

Partnership Progress



Solihull Partnership Quarterly Newsletter for members of the Solihull Partnership

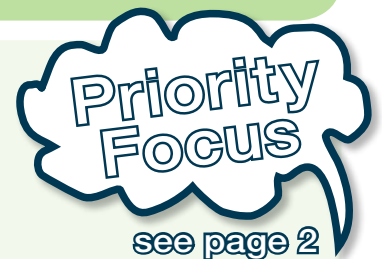
A word from the Editor...

The last few months since our Assembly in January have been very busy indeed. In the **Annual Report**, published in February, I reflected on the uncertainty with the many changing national policies relating to partnership working.

In Solihull we have seized this opportunity to look again at how we do business to remove some of the unnecessary layers of bureaucracy and Partnership meetings, and strengthen our focus on service delivery. Three strategic boards for healthier, prosperous and stronger communities have been stood down. What remains are our statutory partnerships through the new Health and Well-being Board and Safer Solihull Partnership as well as our Local Enterprise Partnership. These boards are steering a reduced set of delivery groups working on our priorities.

This is also an opportunity to thank you for your support in setting our **priority outcomes** for the next three years. These 11 priorities provide the framework for partners to work together on making a real difference to

the people of Solihull. The Partnership governing board has also reinforced their commitment to three wicked issues within these priorities - youth unemployment; domestic abuse; and chaotic families; and are determined to roll their sleeves up to break down those barriers that get in the way of making a real difference.



I hope you will join me in reading more about how working together can make a real difference in Solihull.



Melanie Locky

Melanie Locky
Head of Partnership
Commissioning

Celebrating our local heroes



Nine of Solihull's local heroes were recognised recently with the first ever Civic Honours for the borough.

Awards were handed out across five categories – the Arts, Community Involvement, Making a Difference to Young People, Sport and the Mayor's Award – at a ceremony hosted by the then Mayor of Solihull.

The strength and quality of the nominations were such that the awards committee couldn't restrict themselves to choosing just five winners. They were in full agreement to choose multiple winners in the Arts and Community Involvement categories.

The Solihull Partnership sponsored one of the Community Involvement awards, which was won by Malcolm and Ann Turner - or "Mr and Mrs Shirley" as some know them. As well as having the honour of sponsoring this particular award, the Partnership was also one of the overall event sponsors.

Check out **Your Solihull** for the full list and photos of all the winners.

Partnership Assembly – Save the Date

Next year's **Partnership Assembly** will take place on **Tuesday 31 January**. Please save this date in your diaries. More information will be available soon.

Meanwhile, check out the **presentations, feedback and Annual Report** from this year's Assembly for more information about our work.

Local Partnership Forums see page 2 on how to get involved

| Getting involved in your area

The dates of the next round of Partnership Forums have been confirmed for June and July, and we look forward to seeing you there. We will be discussing crime and community safety as the main topic for debate as we know this is one of your main areas of concern.

We are seeking your views on community safety in your area, and what we can do by working together to make you feel safer in your community. The next **Partnership Forums** are as follows:

Date (all 7pm-9pm)	Area	Venue
Tuesday 21 June	Olton, Lyndon, Elmdon and Silhill	Langley Secondary School
Tuesday 28 June	Rural	Cheswick Green, Village Hall
Thursday 7 July	North Solihull	The Onward Club, Chelmsley Wood Town Centre
Thursday 14 July	Shirley and St Alphege	Hampton Suite, Solihull College



Since last July we have held three sets of Partnership Forum meetings. Although still relatively new we have already seen what a difference they can make. Some of our achievements so far include:

- The set up of a **Citizens Advice Bureau** office at a Doctors surgery in Lyndon, funded by local GPs.
- Improving local people's awareness of the support available to businesses in north Solihull.
- Improved dialogue between parish councils, residents groups and transport planners about how to improve rural transport.

To confirm your attendance contact **Hannah Colson** on (0121) 704 8258. For more information about the forums, please contact **Sarah Barnes** on (0121) 704 8347, or visit our **Partnership Forums** webpage.

Priority focus update

As many of you will know, over the past few months we have been undergoing a review to 'streamline' our partnership priorities. Consultations have been taking place with partners, elected members and community representatives within our Partnership Forums to help identify the changes we need to make.

At April's governing board meeting, partners agreed 11 priority outcomes that together will provide the improvement areas that they are committed to work together on. There remains a strong focus within our priorities to the partnership's overall vision for Solihull, with priorities for economic growth, worklessness, particularly youth unemployment and housing, supporting prosperity.

Similarly priorities focused on ill health prevention and promoting healthy lifestyles, particularly in the first years of life as well as tackling substance misuse,

provides a holistic approach to improving health in Solihull. Our priorities to create stronger and safer communities focus on supporting people to get more involved in their communities through volunteering and community action to address things like anti-social behaviour. There is also a particular focus on keeping the most vulnerable people safe by addressing aspects like domestic abuse.

Mark Rogers, Solihull Council Chief Executive, says:

“ These priorities give us a sharper focus on those issues where our joint efforts are required to make a step change. We need more than ever to break down unnecessary barriers that prevent us achieving real and sustained improvement to outcomes for people in Solihull. ”

The next steps are to develop a joint commissioning plan that supports the delivery of these priorities.

| Our Work

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

GPs offer new initiative

In February, a new **Citizens Advice Bureau office** was opened in Solihull's Hobs Moat surgery to help GPs provide more holistic care for patients.

The initiative was established at our first **Partnership Forum** last July, where it became clear that there was a real opportunity to improve advice and guidance services for residents in the Olton, Lyndon, Silhill and Elmdon ward.

Sue Phillips, GP Commissioning Manager at Sirius Healthcare (GP Consortia for south Solihull) was instrumental in getting the advice bureau set up as a one year pilot. Sue successfully put together a business case to the GP Consortia and worked with Kerry Turner, manager of the Citizens Advice Bureau in north Solihull and Sandra Reynolds, practice manager at Hobs Moat Surgery.

Sirius Healthcare pays for a qualified practitioner to run the bureau on Monday mornings. As well as direct referrals, GPs from four local surgeries (Hobs Moat, Meadowside, St. Margaret's and Richmond) are also

making referrals to the services.

In addition to improving residents' access to the service, using the surgery as a base enables GPs to treat conditions such as anxiety and stress caused through personal problems without medication, addressing the underlying problem as well as the symptom.

Sue Phillips says:

“ It has been very rewarding to see the seeds of an idea, suggested at a Solihull Partnership forum, blossom into a new bespoke service for patients in the local area. We await the results and patients' feedback with great eagerness. ”



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST

Parents kept in the loop



The Parents' Network is an innovative way for keeping parents up to date with what is happening in Solihull for families.

It was created by the **Family Information Service** in June last year in response to parents saying they find it difficult to find out what is going on in their area for children and families.

The Network is growing fast with nearly a thousand parents signed up to receive the latest information from partners on services, activities and events, and how parents can get involved.

Local parent and member of the Network, Michelle O'Grady says:

“ The Parents' Network is great as it keeps me up to date with important decisions that are being made that affect my children and shows me how I can have a say. ”

We are always on the look out for information to send out through the Network so if you have anything to say that is relevant to families please contact the **Family Information Service**.

Call 0800 389 8667, email parentsnetwork@solihull.gov.uk or visit the **Parents' Network** webpage.

There are lots of other ways parents can **get involved** in the borough, like the **Parents' Forum**, which enables them to have a say about how children's services are run in Solihull.

PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES

Did you know?

- Just over 7,000 or 15% of children in Solihull live in relative poverty, with nearly half experiencing severe poverty
- Households in relative poverty struggle to meet basic needs like food, heating, transport, clothing
- Families who rely solely on a minimum wage and in work benefits fall well below the relative poverty level
- The government has set a target of less than 10% of children should be living in relative poverty by 2020.

Tackling poverty

Poverty is recognised as the biggest underlying factor of ill health and inequality, which is why we are committed to helping families and individuals in Solihull affected by it.

To get an idea of poverty levels in Solihull, we carried out a consultation last autumn with partners and residents. Through this needs assessment we have highlighted **seven categories of actions** to help drive our Action Against Poverty Strategy.

One of the tangible activities identified that can make a real difference is how we improve joining up information advice and guidance. We recently piloted a MAORS – Multi-Agency Outreach Support – programme to go out into local areas where residents can drop in for support and assistance from a range of services. Partners contributing to the drop-in included the Council's employment support and benefits services, Citizens Advice Bureau, Solihull Community Housing, Family Information Service and Credit Union, providing local residents with advice on employment, benefits and money.

In total, we helped 89 households with advice and guidance, with the feedback from residents highlighting that they found the sessions very useful. The pilot was especially successful in reaching a higher than expected proportion of people with a disability. Due to the success of the pilot, we will be running more drop-ins later this year.

We will also be launching a project across the borough to raise awareness of illegal lending and its effects to further strengthen the role of the Credit Union. The team can provide information to your customers and train front-line staff.

For more information contact **Rebecca Grant** on (0121) 704 6343.



SAFER & HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Specialist alcohol service

We launched a new alcohol treatment service in May to help residents who have alcohol or alcohol-related problems improve their lives.



The new service, run by **Solihull Integrated Addictions Service** (SIAS), is available to anyone in Solihull, and their families, who are experiencing drink problems or simply want some advice and information.

Working in partnership with hospital staff and GPs, it will help people with a drinking problem be identified earlier,

and access care and treatment that can improve their physical health and emotional wellbeing.

The service provides access to a team of specialists through a single point of contact. Referrals can be made by individuals or professionals including GPs. The team, based within the Solihull Hospital and the community, includes alcohol workers, doctors, nurses, and support workers to help drinkers with issues around benefits, employment and housing as well as specialist treatment.

To find out more about the alcohol treatment service and how you can make referrals log on to www.freedomfromdrugs.org.uk or contact (0121) 711 3732 for adult services and (0121) 788 5390 for young people's services.



Contact Information

If you have any **comments and feedback** about this issue we would like to hear from you. We're always on the look out for relevant articles, news and events for the newsletter, so please let Rav Jagdev our Marketing and Communications Officer know at rjagdev@solihull.gov.uk or call (0121) 704 8117