

*This bulletin is produced by the Voice for the VCS Project which is a project of Derbyshire's Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Consortium, 3D, and is supported by Big Lottery Funding.*

Website: [www.3dsupport.org.uk/Voice\\_Project](http://www.3dsupport.org.uk/Voice_Project) Email: [c.thorner@derbysrcc.org.uk](mailto:c.thorner@derbysrcc.org.uk)

Tel: 07827 243800

## Editor's note

**Happy New Year and welcome to Issue 6** of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) bulletin produced by and specifically for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Derbyshire. As a sector we are gaining more and more recognition for the role we play in delivering services in local areas. Central government is asking Local Authorities to reflect this by involving the sector in policy making and strategic planning. The Local Area Agreement is a vehicle for us to do this.

In the county it is infrastructure agencies, like CVSs, that take on this representational role. This bulletin aims to keep you informed of developments, to make a link between their work and yours. If you would like to receive previous issues or have any other questions, don't hesitate to contact me on the email address or phone number above.

**Claire Thorner,**  
Voice for the VCS Project Officer.

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## Bringing People Together Fund

At the end of last year Voice joined forces with Rural Action Derbyshire to bring together frontline groups from across the county to comment on the county council's draft Community Cohesion Strategy. You can download a report of the event from [www.3dsupport.org.uk/Voice\\_Project/Events](http://www.3dsupport.org.uk/Voice_Project/Events)

Sarah Eaton from DCC's policy team joined us to talk about the strategy with news of a forthcoming fund for voluntary sector activity which promotes community cohesion. **Application forms for the fund** are now available to download from [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/partnershipforum](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/partnershipforum) or contact Louise Collins on 01629 538254 or by email on [louise.collins@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:louise.collins@derbyshire.gov.uk)

- **Grants of £200 to £2000** are available to anyone from Derbyshire with an idea for activity that brings together residents from your community from different backgrounds.
- The **Derbyshire Partnership Forum (DPF)** are looking for activities which,
  - Encourage the participation and engagement of local people
  - Encourage people from different backgrounds to work together to achieve a common goal
  - Improve understanding about people from different backgrounds
  - Integrate newcomers to an area into the local community.
- Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis **until June 2010**. A panel will meet at the end of February, March, May and July 2010 to consider applications against their criteria.
- **Payment will be made in advance** of the activity and a basic monitoring form will need to be returned once the activity is completed.

More details, including areas being targeted and further criteria can be found on Voice and the DPF websites.

## How do we know if the LAA is working?

**The Local Area Agreement (LAA)** has 35 indicators chosen from a National menu to reflect the counties priorities. The Derbyshire Partnership Forum's success in delivering action plans to address those priorities will be measured by targets agreed against these National indicators (NIs) Responsibility for overseeing these action plans sits with different thematic partnerships, or sub-groups. Your organisation is represented at these groups. It's a good idea to think how your organisation might also be helping to deliver the NIs.

### Transformational Partnership

Representative – Sylvia Green, DRCC. Contact [s.green@derbysrcc.org.uk](mailto:s.green@derbysrcc.org.uk) or phone 01629 821927

No direct responsibility for any indicators but must ensure that all of its work has an impact on some of the 35.

### Health and Wellbeing Partnership

New representative – David Timcke, NDVA

Contact: [ndvadavid@btconnect.com](mailto:ndvadavid@btconnect.com)

or phone 01246 555908

NI 135 Carers receiving needs assessments  
 NI 146 Adults with learning disabilities in employment  
 NI 130 Social care clients receiving self directed support  
 NI 120 All age all cause mortality rate  
 NI 129 End of life care – access to appropriate care enabling people to choose to die at home  
 NI 142 Number of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living

### Safer Communities Board

Representative – Lynn Allison, Amber Valley CVS.

Contact: [lynn@avcvs.org](mailto:lynn@avcvs.org) or phone 01773 512076

NI 20 Assault with Injury Crime Rate  
 NI 32 Repeat Incidents of Domestic Violence  
 NI 16 Serious Acquisitive Crime Rate  
 NI 18 Adult re-offending rates for those under probation supervision  
 NI 49 Number of primary fires and related fatalities and non-fatal casualties (excluding precautionary checks)  
 NI 39 Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates  
 NI 27 Understanding of local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police  
 NI 47 People killed or seriously injured in road traffic

### Culture Board

Representative – Lorna Wallace, Bolsover CVP.

Contact: [lorna@bolsovercyp.org.uk](mailto:lorna@bolsovercyp.org.uk)

or phone 01623 747147

NI 7 Environment for a thriving third sector

NI 8 Adult participation in sport

NI 9 Use of public libraries

### Sustainable Communities Board

Representative – Pete Edwards, Erewash CVS.

Contact: [ceoerewashcvs@googlemail.com](mailto:ceoerewashcvs@googlemail.com)

or phone 0115 9466740

This partnership also has sub-groups. The VCS are also represented at the Climate Change group by [j.dugdale@derbysrcc.org.uk](mailto:j.dugdale@derbysrcc.org.uk) (Joe) and the Transport group by [s.abberley@derbysrcc.org.uk](mailto:s.abberley@derbysrcc.org.uk) (Sandie) and the Employment & Skills group by Lisa [lisa.vernon@consortium.org.uk](mailto:lisa.vernon@consortium.org.uk) and by Sue Sheldon [socialenterprise@ageconcernderbyshire.org.uk](mailto:socialenterprise@ageconcernderbyshire.org.uk)

at the Economic Partnership

NI 153 Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods

NI 169 Non-principal roads where maintenance should be considered

NI 175 Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling

NI 195 Improved street and environmental (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus, and fly posting)

NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered

NI 188 Adapting to climate change

NI 186 Per capita CO2 emissions in Local Authority area

NI 193 Municipal Waste land-filled

NI 172 VAT registered businesses in the area showing growth

### Children's Trust

Representative – Jo Smith, South Derbyshire CVS.

Contact: [JoSmith@sdcvs.org.uk](mailto:JoSmith@sdcvs.org.uk)

or phone 01283 219761

NI 110 Young peoples participation in positive activities

NI 56 Obesity among primary school children in Year 6

NI 117 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment

NI 54 Services for disabled children

NI 53 Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6–8 weeks from birth

NI 69 Children who have experienced bullying

NI 163 Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher

## What have National Indicators got to do with the VCS?

### Voice visited Home-Start High Peak to find out.

Home-Start High Peak is a successful, autonomous local charity which is affiliated to Home-Start UK. It has been operating since 2004. Last year it had an annual turnover of £109,581 of which 67% came from statutory partners. The rest was raised through various local and national grant applications and awards. Home-Start offers a unique service supporting families under stress to give their children the best possible start in life. Carefully selected volunteers receive comprehensive training before visiting families in their own homes for a few hours per week. Their listening ear, friendship and practical help enables families to build their confidence, develop new skills and enjoy family life. The main reasons that families contact Home-Start are isolation, the need to access local services and emotional health issues. It is sometimes easier for families to accept support from volunteers, just knowing that they are there because they *want* to be there can make all the difference. Last year Home-Start High Peak supported 69 families with the help of 40 volunteers and only 3 paid staff. Through advice and support volunteers help families with parenting skills, building confidence, raising aspirations and support them to link in with other specific services.

### The work of Home-Start High Peak captured by National Indicators

Some of the DPF's priorities are Home-Start's bread and butter. The national award winning 'Teens with Tots' group provided young mums with time and space so that they could take part in positive activities with their children, NI 110. Sometimes parents just need an extra pair of hands and eyes to help them take their young families out and about. Home-Start volunteers can help them find the activities and access them. Last year, the organisation supported 110 children.

By working in partnership with other agencies, Home-Start High Peak also supports delivery of a range of National Indicators in Derbyshire's LAA by enabling other agencies to help those who they find most hard to reach.

This cuts almost right across the whole LAA having an affect on the work of almost all the thematic partnerships.

### The Sustainable Communities Partnership

NI 163 Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher

### The Health and Wellbeing Partnership

NI 130 Social care clients receiving self directed support  
NI 153 Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods

### The Safer Communities Partnership

NI 32 Repeat Incidents of Domestic Violence  
NI 49 Number of primary fires and related fatalities and non-fatal casualties

### The Culture Board

NI 9 Use of public libraries

### The Children's Trust

NI 53 Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth  
NI 54 Services for disabled children  
NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6  
NI 112 Under 18 conception rate  
NI 117 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment  
NI 110 Young people's participation in positive activities

By supporting families, Home-Start High Peak naturally supports their children's development. The work meets with many national plans and initiatives such as the National Service Framework, Choosing Health, the five outcomes of Every Child Matters and the Children's Centre Core Offers. It is no surprise then that Debbie Rushworth, Senior Coordinator in the High Peak, was voted to be one of the area's VCI GRID representatives to the Children's Trust. The GRID (Group Influencing Development) representatives use their expertise and experience to discuss developments, informing the work of the Children's Trust and helping to raise standards. In this way, Debbie personally supports the work of the LAA.

## District LSPs – how do they relate to the county?

If you've attended any of the Voice Project's training events or are an avid reader of this bulletin, you'll be aware that Derbyshire has Local Strategic Partnerships at county and district / borough level. LSPs attempt to bring together all the agencies in a particular area to look at what issues there are locally and to address them together. The hope is that more can be achieved by working together than working in isolation. Some areas in Derbyshire have joined their LSPs together as they face similar issues, so we have six district/borough LSPs, plus one that covers the whole county (Derbyshire Partnership Forum) and another that covers the city (Derby City Partnership – see map). The district LSPs have all written Sustainable Community Strategies but it is only the city and the county that are responsible for delivering Local Area Agreements.

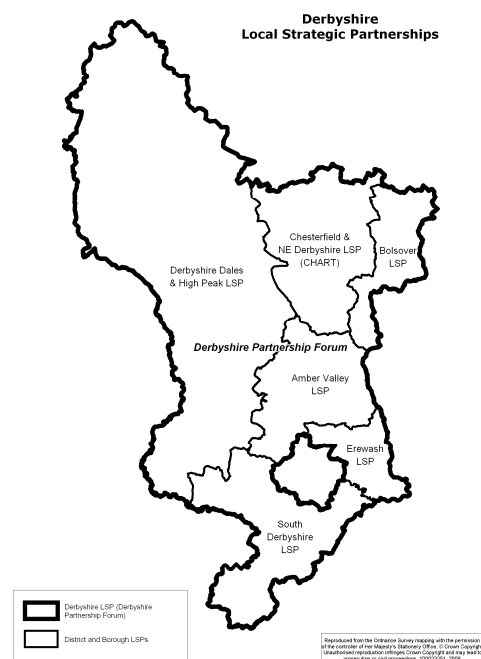
As a result of the two tier system the picture is more complicated in the county and so the District LSPs have been looking at how they relate to and communicate with the county. Each district has identified where their work fits with the wider work of the county partnership and has re-structured to align better with it. District LSP members can now download minutes and papers of county meetings from the county council website and feed into them via representatives who attend. There is also a District LSP coordination group who meet regularly to identify shared priorities to be fed to the county.

Some of you reading this may sit on a sub group of your LSP. Most sub-groups now broadly relate to the 6 thematic partnerships of the DPF. Voice is interested to hear whether your sub-group receives minutes and papers

from county level meetings that relate to the work of your action group. Or better still, does a county representative attend and feed back? This may help with communication between the two tiers.

Voice also aims to support VCS representatives on District LSPs and some work has already started in Bolsover and South Derbyshire to this end. Representatives have said how much they have benefitted from LSP rep networking sessions which give reps the chance to meet together, get an overview of the work of the whole partnership, identify what the LSP can gain from the voluntary sector (and vice-versa) and get the support they need to achieve it.

Voice is all about communication! LSPs can't exist without it and the whole of the voluntary sector can't contribute or benefit without it. If you are an LSP rep, or would like to become one, and are interested to start up networking sessions in your area, contact Voice.



## The LAA Headlines

**Health and Wellbeing Partnership** At the last meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> November David Timcke (NDVA) asked the Board what percentage of the funding that has come from central government to enable a transition to personalised social care had been allocated to the VCS. This question was left unanswered so we will wait for a response at the next meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> January. Comments on the green paper, 'Shaping the Future of Care Together' were gathered at the Joint Adult Care/PCT/VCS Conference on the 27<sup>th</sup> Nov and the response to the consultation can now be found at <http://www.ndva.org.uk/uploads/Network%20issue%2078.pdf.pdf> After the CAA criticised the health inequalities existing in the region, the County Council have hired a consultant to write a strategy to tackle the issue in Derbyshire. Bill Robertson (Strategic Director of Adult Care) confirmed 'once (the) strategy is in place/framework is agreed with statutory partners, it will then be put out for wider engagement'. It seems unfortunate that the VCS are unable to contribute until after the strategy is drafted.

**Culture Board** Met on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. A steering group has been set up to move the NI 7 action plan forward. This aims to 'create an environment' for the third sector to thrive and is based on actions suggested by a range of VCS organisations at a conference last May. There are an equal number of voluntary and statutory sector partners on the group and frontline organisations are represented by Emma Hagger (Mid Derbyshire CAB) and Adrian Dewhurst (Umbrella). Minutes of these meetings can be found on the Voice website on the Culture Board pages of the LAA section.

**Children's Trust** Last met on the 19<sup>th</sup> November. Jo Smith presented a report from Volunteer Centres Derbyshire about volunteering by the under 16s. Until now there has been little guidance available for organisations that have, or would like to have, volunteers in this age group. Emma Dagless is working on a toolkit which should be available soon. If you'd like to know more please contact Emma on [emmad@gvb.org.uk](mailto:emmad@gvb.org.uk) Those of you who are GRID reps will know that previously the GRID received ring fenced money from the Children's Workforce Development Council for training the VCI sector. This year the money will be included within the County Council's Children's workforce development budget. Discussions have been taking place and the outlook is positive for the VCI sector to receive £30,000 this year. This equates to the amount previously ring fenced from the CWDC.

**Safer Communities Partnership** Met on the 18<sup>th</sup> November. Comments were made that VCS organisations are finding it difficult to meet the requirements of the probation service when using ex-offender volunteers. The VCS rep asked for clarification of the requirements and reminding the board of the Codes of the Compact she urged for compromises to be found. If ex-offenders volunteer with your organisation please contact your local CVS for support to refresh your policies.

**Transformational Partnership** Met on the 14<sup>th</sup> December with no items on the agenda of direct relevance to the sector although minutes will be available on the Voice website.

**Sustainable Communities Board** Met on the 1<sup>st</sup> December and received minutes and updates from all of its 6 sub-groups. The County Council are planning a Community Climate Change Conference to be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> at County Hall, you can look at the full details by going to [http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/sustainable\\_development/climatechange/conference/default.asp](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/sustainable_development/climatechange/conference/default.asp) If your organisation has an interest in environmental issues or you have experience of setting up a Low Carbon Community or Sustainable Energy group in your area why not go along to find out what continuing support they will be offering after the event.

## The DPF targets actions against key priorities

The Derbyshire Partnership Forum, which is the partnership of all the agencies at work in Derbyshire, has highlighted the key priorities for the coming year.

In a similar way to Operation Relentless, which identified a range of activities over a three year period that aimed to increase confidence in policing, the County Council have allocated 6 week time slots for each of their priorities and hope to raise awareness of these priorities by coordinating activities into campaigns. A range of initiatives were planned and delivered before Christmas in an effort to reduce the harm caused by alcohol over the festive period and 2010 will see further coordinated campaigns.

- **Addressing health inequalities** – 3<sup>rd</sup> January to the 14<sup>th</sup> February
- **Responding to the economic downturn** – 21<sup>st</sup> February to the 4<sup>th</sup> April
- **Bringing people together** – community cohesion – 11<sup>th</sup> April to the 23<sup>rd</sup> May
- **Supporting carers** – 30<sup>th</sup> May to the 13<sup>th</sup> June

If you are planning any activities which fit with these themes / time slots and would benefit from being badged and promoted by the DPF, please get in touch with the Voice project. For the voluntary sector to show what it can bring to the table and support the work being done by LAA VCS reps at a strategic level it really helps to know, and be able to show, what we are doing on the ground.

## More LAA training dates!

Last year, Voice delivered a series of free training sessions around the county. If you didn't make the first sessions in your area, don't miss the opportunity to understand the background to the LAA and how you can use it to show stakeholders, management committee members and funders how your work fits in with Derbyshire's 'bigger picture'. Comments from last year's evaluation included,

**“...really well presented, covering the topic and delivered for all levels.”**  
**“The clearest explanation of Local Strategic Partnerships/LAAs yet!”**

Unravel the LAA mystery! We will look at:

- **How Local Strategic Partnerships and the Local Area Agreement works in Derbyshire**
- **How the voluntary and community sector is involved**
- **National Indicators and your organisation**
- **How the money works**

**The first session of 2010 will be held at High Peak CVS – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March from 10am – 12.30pm including free lunch and refreshments**

Contact Louise on 01663 736431 or by email: [louise@highpeakcvs.org.uk](mailto:louise@highpeakcvs.org.uk)  
 Or download a booking form from <http://highpeakcvs.org.uk/training/index.asp>

More dates are already being planned in the **Derbyshire Dales** and **Erewash** districts. Voice is also available to visit your organisation and talk to your staff or management committee on a one to one basis.

**Voice for the VCS  
Project Officer**

c/o The Bridge Centre,  
43 Cromford Rd  
Langley Mill,  
Nottingham,  
NG16 4EF

**Phone:**  
07827 243800

**E-Mail:**  
c.thornber@derbysrcc.org.uk

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.3Dsupport.org.uk/Voice\\_Project](http://www.3Dsupport.org.uk/Voice_Project)

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