

# Partnership Progress



## Solihull Partnership Quarterly Newsletter for members of the Solihull Partnership

### A word from the Editor...

**W**elcome to the first issue of Partnership Progress, our new newsletter with all the latest news from across the Partnership. You will see from the articles, there have been many exciting developments recently. This issue brings the latest news on the Local Partnership Forums, which we are introducing to bring partners together with local community leaders to help shape our work.

One of the main features of our newsletter is spotlighting your work on making improvements for the people of Solihull. Inside you will find updates about our priorities and achievements, and best practice in working towards our vision:

*One Borough: an equal chance for all.*

We hope you enjoy this first issue and we look forward to any **comments and feedback** you may have.



*Melanie Locky*

Melanie Locky  
Head of Partnership  
Commissioning

### Leading the way



**C**ouncillor Ian Hedley has been appointed as Leader of Solihull Council following the annual election meeting in May, and as a result becomes the new Chair of the Solihull Partnership Governing Board.

Commenting on his new partnership role, Cllr Hedley says:

“ I am delighted to take on the Chairmanship of the Partnership Board. I look forward to working together with our partners to improve the quality of life for all residents and communities in Solihull. ”

### Welcome onboard

**I**nspector Paul O'Reilly has become the new Partnership Manager for Safer Solihull Partnership.

Melanie Locky, Head of Partnership Commissioning, says: “I am delighted to welcome Paul to the team. His experience and commitment to neighbourhood policing will ensure that the work of Safer Solihull Partnership remains focused on tackling crime and disorder, and fear of crime for local people, as we work towards creating a safer area. We look forward to working with Paul over the coming months.”

Paul says:

“ I am committed to making a real difference to the safety of the community, and am proud to take my place on the team, where I'm sure my skills and experience in the police will be very useful. ”



**Local Partnership Forums** see page 2 about how to get involved.

## | Working Together

# Local Partnership Forums

**The Solihull Partnership has introduced a new and innovative way to bring partners together with community leaders to discuss Partnership work, its priorities and plans for the future.**

Partnership Forums will meet four times a year across different parts of the borough and will bring together Local Councillors, Parish Councils, resident groups, local service providers and business representatives.

## What will the forums do?

The forums will help identify the common issues and priorities for each area, with local people agreeing how best we can work together to achieve them. They will provide better links between the work that is happening across each Strategic Partnership Group and the work of local partners such as local Councillors, Parish Councils and resident groups.

The first meetings will be about getting views on key issues facing Solihull over the next few years, with staff from partner organisations supporting the meetings. Each meeting will begin with a DVD - *Delivering our Vision* - showcasing the Partnership's recent achievements and providing an insight into the impact of our work for Solihull. A presentation and discussion session will follow.

This way of working is new to us and the arrangements for the forums are likely to develop over time as we learn more about what does and doesn't work. We look forward to seeing you there. **See details below:**

Date	Local Area Forums - all 7pm - 9pm	Venue
8 July	Olton, Lyndon, Silhill, Elmdon	The Library, Langley School
15 July	St Alphege, Shirley East, West and South, Blythe	Room 1, Civic Suite, Solihull Council
20 July	Knowle, Dorridge & Hockley Heath, Meriden, Bickenhill (south of A45)	Knowle Guild House
21 July	Castle Bromwich, Smith's Wood, Kingshurst and Fordbridge, Chelmsley Wood, Bickenhill (North of A45)	The Bluebell Centre, Chelmsley Wood

To confirm your attendance contact Hannah Colson on 0121 704 8258 or [hcolson@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:hcolson@solihull.gov.uk)

## Working with the community

**The Solihull Partnership is trying to improve the quality and co-ordination of community involvement activities in Solihull. We're doing this through a Community Involvement Network.**

One of the first jobs of the community involvement network was to agree on some shared standards that we should all work to when undertaking community engagement work. Following successful consultation a short public statement about our standards will be launched later this summer. Some members are also developing an online community involvement toolkit to help people across the Partnership when they are planning and carrying out community engagement.

We also have some Partnership community involvement projects including the Smith's Wood project in north Solihull, which is about introducing community capacity to help tackle local issues. More details will be available in future newsletters.

Network meetings are currently held four times a year and share information about who's doing what and look at how we can work better together.

If you would like to join the network or are interested in finding out more, please get in touch with Sarah Barnes on 0121 704 8347 or [sbarnes@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:sbarnes@solihull.gov.uk)

| Our Work

## HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

### You+ us = healthy living

**S**olihull's healthy lifestyle shop, You+, in Chelmsley Wood celebrates its first anniversary in August. One of its main services is provided by Health Trainers like Nick Kitching, who told us more about the service his team provides:

**Q What is You+?**

**A** You+ is a lifestyle shop where residents can get support on a range of health and social care matters.

**Q What does a health trainer do?**

**A** We offer free, confidential advice and support to anyone aged over 18 who wants to make healthy lifestyle changes. For example, we can help people quit smoking, develop a plan to increase physical activity, talk about sexual health and even how to make healthier food choices.

**Q What do you enjoy most?**

**A** I enjoy helping people to achieve the best possible health for themselves and their families.



Meeting new people and being able to make a positive difference in their lives gives me a great sense of achievement.

**Q How have you made a real difference?**

**A** I helped one of my clients lose weight so she could take part in a Race for Life for Cancer Research. We worked together to come up with a health plan, and over six months she achieved her target weight, helping her to raise money for charity.

## SAFER SOLIHULL



### Pupils target speeding drivers

**S**peeding drivers have been given a lesson in road safety by local pupils, as part of Solihull Partnership's efforts to try and change driver behaviour.

Youngsters from Hockley Heath Primary School joined a community initiative last month to help police carry out speed checks on motorists. Working alongside police officers on a stretch of the A3400 Stratford Road, they highlighted to drivers the dangers of excess speed, and to warn that school children could potentially become victims. Anyone caught speeding was pulled over and, in addition to being given a formal warning, were spoken to by the 10-year-olds.

Hockley Heath Neighbourhood Police Sergeant, Ann Strachan, says: "Speeding is one of the problems that concerns our community. This was a great way to engage with our young people and to actively involve them in helping to solve problems in their community. It really brought home to the motorists the consequences of speeding."

Safer Solihull Partnership Manager, Inspector Paul O'Reilly, says: "The challenge for the Partnership is to achieve an overall reduction of road traffic casualties within a three-year period. The target from 2008 to the end of this year is to achieve no more than 77 casualties per year, which we are currently on course to achieve."

## STRONGER COMMUNITIES

### Award for good practice

**T**he Solihull Partnership has received a green flag award by Compact Voice in recognition of positive partnership work through the use of its Compact and Codes of Practice. Achieving this award is particularly encouraging as Compact Voice acts as the voice of the voluntary sector nationally.

The Partnership was recognised for the increasing role that Solihull's voluntary sector is playing in local service delivery to the benefit of local residents. Examples highlighted in the award include the Health Trainer programme in the You+ shop in Chelmsley Wood and leading on the multi-million pound My Place project, which will provide great places for young people to go to in north Solihull.

This accolade builds on the Partnership's recent achievement of Local Compact of the Year Award champions in 2009/10 for excellent partnership working at a local level.

The Compact Plus is a long-standing agreement developed by the Partnership that sets out shared commitments and guidelines, and that by working better together we can make a greater impact for the benefit of local residents, neighbourhoods and communities in Solihull.



## Community groups in the driving seat



**O**rganisations across the Partnership can now benefit from a new community bus to help promote their services and reach out to local neighbourhoods.

Dave Pinwell, Chief Executive of Solihull SUSTAiN, says:

“The mobile exhibition vehicle offers an affordable way for partners getting out there and talking directly to the public. It provides a high quality flexible space including a consultation area, kitchen, and plenty of display space to get your positive messages across.”

The vehicle is run by Colebridge Trust and Solihull SUSTAiN after being awarded £29,500 from Capacitybuilders – the government agency responsible for supporting community-led projects.

For more information and enquiries please contact Martin Clarke, **Solihull SUSTAiN**, on 0121 770 8222 or email [martinc@solihull-sustain.org.uk](mailto:martinc@solihull-sustain.org.uk)

## PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES

### Weather the Storm

**The Solihull Partnership is continuing to provide support for local people and businesses through the recession with the help of its Weather the Storm initiative.**

The aim of the campaign is make sure that individuals, families and businesses know how to access all the advice and support available to them on issues such as employment, finance, housing and health.

The campaign, led by its Credit Crunch Taskforce, provides residents and organisations with advice and support on issues such as how to find work or training, and who people can talk to about money worries or for emotional support.

Isobel Woods, Prosperous Communities Partnership Manager, says:

“We recognise that these are challenging times for communities across the borough and we are continuing to work closely with all our partners to ensure that help and support is available to people who are affected. Our priority is to ensure the right services are available for everyone concerned.”

A unique **Weather the Storm** website has also been developed as part of the campaign.

**Weather the Storm**



## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST

### New Children and Young People's Plan

**The Children and Young People's Trust carried out its largest ever poll of Solihull people between January and March this year. The purpose was to find out what people thought should be in our new Children and Young People's Plan for 2010/11.**

Almost 2,500 people took part in the consultation and there were more than 50 formal responses from staff and volunteers from public and third sector organisations.

The Trust has turned their ideas into a draft plan with eight priorities:

1. **Safe from harm**
2. **Supporting parents and carers**
3. **Raising achievement for all**
4. **Good physical and emotional health**
5. **An equal chance for vulnerable children and young people**
6. **Things to do and places to go**
7. **Active involvement**
8. **Looking after the environment**

Everyone involved said they really enjoyed being involved in the process and think it's important they get to have a say in the future of Solihull.

The Trust Board is currently looking at a final draft version which will formally be signed off over the summer and launched at the Trust Assembly on 14 October.

The Assembly, taking place at the Renewal Centre, Solihull, will provide a great opportunity for you to find out about what is going on in Solihull for children, young people and families, and to network with colleagues.

Further details will be available nearer the time.



## | What's On



## Black History Month

**B**lack History Month celebrates its 5th anniversary in Solihull this October, and we're asking partners and stakeholders to get involved.

To celebrate the borough's diverse community, the Partnership is looking to co-ordinate a wide-ranging programme of cultural and sporting events. This could be anything from a Bhangra dancing workshop to African drumming, from poetry

reading to even a five-a-side football match – anything goes!

The month-long celebration highlights the history, cultural heritage, achievements and contributions that African, African Caribbean and Asian communities make to our society.

If you are currently planning an event or would like to speak to us about ideas please contact Owen McFarlane on 0121 704 8563 or [omcfarlane@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:omcfarlane@solihull.gov.uk)

## Solihull Together Sponsored Walk

**A**fter last year's success, the Solihull Together Sponsored Walk is returning for a second year on Saturday 11 September.

This unique event gives walkers the opportunity to cross the borough in a 12-mile route from Babbs Mill in the North to Knowle in the South. Shorter routes will also be available.

It's a fun way to raise money for local charities and voluntary groups. All sponsorship goes towards helping community organisations that people in Solihull rely on.

To register and for more information contact Claire Milican on 0121 711 3148 or [clairem@solihull-sustain.org.uk](mailto:clairem@solihull-sustain.org.uk)

## Action on Commissioning

**T**he Common Commissioning Framework workshop will bring together people from across the Solihull Partnership who have a key interest in commissioning. The aim of the session is to develop an action plan for the implementation of the Common Commissioning Framework, which was agreed by the Solihull Partnership Governing Board in January.

The purpose of the framework is to facilitate the delivery of sustainable services, designed around the current and future needs of local people, based on evidence of what works. Now the framework is in place, the key challenge for us is how we implement it.

This session will take place on **Thursday 22 July** from 1:30pm - 5:30pm. Contact Hannah Colson on 0121 704 8252 or [hcolson@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:hcolson@solihull.gov.uk)



**CLICK  
HERE**

**If you have  
any comments  
and feedback**



## Website

Information about the Solihull Partnership can be found at [www.solihull.gov.uk/solihullpartnership](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/solihullpartnership). However, watch this space as you will soon be automatically directed to our new and improved Partnership website, which is anticipated to launch later this summer.



## 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](mailto:rjagdev@solihull.gov.uk) or call 0121 704 8117