



LUTON FORUM

**16 June 2011
2:00 pm**

Central Library
St George's Square
Luton
LU1 2NG
(PLEASE NOTE VENUE)

AGENDA

- 1. Introductions and Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the previous meeting: 17 February 2011** (Minutes attached)
- 3. Matters Arising** (*Report attached*)
Bren McGowan, Partnership Manager to present. For information
- 4. Disclosures of Interests.**
Members are reminded that they must disclose both the existence and the nature of any personal interest that that they may have in any matter to be considered at this meeting. A member who has a prejudicial interest must withdraw from the meeting room while the matter is being discussed.

5. **Governance arrangements** *(Report attached)*
Governance Working Group to present. For discussion and decision.

6. **Sustainable Community Strategy priorities** *(Report attached)*
.Presentation and workshop. Bren McGowan, Partnership Manager to present. For discussion and decision.

7. **Theme Updates** *(Report attached)*
Bren McGowan, Partnership Manager to present. For information.

LUTON FORUM
Thursday 17th February 2011
2.00 pm at Luton Central Library, St. George's Square, Luton

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Cllr Hazel Simmons (Chair)
Anwar Haque – Luton Assembly (Vice-Chair)
Peter Adams – Luton Assembly
John Archer – Luton Assembly
Professor David Barrett – University of Bedfordshire
Everton Blake – Voluntary Action Luton
Colin Chick – Environment and Economy Board – Chair
Chief Superintendent Mike Colbourne – Bedfordshire Police
Lawrence Fagbayi – Luton Assembly
Linda Farrell – Luton Assembly
Linda Hockey – Bedfordshire Police Authority
David Oakley-Hill – Luton Assembly
D. Reed – Luton Assembly
Jim Thakoordin – Luton Assembly

SUBSTITUTES FOR MEMBERS

Prue Canham substituting for Dave Fothergill – Beds & Luton Fire & Rescue Service
Anne Fitcher substituting for Martin Pratt – Chair of the Children and Young People's Trust Board
Ishaq Kazi substituting for Mohammed Rafi – Marsh Farm Futures
Morag Stewart – Deputy Director of Public Health substituting for Gerry Taylor Director of Public Health

SUPPORT OFFICERS/ADVISORS

Paul Barton – Research and Intelligence Team Leader (for item 9)
Lorna Brown – Voluntary Action Luton
Salma Chowdhury – Luton Assembly
Lisa Jerome – Principal Democratic Services Officer
Bren McGowan – LSP Manager
Dean Stokes – Head Strategic Planning Policy and Performance

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillor Sian Timoney – Luton and Beds Fire Authority, Dave Fothergill – Luton and Beds Fire and Rescue, Gillie Sharp – Luton Advice Network, Stephen Hall – Barnfield College, Alison Foster – Job Centre Plus, Mohammed Rafi – Marsh Farm Futures, Martin Pratt – Chair Children and Young People's Trust Board, Trevor Holden – Chief Executive, Luton Borough Council, Councillor R J Davis, Laura Church – Head of Regeneration, Janet Montgomery – Luton Assembly,

Rob Simpson – Luton Assembly, Sarita Jain - Luton Assembly, Rumi Chowdhury - Luton Assembly, Masood Akhtar - Luton Assembly.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (REF: 2)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Forum held on 4th November 2010 be taken as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGY FOR EQUALITY, COHESION AND INCLUSION (REF: 5)

Dean Stokes, Head of Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance presented a report consulting members on a working draft of an Equalities, Cohesion and Inclusion Strategy for Luton. The Forum was advised that the Strategy should be considered alongside the recommendations of the Commission for Community Cohesion and the Family Poverty Strategy.

The Forum was asked for their views on the Vision for Equalities, Cohesion and Inclusion for Luton, particularly if the wording contained within the report for the Vision was an accurate reflection. Forum Members were also asked for their views relating to the objectives and success measures under each heading within the Strategy.

The Forum gave general support for the document with some reservations, particularly regarding the number of indicators. It was suggested that a more focussed 'basket of indicators' should be developed based on information that is already collected rather than creating new work.

Clarification was also sought that the document was intended to be a strategic framework to be used across the Partnership rather than being an action plan that would be solely the responsibility of the ECI Group.

Resolved: That the report be noted and that any responses to the document be forwarded to Sarah Allen, Inclusion and Cohesion Manager, Luton Borough Council by 4th March with a view to the final draft being developed shortly after that date.

4. COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY COHESION (REF: 6)

Dean Stokes, Head of Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance presented a report detailing the recommendations of the Commission on Community Cohesion. The Forum welcomed the proposed development of a working party.

Concern was expressed regarding the relationship with both local and national media and it was suggested that one of the issues that the Group should concentrate on was building strong relationships with the media.

The Forum congratulated all those who took part or were involved with the management of the event on 5th February. The work carried out in response to the demonstration was unprecedented and a total collective effort by many agencies.

Resolved: (i) that the recommendations of the report of the Commission on Community Cohesion be supported and that officers be requested to develop an action plan for the Partnership to be reported back to the Forum at a later date.

(ii) That the Chair of the Equality, Cohesion and Inclusion Group be requested to convene a working party as described at paragraph 5.41 of the report of the Commission.

5. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS (REF: 7)

The Governance Review Working Group reported back on its proposals for new partnership arrangements for consideration by the Forum. The need for an overarching partnership was confirmed and brief terms of reference had been drawn up which set out the principles of how the Forum would work allowing for a flexible approach.

The Forum gave broad support to the principals already agreed, with some reservations as to how this would work in practice. Concern was particularly expressed regarding the lack of decision-making powers enjoyed by LSP's.

The Theme Boards would be given the opportunity to decide whether they were needed and, if so, how they would work including whatever level of formality was appropriate. All Members agreed that representation from the Luton Assembly should be maintained at an appropriate level.

Resolved: (i) That the proposals set out in paragraphs 26 to 31 of the report of the Governance Review Working Group be agreed but that any specific concerns, issues or suggestions be sent to the Group or the LSP Manager by 17th March as further proposals would be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum scheduled for 7th April.

(ii) That the Forum's thanks be recorded to the members of the Working Group for their work on this issue.

6. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY – PRIORITIES (REF: 8)

Bren McGowan gave a presentation to the Forum setting out draft priorities for action for 2011 – 2014 to support the achievement of aspirations set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy:

- Tackle family poverty
- Promote healthy living, target areas of inequality and tackle the key risk factors which affect health
- Support and protect the vulnerable and help people to live independently
- Improve educational achievement and increase people's skills
- Help businesses create jobs
- Reduce serious crime and the fear it causes
- Protect and enhance the quality of the built environment
- Strengthen community cohesion

A member made a comment that the reference to environment was far too narrow and that any priority about the environment should include both the natural and the built environment.

Resolved: That the LSP Manager report back on the comments made by the Forum to the Performance Management Sub Group for further work.

7. POPULATION UNDERCOUNT AND 2011 CENSUS OF POPULATION (REF: 9)

Paul Barton, Team Leader Research and Intelligence, Luton Borough Council, submitted a report to the Forum requesting support for an accurate census count in 2011. The Forum was reminded of the importance of ensuring an accurate figure locally as this would affect central government funding.

Resolved: (i) That the current work on lobbying on the undercount of the Luton population be noted.

(ii) That the development of a local population estimate for 2010 be supported.

(iii) That the current work on the 2011 Census of Population be noted.

(iv) That the work on developing a local Census figure from administrative sources to validate the Census data be supported.

8. LUTON'S BID FOR CITY STATUS (REF: 10)

Colin Chick, Director of Environment and Regeneration gave an update on the development of Luton's bid for city status to be submitted in May 2011.

The Forum was pleased to note that as well as support from within Luton, the bid had also received support from the surrounding area.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

(Note: Meeting ended at 4.15 pm.)



LUTON FORUM		AGENDA ITEM 3
DATE OF MEETING:	16 June 2011	
REPORT AUTHOR:	Bren McGowan, Partnership Manager	
SUBJECT:	Matters arising	
FOR:	Decision / Discussion / Information	

PURPOSE

To update partners on matters raised at the previous meeting not included elsewhere on the agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the report is noted.

REPORT

3. Development of a Strategy for Equality, Cohesion and Inclusion

1. A revised has been produced and this will be circulated for consultation shortly. Taking account of the discussion at the meeting of the Luton Forum held on 17 February, particular attention has been paid to the indicators with a view to producing a single 'basket of indicators' that draws together the major themes.
2. The Performance Management Sub Group has considered the indicators in the original list and has identified those which are likely to be most useful and which can be easily found from existing sources where possible.

4. Commission on Community Cohesion

3. Arrangements are being made to convene the Tackling Extremism Working Group in accordance with the recommendation from the Commission on Community Cohesion and agreed by the Luton Forum at its meeting on 17 February 2011.
4. The focus of the working party will be to develop a detailed, sophisticated and measured understanding of the local drivers of extremism and so establish a

clear position on how extremism is being, and should be, tackled in Luton. This will need to identify practical steps and clear delivery mechanisms to ensure measures are in place to tackle extremism in all its forms. These may include existing interventions such as Prevent, Luton in Harmony.

5. In order to achieve this, it is expected that the working party will consider and commission locally relevant research as well as take evidence from external extremism experts such as RecorRa and Rewind. The working party will also be well-placed to develop responses to the Home Office Deep Dive recommendations on Prevent as appropriate.
6. Communication will be important and therefore, the working party will be expected to take soundings and recommendations from Community Cohesion Contingency Planning Group as appropriate and include consideration of strategic communication on extremism
7. A formal action plan is being developed by Luton Borough Council working with its partners, to take forward the ten key recommendations of the Commission. The action plan will be presented to the Luton Borough Council Executive on 20 June and brought to the Luton Forum at the earliest subsequent opportunity.

Bren McGowan
Partnership Manager

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LUTON FORUM		AGENDA ITEM 5
DATE OF MEETING:	16 June 2011	
REPORT AUTHOR:	Governance Review Working Group	
SUBJECT:	Review of Governance arrangements	
FOR:	Decision / Discussion / Information	

PURPOSE

This report sets out proposals for new partnership arrangements for consideration by the Luton Forum.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Luton Forum:

- (i) adopts new arrangements based on Appendices 1 to 4**
- (ii) agrees arrangements for chairing the Forum (Appendix 1, 11.a and 11.b)**
- (iii) records its thanks to the Working Group**

REPORT

Background

1. The Governance Working Group (Laura Church, Linda Farrell, Linda Hockey and Jenny Spouge) has reviewed partnership arrangements in the light of changes to the local, regional and national context. The Governance Working Group took note of statutory guidance from the previous government, drawing on this where it provided useful commentary on the issues under discussion. This guidance can be found at:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongsafeprosperous>
2. The Government continues to highlight partnership working as vitally important, but this is couched in more general terms rather than through the structure of local strategic partnerships (LSPs). Among the most significant changes are:

- the development of statutory Health and Wellbeing Boards;
 - the removal of the statutory requirement to have a Children's Trust; and
 - the creation of local enterprise partnerships (LEPs).
3. An interim report from the Governance Working Group identified key principles and these have been agreed by the Luton Forum and maintained in the final recommendations. These are:
- Maintaining an overarching partnership;
 - Focusing on the Sustainable Community Strategy, including shorter term priorities for action;
 - The need to involve leaders / chief executives;
 - Building on existing partnerships;
 - Working proactively rather than reactively;
 - The development of a partnership protocol;
 - Devolving responsibility and decision-making to the most local level.
4. The importance of maintaining the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) is emphasised. In the light of previous discussions, the need to identify the shorter term 'priorities for action' is seen as an underlying principle. These will provide the major focus for partnership activity with appropriate monitoring and review. In addition, it is expected that the longer term view will be taken into account and that partners, and partnerships, will ensure that any progress or significant issue relating to the remaining priorities is acknowledged and dealt with.

Issues

5. LSPs are not statutory organisations and, in themselves, have no powers. They are designed to work through influence and consensus rather than formal decision-making. Individual partners may delegate some decisions, but the accountability would continue to lie with the organisation. The strength of an LSP can be its ability to develop a consensus view that ensures commitment across the full range of partners. There is clear endorsement across all sectors for the importance of the Luton Forum as the focus for wider partnership working.
6. The formal nature of LSP structures in general has not, at times, been conducive to partnership working. The emphasis on the Local Area Agreement and the National Indicator Set may have worked against some significant issues that do not fit neatly into one category: for example, sport may have been seen in terms of stronger communities when for many localities the health impacts of participation may be more significant.
7. The mixture of statutory and non-statutory partnerships may have led to a sense of some partnership being seen as, in some way, more significant than others and confusion about how this fitted in with the non-statutory nature of the LSP itself where components were statutory.

8. The Working Group is clear that partnership arrangements should be based on what works best for Luton rather than reflecting any national programme. The proposals aim to build on what works best locally, and to respect the considerable knowledge and expertise of individual partners and partnerships. It is for this reason that the Working Group proposes that all partnerships should consider for themselves their reason for being and functions. It is recognised that partnerships may decide to work in different ways, and this is supported.
9. The Working Group does draw attention of partnerships to ensure the appropriate involvement of voluntary and community sector organisations.

Proposals

'Partnership of partnerships'

10. The need for an overarching partnership is confirmed; however, there are a number of significant changes in the way it is proposed to work:
 - The Luton Forum is seen as contributing to policy development by deciding key issues and priorities, forming the basis of the Sustainable Community Strategy
 - Where the current membership is tightly defined, the proposal is that any organisation which can demonstrate that it supports the aims of the partnership and the Sustainable Community Strategy may be a member if agreed by its relevant umbrella body (see Terms of Reference, Appendix 1)
 - The Forum meets as conference or workshop.
 - An annual work programme is developed, based on key issues and priorities
11. The Governance had previously proposed that the chair of the partnership should be held on a rotating basis; however, feedback has identified that this could lead to a loss of continuity and there may be areas where continuity is important. The Governance Working Group is putting forward two options for consideration by the Luton Forum: the first (Appendix 1, 11.a) is similar to current arrangements with a chair and vice chair; the second (Appendix 1, 11.b) includes a chair elected by the Forum, but with more flexible arrangements for other partners to take the chair when necessary or appropriate.
12. The Forum is asked to decide which of these approaches should be taken.
13. As the work programme will be leading the work of the Luton Forum, it is suggested that the proposed Officer Group takes responsibility for overall coordination of meetings. Appropriate arrangements can be developed over time, and it is recognised that a number of approaches may be possible, including (but not limited to):
 - an annual programme agreed in advance

- a set programme based round the themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy
 - the agenda of the next meeting being agreed at the end of each Forum meeting
14. Brief terms of reference have been drawn up (Appendix 1). These set out the principles of how the Forum would work, but allow for a flexible approach.
 15. As there has been no recent statutory guidance about the role of partnerships, it will be important that there is a clear shared understanding of how, and why, partners are involved. The partnership agreement (Appendix 2) gives the commitment of organisations to supporting the ongoing work of the partnership, and identifies the standards of behaviour expected; these are based on the seven Nolan principles of public life.
 16. The list of members (Appendix 3) is based on all organisations that currently take part in the work of the Luton Forum, and anticipates changes that are planned.
 17. It is not expected that organisations should provide a 'named representative', but that organisations are entitled to send appropriate representation to any meeting of the Forum. This may mean multiple representation on some occasions, and no representation at others depending on the particular agenda.

Theme Boards and Other Groups

18. The nature of statutory partnership has had, and may continue to have, a major impact on the way LSPs work: they may need to respond more closely to a national agenda, overlaying this with a local perspective. National guidance may define much of the workload of these partnerships and so local influence may have some restrictions.
19. The view of the working group is that, instead of attempting to direct the work of these partnerships, the LSP should act as a coordinator: providing channels for communication and offering opportunities to collaborate more clearly. The identification of the smaller number of priorities for action is designed to support this in that it will define the areas where partnerships are expected to work together, but still acknowledges that there are other areas of work that will need to continue.
20. It is proposed, therefore, that all partnerships should be asked to consider their functions and way of working. Partnerships need to be clear of the value they add to partner organisations and to partnership working. This may be particularly significant where there is a Theme Board and Sub-Boards which may end up with business being duplicated. Boards or groups may have very clear reasons for why they need to continue to meet, but these may not need as clearly defined structure as at present; for example, if a major function is information-sharing, a detailed constitution that needs to be agreed by the Forum structure should be totally unnecessary.

Political / organisational leadership

21. No changes are currently proposed to the role of the Local Public Service Board, however it is recognised that the political and organisational leaders will meet regularly in different settings dealing with a wide agenda, not all of which will be relevant to the partnership. It is suggested that further consideration be given as to how existing arrangements might be adapted to ensure appropriate links into broader collaborative arrangements of political and organisational leaders. In the meantime, it is proposed that the LPSB should continue to meet until more suitable arrangements can be identified. In the light of this, the LPSB proposes that the Probation Trust should become a member of the LPSB.
22. In line with the arrangements for the themed partnership, it is suggested that the Local Public Service Board should take responsibility for reviewing its arrangements, including membership.

Officer Group

23. An Officer Group is proposed to ensure coordination of activity around the shorter term priorities for action as well as having an overview of progress on SCS priorities. Draft terms of reference are attached (Appendix 4)
24. It is recognised that this Group will need to be able to escalate issues as they are identified. This could include referring them to particular organisations or partnerships, appropriate. Again, this is based on coordination and collaboration rather than direction.
25. It is expected that members would be of sufficient seniority within their organisations to be able to take forward appropriate issues.
26. This group would also have oversight of partnership administration including membership of the Luton Forum and meeting arrangements.

Next steps

27. These arrangements are designed to streamline arrangements, removing unnecessary bureaucracy by increasing the autonomy of partnership groups. The implications are as follows:
 - Theme partnerships, and other groups, that have not already done so should review their arrangements, including whether or not there is a need for that particular meeting
 - Arrangements need to be developed for the officer group. This can be managed by the Partnership Manager working with partner organisations. This can be reported through the Local Public Service Board.

Governance Working Group:

Laura Church
Linda Farrell
Linda Hockey
Jenny Spouge

Luton Forum

Terms of Reference

Function

1. Luton Forum is a consultative group that brings together partners from all sectors to regularly agree the priorities for the Sustainable Community Strategy. It will achieve this by:
 - Agreeing a set of shared priorities
 - Pooling expertise and knowledge and results of action to scope action on priorities
 - Driving action on priorities
 - Creating an environment for cooperation on priorities
 - Monitoring progress and achievement
 - Identifying risks and challenges
 - Creating space for response to government initiatives and consultations
 - Identifying shorter term priorities for action
 - Advising about the key issues and priorities for the town
 - Considering in detail issues relating to the development of policies and strategies at the earliest stage
 - Sharing information to support joint action
 - Reviewing progress against plans developed
2. Where possible, the Luton Forum will work towards consensus. Where this cannot be achieved, the Forum will aim to reflect accurately the full range of views held.

Membership

3. Membership of the Luton Forum will be open to any organisation that supports the aims of the Forum and has signed a partnership agreement. Initially, this will be based on the organisations that were members of the Luton Forum, its theme boards and subgroups (see list at Appendix 31) in March 2011.
4. Any organisation will be able to apply for membership by application to the secretariat.
5. Public sector organisations will need to be confirmed by their governance structure.
6. Private sector organisations will need to be confirmed by an umbrella body, such as the Chamber of Commerce or Federation of Small Businesses.
7. Voluntary and Community Sector organisations will need to be confirmed by the Luton Assembly.

Meetings

8. Meetings will be held no less than four times a year.
9. Meetings will be held in conference and workshop format.
10. All member organisations will be invited to be represented. Where there are practical limits to the number that can be accommodated at any particular meeting, all reasonable measures will be taken to ensure fair representation across all sectors.

Chair

- 11.a A chair and vice-chair of the Forum will be elected for a two year term of office. Elections for each position will be held in alternate years.

An incumbent chair or vice chair may stand for re-election at the end of their term of office.

Nominations can be made by any member organisation of the Luton Forum. The person nominated does not have to be a member or representative of the nominating organisation.

The election will take place at a conference to take place in the period September to December. Each member organisation present at the conference will have one vote.

OR

- 11.b The Luton Forum will elect a chair on an annual basis, no later than fifteen months after the previous election. The chair will be responsible for the oversight of partnership arrangements in relation to the Sustainable Community Strategy

An annual programme of meetings may be arranged by the Forum secretariat and agreed in advance. With the agreement of the chair of the Forum, individual meetings may be chaired by appropriate members of the partnership.

Administration

12. The secretariat for the Luton Forum will be provided by Luton Borough Council, working in conjunction with the Officer Group.

LutonForum

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

..... (name of representative) on behalf of

..... (name of organisation)

agrees to support the aims of the Luton Forum by:

- Working towards the priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy for Luton, both independently and through partnerships
- Supporting the focus on the small number of identified priorities for action
- Supporting the underlying principles of Equality, Cohesion and Inclusion
- Acting within the principles of the Community Involvement Strategy
- Providing information, as required, to assist in the identification of priorities and development as strategies

Representatives will:

act solely in terms of the public interest. They will not do so in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.

not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

make choices on merit in carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits,

be accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to appropriate scrutiny

be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

LUTON – PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS.

Luton Forum / LPSB

Active Luton
Barnfield College
Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority
Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service
Bedfordshire Police Authority
Jobcentre Plus
Luton Advice Network
Luton Assembly
Luton Borough Council
Marsh Farm Futures
NHS Luton
The Chamber
University of Bedfordshire
Voluntary Action Luton

Stronger and Safer Board

Active Luton
Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service
Bedfordshire Police
Bedfordshire Probation Service
Crown Prosecution Service
Equalities, Cohesion and Inclusion Group
Government Office for the East of England
Luton Assembly
Luton Borough Council
Luton Cultural Services Trust
NHS Luton
Voluntary Action Luton

Stronger Communities Executive

Active Luton
Bedfordshire Police
Equalities, Cohesion and Inclusion Group
Luton Advice Network
Luton Assembly
Luton Borough Council
Luton Cultural Services Trust
NHS Luton
Voluntary Action Luton

Community Safety Partnership

Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service
Bedfordshire Criminal Justice Board
Bedfordshire Police
Bedfordshire Police Authority
Bedfordshire Probation Trust
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Luton and Dunstable Hospital
Luton Assembly
Luton Borough Council
Luton Crown Prosecution Service
Luton Domestic Abuse Strategic Group
Luton Drug and Alcohol Partnership
Luton Magistrates' Court
Luton Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Forum
Luton Safe
Luton Youth Offending Service
NHS Luton
South Essex Partnership Trust
Victim Support

Children and Young People's Trust Board

Barnfield College
Bedfordshire Police
Bedfordshire Preschool Learning Alliance
Bedfordshire Probation Service
Dallow Primary School
Lea Manor High School
Local Safeguarding Children Board
Luton Assembly
Luton Borough Council
Luton Sixth Form College
NHS Bedfordshire
NHS East of England
NHS Luton
South Essex Partnership Trust
Stopsley High School
Wenlock Junior School

Health and Wellbeing Board

Luton Assembly
Luton Borough Council
NHS Luton

Environment and Economy Board

East of England Development Agency
Environment Agency
Luton Assembly
Luton Borough Council
Voluntary Action Luton

Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change

Bedfordshire Climate Change Forum
BRCC
Environment Agency
Groundwork
Luton Assembly
Luton Borough Council
Sustainable Opportunities
Sustrans
Transition Luton
University of Bedfordshire
Wildlife Trust

Employment, Innovation and Enterprise

Barnfield College
Bedfordshire and Luton Chamber of Commerce
Business Link East
Jobcentre Plus
Luton Assembly
Luton Sixth Form College
Prince's Trust
University of Bedfordshire
Voluntary Action Luton

Housing Partnership

Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association
Disability Resource Centre
Explore Investments
Government Office
Lenwell
Luton Assembly
Luton Borough Council
Older Persons Forum
Race Advisory Forum
Signposts
Tenant
Tenant
Victim Support

Equalities, Cohesion and Inclusion Group

Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service
Bedfordshire Police
Coopted Member
Luton Assembly
Luton Borough Council
Marsh Farm Community Development Trust
NHS Luton

Performance Management Sub Group

Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service
Bedfordshire Police
Luton Assembly
Luton Borough Council
Luton Drug and Alcohol Partnership
NHS Luton

Duty to Cooperate

Arts Council
Bedfordshire & Luton Combined Fire Authority
Bedfordshire Police Authority
English Heritage
Health and Safety Executive
Jobcentre Plus
Joint Waste Disposal Authorities
Local Probation Board
Natural England
Luton and Dunstable Hospital
NHS Luton
South Essex Partnership Trust
The Environment Agency
The Highways Agency
Youth Offending Team

Overall

Active Luton #
Arts Council
Barnfield College
Bedfordshire & Luton Combined Fire Authority
Bedfordshire and Luton Chamber of Commerce
Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority
Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service
Bedfordshire Criminal Justice Board
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association
Bedfordshire Police
Bedfordshire Police Authority *
Bedfordshire Preschool Learning Alliance #
Bedfordshire Probation Service
Bedfordshire Probation Trust
Business Link East
Crown Prosecution Service
Dallow Primary School
Disability Resource Centre
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
East of England Development Agency *
English Heritage
Environment Agency
Explore Investments
Government Office *
Health and Safety Executive
Highways Agency
Jobcentre Plus
Joint Waste Disposal Authorities
Lea Manor High School
Lenwell
Local Safeguarding Children Board
Luton Advice Network
Luton and Dunstable Hospital
Luton Assembly #
Luton Borough Council
Luton Cultural Services Trust #
Luton Domestic Abuse Strategic Group
Luton Drug and Alcohol Partnership
Luton Magistrates' Court
Luton Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Forum
Luton Safe
Luton Sixth Form College
Marsh Farm Community Development Trust *
Marsh Farm Futures #
Natural England
NHS Bedfordshire *
NHS East of England *
NHS Luton *

APPENDIX 3

Older Persons Forum
Prince's Trust #
Race Advisory Forum
Signposts #
South Essex Partnership Trust
Stopsley High School
Transition Luton #
University of Bedfordshire
Victim Support #
Voluntary Action Luton #
Wenlock Junior School
Youth Offending Team

(60 in total)

Organisations which are to be created:

GP Consortium
South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership

* indicates organisations that are scheduled to be abolished

indicates organisations that are, or may be, eligible for membership of the Luton Assembly

Officer Group

Terms of reference

Functions

The Officer Group will ensure that partnership functions work effectively to achieve both the shorter term priorities and longer term aspirations of the Sustainable Community Strategy. It will achieve this by:

1. Coordination of Sustainable Community Strategy:
 - Coordination and agreement of shorter term priorities for action
 - Coordination / identification of lead organisation(s) for all priorities
 - Ensuring coordination of activity / action plans for priorities for action
 - Coordination of ongoing evidence base and consultation on priorities, including shorter term priorities for action
 - Providing advice, information and evidence to partnerships and partner organisations

2. Coordination of performance management:
 - Ensure performance management framework in place for all priorities
 - Coordinate performance management of priorities for action
 - Integration of equality, cohesion and inclusion issues into performance management framework
 - Escalate performance issues, where necessary within partner organisations

3. Coordination of meetings
 - Planning of agendas and work programme for the Luton Forum
 - Coordinate chairing arrangements for meetings
 - Coordinate formal membership of Luton Forum
 - Ensure terms of reference are reviewed and updated on a regular basis

4. Communication
 - Coordination of annual report to Luton Forum and partners

Membership

The following will be members of the Officer Group on an ongoing basis, with one place for each organisation:

Bedfordshire Police
Luton Assembly
Luton Borough Council
NHS Luton (to be replaced by the GP Consortium)

Members will be of a sufficient level of seniority to speak and act on behalf of their organisation.

In addition, the organisations identified as the partnership leads for each of the shorter term priorities for action will each be entitled to one place.

Membership will be reviewed on an annual basis.

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LUTON FORUM		AGENDA ITEM 6
DATE OF MEETING:	16 June 2011	
REPORT AUTHOR:	Bren McGowan, Partnership Manager	
SUBJECT:	Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities	
FOR:	Decision / Discussion / Information	

PURPOSE

To enable the Luton Forum to clarify its shorter-term priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Luton Forum:

- (1) adopts the priorities framework (Appendix 1)**
- (2) considers the proposals for responsible boards (Appendix 2)**

BACKGROUND

The Luton Forum has previously discussed the need to clarify its approach to the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) priorities. Although it is recognised that all 32 priorities are important, in the shorter term there will be some priorities for action where it is felt that greater effort is needed and where resources should be targeted.

The Performance Management Sub Group considered proposals and has produced a framework for shorter term priorities for action.

REPORT

EVIDENCE

1. A great deal of data is used across the partnership and the aim needs to be to ensure that prioritisation is coordinated with individual themes contributing to the bigger picture, and the wider partnership influencing the themes. The need to be considered in relation to the overall SCS and its longer term aspirations

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

2. The JSNA is currently being refreshed. It will continue to highlight inequalities as an overarching theme as well as the prevention of ill-health. It will provide information to support the development of a strategy to improve the health and well being of the local population and ensure that services are commissioned to meet the identified needs.
3. Priorities for the JSNA have been identified as follows:

Emerging priorities for children and young people:

- Ameliorating the impact of family poverty
- Improving support for children who are affected by domestic abuse
- Improving the performance of children at KS 2
- Improving dental health

Existing Priorities which will require ongoing focus

- Improving services for children with disabilities
- Improving the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people
- Improving services for Looked After Children
- Reducing infant mortality
- Reducing the prevalence of childhood obesity
- Reducing teenage pregnancy
- Increasing the number of women who initiate breastfeeding

Emerging priorities for Lifestyle factors

- Reducing the prevalence of smoking
- Improving the health of offenders

Existing Priorities which will require ongoing focus:

- Reducing the prevalence of adult obesity
- Increasing physical activity levels of adults with particular focus on women and those living in the more deprived areas of the borough
- Increase focus on issues associated with drug and alcohol use

Emerging priorities for Adult Social Care

- improving mental health services (including promotion of positive mental wellbeing and addressing the social and physical health needs of people with mental health problems)
- increase the number of older people living independently and free from disability

Existing Priorities which will require ongoing focus:

- ensuring adequate support for people living with dementia and their carers
- ensuring adequate support for people with learning difficulties including those with ASD and ADHD
- ensuring adequate support for carers

Emerging priorities for Health Status of the Population

- Increasing life expectancy
- Improving cancer survival rates
- Reducing mortality from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Enabling access to primary health care for homeless people, refugees and asylum seekers and Gypsies Roma and Travellers
- Reducing variation in outcomes in general practice
- Improving support for victims of domestic abuse

Existing Priorities which will require ongoing focus:

- Improving diabetes services

Family Poverty Needs Assessment

4. An interim report was published in October 2010 and further work is underway. The interim report highlighted key “risk factors” for families in poverty: worklessness; large families; child disability; and, large BME communities.
5. Five priorities areas have currently been identified for the strategy and these represent both the key processes and the intended outcomes:
 - To build a clearer understanding of the needs of children and families in poverty in Luton – to help plan effective services to tackle local poverty
 - To improve communication about family poverty in Luton
 - To develop a more effective framework for commissioning services to tackle family poverty in Luton
 - To help maximise incomes for families in poverty in Luton
 - To improve the general wellbeing and life chances of families in poverty in Luton
6. The Child Poverty Needs Assessment can be found at:
<http://www.lutonforum.org/Forum/Documents/2010-12ChildPovertyNeedsAssessment.pdf>

Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment

7. The strategic assessment was published in July 2010 and covered perceptions as well as the reality of crime. Other priorities that emerged were:
 - The night time economy linked to alcohol, which is the focus of on-going scrutiny task and finish group work.
 - High Town, Dallow and South wards.
 - Young offenders.

- Drugs.
 - Anti Social Behaviour.
8. The soLUTiONs Partnership Plan refresh 2011/12 can be found at [http://www.luton.gov.uk/media%20library/pdf/chief%20executives/community%20safety/solutions/crime%20and%20disorder%20reduction%20partnership%20plan%20web%20mar%202011%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.luton.gov.uk/media%20library/pdf/chief%20executives/community%20safety/solutions/crime%20and%20disorder%20reduction%20partnership%20plan%20web%20mar%202011%20(2).pdf)

Local Economic Assessment

9. An interim report was published in October 2010, which has identified four priorities for Luton:
- Improving Luton's skill base.
 - Reducing levels of worklessness.
 - Focusing business support activities (start-up, growth and inward investment) around key sectors and clusters identified as: Airport-related; Engineering (including automotive); Aerospace; ICT; Creative Arts and Media; Retail; Construction; Green technology; and medical/health/sport related.
 - Creating the right environment for businesses to thrive.
10. The Economic Priority Statement can be found at <http://www.luton.gov.uk/media%20library/pdf/environment%20&%20regeneration/regeneration/economic%20priority%20statement.pdf> and the Luton Local Economic Assessment Main Headlines can be found at <http://www.luton.gov.uk/media%20library/pdf/environment%20&%20regeneration/regeneration/luton%20lea%20draft%20-%20sept%202010.pdf>

Luton Commission on Community Cohesion

11. The Commission's report was published on 20 January 2011. The report calls for Luton's leaders to establish a working party with faith leaders on extremism, and sets out recommendations that local people said mattered most to them. The areas covered include:
- Local economy - improving local people's capacity to benefit from the opportunities offered by Luton's economy and its excellent transport connections.
 - Luton's image - not hiding the difficult issues but achieving a fair and balanced picture, including in the national media.
 - Knowledge and understanding - the needs of local communities and what the Council, and public, voluntary and community sector agencies can do realistically to understand and address those needs.
 - Resource allocation and access - where fairness and transparency are especially important during the current time of austerity.

12. The report stresses the long term nature of tackling cohesion issues, and the need for the local authority and its partners to engage in on-going, proactive management of community cohesion in a way that tackles the symptoms and underlying causes of extremism in all its forms.
13. The full report of the Commission can be found at http://www.luton.gov.uk/internet/Social_issues/Community%20cohesion

Proposal

14. This proposal reflects the fact that the priorities are designed to influence how partner organisations work as well as how they act together collaboratively as a partnership. The 32 SCS priorities are all seen as being significant, and the proposal does not identify some priorities as being more significant than others; instead it sets out some principles that help to direct partnership working.
15. The framework (see Appendix 1) comprises
 - Partnership Goal – the overarching aspiration for partnership working
 - Partnership Principle – the underlying approach that will be taken
 - Partnership Priority Outcomes – the achievements for the different strands of the partnership
16. Taken together, these describe the way in which the partnership will work to achieve its overarching goal, with implications for the major themes. Appendix 2 lists the primary relationship between these priority outcomes and the key sub-partnerships as they exist at present. Partnership arrangements may change following the review of governance arrangements which is also on the agenda of this meeting.
17. PMSG notes that Family Poverty is currently the responsibility of the Children and Young People’s Trust Board. It recognised that this issue could sit easily in a number of individual boards, and suggests that further consideration is given. It noted that one third of older people are estimated to be living in poverty, and as this may not be conveyed by the term ‘family poverty’, it advises that the list at Appendix 2 provides the basis for discussion.
18. When priorities are confirmed, it will be important to ensure that the links between the national agenda and local priorities are made explicit; for example, the Public Health Outcomes Framework will support the proposed local priority on healthy life expectancy. Further work will need to be undertaken as the national framework becomes clearer to ensure that this is used to support performance management on at a local level and not to duplicate or increase work.

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LUTON FORUM – 16 JUNE 2011 Item 6 Appendix 1

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY (2008 – 2026)

Our vision for Luton

PARTNERSHIP GOAL (2011 – 2014)

To reduce inequalities adversely affecting Luton's communities

Through our priorities, we will work to narrow the inequalities gap between Luton's communities, and between Luton and the rest of the

PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLES

To make evidence-based prevention and early intervention the principles that guide how resources are deployed in Luton to achieve our priority outcomes

PARTNERSHIP PRIORITY OUTCOME 1

Fewer people living in poverty

PARTNERSHIP PRIORITY OUTCOME 2

More people, including those who are vulnerable, able to live independently

PARTNERSHIP PRIORITY OUTCOME 3

Increased healthy life expectancy

PARTNERSHIP PRIORITY OUTCOME 4

Improved educational attainment for children and young people

PARTNERSHIP PRIORITY OUTCOME 5

Increased number of people with skills, helping business create the jobs that lead to employment

PARTNERSHIP PRIORITY OUTCOME 6

A reduction in serious crime and the fear it causes

PARTNERSHIP PRIORITY OUTCOME 7

An improved natural and built environment

PARTNERSHIP PRIORITY OUTCOME 8

Stronger community cohesion across the town

LUTON FORUM – 16 JUNE 2011 Item 6 Appendix 2

PRIORITY	RESPONSIBLE THEME
Fewer people living in poverty	Health and Wellbeing Board / Children's and Young People's Trust Board
More people, including those who are vulnerable, able to live independently	Health and Wellbeing Board
Increased healthy life expectancy	Health and Wellbeing Board
Improved educational attainment for children and young people	Children's and Young People's Trust Board
Increased number of people with skills, helping business create the jobs that lead to employment	Employment , Innovation and Enterprise Group
A reduction in serious crime and the fear it causes	Community Safety Partnership
An improved natural and built environment	Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Group
Stronger community cohesion across the town	Stronger Communities Executive / Equalities, Cohesion and Inclusion Group



LUTON FORUM		AGENDA ITEM 7
DATE OF MEETING:	16 June 2011	
REPORT AUTHOR:	Bren McGowan, Partnership Manager	
SUBJECT:	Theme Updates	
FOR:	Decision / Discussion / Information	

PURPOSE

This report updates members of some of the key areas of progress in relation to the themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the report is noted.

REPORT

STRONGER COMMUNITIES

1. The Stronger Communities Executive used its last meeting to consider its function and how best it could work. With the abolition of LAAs, there is no longer a requirement to deal with a lot of performance data. Although this has some advantages in that much of the LAA performance information was not very relevant, it does raise questions about how progress is measured. However, as the Equalities, Cohesion and Inclusion Strategy will also deal with measuring progress on some of these issues, it was felt that the links between the two groups should be explored.
2. The Stronger Communities Executives feels very strongly that there is a key strategic role and that this is currently split between the Stronger Communities Executive and the Equalities, Cohesion and Inclusion Group. It has requested to members of the two groups should meet to discuss the way forward for the two groups, recognising that there may be a number of possibilities including the status quo, joint working or amalgamation. The Stronger Communities Executive is keen to rationalise arrangements so that it is clear how the agenda is being approached and that appropriate robust governance arrangements are in place.

3. It has been agreed with the chair of the Equalities, Cohesion and Inclusion Group that members of the Stronger Communities Executive should attend its next meeting on 24 June.

SAFER COMMUNITIES

soLUTiONs' Priorities 2011-2012

4. The Community Safety Executive signed off the Strategic Assessment in October which identifies trends relating to crime and disorder so that priorities can be set and resources allocated and this forms the basis of priorities in the refreshed Partnership Plan 2011-2012. The plan was presented to Luton residents at soLUTiONs' second public summit held in November which had over 250 attendees. Priorities are as follows:
 - The town centre focusing on night time economy related offences, shoplifting in the Mall and theft from a motor vehicle.
 - Neighbourhoods adjacent to the town centre (South, Dallow, High Town and Biscot) – focusing on burglary, violent crime, ASB and theft from a motor vehicle.
 - Offenders aged between 15-19 including re-offenders
 - Prevention and support to vulnerable victims focusing on elderly burglary victims, the victims of ASB and the victims of domestic abuse
 - Cross cutting priorities include reducing re-offending, drugs and alcohol, reducing the fear of crime and building public confidence.
5. A feedback report from the summit was produced and sent to residents.
6. Key areas of work in place to support the priorities include:
 - A Night Time Economy Visioning workshop was held in March to consider the relevance of the Purple Flag programme to Luton town centre. Purple Flag is an accreditation offered by the Association of Town Centre Management which recognises excellence in place management in town and city centres at night. The aims of the workshop were to look ahead, develop a vision and identify priority actions.
 - The SOS Bus Luton continues to positively impact crime and disorder in the town centre. St Patrick 's Day was its first anniversary and since its launch, it has helped 548 people, provided first aid for 307 people, prevented 168 ambulance call-outs and saved the NHS around £50,000.
 - Building public confidence and addressing fear of crime are priorities for the partnership and soLUTiONs continues to use the local media, Lutonline, website, LBC publications and community events to keep the public informed about partnership activities and priorities. A recent Citizens Panel survey indicated that just over 1 in 4 of those surveyed had heard of the partnership.
 - The 'I am more than ...' campaign was launched at the Public summit to challenge negative stereotypes of young people.
 - soLUTiONs has commissioned a piece of work to be done by NACRO looking at gang culture, how to deal with young people who want to exit gangs, also

considering young women on the periphery of gangs. Sessions with young people at risk started in February and will be over a three month period.

Anti-social behaviour

- The BESST project has been underway looking to improve the partnership response to anti-social behaviour and once the review is complete, the aim is to have a multi-agency ASB team in place during 2011.
- A Sex Worker Strategy is being formulated to ensure protection of residents from the impact associated with sex workers by enforcement action against kerb crawlers and offenders who exploit others.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse

- October was designated 'Domestic Abuse Awareness Month' by soLUTiONs during which time events were held locally to raise awareness of this issue. Two articles in the local press and a radio interview were generated as a result of these events and endorsement by Monty Panesar.
- The Luton Domestic Abuse Strategy 2010-2012 and Action Plan were published in February. These set out Luton's strategic priorities in relation to domestic abuse and include plans for implementation and evaluation.
- During March, soLUTiONs received confirmation that it had successfully bid for funding from the Home Office for a MARAC (multi agency risk assessment conference) coordinator and an IDVA (independent domestic violence advisor) post.
- soLUTiONs also supports a pilot project currently being run by Bedfordshire Police to target prolific domestic abuse perpetrators. The project, which operates alongside services offering support and assistance to victims, focuses on bringing offenders to justice. Partnership working is key to the success of the project and it forms part of soLUTiONs monthly tasking group as an agenda item.
- In collaboration with partners across Bedfordshire, two Independent Sexual Violence Advisors have been appointed and a new county-wide sexual assault referral centre (SARC) is scheduled to open..

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

7. The consultation on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), which was circulated to members of the Luton Forum, closed on 15 April. 196 responses to the consultation were received with a high level of agreement with the proposed priorities.

Emerging priorities for children and young people:

- Ameliorating the impact of family poverty
- Improving support for children who are affected by domestic abuse
- Improving the performance of children at KS 2
- Improving dental health

Existing Priorities which will require ongoing focus

- Improving services for children with disabilities
- Improving the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people
- Improving services for Looked After Children
- Reducing infant mortality
- Reducing the prevalence of childhood obesity
- Reducing teenage pregnancy
- Increasing the number of women who initiate breastfeeding

Emerging priorities for Lifestyle factors

- Reducing the prevalence of smoking
- Improving the health of offenders

Existing Priorities which will require ongoing focus:

- Reducing the prevalence of adult obesity
- Increasing physical activity levels of adults with particular focus on women and those living in the more deprived areas of the borough
- Increase focus on issues associated with drug and alcohol use

Emerging priorities for Adult Social Care

- improving mental health services (including promotion of positive mental wellbeing and addressing the social and physical health needs of people with mental health problems)
- increase the number of older people living independently and free from disability

Existing Priorities which will require ongoing focus:

- ensuring adequate support for people living with dementia and their carers
- ensuring adequate support for people with learning difficulties including those with ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) and ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)
- ensuring adequate support for carers

Emerging priorities for Health Status of the Population

- Increasing life expectancy
- Improving cancer survival rates
- Reducing mortality from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Enabling access to primary health care for homeless people, refugees and asylum seekers and Gypsies Roma and Travellers
- Reducing variation in outcomes in general practice
- Improving support for victims of domestic abuse

Existing Priorities which will require ongoing focus:

- Improving diabetes services
- 8 Leads have been identified for the key issues, and work is taking place to develop the local response.

Statutory Health and Wellbeing Board

- 9 The Health and Social Care Bill currently before Parliament would require the Council to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board. The Board would be a committee of the Council, and its membership would include, as a minimum, the director of children's services, the director of adult social services, the director of public health, an elected representative nominated by the Leader of the Council, a representative of the Local Healthwatch organisation and a representative of the GP commissioning consortium (GPCC).
10. The Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board is expected to have three key responsibilities:
- Oversee the development by the Council and the GPCC of Luton's joint strategic needs assessment
 - Oversee the development by the Council and the GPCC of Luton's joint health and wellbeing strategy that sets out the planned response to the needs assessment
 - Promote integrated working locally
11. The first meeting of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board will take place on 23 June, well in advance of the Government's target date of October 2011.
12. In view of the development of the statutory board, the Luton Forum's Health and wellbeing Board is to be asked to consider its arrangements.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Governance

13. Government policy has had significant impact on children's trusts; they will no longer be a statutory requirement and there will be no duty on schools to cooperate with them; however, locally, it has been decided that the Children and Young People's Trust will continue because it provides a useful strategic framework for partners. In the light of these changes, governance arrangements are being reviewed. These will take account of the development of the statutory Health and Well-being Board which will have a number of functions relating to children and young people.

Priorities

14. The Children's Trust Board has identified four priority outcomes and these will form the basis of the joint work of the board for the forthcoming year. These are:
 - Improving child health and wellbeing
 - Keeping children safe and secure
 - Building strong and supportive families
 - Raising the aspirations, attainment and achievement of vulnerable children and young people.
15. These are underpinned by the development and implementation of Luton's Early Intervention Strategy and Luton's Family Poverty Strategy. These are both essential streams of work and contribute significantly to the delivery of these priority outcomes.

Child Protection

16. Ofsted carried out an unannounced inspection of Luton Borough Council's front-line child protection services on 23 and 24 November 2010, examining the quality and effectiveness of contact, referral and assessment arrangements, to determine their impact on minimising child abuse and neglect.
17. Inspectors identified no priority action, which means the authority is meeting the statutory requirements in protecting vulnerable children and young people; however an action plan to improve services is in place and is closely monitored by the Social Care Performance Board in Luton Borough Council's Children and Learning Department.
18. The Luton Safeguarding Children Board has recently published its annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding children in Luton. This provides a range of challenges to the Children's Trust Board which has identified necessary actions in their forthcoming workplan.

Family Poverty

19. The Family Poverty Steering Group is currently developing the first draft of the strategy with a view to circulating this for consultation over the summer and finalising the document in September. The strategy is supported by both qualitative and quantitative information.
20. Qualitative research has been commissioned through the University of Bedfordshire where young volunteers from the Prince's Trust sought out the views of young people and young parents relating to poverty. This has raised some significant issues about their perceptions which will, in turn, affect what will be the successful interventions. Significantly, many people who would fall within the definition used for the strategy, do not define themselves as being in poverty and so the terminology used is going to be important.

21. Using the findings of this research a policy booklet aimed at young people and professionals working with them is currently being designed. This will be available in September and it is intended to use this primarily in schools and colleges to help raise and consider issues related to understanding and tackling poverty. It will also include information on signposting to services and support.
22. Additional quantitative research, to enhance what is already in the Child Poverty Needs assessment, has been commissioned from Experian which will give a clearer picture of financial patterns across the town, and should help to ensure that activity is targeted on the most appropriate areas.
23. The strategy has identified five strategic aims:
 - To build a clearer understanding of the needs of children and families in poverty in Luton – to help plan effective services to tackle local poverty
 - To improve communication about family poverty in Luton
 - To develop a more effective framework for commissioning services to tackle family poverty in Luton
 - To help maximise incomes for families in poverty in Luton
 - To improve the general wellbeing and life chances of families in poverty in Luton

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership

24. Progress has continued to be made on the development of the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP):
 - Establishment as a company limited by guarantee.
 - Establishment of a Shadow Board with 6 private sector, 6 local authority and 1 higher education representative and a private sector chair. .
 - Submission of a Capacity Funding bid to support the development of the Board, economic research and business engagement.
 - Submission of an application to Communities and Local Government for start-up resources to cover administration etc.
25. SEMLEP submitted four Regional Growth Fund bids for Round 1, but these were unsuccessful.
26. The government has announced a number of initiatives such as Enterprise Zones which only Local Enterprise Partnerships can bid for. It is likely that LEPs will have an increasingly important role in the government's economic growth agenda. SEMLEP has submitted an expression of interest for Enterprise Zone status.

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