priorities:*

All partners have been working hard together in order to progress against the group's priority, despite the difficult external pressures that have been prevalent in the last 12 months. Whilst some projects with the Economy Action Plan are progressing, the effect of the recession on private sector investment and the general shortage of public sector funding does appear to be having a noticeable impact of the level or activity and rate of progress.

A proposal for funding to develop comprehensive a investment strategy has been submitted to NWDA but is unlikely to progress at this time. The NWDA is waiting to see what will emerge from the developing Multi Area Agreement for Mid Lancashire in terms of its role as a potential vehicle for future regeneration funding.

• *Summary of performance against proposed actions:*

There has been some progress across a number of actions.

With regards to Regenerating Morecambe, the West End Masterplan review document has been completed and work is underway on the Morecambe Area Action Plan whilst Urban Splash's revised plans for the Central Promenade are out to consultation. The Co-

op building in Morecambe, part of the M6 Corridor action, has had a tender drawn up and an appointment is imminent. Work in ongoing with proposals concerned with the *Knowledge Economy* including the Lancaster Science Park development, which now has planning permission and has been acquired by the City Council. In terms of *Lancaster City and Riverside*, the Storey Creative Industries Centre has now opened and recently reported an 85% occupancy rate though a mixture of economic conditions and the result of the public inquiry have seriously impacted upon the Castle View (Centros) project.

There have been ongoing difficulties in securing all the necessary funding to progress with certain projects at present, with the Winter Gardens and the Morecambe TH12: A View for Eric projects requiring alternative funding arrangements to move on from their current stalled position. The *Carnforth Gateway Action* is a little behind other Actions although project staff are continuing to work up proposals and seek appropriate funding.

- ***Summary of performance against performance data:***

Although many of the performance indicators are forecasted to be achieved in future years there are already examples where performance is going well, for instance NI 153 '*Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods*' has seen a decrease to a level that means it is already beating the target established and the performance against such indicators has been encouraging. Indeed, the Lancaster District unemployment rate in terms of percentage claimant count proportion is lower than both the Northwest and UK averages. Meanwhile the Storey Creative Industry project has seen New Business Starts Ups ahead of target and allowed the Group to nearly double its target for Number of Jobs Created for 2009/10.

The long term performance trend for Jobs and Businesses will be dependent on some of the larger scale projects that are still in development. The public realm performance will be dependent on securing future funding especially in relation to the *Lancaster City and Riverside* and *Reinventing Morecambe* action points.

- ***Summary of performance against service/delivery improvement (ie. Will our communities notice the difference)***

Within Lancaster City Council the establishment of a Corporate Programme Management Group has provided a mechanism for improved service delivery to ensure standards are met by providing strong corporate governance and the means by which improvement measures can be progressed. This includes a 'Centre of Excellence', which provides a forum for best practice and shared expertise.

More visibly our communities will notice the impact of projects such as the Storey Creative Industries Centre, where the refurbished building shows an obvious transformation in terms of the building interior and the offer the building now has in terms of supporting the local economy, providing opportunities for employment as well as being a focus for the visitor economy. Additionally consultation work on the Squared Routes proposals in Lancaster and on the Area Action Plan in Morecambe have allowed valuable engagement with our communities on shaping the future of the District.

What are the prospects for the future?

- ***Risks / barriers identified and actions taken or planned to address – capacity:***

All partners are aware of the pressures brought about by the current and future cuts in public spending (the rate of which could be determined by the outcome of the forthcoming general election). The result is the action taken by partners to ensure they are fit for purpose and have appropriate staffing levels – this has been achieved through restructures and the consideration of sharing services so that the overall capacity available to meet the priorities and corresponding actions is adequate.

- ***Risks / barriers identified and actions taken or planned to address – partnership working:***

As expressed in terms of capacity, partners are looking for opportunities to work together or change working relationships in order to achieve efficiencies and be better positioned to achieve common targets. A future MAA would provide the potential for opportunities to work with other authorities, whilst a change in the partnership arrangement concerned with the museums in Lancaster could impact upon the Heritage proposals within the group.

Work on a proposed interceptor car park to the south of Lancaster City Centre between Lancaster City Council and the Primary Care Trust is an example of how partners can continue to work at a local level even if sub-regional partnership arrangements may change – for instance the uncertainty over the long term future of Regional Development Agencies.

MAA – potential for opportunities to work with other authorities.

- ***Risks / barriers identified and actions taken or planned to address – sustainability of improvements:***

For improvements to be sustainable the issues of capacity and partnership working need to be addressed. The lack of security over future funding arrangements (and knowledge of which funding bodies may be around) threatens to derail projects which staff have been working hard on to build up. Projects which are at the feasibility stage at present, such as Lancaster Square Routes project could end up producing designs and proposals for development and then not be able to take place due to a funding shortfall. City Council projects are able to take advantage of lessons learnt from similar projects in the past through the LAMP project management methodology (Lancaster's Approach to Managing Projects) – take for instance the Centenary House project within the M6 Employment Corridor action point, where the lessons from the Storey Creative Industries Centre can be used in terms of managed workspace.

- ***Risks / barriers identified and actions taken or planned to address any issues not covered above:***

With a General Election imminent there could be significant changes in terms of the economic agenda, the way regions/sub-regions are funded and the working relationships with which partners engage.

- ***Provide examples of anticipated innovation / excellence:***

Within Lancaster City Council a 'Centre of Excellence' has been established which provides a forum with which to share best practice across services.

LDLSP - 2009/10 Year End Position Report ENVIRONMENT THEMATIC GROUP	
SCS PRIORITY	<p>Comments requested around:</p> <p><i>How well are outcomes and improvements being delivered?</i></p> <p><i>What are the prospects for the future?</i></p>
	<p>Priority 1: To reduce our impact on and adapt to the consequences of climate change</p> <p>Objectives</p> <p>1.1 Make us less vulnerable to the consequences of climate change (including flooding) and ensure that we can respond to major incidents. We will do this by making sure that our LDLSP partners' strategies for emergency response, and the way we manage our services and our flood defences, are in line with current and emerging best practice</p> <p>Action: Implement the relevant recommendations from the Pitt review (Learning Lessons from the 2007 Floods)</p> <p>Comments: Government legislation following the Pitt report has given duties to EA and LA's. Not clear whether LSP adds any value to this process.</p> <p>1.2 Reduce the greenhouse gas emissions we emit, the energy we use and the waste we produce by ensuring that all LDLSP partners have effective and comprehensive strategies in place to reduce the harmful impact of their carbon emissions</p> <p>Action: Review City Council, County Council and regional climate change strategies and existing activities, in order to (1) identify gaps; and (2) reduce impacts</p> <p>Comments: Climate Change co-ordinator post, funded by LSP, has been extremely successful in identifying gaps and even helped set up projects to reduce impacts. The thematic group has made a further bid to fund a new post to work more intensively on (2). The Halton Low Carbon Community initiative is a very exciting project which the co-ordinator has helped get off the ground and the group wishes to help this community group as much as possible.</p> <p>There have also been positive contributions, and there are further plans for the next year, by the AONB Sustainable Development Funds in this area (see 2.1 below)</p> <p>1.3 Achieve new development which is more sustainable and which minimises environmental harm</p> <p>Action: As part of the Council's Local Development Framework, prepare and submit Development Management Policies DPD which will include robust and ambitious policies on minimising the impacts of new development on climate change</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>Most of the work in this area is a statutory duty of the City Council. The ETG can add value by acting as a sounding board to ensure that policies being developed comply with this objective.</p>

Priority 2: Protect and improve air, water and land quality and use resources sustainably with due regard to the interests of the wider community and the environment

Objectives

2.1 Improve the way in which we manage our rural landscapes by caring for our rural landscapes in a more sustainable way

Action: Review the Management Plans for the Arnsdale Silverdale and Forest of Bowland Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and incorporate Strategic Environmental Assessment into the review process;

Comments:

At its simplest this objective was actually a duty of the City and County Councils – the plan reviews had to be put to the Secretary of State by April 2009 and they were legally obliged to include an SEA. Both have been approved and commended by Natural England, the overseeing body for AONB. Where the LSP has added value is that, as there is no duty on the LA's to implement the plans, only a "duty to regard", the LSP grants that have added to the AONB Sustainable Development Funds have allowed a wide range of work to be undertaken, involving a much wider group of partners than the LSP normally does – school solar panels, energy reduction schemes in community buildings, bee breeding and training centre, craft apprenticeships, orchard renewal and much more (see project report for full details)

2.2 Improve air quality and reduce air pollution by ensuring that air quality management strategies are in place in the district where needed

Actions:

a. Adopt and implement the draft Lancaster Air Quality Action Plan and monitor its progress to ensure effective implementation

Comments:

Most of the air quality improvements depend on traffic reduction in the City Centre. Traffic in the City centre was the subject of the Faber-Maunsell study and it will be a test of the effectiveness of the LSP process to reconcile the aspirations of the Economy TG and the Environment one. So far joint working between groups has been very patchy.

b. Prepare and adopt other Air Quality Action Plans as needed

Comments:

Plans for Carnforth and Galgate are all actively underway. They are subject to community consultation and, to date, the ETG has not added much to the process, apart from some pressure to move the work on.

c. Reviewing Progress of Air Quality Action Plans

Comments:

Slow (see above)

2.3 Reduce the impact of waste on the environment by promoting waste reduction, re-using waste, recycling and composting

Action: Implement the Lancashire Waste Strategy in the district and monitor its effectiveness.

Comments:

Free recycling collections at schools has had a good take-up. We do not yet have any good idea as to how to improve the amount of recycling in the district. The ETG has put forward a bid to finance a study on the barriers to recycling. With collection the duty of the City, disposal the duty of the County and projects and schemes being undertaken by many community groups this is clearly an area that needs oversight to avoid duplication and to identify gaps. This role may be taken by the ETG, but may be better left to e.g. the Sustainability Partnership.

Priority 3: Promote and enhance sustainable forms of transport and reduce private car use in urban areas throughout the district

Objectives

3.1 Reduce vehicle traffic and deliver better public transport and cycling and walking routes

Action: Prepare a sustainable Action Plan to enable delivery of key measures proposed in the Faber Maunsell Transport Study;

Comments:

See 1.3 and 2.2a

3.2 Increase the number of people cycling in the district by implementing the Cycling Demonstration Town project

Action: Look at areas where progress is slow in implementing the CDT project and take appropriate action with key stakeholders, whose greater commitment would have clear benefits.

Comments:

The CDT project is winding down. The thematic group's task for 2010/11 is to keep the momentum going.

3.3 Reduce commuting and business travel by car by ensuring that a significant number of major employers have effective travel plans in place

Actions:

a. Make an assessment of effective participation in Travel Plans by both employers and employees

Comments:

No real progress. Although most of the larger employers in the district acknowledge the benefits of travel plans, they are never a high enough priority to be put into place without outside help. So far funding for a "travel plan co-ordinator" has not been found.

b. Increase the number of employers adopting and implementing effective Travel Plans

Comments:

See 3.3a

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LDLSP - 2009/10 Year End Position Report EDUCATION, SKILLS & OPPORTUNITIES THEMATIC GROUP	
SCS PRIORITY	Comments requested around: <i>How well are outcomes and improvements being delivered?</i> <i>What are the prospects for the future?</i>
	<p>PLEASE INSERT YOUR THEME GROUP PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS AS SET OUT IN THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY</p> <p>Priority 1: Increase the provision and opportunities for all people to self develop</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase family learning opportunities through engaging schools and communities. 2. Increase the numbers of people returning to learning. 3. Increase provision and innovatory opportunities for older people as learners and as resources for intergenerational learning. 4. Improve the employability and work-related skills of the whole community to improve life chances. 5. Increase the working age population qualified to at least Level 2 (equivalent to at least 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C) or higher 6. Increase the working age population qualified to at least level 4 (Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma, University Degree) or higher. <p>Priority 2: Engage NEETS young people and those who are workless on a long term basis in developing work related life skills</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce the number of working age people claiming out of work benefits. 2. Reduce number of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET). <p>How well are the outcomes and improvements being delivered?</p> <p>Levels of activity in taking forward identified actions have been inconsistent, especially under Priority 1 where several proposed actions related to learning and skills have not been taken forward for a variety of reasons or are in process of being developed. However, it should be emphasised that this does not mean that there has been no activity in these areas - partners have been active in delivering appropriate services – but it is the specific additional actions identified in the ESO Action Plan which did not progress during the year.</p> <p>The key project under Priority 2, which was awarded almost £200,000 of LSP funding over two years, is the Lancaster & Morecambe Worklessness Pilot Project. The key aim of the project is to support residents of target communities who are on out of work benefits along the path to employment. Clients supported under the project tend to be referred in through housing-related routes, are among the hardest-to-reach and tend not to engage, or be engaged by, mainstream services. Consequently, an approach is needed which addresses a wide variety of issues and provides long term support including in-work support. To the end of March 2010, the project had achieved many of its first year targets in engaging clients and securing work, volunteering or work placements for them. Recognising the wider impact of the project, it has been identified as cross cutting with other Thematic Groups and especially the Health</p>

& Wellbeing Thematic Group.

Other work which has been taken forward under Priority 2 has been the establishment of the Employment & Skills Work Group with the key task to prepare an Employment & Skills Plan for the District. Taking this work forward has been dependent on staff capacity in partner organisations and, whilst good progress has been made, it has not been completed within the original timescales set. Partly, this has been affected by the need to respond to new initiatives such as the Future Jobs Fund (see below) which have needed to take precedence. However, this work will continue to be taken forward and should provide the basis to identify future actions in this area and link to the Work & Skills Plan to be prepared at Mid-Lancashire MAA level.

It is also relevant to note that progress in implementing the Future Jobs Fund has been reported in to the ESO Thematic Group regularly and that several members of the Group have been directly involved in creating new jobs, supported under the Fund, primarily for unemployed 18-24 year olds.

With regard to 16 to 18 year olds not in education, training or employment (NEET), a NEET strategy has been drawn up by the Transition Group of the LEAD Group and this will be considered by the ESO Thematic Group during 2010/11.

Whilst the overall impact of the projects being implemented will not be obvious in terms of the high level indicators, such as the proportion of people on out of work benefits, the fact that they are addressing some of the most deep rooted issues means that they will have a very significant impact on the lives of the individuals and families supported.

What are the prospects for the future?

The ESO Thematic Group has been subject to a number of changes during the year in terms of the individual representatives, the organisations represented and the chair/administration of the Group. As a consequence, there have been some issues around continuity, understanding of processes and lead organisation responsibilities (as identified in the action plan) and performance monitoring. Some guidance on these matters will be required from the LSP Manager but the Group will need to refresh the action plan during the early part of the coming year, identifying those actions which will no longer be taken forward, renewing lead organisation commitments to those that can be taken forward and any new proposals to address the two core priorities. It is anticipated that this will, in part, be informed by the work of the Employment & Skills Work Group and the NEET strategy. There is also a need to formalise performance management processes and ensure these are aligned with LDLSP reporting requirements.

Scope remains to develop partnership working but the relationships developed through the Group and the Work Group augur well for some positive steps to be taken especially in the areas of outreach work and employer engagement. As noted above, the key project reporting through the ESO Thematic Group is the Lancaster & Morecambe Worklessness Pilot Project which has performed well to date and potentially provides a basis for the further development of very targeted work, in terms of individuals and communities, which is capable of addressing issues across several Thematic Groups.

LDLSP - 2009/10 Year End Position Report HEALTH AND WELLBEING THEMATIC GROUP

SCS PRIORITY	Comments requested around: <i>How well are outcomes and improvements being delivered?</i> <i>What are the prospects for the future?</i>
	<p>Priority 1: Reduce health and wellbeing inequalities. 1. Reduce the difference in life expectancy between the best and worst areas in the Lancaster district.</p> <p>Priority 2: Reduce premature deaths attributed to lifestyle choices. 1. Reduce the number of people dying below the age of 75 from circulatory disease and cancer.</p> <p>Priority 3: Reduce alcohol related harm 1. Increase alcohol awareness within the district 2. Reduce the rate of alcohol related crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour. 3. Reduce the level of alcohol related health problems, injuries and accidents. 4. Work with local organisations and the business community to reduce economic and financial costs caused by alcohol misuse.</p> <p>Priority 4: Increase the proportion of people who have a decent, affordable, warm, safe home 1. To balance the housing market to meet customer needs focusing on the supply of good quality affordable housing and improving the condition of accommodation across the district. 2. Reduce the number of households living in fuel poverty. 3. Prevent homelessness, repeat homelessness, and the need to use temporary and emergency accommodation by improving access to advice and support.</p> <p>Priority 5: Increase the proportion of people who can access appropriate finances, resources and advice in order to meet their essential needs. 1. Increase awareness of advice and support services which provide access to finances and resources.</p> <p>How well are the outcomes and improvements being delivered?</p> <p>Priority 1</p> <p>The HWTG are focused on the determinants of health through working with the PCT strategic plan, public health work programme and work of partners on economic, housing, environmental and social issues. A focus on winter warmth and reduction of seasonal deaths through the winter warmth campaign and the work of the FIG work group have been key pieces of work this year.</p> <p>Health Impact Assessment (HIA) was identified as a major tool within the action plan to identify the potential impact of organisational policy and planning decisions on the health of Lancaster District. A training event took place on the 23rd March with people from a range of organisations attending. Feedback has been very positive and we are awaiting the evaluation. Those trained are looking to develop an action learning set to take forward HIA within Lancaster District..</p> <p>Mental health promotion i.e. promoting and improving mental health and well being has been identified as a key issue and the social prescribing scheme has been commissioned and has been well received. The funding from the LSP has resulted in other funding streams being accessed and it is expected that this will lead to a sustainable programme for the future.</p>

Priority 2

Premature death from cardiovascular disease and cancer account for the majority of premature deaths, followed by respiratory and accidents. Smoking is a key factor and tobacco use is being addressed through links with the Tobacco Free Lancashire group with a focus on preventing uptake, support for smokers to quit and lobbying for legislative change. The North Lancs Stop Smoking Service has recently opened a town centre shop with weekend and evening opening hours to provide an alternative venue for accessing the service. Current indications are that this has been well received. The Quit bus also visited Morecambe during the recent No Smoking Day Campaign and again proved to be a popular attraction for smokers wishing to quit. The opportunity for spirometer testing also proved valuable with several individuals being identified with undiagnosed COPD. Alcohol please see below.

Physical Activity: An Exercise Referral Scheme has been commissioned by Public Health and is designed to offer General Practice a referral mechanism into safe and supportive exercise programmes for patients who are at risk of ill health. Lancaster City Council are the provider. Participants referred to the scheme are offered subsidised/free activities for 12 to 14 weeks. Patients can be referred for a whole host of reasons, for example high blood pressure, high cholesterol level, overweight, joint problems, poor mental health. An innovative way to deliver health checks

'A Men's Health Improvement bid' has received funding from the LSP and will be implemented in Spring 2010. This is based on evidence that men do not routinely attend for health checks and often present late with potential life threatening conditions. The health checks will be delivered within those places where men routinely live their lives e.g. workplaces, Morecambe Football club, pubs, Job Centres etc.

A Fuel Poverty and Health workshop was held earlier this year in order to facilitate a partnership approach to the issue and a strategy is currently under development to ensure sustainable action over the next few years. The Winter Warmth campaign was again rolled out this year with 500 bags being provided to vulnerable individuals and families across Lancaster District.

Priority 3

Alcohol is a key priority at a District, County, Regional and National level. The district alcohol harm reduction partnership is now meeting bi-monthly and linking into the North Lancashire Alcohol Harm Reduction group. The new alcohol services provider J2R (journey to recovery) has begun work in the district and Test purchasing operations are continuing. Trading standards are providing age check / due diligence training pack as a resource to traders and proxy sales issues were highlighted with a recent case which received publicity with Radio Lancashire. Northern beat (school drama project) is being repeated again this year.

Test purchasing operations have been funded via HWB with some failures not receiving the expected penalties from the licensing committee. The arrest referral (custody suite) project has been extended for another 12 months.

Alcohol specific and alcohol attributable hospital admissions for both men and women, and hospital admissions for alcohol related harm (NI39), are all on the red traffic light (ie significantly worse than the England average).

Red lights also apply to working age claimants of incapacity benefits, binge drinking, and % of employees in bars.

Green lights (significantly better than the England average) apply to alcohol-related recorded crime, and alcohol-related violent crimes.

Priority 4

Agreements have been made to assist in making new units available, reduction in the amount of temporary accommodation, on target to reduce annual acceptances for homelessness, 26 people have been assisted by the sanctuary scheme who were affected by Domestic violence, homeless prevention contract met targets for prevention cases, partnership work with CAB on repossession cases and use of mortgage rescue scheme and NLPCT organised a fuel poverty event with work ongoing to progress the issue.

NI156 – number of temporary accommodation units held within the district has been reduced achieving the DCLG target ahead of schedule.

NI155 – failing on the number of affordable home delivered mainly due to the downturn in housing market.

NI 187

Baseline (Lancs): SAP<35 - 6.08% SAP>65 – 34.58% (2008/09)

09/10 target (Lancs): SAP<35 - 5.83% SAP>65 – 35.58%

10/11 target: SAP<35 - 5.58% SAP>65 – 36.58%

Priority 5

The financial inclusion group (FIG) has enabled the issue of financial inclusion to remain a priority amongst local organisations. There are 67 registered FIG members from organisations working directly in the Lancaster district. The group identifies potential gaps in advice and support services and through networking find a way to improve/change the referral systems to agencies or by changing/adapting projects.

Housing stock information levels have been directly shared amongst the group and scam alerts have been circulated to members. Over 17 scam alerts have been sent throughout the Lancaster district with estimates that each alert reaches approximately 14,000 end users. The bureau is receiving many more direct referrals from agencies. Frontline staff have received financial inclusion training. Financial capability education is part of a trial for people attending the bureau for financial advisor assistance.

The stay warm project focussed on vulnerable members of the urban and rural community. The rural community have benefited from targeted days looking at financial inclusion, debt and staying warm.

Joint networking events have been planned to target hard to reach groups. More people have been referred for financial advice and benefits checks with over 300 people benefitting directly from direct education and information regarding financial issues.

What are the prospects for the future?

Priority 1&2

Achieving the targets in the Health and wellbeing theme will continue to be challenging, and risks to delivery are i.e.

- **The impact of the recession** on health related behaviour and mental wellbeing.
- **Reduction in funding levels and / or provision of resources** leading to all public sector partners potentially leading to cuts in front line services:
- **Lack of ability to monitor and manage performance without timely and district level data: e.g.** The baseline for NI124 was set using data from the Healthcare Commission survey in 2008/09. No comparable data has been collected since the baseline was established and it was agreed to use proxy data to measure progress for NI 124 (elective and unscheduled care; personal care plans in place.
- There is a continued risk of failing to achieve 4 week quit targets (NI 123)

Work around fuel poverty, alcohol and smoking will continue to contribute to this agenda and work over the next 12 months needs to be consolidated.

Further Health Impact Assessment training has become available through North West funding for the Pan Lancashire area and will provide an opportunity for further training and consolidation.

Priority 3

The Lancaster Alcohol Harm Reduction Partnership is reviewing the existing action plan (2007-10) and in the process of updating it.

Alcohol related campaigns are being pulled together by a North Lancs working group into a Campaign Programme

The arrest referral (custody suite) project has been extended for another 12 months. Review of alcohol service pathways to ensure greater in reach and availability to key groups.

An awareness session for magistrates and members is being planned.

Support of the minimum pricing.

Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership

Need to consolidate test purchasing and licensing work.

NI 39 alcohol hospital admissions target which is related to many conditions that are not specific to alcohol but where alcohol is a contributory factor is at risk of missing target.

Priority 4

Talks opening with house builders again on Luneside West where affordable housing element may be possible.

Housing Strategy to be refreshed.

New housing strategy officer in post from mid February and New housing and communities planning officer in post mid February.

Move to a housing options service with choice based lettings.

Supporting bids to Lancashire SP around teenage pregnancy and DV.

Homeless forum undertaking work the issue of living in tents in district.

Principal homeless officer leaving – recruitment in progress.

Develop a comprehensive Fuel poverty action plan for the Lancaster district in line with Blackpool Wyre and Fylde. This will align appropriate action across the District and link into the Lancashire wide work being developed. Targeting of energy efficiency measures at those of greatest risk of winter death and fuel poverty is one of the most effective ways of preventing excess winter deaths and the partnership and developing this work will be a key focus for the next year.

Priority 5

The plan is to continue to raise the profile of financial capability work in the district and strengthen the remit of the group to identify and tackle gaps in local provision. This will be followed by the development of effective projects to fill the gaps. Collaborative working, information sharing and effective referrals between agencies will continue to be encouraged. FIG will continue to meet regularly to share information, good practice and identify changing trends in requirement as a result of changes in economic trends.

LDLSP - 2009/10 Year End Position Report SAFETY THEMATIC GROUP	
SCS PRIORITY	Comments requested around: <i>How well are outcomes and improvements being delivered?</i> <i>What are the prospects for the future?</i>
	<p>PLEASE INSERT YOUR THEME GROUP PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS AS SET OUT IN THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY</p> <p>How well are the outcomes and improvements being delivered?</p> <p>The Performance Management report shows the following to Quarter 3.</p> <p>Priority 1 – Reduce crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>During 2009/10 there were no targets set for criminal damage. However, the CSP focused on reducing the rate of offences recorded within the district. In 2009/10 damage had reduced throughout the district by 16% with 485 fewer crimes when compared with the previous year.</p> <p>Targets are not available for; perception of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem, perception of antisocial behaviour, dealing with local concerns about antisocial behaviour, reoffending rate of PPOs, adult reoffending rates (data only available at Lancashire level), rates of proven reoffending by young people.</p> <p>Progress against target against assault with less serious injury is deteriorating. The indicator is a two year target for a reduction of 4% by end 2010/11. The district missed the 2009/10 milestone of a 2% reduction by 14%, 128 crimes. This has been discussed in the CSP and the Police are leading a group to take action against this. The Safer Lancashire Board has issued improvement targets to the CSP.</p> <p>Progress against target on serious acquisitive crime stays the same. The indicator for serious acquisitive crime is a 3 year target for a reduction of 3% by end 2010/11. Lancaster just missed the 2009/10 milestone of 1%, in total 11 crimes. The Safer Lancashire Board has issued improvement targets to the CSP.</p> <p><i>Action - Write develop and implement a targeted action plan around serious acquisitive crime to respond with links to substance misuse and including making properties harder for thieves to target. This has not yet been started. As Serious Acquisitive Crime has remained the same other priorities have taken precedence within the CSP although the Integrated Offender Management Initiative as outlined below will seek to address this target.</i></p> <p><i>Write, implement and monitor targeted action plan to reduce criminal</i></p>

damage including anti social behaviour.

Action - Ensure antisocial behaviour actions are included in the criminal damage action plan. As good progress has been made against criminal damage targets the criminal damage action plan has not been necessary. There is a need to develop minimum standards on antisocial behaviour. A Service Level Agreement is to be developed to target the PCSOs into community safety work, in particular against failing targets. Incidences of ASB are dealt with by the Maps Joint Tasking Group. Clean Sweeps remain to improve street cleanliness which can lead to ASB. The Sports and Arts Project continues to divert young people from crime and disorder.

Action - Develop an approach to community engagement including marketing and communications plan. Community engagement work is being undertaken at LSP level and a gaps analysis is being developed at CSP level. A community engagement pilot project in Skerton is being developed. Highly visible community payback projects continue to be delivered in the community as part of the "Justice Seen Justice Done" initiative

Action - Continue to develop effective multi agency case management and monitoring. Continue to provide support network (Tower). The PPO Working Group has been subsumed under the Integrated Offender Management working group. An Integrated Offender Management Steering group has been established with representation from Probation, Police, YOT and Addaction. This has been developed to ensure consistency with the Lancashire IOM Strategy in respect of which a performance framework is still being developed. It is envisaged that this is the vehicle through which the CSP will primarily meet its new statutory duty to reduce reoffending. It will also contribute towards progress in relation to the target of reducing serious acquisitive crime

Action - Implement the relevant sections of the Alcohol Harm Strategy. Ensure all relevant actions are linked to the domestic abuse strategy. The Alcohol Harm Strategy is being revised alongside the Lancashire Alcohol Strategy. Actions are being linked to domestic violence.

Priority 2 – Improve Lancaster as a safe place to live, work and travel.

There have been Improvements against the target on fire safety. Deaths from fire injury in 2009/10 were lower with a 50% reduction (1 less incident). The number of primary fires and related fatalities and non-fatal casualties (excluding precautionary checks) were also lower with a 10% reduction on the previous year.

The number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents was lower in 2009/10 with a reduction of 17%, 14 less incidents. Accidents involving powered two wheelers were also lower, 9 less incidents.

Targets are not available for alcohol related hospital admissions.

Action - Establish a small working group to undertake a needs assessment of all accidents in the Lancaster district. Research interventions around best practice. Devise an appropriate action plan based on social marketing principles. The Action Plan is being developed.

Action - Implement the LFRS Lancaster District plan. This is being developed.

Action - Develop an approach to community engagement including marketing and communications plan. Identify key issues around perception of safety. See update under Priority 1 above.

Action - Continue to provide speed enforcement and drink driving. The Police continue to provide enforcement.

Priority 3 – Reduce the harm caused by drug misuse.

There is an expectation that we will miss the target by 4.8%. Due to the time lag in receiving stats this data reflects the situation in June 2009. This is a county wide target and a way forward is being discussed at county level.

Targets are not available for young people taking drugs or being drunk and perception of drug use drug dealing as a problem.

Action - Support LDAAT¹/Joint Commissioning group to provide positive effective treatment. The Joint Commissioning Group has recommissioned the drug and alcohol services for the north. There will be the opportunity for the partnership to submit bids to the JCG for relevant activities over the next 12 months.

Action - Continue to provide the Tower Project to provide substance misuse support to offenders. This project works with drug misusing offenders to help them access employment, housing, etc, so directing them away from drug misuse. This project continues to be provided.

Action - Continue to work in a multi-agency arena to target work around identification of vulnerable adults and young people and links to PPO²s. A PPO Steering Group and working group deal with both adult and young offenders under the PPO remit.

Action - Ensure the work of the CSP links to diversionary tactics to vulnerable young people. The work of the CSP does link to diversionary tactics such as the Sports and Arts Project.

Priority 4 – Reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse.

There has been deterioration against targets on domestic violence

assaults but repeat incidences and achieving successful outcomes at court remain the same.

Action - Review and implement the action plan in the domestic abuse strategy.

Action - Strengthen provision to all victims of domestic abuse with independent support services.

Action - Reduce the attrition rate. Increase the number of cases brought against perpetrators by achieving successful outcomes at court.

. (Helene, I'm not sure how far the DV group have got with these actions. Could you add an update, thanks Michelle

What are the prospects for the future?

- *Risks / barriers identified and actions taken or planned to address – capacity:*

There are risks to capacity of key projects dependent on funding.

- *Risks / barriers identified and actions taken or planned to address – partnership working:*

It has been agreed to review the membership of the Group and the CSP as a whole to ensure relevant organisations are included.

- *Risks / barriers identified and actions taken or planned to address – sustainability of improvements:*

CDRP Reform Act action plan is being developed by a project management approach to improve the partnership's management practices by re-structures, improving community engagement, information sharing, etc.

- *Risks / barriers identified and actions taken or planned to address any issues not covered above:*

None

- *Provide examples of anticipated innovation / excellence:*

LDLSP - 2009/10 Year End Position Report VALUING PEOPLE THEMATIC GROUP	
SCS PRIORITY	Comments requested around: <i>How well are outcomes and improvements being delivered?</i> <i>What are the prospects for the future?</i>
	<p>PLEASE INSERT YOUR THEME GROUP PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS AS SET OUT IN THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY</p> <p>How well are the outcomes and improvements being delivered?</p> <p>Priority 1: Improve community cohesion, a sense of belonging and taking part by promoting positive relationships between the diverse and emerging communities and groups in the Lancaster District</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve Lancaster district as a place that celebrates diversity, welcomes newcomers and promotes positive relationships between the districts diverse communities and groups. 2. Reduce the harm caused by prejudice and discrimination <p>Priority 2: Increase the resources available to the voluntary, community and faith sector in order to strengthen community engagement and enable the sector to act as advocates for and service providers to our local communities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure that resources are focused on areas of the voluntary, community and faith sector that need the support <p>Priority 3: Enable older people within the Lancaster District to contribute to all aspects of life, both economic and social, and to receive support when needed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce feelings of isolation and increase older people's engagement in community life. 2. Increase the financial security of older and vulnerable people 3. Increase the number of older and vulnerable people remaining in paid employment 4. Promote a culture of prevention and early intervention during the strategic planning of services for older and vulnerable people 5. Reduce the number of older and vulnerable people moving into long term residential care by ensuring that those people who plan services for them ensure that help and advice is provided early. <p>Priority 4: Increase effective support and guidance for all carers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the number of carers receiving guidance and support in the district

Priority 1

Building cohesive communities is critical to the quality of life for local people. It brings huge benefits by creating a society in which people from different backgrounds can live and work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding.

Cohesive communities are communities which are better able to tackle common problems together, provide mutual support to each other and work together for a positive future.

A Lancaster District Community leaders group has been established which includes formal and informal representatives from Chinese, Polish, Jewish, Hindu Muslim, Traveller, Christian and Huaxian communities. The group provides the opportunities for representatives to meet with other community leaders such as the Police, city and county councils.

The group meets every three months to share cultural knowledge and solve community problems.

The district also has representation on the Lancashire Cohesion Partnership which has won a national beacon status award for its work.

Cohesion has been identified by the LDLSP as one of its big ticket issues.

In Morecambe a fortnightly Drop-in Service offers help and advice to the Polish community, helping them to fully integrate into the local community. A bilingual newsletter was first published in June. There are new people visiting each session for assistance and assistance is also offered with ongoing issues.

The Translation and Interpretation Service receives requests for help. A bi-lingual community interpreter is employed on a casual basis at present.

A Disability Arts Festival took place on the last week of August and ran through until 6th September. The festival was received well and attracted audiences of around 3,000 across Lancaster District. The festival attracted nationally respected disabled Practitioners to the district which provided an opportunity to explore the concept of disability arts.

Priority 2

The voluntary, community and faith sector has an important role in actively engaging and serving communities and citizens. The sector brings value through its diversity, in representing the interests of marginalised groups, shaping and delivering services, helping build strong and active communities and building social enterprise. There are over 300 voluntary sector groups active within the district

LDLSP Community Grants allow grassroots community groups to access funding for small amounts of money that would otherwise be unavailable to them. The Grant pot totalled £30,000 and received applications totalling £100,819. The highest percentage of priorities identified came under Valuing People, Health and Wellbeing and Education, Skills & Opportunity, followed closely by Environment.

Pound for pound small grants provided to small voluntary led groups provide tremendous value for money both in terms of volunteer input but also in the harder to measure promotion of social capital. Relatively small amounts of funding to these local groups can encourage community engagement, increase and promote volunteering opportunities and promote self help. In terms of community engagement, it is often these voluntary led groups which provide the potential to access points into these communities where people are reluctant to engage with public institutions.

A study of Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations in the District and the production of a report “**The Sector Counts**”. organisations were identified in the District providing an estimated equivalent full-time jobs and contributing over £4,200,000 of volunteer hours to our community every year. In current economic climate it is important to be aware of the value – financial and otherwise that the voluntary sector brings to our community.

Priority 3

The number of older people in Lancaster District is increasing, particularly those living into advanced old age.

The population of older people aged between 50-64 is predicted to grow by 20% by 2020, the numbers of those aged between 65-79 is set to rise by 32.9% by 2020 and the numbers of those aged over 80 is due to rise by 24.3% to 8,700.

Older people's individual circumstances vary greatly and are influenced by factors such as health, income, gender, social integration, work history, child-rearing and caring history, location and housing conditions. Some older people will enjoy good health and high levels of independence before an acute health problem leads to sudden decline. Others will suffer the steady onset of chronic health problems that reduce their quality of life for much of their old age. Whatever their circumstances, all older people deserve economic, physical and social wellbeing at levels which help them remain secure, active and contributing members of community life.

The number of 'younger' older people is also increasing as people retire earlier and live longer. This means that most older people will be as concerned as the rest of the population about things like lifestyle expectations, leisure opportunities, transport, road safety, crime and disorder and employment opportunities. With the growing emphasis on

improving health and tackling health inequalities, we can expect a growing number of people over 65 who will be fit, active and looking to

play a full part in society.

A District Older People's Strategy has been completed in draft form and has been shared with relevant partners and stakeholders for consultation.

We have also produced a shorter easy read summary of the strategy to use as a consultation tool whilst attempting to engage with the wider public about what they would like to see in regard to the older peoples' agenda within the Lancaster District.

This is hopefully going to lay the foundations of a robust partnership between Lancashire County Council, Lancaster City Council and North Lancashire Primary Care Trust along with representatives of the third sector and older people's groups.

Priority 4 Support for Carers

The 2001 census recorded that over 13,600 people in the district were providing some unpaid care to family members, friends or others because of long term physical or mental health or disability or problems relating to old age with 2950 carers providing unpaid care of 50 or more hours a week.

Support for carers is a key part of support for vulnerable people. Support for carers also enables carers to continue with their lives, families, work and contribution to their community.

This aspect of the group's work has yet to be developed

What are the prospects for the future?

Much more information on the projects developed by the Valuing People Group are contained in the end of year progress reports.

The Valuing People Group has 4 priorities identified. As such representation on the Group is in the main made up of organisations who have a particular interest in one of the priorities. It is with regret that the group has not yet been able to develop a coherent action plan for its carers priority. The group has struggled to identify its purpose as a 'group'.

It is beginning to address this situation. A special away day has been held to consider these issues and build effective networks between partners. A further event is being planned. All parties will be contributing.

It is recognised that a further stakeholder exercise is necessary to determine a wider representation of partners.

Each meeting of the group now begins with a presentation by a member describing the work done by the organisation. The group have also recognised that the scheduled refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy offers an opportunity to refine and further articulate the priorities of the Group.

Notwithstanding the above the projects being delivered by partners has and is making a significant contribution to the quality of life for many people who live, work and visit the district.