

## Herts 2021 Bulletin

[www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward](http://www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward)

### January 2011

These bulletins update partners on the development and work of the Hertfordshire Forward partnership family.

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## Hertfordshire Forward Annual Conference



The Hertfordshire Forward Annual Conference was held on 12th November and this year was a half day event which focused on the Stronger Communities theme and was titled 'Hertfordshire's Big Society'.

Francis Davis, government advisor on Big Society, provided the National context for this developing agenda, and Cllr Robert Gordon, Chairman of Hertfordshire Forward, provided the local context. Nick Johnson, from the Institute of Community Cohesion, gave a presentation on **The Big Society and Community Cohesion:**

**Issues, challenges and next steps**, Joseph Ballard spoke about the opportunities that the 2012 Olympic Games can offer in building the Big Society, and Ben Kernighan, from NCVO, spoke about the opportunities and challenges for the Voluntary Sector that the Big Society presents.

Four local examples were also showcased: the Take Part project, Time banking, Countryside Management Volunteering, and Buntingford Community Pride. There was a short opportunity for discussion and networking, which many delegates would have liked to be extended.

Dacorum Community Choir provided a rousing conclusion to the day.

The conference was fully booked, and attended by a wide range of partners from across the statutory, voluntary and community sectors.

Details of the presentations will be posted on the Herts Forward website as we receive them, and can be accessed using this link: [Hertfordshire Forward Conference: Hertfordshire's Big Society](#)

## Hertfordshire Forward Core Group

Hertfordshire Forward, like many other LSP's nationally (and indeed within Hertfordshire) are reviewing their partnership arrangements. This is driven by both the need to maximise efficiencies and streamline bureaucracy, but also respond to recent Coalition Government announcements on the stripping back of inspection and national performance frameworks. This provides the opportunity for local partners to think about the challenges in Hertfordshire and what our response needs to be.

Hertfordshire Forward Core Group met on the 6<sup>th</sup> December and recognised the need to change arrangements as quickly as possible, but tempered with a desire to ensure smooth transition, and measured implementation. Report to Core Group [here](#).

### Decisions

In considering the report of the Partnership Development and Performance Group (PDPG) the Core Group agreed the following:-

- 1) That the Core Group as currently constituted should continue, and be reviewed at the end of 2011.

This decision reflected that partners wished to retain a cross agency strategic group able to retain a role on leadership and stewardship of the countywide place, pending the settling in of the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board – and how/where the two interface.

It will also oversee any transitional arrangements for the delivery of the SCS, PRG investment and, for example, consideration of the emerging sport and physical activity strategy.

This will result in the Group meeting quarterly throughout 2011.

2) That otherwise the new countywide partnership arrangement should consist of two key and emergent statutory groups

- Local Enterprise Partnership
- Health and Well-being Board

3) That the six countywide partnerships, as currently constituted, will develop plans to ensure that transition to new arrangements does not lose any necessary countywide grip on issues, that might be in danger of otherwise falling through the scope and work programmes of the LEP and HW Board.

4) Hertfordshire Forward will continue as a wider partnership, with events as necessary

5) That PDPG deliver future arrangements for report to the Core Group in due course.

Contact [keith.shephard@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:keith.shephard@hertsc.gov.uk) for more information.

## **Sustainable Community Strategy**

The Sustainable Community Strategy 'A Brighter Future: Hertfordshire 2021', developed with all partners, and evidence based, remains the partnership vision.

Following a review in the summer of 2010 the following issues have been identified for particular attention

- A resilient and prosperous economy
- Reducing health and wealth inequalities
- A sustainable and well planned county
- A cleaner, safer and greener county

It is proposed that the ongoing delivery (legacy) of the SCS be transferred to the LEP and Health and Well-being Boards as appropriate, and that a paper on that transition be brought to the Core Group at the meeting in March 2011.

Contact [ben.wood@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:ben.wood@hertsc.gov.uk) for more information.

## Performance Reward Grant

On the 10<sup>th</sup> September Hertfordshire County Council on behalf of Hertfordshire Forward submitted the claim for the outstanding PRG. A claim for £4,105,342.50 was made, which is prior to the 50% reduction in PRG nationally. The total value of the outstanding PRG which Hertfordshire is seeking is approximately £2m from government.

The claim was made to DCLG and a specific request was made for the payment to be made at the earliest payment window. On the 30<sup>th</sup> November DCLG informed all local authorities that any payment would not be made till March 2011 at the earliest.

Hertfordshire Forward will endeavour to keep partners informed should any new information arise.

Contact [victor.wan@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:victor.wan@hertscc.gov.uk) for more information.

## Better Places to Live

The annual BPL conference was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October at the Fielder Centre with local and national speakers and workshops examining the new planning system, housing and affordable housing and the green environment. For further details of the event speak to – [julie.evans-hughes@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:julie.evans-hughes@hertscc.gov.uk)

The new Coalition Government has announced a number of changes to the planning and housing systems and as a result the work programme for BPL is currently under review.

BPL continues to support the districts in drawing up the Local Investment Plans (LIP's). LIP's are documents which sets out the investment required for an area, in our case the districts and the county. The national [Homes and Communities Agency](#) has asked Local Authorities to produce these plans in order to inform funding discussions. The plans set out what will be required to deliver the agreed economic, housing and environmental ambitions of Hertfordshire.

Hertfordshire's Chief Technical Officers Association (HCTOA) together with BPL is examining the current planning system that operates between authorities in Hertfordshire.

Contact: [julie.evans-hughes@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:julie.evans-hughes@hertscc.gov.uk) for more information

## Healthier Communities and Older People (HCOP)

The next meeting is scheduled for January 2011.

Further details: [Jennifer.lynch@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:Jennifer.lynch@hertscc.gov.uk)

## Transport, Access & Promoting Sustainable Development (TASD)

TASD is considering the future direction and best structures to ensure the elements within this theme continue to be addressed during this time of change and financial austerity. A merger of

the Climate Change Partnership and the Hertfordshire Environmental Forum will shortly be consulted upon with their membership and wider stakeholders. Colleagues in transport are working closely with those developing Hertfordshire's LEP to ensure a strong representation of this topic within the new structures. An event to consider future planning arrangements in the county was held in September and has fed into district council forward thinking and the SCS review.

For further information contact Emma Edgell: [emma.edgell@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:emma.edgell@hertscc.gov.uk)

## Children and Young People

 Think Family  
Hertfordshire

**Five Think Family projects are making a difference to families across Hertfordshire**

The national Think Family initiative targets families with a range of complex problems. Its aim is to ensure that support provided meets the needs of the whole family as part of a coordinated and shared approach by combining children and adult services. There are five projects running in Hertfordshire.

**The Scaffold Project** aims to improve outcomes for families caught in a cycle of low achievement and particularly those who are not already involved with any services. Hertfordshire's four Scaffold teams are based in Borehamwood, Broxbourne, Stevenage and Three Rivers currently working on a growing number of cases across the county. For further details contact Julia Wright, project manager, at [julia.wright@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:julia.wright@hertscc.gov.uk)

**The East Herts Family Intervention Project**, known previously as the Sele Farm Housing Challenge, focuses on breaking the cycle of long-term offending among families. The project is run by Hertfordshire Constabulary in partnership with Barnardo's, Riversmead Housing Association, the Hertfordshire Extended Schools consortium and the Westminster Drugs Project. For more information call 01992 533634.

**South Oxhey Family Intervention Project** works intensively with families who have been identified as the most challenging and vulnerable in terms of multi-risk factors. These families are known to many agencies and their chaotic lifestyles have caused concern with regard to the outcomes for the children.

The interventions of the South Oxhey FIP to date are showing positive results for families, reducing the risk factors that in turn reduces the burden on other local agencies. Latest estimates suggest an average saving per FIP family per year, including avoiding children being taken into care, is £81,624. To find out more, call Beverley Dover on 020 8428 5434.

**The Housing Challenge Project** Family Intervention Programme (FIP) provides key workers from seven district councils' Anti-Social Behaviour teams to support families who live in social housing or privately rented accommodation and are at risk of eviction due to persistent anti-social behaviour or rent arrears.

**Think Family practitioners** provide assistance countywide at a specialist level for parents with complex needs, such as mental health disorders, learning disabilities, substance misuse and other mental health issues. For more information call 01923 427304.

To find out more about the Think Family initiative, visit [www.hertsdirect.org/childrenstrust](http://www.hertsdirect.org/childrenstrust).

## Safer & Stronger Communities

### Alcohol Brief Interventions

Alcohol brief interventions, offering harm reduction advice to those who enter accident and emergency as a result of alcohol related injury or disorder, continues to achieve highly. Recent statistics show that 100% of clients decreased their drinking as a result of a brief intervention, at a three month follow up. Brief interventions continues to be delivered in all three accident and emergency departments as well as St Albans urgent care centre. To complement this work, the accident and emergency data sharing initiative, whereby crime information is collected from all patients to inform local activity, is continuing to move forward. Lister hospital is proactive in amending the computer systems to allow questions around crime to be asked, Watford is continuing to explore changes required to extract crime information.

### Consultation on drug and alcohol treatment system

In conjunction with the County Community Safety Unit, the County Council's Joint Commissioning Team is consulting on proposals to restructure the drug and alcohol treatment system to have a greater emphasis on recovery and reintegration. At present, there is a mixed economy of statutory and non-statutory providers and a range of interventions available from these providers, but not necessarily consistently across the county.

Commissioners are proposing a new-look service offering a number of treatment hubs around the county with satellites covering areas of smaller population size or lower levels of need. All hubs will provide a full range of drug and alcohol treatment interventions, and will have a focus on recovery and re-integration rather than maintaining people in treatment. All individuals will be able to access services within 10 miles of their home.

Consultation events are being planned throughout autumn 2010 so that proposals can be finalised by March 2011. This will form the basis of a tender for new contracts which will start in April 2012. The consultation closed on **Friday 17 December 2010**. Further information and an opportunity to be involved in the consultation is available at:

<http://connect.hertscc.gov.uk/havesay/consultation/crtcnslt/acscns/consdrugalc/?view=connect> or email [Brian.Gale@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:Brian.Gale@hertscc.gov.uk).

## Hertfordshire Works

Hertfordshire Works website can be found [here](#), including meeting papers

### Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

It was announced on the 28 October 2010, that Hertfordshire's LEP proposal was one of 24 to be approved to proceed from a total of 61. Plans are now progressing to establish the LEP by April 2011.

[www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward](http://www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward)

Feedback from the Government commended the clarity of vision and ambition for Hertfordshire's economy, and on the strong platform of partnership support in place to take this forward.

In terms of the next steps for the formation of LEPs, it is stated that the Government is keen for the successful partnerships to maintain momentum and move quickly to establish their LEP Boards. At the same time, the Government will be entering into discussions with partnerships about delivering the economic vision for their area.

A LEP Implementation Plan is currently being drafted and will outline how the LEP will be established and will address issues such as governance, priorities and potential programmes and provide a timetable for activity.

More than 70 business leaders and representatives from higher, further education, the voluntary and community sector and local government met for the first time on Wednesday December 15 in Stevenage, following the announcement that Hertfordshire's bid for its LEP had been successful.

There was general agreement that a small, focused and business-led board would be the best way of delivering improvements to the county's economy. An interim board will be established in January, followed by a full board in the spring.

### **Economic Development White Paper**

On 28 October, the Government also published its economic development white paper, *Local Growth: realising every place's potential*, which set out its approach, to rebalancing the economy and helping drive sustainable growth. This focused on three key themes:

- **Shifting power to the right levels**

RDA functions will be devolved to the local level wherever it makes sense to do so. Key roles for LEPs are identified in areas, including business support, tourism, inward investment and skills.

- **Increasing confidence to invest**

Various measures will be put in place to ensure people have greater ownership of the planning system including a national presumption in favour of sustainable development and the introduction of new Right-to-Build powers.

- **Focused investment**

The White Paper confirmed that £1.4 billion will be made available through the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) over the next three years. The minimum threshold for bids will be set at £1 million.

The RGF is now open to bids from all places with the first round of bidding closing in January 2011.

It is stated that some parts of the country where there are currently high employment, low levels of deprivation and a vibrant private sector, may struggle to demonstrate how they meet the RGF's objective to support areas or communities that are currently dependent on the public sector make the transition to private sector led growth.

### **Inward Investment/Business Support**

The new Invest Hertfordshire web site can be found at: [www.hertsdirect.org/investhertfordshire](http://www.hertsdirect.org/investhertfordshire)

HCC and district colleagues will be piloting a project to ensure that the local knowledge, contacts and best practice built-up by business support services currently operating in and around Hertfordshire, can be transferred across to local authorities.

It will bring together key people from local authorities and existing business support and inward investment services to focus on how best to engage and support local companies, retain jobs and secure local investment in business growth.

The aim of the pilot is to sharpen the focus on local business needs; to cut out any unnecessary duplication of current services available to business; and ultimately, to shape the future of business support in Hertfordshire. The pilot will run from November to March and will then be reviewed as part of the LEP's initial programme of activity.

### **Hertfordshire Strategic Employment Sites Study**

One of the five key objectives within the Hertfordshire Economic Development Strategy (HEDS) is 'Providing quality locations and infrastructure' This is central to the strategy's aim to grow the Hertfordshire economy by attracting new, knowledge-based jobs, particularly through foreign direct investment and links to the Invest Hertfordshire website which promotes the county as a good place to do business.

To take forward this priority, a study, funded by EEDA, HCC, and district councils has been commissioned to look at the county's existing employment sites, the extent to which they could fulfil the role of strategic employment sites and the need to identify and bring forward a small number of new sites linked to Hertfordshire's main sectors and clusters.

The study commenced in November and the final report is due on 25 February

### **Business Survey**

A business survey has also been commissioned in order to inform Hertfordshire LEP of the needs of local business and support the development of the Hertfordshire Local Economic Assessment.

This project has been taken forward in collaboration with a range of partners including Business Link and the Federation of Small Businesses. This will be funded by the County Council via it's funding from CLG for the Local Economic Assessment. ICM have been selected to undertake the survey, the final report is due in January.

### **Employment and Skills Board**

HCCI (the Chamber of Commerce and Industry) on behalf of the Skills and Economic Participation Group of Hertfordshire Works, and working with EEDA have been exploring the opportunities to establish an Employment and Skills Board (ESB) in the county.

An initial meeting of the Employment and Skills Board was held on 1<sup>st</sup> October hosted by MBDA (Stevenage), which focused on the issue of Apprenticeships. MBDA has run a successful apprenticeship programme for 7 years focusing on local recruitment.

The ESB will:

- offer itself as an advisory body to the economic partnership and other appropriate organisations
- clearly articulate the needs of employers
- act as a “critical friend” to ensure that strategies of relevant bodies are challenged, where they are not appropriate to business needs and the needs of the people it seeks to employ

Moving forward, it is anticipated that any plans for the ESB would ultimately, fall within the wider LEP proposals outlined above.

### **Economic Briefing**

The latest economic briefings, Hertfordshire Works Economic Briefing can be found [here](#).

### **Hertfordshire Ready for Winners Partnership**

A lot has changed with the Herts is Ready For Winners partnership over the last six months.

- A core team of Herts 2012 Manager, 2012 Ambassador, Project Officer, Communications Officer and Senior Support Officer started to ensure that the partnership achieves their five legacy ambitions to maximise the opportunities from the London 2012 Games for the people of Hertfordshire.
- The partnership has signed up two more Olympic Committees to hold their pre-Games training in Hertfordshire - bringing the total to three - generating a possible £75,000 of income for the county. Caribbean nations St Kitts and Nevis and St Lucia will live locally and train in county training camps during the build up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The British Virgin Islands were the first to commit in June 2009.
- HRH The Princess Royal was in Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire on December 9th to see the unveiling of the new white water canoe centre for the London 2012 Games. The Lee Valley White Water Centre is the first brand new 2012 venue to be completed, and before and after the competition in 2012 the venue will be open as a sporting and leisure facility for canoeing and white water rafting, as well as a major competition and training venue. The venue will open to the public for rafting and canoeing in April 2011 delivering an early legacy over a year before the Games begin.
- Hertfordshire is the number one county in the region for CompeteFor sign-ups! 7.3% of Hertfordshire companies are registered on the CompeteFor, the London 2012 procurement portal, the average for the East of England region is 5.8%.
- The partnership's award-winning 'Win Business Gold' events continue to be a success with over 60 businesses attending the latest event at Paradise Wildlife Park in October. The next event is at the Hunton Park, near Watford on 21st January 2011.
- Through the contacts made at the Business Breakfasts and visits from the Herts 2012 Ambassador, the 2012 team has recently secured three new partners.

- 80% of Herts schools have registered for the Get Set programme, which continues to be the second highest in number in the country.
- The partnership launched a new website in November. [www.hertsisreadyforwinners.co.uk](http://www.hertsisreadyforwinners.co.uk) has a new range of features including an interactive event calendar, e-newsletter sign up and a link to the ReadyForWinners twitter feed; it is more user friendly and easier to navigate.
- More information about Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners Partnership at: [www.hertsisreadyforwinners.co.uk](http://www.hertsisreadyforwinners.co.uk), find them on Twitter [www.twitter.com/ReadyForWinners](https://www.twitter.com/ReadyForWinners) or contact the team on 01992 555364.

## LSP Network

The LSP Network met in Welwyn Hatfield on Monday 13th December - Agenda and notes covering the changes with all partners and life after LAA can be found [here](#). In summary, the LSP representatives were updated on the changes proposed for Hertfordshire Forward following the Annual Conference on 12 November and the report from Partnership Development and Performance Group on 6 December to HF on the developing partnership structure.

The decision of the Hertfordshire Forward Core Group to continue beyond March to the end of 2011, to secure a smooth transition from the existing partnership structure to a new one based on a place/people approach, was highlighted. There was discussion on the need for input within the structure from the voluntary sector agencies and community partnerships. Representatives noted that the framework is still evolving and this matter would be given attention in the establishment of a sub-structure of partnerships and task and finish groups beneath the two statutory partnerships.

NHS representatives updated the Network on the changes proposed to the health framework; Andrew Burt (HCC) outlined proposals to save £2.5m from the existing budget of £11m in the Adult Care Services Department, looking at the preventative and wellbeing agenda.

It was agreed that the Network is a valuable means for district and county representatives to keep up to date with ongoing partnership developments around the County and that it should continue to meet on a quarterly basis throughout 2011. Jane Pearce (St Albans) was elected as the new Chair of the Network; Rebecca Dunsmore (Hertsmere) would attend PDPG and Nicola Kilvington (Stevenage), Vice-Chair.

## Contacts

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### HF LSP Network

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**Herts Forward Website** <http://www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward>

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