



LUTON FORUM

4 November 2010
2:00 pm

High Town Community Sports and Arts Centre
Concorde Street
Luton
LU2 0JD

(PLEASE NOTE VENUE)

AGENDA

1. Introductions and Apologies

Apologies: Cllr Simmons; Pam Garraway.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings:

2.1 25 March 2010
(Attached) For agreement.

3. Matters Arising.

(Report attached)

For information and decision. Bren McGowan, LSP Manager, to present.

4. Disclosures of Interests.

Members are reminded that they must disclose both the existence and the nature of any personal interest 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. **Comprehensive Spending Review - overview** *(Presentation)*
For information and discussion. Bren McGowan, LSP Manager, to present.

6. **Luton Forum - Governance** *(Report attached)*
For discussion and decision. Bren McGowan, LSP Manager, to present.

7. **Sustainable Community Strategy - priorities.** *(Report attached)*
For discussion and decision. Bren McGowan, LSP Manager and Dean Stokes, Chair of Performance Management Sub Group to present.

LUTON FORUM MEETING
Thursday 25th March 2010
2.00 pm at A W House, Stuart Street, Luton

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Anwar Haque – Vice Chair (In the Chair) – Luton Assembly
Peter Adams – Luton Assembly
Maggie Appleton – Luton Cultural Trust
Professor David Barrett – University of Bedfordshire
Everton Blake – Voluntary Action Luton
Colin Chick – Environment and Economy Board – Chair
Chief Superintendent Mike Colbourne – Bedfordshire Police
Penny Fletcher – Bedfordshire Police Authority
Dave Fothergill – Beds & Luton Fire & Rescue Service
Ron Greenham – Luton Assembly
David Oakley Hill – Luton Assembly
Mohammed Rafi - Marsh Farm Community Development Trust
Jim Thakoordin – Luton Assembly
Councillor Sian Timoney – Beds & Luton Fire & Rescue Authority

SUBSTITUTES FOR MEMBERS

Jacqui Blake substituting for Alison Hunt Job Centre Plus
Anne Fatcher substituting for Debbie Jones, Corporate Director Children and Learning.
Morag Stewart substituting for Angela McNab NHS Luton

OBSERVERS

Chris Hammond – Government Officer Eastern Region
Debbie Reid - University of Bedfordshire

SUPPORT OFFICERS/ADVISORS

Alice Abida – LSP Support Officer
Lorna Brown – Voluntary Action Luton
Lisa Jerome – Principal Democratic Services Officer
Bren McGowan – LSP Manager
Robin Porter – BSF Director
Susan Rowland – Democratic Services Officer
Dean Stokes – Head Strategic Planning Policy and Performance

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from
Councillor Hazel Simmons – Chair
Astrid Bannister - LAMP
Anita Briddon - Luton Youth Offending Services
Laura Church – Head of Regeneration, Luton Borough Council
Councillor Roy Davis – Democratically Elected Member
Debbie Jones – Children & Young People's Board – Chair
Janet Montgomery – Luton Assembly
Mike Robinson – Interim Chief Executive Luton Borough Council

Jenny Spouge – Luton Assembly
Gillian Sharp - Advice Network
Gerry Taylor – NHS Luton

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28th JANUARY 2010 (REF: 2)

Resolved: That, the minutes of the Forum held on 28th January 2010 be taken as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendment:

“Minute No. 6(ii) – Nominations for partner organisations should be forwarded to Lorna Brown, Voluntary Action Luton and not Everton Blake.”

13 MATTERS ARISING (REF: 3)

Bren McGowan, LSP Manager submitted a report to inform members of progress since the previous meeting and matters not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

- **Bedfordshire and Luton Compact** – due to the complexity of the draft documents, it was noted that something more accessible and simple was currently being looked at based on the new national compact.
- It was noted that staff had been encouraged to report any concerns or issues through ‘**Looking Out for Luton**’ the Community Tension Monitoring Hotline. Further updates on this would be brought back to future meetings.
- **Pride of Luton Awards** – Colin Chick updated the meeting on the current position relating to the Awards. The Forum was advised that the Herald and Post Newspaper had made it clear that they wanted to step away from the Awards to launch their own event which would also be known as ‘Pride in Luton’.

It was suggested that to avoid any confusion for the public the Forum’s event should be delayed until later in the year to October/November with an alternative branding. The sponsors for the event had reiterated their support although had expressed disappointment that the Herald and Post had withdrawn its involvement.

Resolved: (i) That the report (Ref: 3) be noted.

(ii) That Bren McGowan write to the Herald and Post on behalf of the Environment and Economy Board to advise them of the view of the Luton Forum and stipulate that the Luton Forum name should not be used when publicising their event.

(iii) Once a response had been received regarding (ii) above a decision on the way forward for the Pride in Luton awards could be made by the Luton Forum.

14 TOTAL PLACE - PRESENTATION (REF: 5)

Robin Porter, Total Place Director gave a presentation (attached to these minutes at Appendix 1) regarding the current situation with the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Total Place Project.

The Forum was advised of the proposals for the two streams – Access to Benefits and Integrated Offender Management. The Total Place Director outlined what needed to change within the two streams, the potential benefits/savings to be realised and what was the strength of evidence.

The Forum welcomed the process and agreed that the approach was showing the way forward for the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The Chair thanked the Total Place Director for his presentation.

Resolved: That the presentation be noted.

15 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT REFRESH (REF: 6)

Dean Stokes, Head of Strategic Planning Policy and Performance, Luton Borough Council updated members of the Luton Forum on the detail of the refresh of the Local Area Agreement.

The Forum was informed that the Learning Skills Council (LSC) had been removed as a named partner in delivering NI 117 and that the Skills Funding Agency would replace the LSC from 1st April 2010.

It was noted that N117 (the number of 16-18 year olds who were not in education, employment or training (NEET)) was decreasing.

The Forum was also pleased to note that in relation to NI 153, 700 people had come off of benefits so far this year.

Resolved: That the report (Ref: 6) be noted.

16 COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT 2010 (REF: 7)

Dean Stokes Head of Strategic Planning Policy and Performance, Luton Borough Council, presented to the Forum the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) for 2010. He advised that since the award of the red flag for housing, early and positive engagement had been had with the Audit Commission lead and Strategic Housing expert.

Penny Fletcher, Bedfordshire Police Authority enquired whether the Council treated offenders as priority need in housing allocations which should then encourage ex offenders to stop re-offending. It was suggested that this issue could be considered at a future meeting of the Housing Strategy Group.

Resolved: (i) That the presentation (Ref: 7) be noted.

(ii) That the issue of housing allocation for offenders be considered by the Housing Strategy Group.

17 THEME BOARD REPORTS (REF: 8)

The Forum received updates on the key issues from the Thematic Partnerships.

Stronger and Safer Communities

Chief Superintendent Mike Colbourne reported on the successful launch of the SOS bus.

Penny Fletcher reported that Luton Borough Council was working in partnership with both Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council on the issue of anti-social behaviour

Jim Thakoordin, Luton Assembly, expressed concern regarding the rise in anti social behaviour incidents, which was costing thousands of pounds.

Chief Superintendent Mike Colbourne agreed and stated that this was a complex issue and suggested that a presentation be made to a future meeting of the Forum on the causes and factors that leads to anti-social behaviour.

Health and Well Being Board

Ron Greenwood advised that a National Dementia Strategy had been produced and that it was essential that the issue be considered and action taken due to the year on year increase in the number of dementia sufferers. It was noted that the Dementia Strategy would be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Environment and Economy

David Oakley Hill, Luton Assembly, expressed concern regarding the amount of new build houses in the Town which were being built on open spaces. He felt that it was important that green space and allotments were retained throughout Luton in order that people could enjoy these spaces.

Colin Chick replied that as far as possible the Council tried to utilise brown field sites for residential housing estates and that most of the houses had been built on brown field sites, the Council made every effort to protect green spaces. He advised that the views of the Luton Forum as well as the Environment and Economy Group had been included in the Core Strategy.

The Forum was also advised of the new Local Economic Assessment Duty which would provide the Forum with an economic evidence base in line with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Colin Chick added that the following projects were being undertaken:-

- £80 million had been provided for the guided busway.
- Funding had been secured for the new Luton Railway Station with further funding having been levered in from Network Rail
- The Environment Strategy, Carbon Management Plan and Adapting to Climate Change would all be reported to the Council's Executive on 29th March 2010.

The Forum acknowledged the good work that had been undertaken by the Council particularly in respect of the new Luton Train Station.

Children and Young People

In relation to commissioning arrangements, Linda Farrell, Luton Assembly requested that the Voluntary and Community Sector be considered when re-commissioning Children's Services.

Resolved: (i) That the Report (Ref: 8) be noted.

(ii) That the Theme Board Chairs be requested to send substitutes to future meetings of the Forum if they were unable to attend to report back on the Thematic Partnerships.

18 LUTON EQUALITIES AGENCY (REFERRAL FROM LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE) (REF: 9)

Bren McGowan, LSP Manager submitted a report regarding the position of the Council in respect of the Luton Equalities Agency. The LSP Manager highlighted a number of relevant factors which should be considered when looking at the current situation including:

- Feasibility Study;
- Independence ;
- Key Functions;
- Governance;
- Funding;
- Remit

The LSP Manager reported that a considerable amount of work had been put into supporting the development of the agency and yet the Agency had not achieved the strategic role which had been expected of them by partner organisations. The Business Plan presented by the Agency for 2007/08 did not reflect the aspirations set out in the feasibility study and this had led to funding not being allocated. The Agency had continued to provide limited services but had not developed in the way it had been intended.

The Luton Forum had now developed an Equalities Cohesion and Inclusion strand reflecting the significance of the issue to the Partnership. The Forum's Equalities, Cohesion and Inclusion Group did not have independent status but was

designed to have a major role in ensuring that those issues were considered at a strategic level.

Following discussion, it was agreed that there needed to be a resolution to the situation. However, due to the low numbers of Members at the Forum meeting at the time this item was considered no formal decision could be made. It was decided that the report be brought back to the next meeting of the Luton Forum and to be the first item on the agenda so that consideration of a way forward on this issue could be discussed.

Resolved: That the report (Ref: 9) be noted.

(ii) That the report be brought back to the next meeting of the Luton Forum as the first item on the agenda when a resolution to this matter will be decided.

9 PARTNERSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT (REF: 10)

Bren McGowan the LSP Manager informed the Forum of the following events:-

- The final meeting of the LSP and LAA Network would take place on Thursday 20th May 2010 in Cambridge. This was a free event organised by Improvement East.
- Place Shaping – An Evidence Based Approach in Bedfordshire and Luton – this event would take place on 10th May 2010 at the Rufus Centre, Flitwick. Members of the Forum and Theme Boards would be receiving invitations to this event.
- At its meeting in April 2009 the Forum received information about the year of Literacy. The Forum was advised of the main activities planned for 2010.

Further information on the above events is available from Mike Harrison, School Improvement Advisor, e-mail mike.harrison@luton.gov.uk.

Resolved: That the report (Ref: 10) be noted.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (REF: 11)

There was no other business.

(Note: Meeting ended at 4.35 pm.)

LUTON FORUM	AGENDA ITEM 3
DATE OF MEETING:	4 November 2010
REPORT AUTHOR:	Bren McGowan, LSP Manager
SUBJECT:	Matters arising
FOR:	Decision / Discussion / Information

PURPOSE

To update partners on matters not included elsewhere on the agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that

- (i) the report is noted**
- (ii) that the recommendation to Overview and Scrutiny is agreed.**

REPORT

1. *13 - Matters Arising – Pride of Luton Awards* – An e-mail was sent to the editor of the Herald and Post who apologised for the use of the logo explained that it was used in error. Those awards took place without the involvement of the Luton Forum.
2. Awards have been organised under the banner of *Luton's Best* and will take place on Thursday 2 December. Nominations close on Friday 5 November, and partners are encouraged to make further nominations. Full details can be found at www.luton.gov.uk/lutonsbestawards
3. *16 - Comprehensive Area Assessment* – the issue of accommodation for offenders had been formally referred to the Housing Partnership for consideration at a future meeting.
4. *18 – Luton Equalities Agency* - the previous meeting was inquorate by the time this item was taken and so could not agree a formal recommendation to Luton Borough

Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board. Some members suggested the report should include a formal recommendation to Overview and Scrutiny.

5. The Luton Forum is only in a position to respond to the first three of the requests from the referral:
 - a. To investigate what, as seems apparent, went wrong with the implementation of the recommendations of the feasibility study to develop the Luton Equalities Agency, by Luton Forum;
 - b. To investigate who was responsible for making the decision not to release the funding £150K budgeted for in the previous financial year 2008/09;
 - c. What was the £150K funding allocated for?
 - d. To make all endeavours to identify and recruit Trustees to serve on the Luton Equalities Agency;
 - e. To immediately identify emergency funding to ensure that the Luton Equalities Agency is able to continue to operate.
 - f. To immediately identify two part funding under the Service Level Agreement (SLA).
 - Funding to directly kick-start the project.
 - Funding for sustainability based on satisfactory performance by the Agency;
6. The report previously discussed (attached) answers the questions at a, b and c. Luton Forum is unable to take responsibility for the final three requests, and so the following recommendation is proposed:
 - 6.1 Luton Forum notes the difficulties encountered in the development of the Luton Equalities Agency and recognises the commitment of members involved. In view of the changes that have taken place since the original feasibility study, the Luton Forum offers some observations for consideration but cannot recommend any specific course of action.
7. The report, with any agreed recommendation, will be forwarded to the Scrutiny Manager for consideration.

Bren McGowan
LSP Manager

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LUTON FORUM	AGENDA ITEM 9
DATE OF MEETING: 25 March 2010	
REPORT AUTHOR:	Bren McGowan, LSP Manager
SUBJECT:	Luton Equalities Agency (Referral from Luton Borough Council Executive)
FOR:	Decision / Discussion / Information

PURPOSE

To agree a response from the Luton Forum to the referral from Luton Borough Council's Executive.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Luton Forum

- (1) comments on the report and its conclusions
- (2) approves the conclusions
- (3) refers the report to the Scrutiny Manager

BACKGROUND

The Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee of Luton Borough Council referred the issues of the Luton Equalities Agency to the Executive of Luton Borough Council. The Executive referred this to the Luton Forum as the Forum had initiated the Equalities Agency and had provided initial support. The Luton Forum agreed that the LSP Manager should prepare a draft on its behalf.

REPORT

Background

1. In 2004, Luton Forum commissioned a feasibility study into the setting up of an Equalities Agency to deal with all the strands covered by equality legalisation. The

feasibility study reported in March 2005 and identified both the need for such an agency, and the requirement of support from a number of areas. The study also highlighted the need for the Agency to be, and to be seen to be, independent.

2. Officers from Luton Borough Council worked with members of the Luton Assembly to form a Steering Group to support the creation of the Agency.
3. As recommended in the feasibility study, a Development Worker was appointed in order to set up the agency including the recruitment of trustees. There was also the proposal that the Agency should work to create a Director post, so that it was able to work at a strategic level.
4. Members of the Steering Group withdrew as trustees were appointed.
5. In late 2007/early 2008 several reports were presented to the Luton Forum and the Local Public Service Board relating to continuing funding. Although there was support for the concept of an Equalities Agency, there were concerns about the robustness of the business plan which meant that it was not considered appropriate to recommend funding at that stage.
6. The Agency has continued to function, and is currently reporting high levels of casework.

Issues

7. In looking at how the Agency developed and the situation that now exists, there are a number of relevant factors that may be considered.

The Feasibility Study

8. The Feasibility Study is very clear about gaining information about what an Agency might do, and how it might be formed. It is less clear about what the necessary commitments might be from various partners, including financial commitments. Running costs were always likely to be significant if it was to achieve its vision, and it may have been useful to be more realistic in the feasibility study about what would be needed, likely commitments (including financial), and other requirements. It is also clearer about aspects of how the Agency should be developed, but it is less clear about the role of the Agency, highlighting what the 'services provided by the Equality Agency *should* include', but expressing this in very general terms.

Independence

9. Much has been made of the need for the Equalities Agency to maintain its independence, and its success was always likely to depend on being a strong organisation that could work strategically with public sector and other partners. However, this need to maintain independence may have led to public sector partners being seen as separate from the Agency.

10. There appears to be a perception that members of the Agency felt that trustees should only be recruited from the Third Sector. This does not align with the comment from the Feasibility Study:

“Representation from all targeted communities should be enshrined in the constitution. The membership of Governing Committee should include academics, representatives from community organisations and other field experts as well as individuals with proven experience in financial management, knowledge of the law, people management skills and organisational development skills. These people should have full voting and therefore decision-making rights. Representatives from statutory agencies should attend in a non-voting capacity to ensure that there is direct strategic dialogue with representatives from various statutory agencies who have the power to make commitments on behalf of their agency.”

11. In practice, the Agency does not appear to have included the broader constituency, and links with the statutory sector have been poor. This could be seen to maintain the independence of the organisation, but it could also be seen to limit the expertise on which it could draw: both the statutory sector and the private sector may have been able to contribute expertise to the work of the Agency. Any trustees appointed would need to work in the best interests of the Agency and not for any other interest, and so any insistence on voluntary sector membership may have been an unnecessary limitation.
12. Although formal representation was to be based round organisations and individuals outside the public sector, there was an expectation that the Agency would work with public sector partners as part of the ‘*direct strategic dialogue*’ but this does not seem to have developed.

Key functions

13. There does not seem to have been clear agreement about what the main objectives of the Agency were, and how to achieve them, although a number of options are listed in the Feasibility Study.
14. The initial vision appears to have been to develop a body that could work strategically, and which could influence the key players in the town, a ‘critical friend’. Casework was to be an element of this, but it was expected that the reach of the Agency would be far wider. This work was intended to cover all elements of the equalities agenda: age, disability, gender, race, religion and sexual orientation.
15. The major thrust of the Agency’s work in its early stages appears to have focused on race equality as a result of funding received through the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) and the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). The initial work also seemed to have included a significant amount of casework.
16. The expectation outside the Agency seems to have been that the Agency would undertake some areas of casework, but that generally it would act as a referral point to other agencies. The Agency itself appears to have seen casework as a major function, and has developed along this line.

Governance

17. The governance of all organisations is crucial, and charities are under particular limitations. The Luton Equalities Agency was removed from the register of charities for a short time as it had not filed the appropriate information with the Charity Commission within the required timescale. This was rectified within a short time.
18. The financial information reported to the Charity Commission for 2007/08 shows only funding received from Luton Borough Council, but does not appear include the £33,000 which was received from the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Funding

19. Funding was identified as a major issue in the original Feasibility Study. A growth item of £50k was included in the Council's budget for 2008/9, (increasing to £150k in 2009/10). This was intended to give some incentive to expanding the operations of the Agency, as the lack of identified and committed funding was in danger of making the work that had been done through the feasibility study no more than a theoretical exercise in aspirations. It was envisaged that this funding would be provided through Gift Aid from London Luton Airport Limited (LLAL). As with all payments under Gift Aid, payment is conditional on satisfactory monitoring reports. In the case of the Agency, it was understood that the Luton Forum had required the production of a business plan that clearly demonstrated, to its satisfaction, how the Agency would meet the objectives of the feasibility study. Payment of Gift Aid was, therefore, conditional on the production of this business plan.
20. As LLAL was not advised that a satisfactory business plan had been produced, payment was not made. Luton Borough Council, in setting its budget for 2009/10, approved, subject to the agreement of the LLAL Board, a one-year deferral of the £100k increase in the allocation to the Luton Equalities Agency, to enable Gift Aid support to be provided to other local charities, with the intention that the funding should be restored once the Luton Equalities Agency had submitted a satisfactory business plan meeting the requirements set down by the Luton Forum. The recent downturn in the number of airline passengers due to the current economic climate means that LLAL now needs to review the overall level of its Gift Aid programme, and there is now no certainty that funding can be forthcoming from this source.

Remit

21. Early discussions had emphasised the need for an agency that dealt with all strands of the equality agenda. The business plan for 2007/08 refers to "*racial and equality*" (paragraphs 2.2, 2.3, 5.1, 5.13, 5.14, 5.21, 5.24, 6.1, 6.12, 6.16, 6.23 and 6.24) which might be seen to suggest an imbalance in the agenda, and does not reflect the fact that there was a strong emphasis on the need to have a comprehensive, coordinated approach to the equalities agenda.
22. It further notes:

"An intangible fixed asset lies in its growing reputation across Luton for developing advice on Race Equality and its legislation, providing training for voluntary

community statutory and public and private sector, searching out and making applications for funds to support two conferences, race equality work, and offering practical assistance to local BME community organisation.”

23. This again suggests an emphasis on race equality, possibly at the expense of other strands. There is no clear indication in the plan of how other strands would be addressed, and this may be considered to be a major weakness in the planning process.

24. Paragraph 6.14 states that, as part of its modes of operation, it will:

“Assist B and ME organisations to build their capacity to provide high quality racial and equality services at local level.”

25. No commitment is given to support other strands of the equalities agenda in the same way, nor is there any indication of the reason for this emphasis.

26. The Feasibility Study suggests that the *“services provided by the Equality Agency should include individual casework, strategic support of other agencies, lobbying, public awareness raising and monitoring.”* The focus of the work to date does seem to have been on casework, yet this is an area that is already covered, at least partially, by other agencies in the town.

27. The study suggested:

“Since many of these functions are currently fulfilled for some groups by existing organisations, the Development Workers should audit what is currently in place to identify areas of priority for the first three years of the Equality Agency, prior to it’s (sic) establishment.”

28. There is no indication in the business plan that was submitted that this had happened, or that there were those links into other organisations.

Conclusions

29. The development of the Luton Equalities Agency was the subject of detailed consideration before the Agency was formed, and yet there appears to have been a considerable number of issues, leading to the current situation.

30. The following factors may be considered to have contributed to this situation:

31. *Handover planning:* there does not appear to have been an agreed process for the Steering Group to support the development of the Board and Trustees and to disband at an appropriate time. The roles were not as clear as they may have been, and the Steering Group was not able to support the early development of the new Agency. This may be linked to the emphasis on the independence of the new Agency. The situation was further complicated by the resignation of a number of Board members in a short period of time.

32. *Communications:* The process for setting up the new agency involved a complex network of organisations (the Luton Forum and its partner agencies, the Steering

Group; the new agency), and communications seem to have been weak at crucial times. A major issue was the business planning for the new Agency and funding was dependent on an appropriate business plan being produced. It does not appear that there was clarity about what was required of the business plan, and it would have made the process more transparent if the criteria for a robust plan had been agreed. Members of the agency have said that a more robust business plan was available, but that this was not presented to the Luton Forum.

33. As an organisation designed to have a strategic remit, there appears to have been little communication between the Agency and local statutory partners.
34. *Capacity building*: trustees of the new Agency were expected to take over complex and demanding agenda. As well as the work of the Agency, trustees were responsible for setting up the organisation, but with little direct support. Recruitment of trustees appears to have been difficult, and this may reflect the complexity of the agenda and the difficulty of attracting people who had both the time and expertise to operate at the strategic level that was expected. The fact that the trustees allowed the Agency to get into debt must be a cause for concern, and does not demonstrate the level of expertise that would be expected to develop an organisation working at a strategic level.
35. Initial funding from the Commission for Racial Equality may have led to a greater focus on race issues, and this may have affected the perception of the Agency. This view may have been further reinforced by a business plan which makes greater reference to race issues.

Implications

36. Partners and members of the Agency put in a considerable amount of work to support the development of the Luton Equalities Agency, and yet the Agency has not achieved the strategic role which was expected by partners. The Luton Forum has now developed an Equalities, Cohesion and Inclusion strand and this reflects the significance of the issue to the partnership, and needs to be considered as part of the overall context. The Luton Forum's Equalities, Cohesion and Inclusion Group does not have an independent status, but it is designed to have a major role in ensuring that those issues are considered at a strategic level.
37. The relationship between the Agency and the Luton Forum is a significant factor, and may need clarification. The Agency was set up to be independent, and so should not be perceived, in any way, as being part of the Luton Forum structure.
38. It is now five years since the original feasibility study was produced, and the outcomes have not been as were expected. The business plan presented for 2007/08 does not seem to have reflected the aspirations set out in the feasibility study and this led to funding not being allocated. The Agency has continued to provide services, but this has been limited and has been directed by available resources. This has meant that the Agency has not developed in the way it was intended.
39. Any response to the equalities agenda by the Luton Forum will need to go back to first principles, and identify the best way forward in the current situation. Although

the Feasibility Study may provide some background, it does need to be reconsidered in the light of how it was implemented and how well this met the aspirations of the study and any further changes in the local situation in the five years since the study was undertaken.

Bren McGowan
LSP Manager

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LUTON FORUM	AGENDA ITEM 6
DATE OF MEETING:	4 November 2010
REPORT AUTHOR:	Bren McGowan, LSP Manager
SUBJECT:	Luton Forum Governance
FOR:	Decision / Discussion / Information

PURPOSE

To identify key principles for the development of partnership working in Luton in the future

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Luton Forum considers the issues at paragraphs 6 to 11 and confirms the principles at paragraph 12

BACKGROUND

1. Following the workshop with the Local Improvement advisor at the Luton Forum Annual General meeting, the Local Public Service Board (LPSB) convened a working group to consider the issues and to make proposals. The working group comprises Laura Church, Linda Farrell, Linda Hockey and Jenny Spouge.
2. The working group has met twice and has identified key issues, and is now referring these to the Luton Forum for further consideration, with a view to confirming key principles before further work is undertaken. Based on the principle 'form follows function', once the principles are agreed, further work will be undertaken to propose new arrangements.

REPORT

3. Luton Forum's most recent restructure was designed to mirror the blocks of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the National Indicator Set (NIS). This structure has been based on a managerial structure where the Luton Forum, through the LPSB, was seen to commission or authorise particular areas of work.
4. There has been a difference between the areas of the local strategic partnership (LSP) that currently have statutory responsibilities (community safety; children and

young people) and those that do not (stronger communities, health and wellbeing; environment and economy) in that the former had to respond directly to central government requirements and had an element of a work programme that was already defined, and where the partnership as a whole might contribute but not necessarily lead.

5. Among the issues considered was the fact that there is considerable duplication of business within the overall LSP structure, with some reports being presented to several boards. The same LAA performance report, for example, may be presented to a number of meetings. The structure can be seen as being based round a committee reporting structure rather than as coordinating and initiating activity.
6. The Luton Forum has previously agreed basic principles for the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS); these are equality, cohesion and inclusion. It is recommended that these are reaffirmed, and that they should underpin the way the partnership as a whole works.
7. The current arrangements can be seen as 'authorising' with issues referred across the LSP for approval. It is suggested that the partnership should move to an 'empowering' way of working, where authority and responsibility is delegated to the most local level possible: this could be a theme partnership or an organisation or a service. This would change the nature of the partnership and how it needs to work, and could support reports by exception.
8. The purpose of the Luton Forum Plenary Group is defined in the constitution as "to bring together at a local level the different public sector agencies as well as private, business, community and voluntary sectors to agree a strategic vision and direction for Luton so that different initiatives and services support each other and work together". It is also specifically stated that it "will seek to add value to existing activity." These are considered to be important principles, and it is recommended that they are maintained.
9. Partners are asked to consider the need for an overarching 'partnership of partnerships (such as the Luton Forum Plenary Group) as a principle; and any defined functions. It is not proposed that membership is discussed at this stage. The working group considered these issues and proposes that there should be greater clarity about the role of any umbrella partnership as well as a clearer commitment from partner organisations about their contribution.
10. It is suggested the role of the Luton Forum should be more specifically defined as agreeing and maintaining the vision for Luton through the SCS. This should be at a strategic level, and the implication of this is that it should not be seen as an information-sharing group. Furthermore, its focus should be on issues that require partnership-related response, rather than tackling discrete workstreams that may be best dealt with by a partnership or service.
11. The partnership can be seen to have a dual role in setting the vision for the town and also in ensuring delivery of key actions. These are clearly related, but the partnership is in a position of reporting on a wide range of activity across all the themes, but with no clear statement of the key priorities for partnership working. The SCS priorities were developed in conjunction with local residents and must be maintained as the most important issues facing the town, but consideration should

be given to shorter term 'priorities for action'. These should draw on the ability to coordinate activity across the partnership, and should focus on crosscutting issues that require a broad collaborative response.

Core principles

12. The Luton Forum is therefore asked to consider the following as core principles to underpin this review:
 - 12.1. Some form of overarching partnership should be maintained, and this should be inclusive.
 - 12.2. The SCS remains the driver for partnership activity. The partnership should focus on the SCS, and identify a small number of priorities for action. These should be issues that require partnership response rather than ones that are generally specific to a particular organisation or partnership.
 - 12.3. A separate Leaders' Board should be formed. This may have a broader agenda, but should have a close working relationship with the partnership. This should be supported by an officer group that ensures implementation of decisions and coordination of activity
 - 12.4. The overarching partnership should aim to create synergy between existing partnerships, only creating new partnerships where no existing group could take responsibility for a specific issue.
 - 12.5. The partnership should be proactive rather than reactive.
 - 12.6. The partnership should focus responsibility and decision-making at the most local level; based on empowerment rather than authorisation. This will require an emphasis on 'partnership working' rather than 'partnership meetings'.
 - 12.7. A membership protocol should be developed that sets out clearly the roles, responsibilities and commitments of the partnership and of partner organisations.

Next steps

13. Taking into account the feedback received, the working group will draw up detailed proposals for consideration at the next meeting of the Luton Forum, scheduled for 27 January 2010.
14. At the same time, the Performance Management Sub Group will coordinate work on the partnerships priorities, and it will be important to link these two areas of work.

Bren McGowan
LSP Manager

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LUTON FORUM	AGENDA ITEM 7
DATE OF MEETING:	4 November 2010
REPORT AUTHOR:	Bren McGowan, LSP Manager / Dean Stokes, Chair of the Performance Management Sub Group
SUBJECT:	Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities
FOR:	Decision / Discussion / Information

PURPOSE

To help identify priorities for action for 2011 - 2014 to support the achievement of aspirations set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Luton Forum:

- (i) comments on the attached scorecards**
- (ii) identifies outline priorities**

REPORT

Background

1. The workshop with the Local Improvement Advisor at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) 7 June 2010) helped identify some of the key areas for partnership working with regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). Further discussion at the Local Public Service Board (LPSB) led to the Performance Management Sub Group (PMSG) being commissioned to collate a report which included:
 - Review of progress against all priorities: including making an assessment where there are no recognised indicators, or where these are not considered appropriate
 - Review of completed / ongoing / planned activity in relation to all priorities: supporting the review of progress, this would help identify areas where progress can be expected or to identify potential gaps

- Review of existing data and information (e.g. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Strategy Housing Market Assessment; Local Economic Assessment) to identify any potential key issues or gaps.

Performance overview

2. Information has been collated from partners, reflecting the breadth of activity. In order to make this accessible, 'scorecards' have been developed which present the major headlines for each priority. These should not be seen as a comprehensive assessment, but as a tool to help assess overall progress across the Luton Forum. They do not include all the relevant information, but should provide a useful summary.
3. These should be viewed as 'work in progress', and partners are asked to consider whether the scorecards use the most suitable metrics to allow an assessment to be made. Similarly, the activity listed is intended to be representative rather than comprehensive and should reflect work taking place across all sectors. Partners are asked to comment on whether the examples listed on the scorecard provide a suitable overview.
4. In assessing progress, it is suggested that partners need to consider the following issues:
 - 4.1. Possible changes in the context; for this purpose, it may be useful to use the PESTLE risk factors: political; economic; social; technological; legal; environmental. These may have an impact on both the current situation, and the potential for improvement.
 - 4.2. The relationship to the partnership as a whole: does the issue demand a partnership response, or is the major responsibility with a particular organisation or sub-partnership?
 - 4.3. Possible linkages to other priorities: supportive or otherwise.
 - 4.4. The impact if sufficient progress is not made.
 - 4.5. The ability of partners to influence outcomes.
5. At the AGM workshop, the following were identified as key areas based on the priorities as currently expressed:

Stronger and Safer

 - 5.1 Reducing anti social behaviour and fear of crime, ensuring all people feel safe
 - 5.2 Strengthening communities and increasing the number of active citizens
 - 5.3 Tackling alcohol and drug abuse

Health and Wellbeing

 - 5.4 Focussing on prevention and early intervention
 - 5.6 Improving housing conditions for existing and new housing

- 5.7 Understanding that different service delivery will be necessary to ensure fair health and wellbeing outcomes for all

Environment and Economy

- 5.8 Low carbon economy – as an overarching priority - Includes business start-up and skills, social enterprise

Children and Young People

- 5.9 Providing positive activities for young people – as an overarching priority -Includes “My Place Project”

6. It is important to ensure that there is consistency with the development of other plans as they are refreshed; for example, the Children and Young People’s Plan and the Community Safety Partnership Plan.

The Challenge

7. By their nature, all of the priorities are important and many will have their advocates in individual themes. The Forum needs to decide what area(s) of work is / are the most crucial in the shorter to medium term, and which also require a collaborative response. This does not mean that other work will be discontinued, but it is expected that it can be managed and monitored at a more local level.
8. In looking to clarify shorter term priorities, it may be possible to link issues across a number of themes and existing priorities: for example, there may be synergies between aspects of the health agenda and the economic agenda that may be seen as significant (through, say, a healthier, more productive workforce). Success would be based on defining and specifying the linkages rather than creating a totally new priority.
9. Partners are asked to consider whether there are any particular existing priorities which may be seen as having particular impact, or whether there are themes which draw together major issues.

Future performance arrangements

10. This work will also support the development of new performance arrangements following the abolition of Local Area Agreements. It is expected that there will be a much greater focus on identifying locally what is important (the issue); what success would look like (the vision) and how we will measure success (indicators and / or targets). Instead of following a nationally agreed model, Luton may be able to define these in specific local terms.
11. The Luton Forum and its partnerships should aim to take responsibility for both achieving the priorities and for managing performance. This will require clarity about the priorities and how these relate to the overall vision. It will also be possible to deal with some anomalies: for example, viewing participation in physical activity primarily from a health perspective rather than stronger communities.

Next steps

12. Future actions will depend on the outcomes of the discussions at the Luton Forum, and what level of consensus can be achieved. If there is a high level of agreement, it may be possible to move quickly towards consultation on the proposed priority for action.
13. If further work is needed before achieving consensus, the PMSG will draw together any additional data to update both the supporting evidence and produce revised scorecards. Any additional information required to support the agreement of priorities for action will be collated for the next meeting of the Luton Forum (27 January 2011).
14. Further consultation can take place early in 2011 with partners, partnerships and the broader community. This will include the opportunity to consult the citizens' panel to ensure that any proposals put forward reflect the views of residents.

Appendix

Scorecards (by Sustainable Community Strategy priority)

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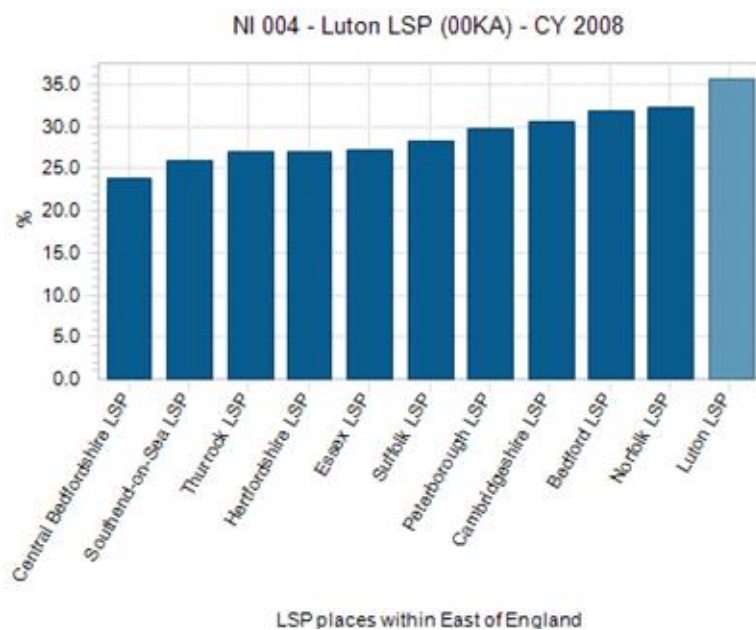
Increasing the numbers of active citizens - people with the motivation, skills and confidence to speak up for their communities and say what improvements are needed

Luton has done a lot of work involving residents with regular Area Committee meetings, LINK and “Your Say Your Way”

NI 003 – Civic participation in the local area

NI 004 - % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their community

(These indicators are no longer being collected)



- Over 6000 residents took part in decision making activities in their local wards hosted by Neighbourhood Governance project.
- 5 Area Committees have met regularly with nearly 1200 attendees at the 20 meetings in 2009
- Luton LINK –Local Involvement Network has now been running for over two years, providing community representation on Health decisions.
- Twenty organisations received funding from the 3 Participatory Budget events
- Dorrington Close dispersal order and CCTV
- “ Decision Days” have been planned for the Areas West and South for October to December 2010

Strengthening communities and building the capability and resources of community, voluntary and social enterprise groups to bring people together to work out shared solutions

Luton Assembly has involved 316 organisations at 8 large scale events since 2008

NI 001 – People who believe people from different backgrounds get on in their area

NI 002 - % of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood.

(These indicators are no longer being collected)



- 27 Voluntary Community Sector Organisations have become involved with Luton Assembly Stronger and Safer Network since December 2010.

- Bedfordshire and Luton Infrastructure Consortium (The Voluntary works Consortium) including Voluntary Action Luton received highest award in East of England

- Community Cohesion Commission has completed its research phase, with the report due November 2010

- Luton in Harmony has held 85 community and borough wide events, distributed 25,500 badges and pledges, almost 4,000 car stickers, 5,500 LiH stickers, 700 posters and funded Generations Together project

- Luton In Harmony First Birthday celebrations to be linked with 3 days promotion in the Mall

- Luton Cine Club will be creating a DVD of Luton In Harmony by and for young people

Creating partnerships with public, private and voluntary and community sector bodies, public bodies willing and able to work as partners with local people

In June 2010 Luton Forum published the Community Involvement Strategy

- Over the last three years crime in Luton has fallen by 26% as a result of team working between Police Safer Neighbourhoods Teams, SoLUTIONs and the community.

- Junior Street Champions programme is running in 9 schools. Luton now has 216 active street champions



- Stronger Communities Executive formed

- Luton Assembly held an “Empowering Communities” event

- Police have timetabled street meets and surgeries

- Neighbourhood Action Groups - multi agency groups focusing on local nuisance issues with resident participation.

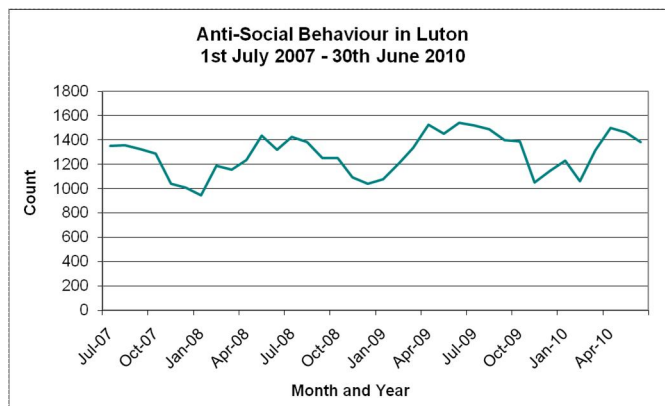
- Ward forums - give local people the opportunity to meet together and discuss issues relevant to their own wards

- Luton Friends of Parks and Green Spaces formed in Sept 2009 to work in partnership to maintain and improve green spaces in Luton.

Reducing antisocial behaviour and the fear of crime, ensuring all people feel safe

Antisocial behaviour hotspots have been identified and are being monitored by SoLUTiONs partners.

- Northwell and Leagrave have above average levels of feeling unsafe but lower than average crime levels
- Biscot has above average crime levels and lower than average levels of feeling unsafe
- High Town & Dallow wards focus will be on all key crime and disorder types
- South ward will focus on environmental ASB, deliberate fires and ASB



08/09
to
09/10
+ 2%

- Police and SoLUTiONs have targeted kerb crawler operations in High Town following discussions with resident's groups.
- Fear of Crime Task & Finish Group June 2010 showed that actual crime has reduced by 26% in Luton since 2006, but people still feel frightened due to reporting in local media and lack of positive communication.
- The SOS Bus has been in the Town Centre on Friday and Saturday nights providing professional advice and a quiet space for party goers.
- Taxi marshalling and the Street Pastor Projects has aimed to prevent fights in the town centre
- The Safer Neighbourhoods Team has publicised their local officers in a poster campaign in local shops and apartment blocks.
- Bedfordshire Criminal Justice Board – Community cashback – residents voted for SOS Bus to be funded.

Reducing crime including serious acquisitive crime, covering: burglary (dwelling), robbery, theft of a motor vehicle, theft from a motor vehicle, domestic abuse, criminal damage and hate crime

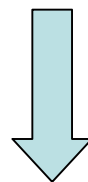
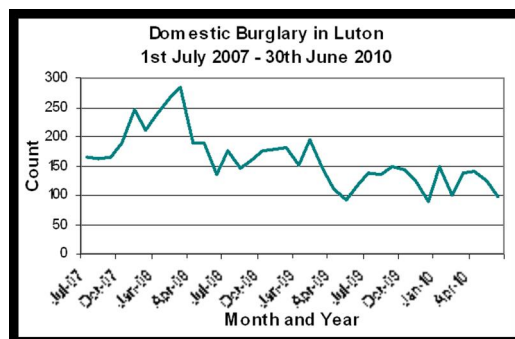
Due to efforts by partners, serious acquisitive crime has nearly halved in two years. SoLUTIONs has a programme of interventions running and planned to tackle all aspects of crime in Luton.

NI 15 – Number of Serious Violent Crimes per 1000 population

NI 16 – Number of Serious Acquisitive crimes per 1000 population

NI 32 – Repeat incidents of Domestic Violence

- Domestic abuse partnership (MARAC) now working well, coordinator appointed, numbers below target
- Operation “Peek”, the Winter Burglary Initiative
- 20 people attended training for Community Crime Fighters initiative
- NI 16 Serious acquisitive crime/ population nearly halved in 2 years
- Burglary & Theft from Motor Vehicle both declined after peaks early 2008
- SOS Bus/ Street Pastors/ Luton Safe/ Environmental Action Days
- 9 LBC car parks received the Safer Parking Scheme 'Park Mark' award



08/09
to
09/10
-16%

Management of offenders to reduce the number of prolific and persistent offenders

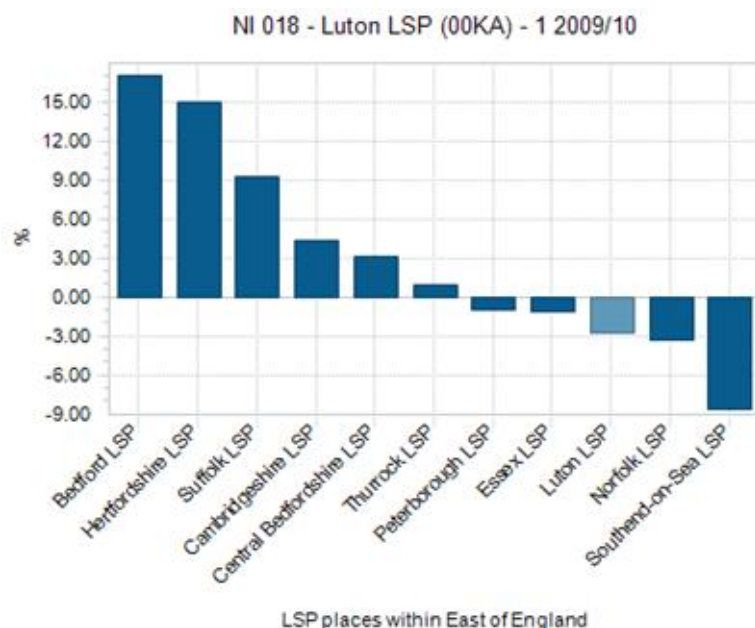
NI 18 – Adult reoffending rates for those under supervision

NI 19 – Rate of proven reoffending by young offenders

NI 30 - Re offending rate of prolific and priority offenders

5% of offenders account for 25% pf crime

- Integrated offender management (IOM) theme for Total Place has explored efficiencies possible through partnership working.
- An operational framework has been agreed by the Integrated Offender Management Delivery Group in August.
- Luton’s low re-offending rate has been driven by a large proportion of prolific re-offenders being in prison.
- Beds Criminal Justice Board “Deter Youth Offenders” and “Restorative Justice” schemes launched 2009

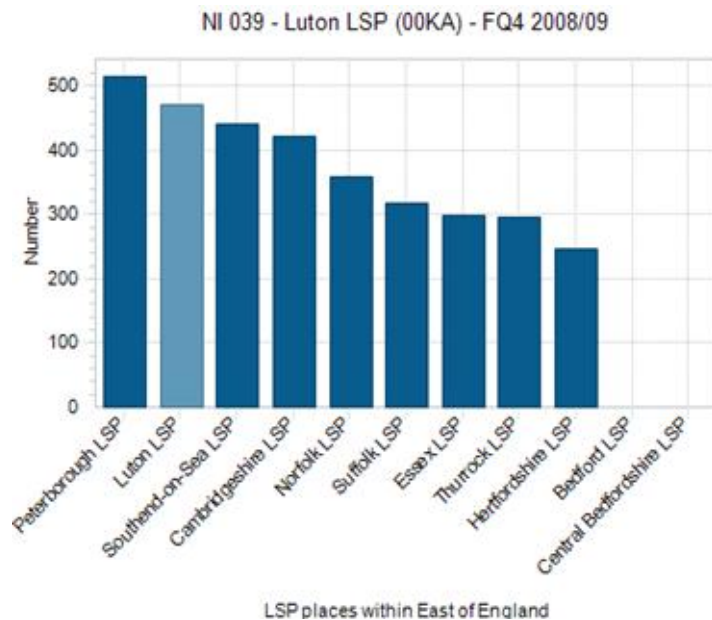


Tackling alcohol and drug abuse

SoLUTiONS and partners have been tackling alcohol related problems in the night time economy through Operation Duddon.

NI 39 – Hospital related admissions per 100,000 for alcohol related harm

This indicator has kept below target but is still high compared to other similar authorities.

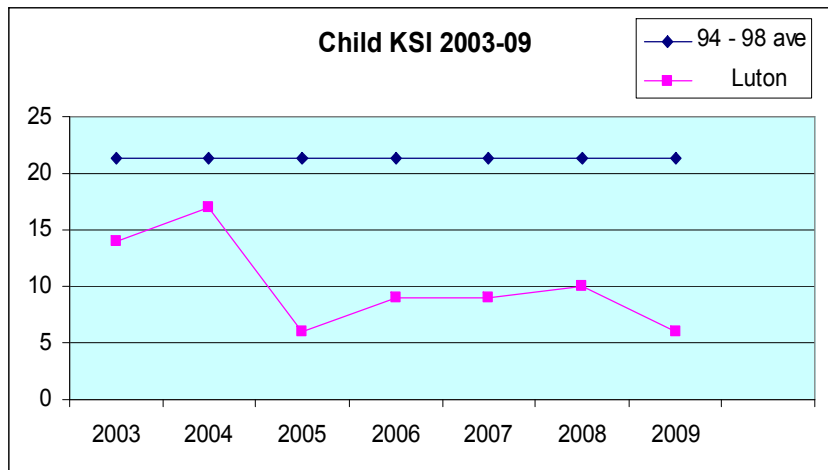


- Luton Safe – night time safety initiative
- 980 adults received structured treatment for problematic drug use.
- 510 people received treatment for alcohol problems
- 79 people completed their treatment and became drug free
- 1,494 people drug tested under the Drugs Intervention Programme. 372 (24%) positive for heroin or cocaine which is a reduction on previous year
- Under Luton Safe SOS Bus and Street Pastors have reduced the number of 999 calls to the Ambulance Service
- Operation Duddon initiatives included
 - Polycarbonate glasses
 - Taxi Marshalls
 - Best Bar None

Improving road safety

Education in schools with Stepping out Safely, Bikeability and Be Safe Be Seen

- 38% reduction in casualties killed or seriously injured in 2009 from 1994-1998 average to 52 casualties
- 72% reduction in Child casualties killed or seriously injured in 2009 from 1994-1998 average to 6
- 17 schools have taken up Bikeability training



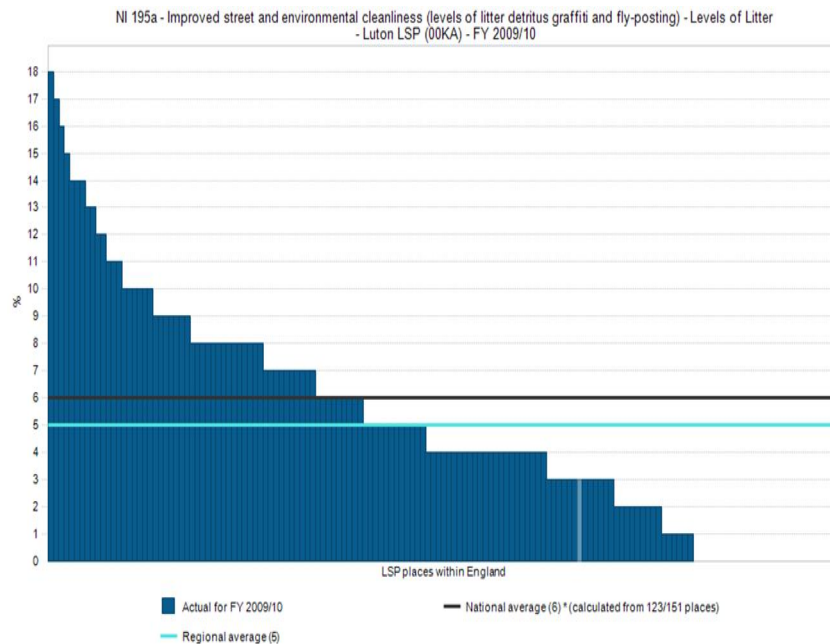
- Completion of road safety campaigns including Drink Drive, Road Worker Safety, Seat-belts (Belt up for Life).
- The reduction of the Road Safety grant - speed enforcement has been reduced significantly, a major local safety scheme cancelled, and the Road Safety Officers contract has been ended.
- Funding for speed camera enforcement is uncertain for next financial year. - could result in a rise in accidents.

More well-designed, safer and accessible open spaces

Luton Friends of Parks and Green Spaces established

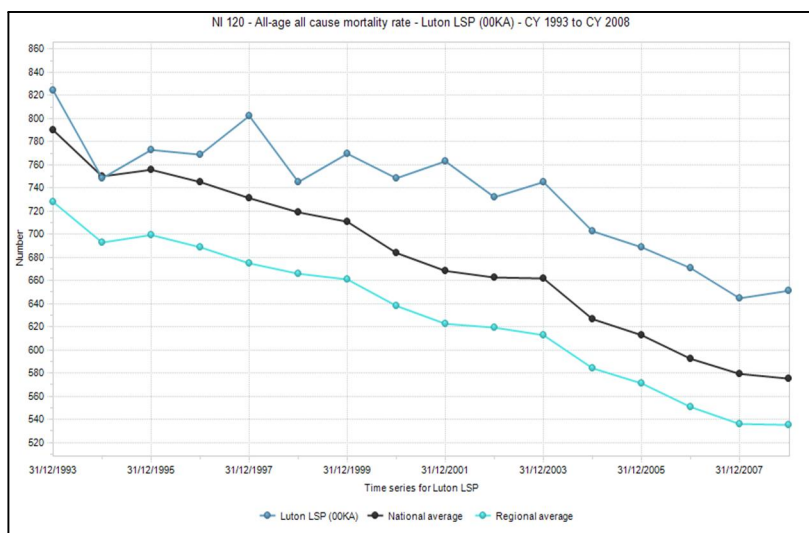
NI 195 and NI 196 – Improved Street and environmental cleanliness

- Improvements at Great Bramingham Park, Acworth Court sheltered housing improvement and Marsh Farm Estate
- Community Safety & Safer Neighbourhood teams work with residents and environmental enforcement team to solve 4000 issues in last 4 years.
- Neighbourhood masterplan for Chaul End Lane Open Space & action plan for St Dominic's Square
- Leagrave Park and Limbury Riverside Park plans prepared for future actions
- 5 Parks have "Green Flag" status
- Knapp's Farm allotment site opened
- 200 Street Champions who have raised and handled 4000 issues in the last 4 years



Promoting healthy living and tackling the key risk factors which affect health

- The main focus of The Health Inequalities Strategy, launched by the Luton Forum, is to narrow the life expectancy disparity in town - the five wards that have the lowest life expectancy in Luton are Biscot, Challney, Dallow, Farley and High Town.
- Life expectancy - has increased but still below the national average; large disparities exist between different parts of the town – Mortality rates are falling (NI 120) but still higher than national and regional averages.
- Smoking kills approximately 260 people each year in Luton – during 2006-2009 as a result of partnership efforts 4161 people quit smoking but since then there has been a slight decline in quitting rates. Alcohol misuse– the rate of increase in admissions to hospital due to alcohol consumption is reducing; some areas of south Luton have more binge drinking prevalence



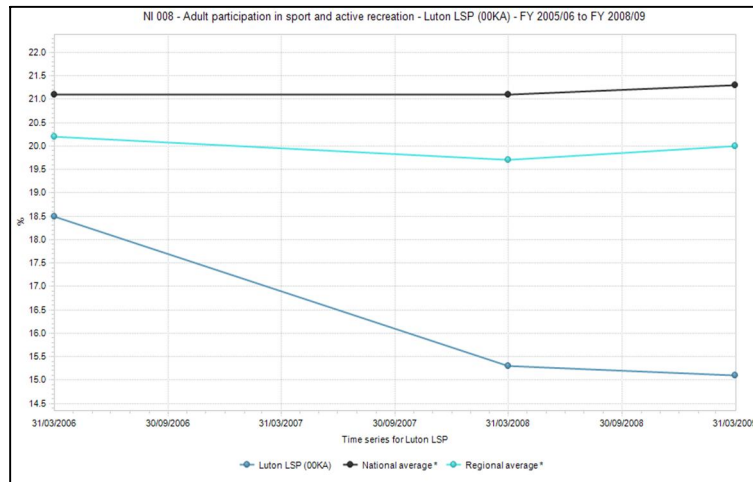
Some of the activities undertaken by the partnership to improve outcomes include:

- The opening of a “change 4 life” health and fitness advice centre in The Mall - 6361 have benefitted from using the centre from Apr 09 – Oct 10.
- The setting up of stop smoking clinics in areas of town where there is higher smoking prevalence
- Alcohol workers from the Luton Drug and Alcohol Partnership have visited people in A&E and in hospital to provide information and brief advice to patients with alcohol problems

Mortality rates are falling but are still higher than national and regional averages

Focusing on prevention and early intervention

- **Adult obesity** - prevalence of adult obesity in Luton is 26.7% which is not significantly different from the national average but is increasing at a faster rate.
- **Active living** - adults in Luton are less active on average than their counterparts nationally and regionally (NI 8) but use of local recreation facilities has increased. People from the more deprived parts of town are less active than those from the least deprived areas.
- **Diet** - adults eating 5 portions of fruit and vegetables a day is slightly higher than the national average at 29.9% compared to 28.7% (*Luton's Health Profile 2010*)



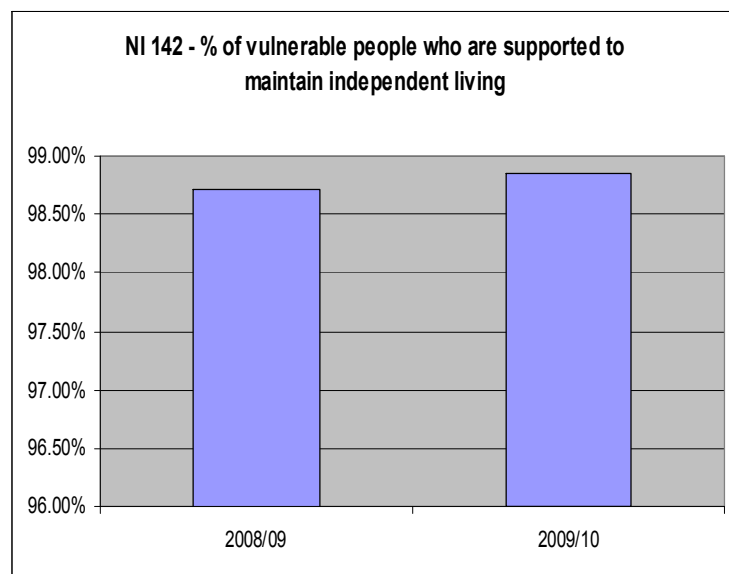
Some of the activities undertaken by the partnership to improve outcomes include:

- Provision of community based adult weight management programme Step by Step
- Sustrans' cycle loan scheme - since January 2009 500 bikes loaned to individuals & 300 to schools
- The development of Active Family Clubs promoting family participation by Active Luton

Adult participation in sport is lower than regional and national average, however usage of recreation facilities has increased

Supporting people to live independently

- More adults with disabilities and older people are receiving direct payments (NI 130)
- The Future Choices programme will integrate traditional day care services into the mainstream and offer customers more activities and job and training opportunities
- The target for the number of vulnerable people supported to live independently in their own homes in Luton (NI 142) was achieved for 2008/09 and 2009/10



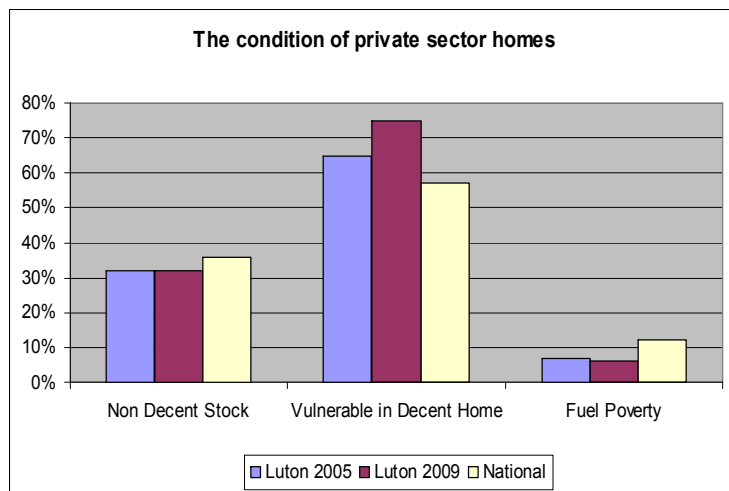
Some of the activities undertaken by the partnership to improve outcomes include:

- The provision of technology to help people live independently such as the Luton Telelink Care Service
- Age Concern's Home Repair service helps over 100 people each month by carrying out repairs and adaptations to their homes
- 2 new sheltered homes built: Jill Jenkins and Betty Dodds

% of vulnerable people supported to maintain independent living has been consistently higher than regional and national averages

Improving housing conditions for existing and new housing

- The % of non decent homes in the private sector and in the council's own stock is lower than the national average
- A whole range of improvements have been made to private and council homes to improve their energy efficiency
- New and affordable housing – some developed but demand locally is still high



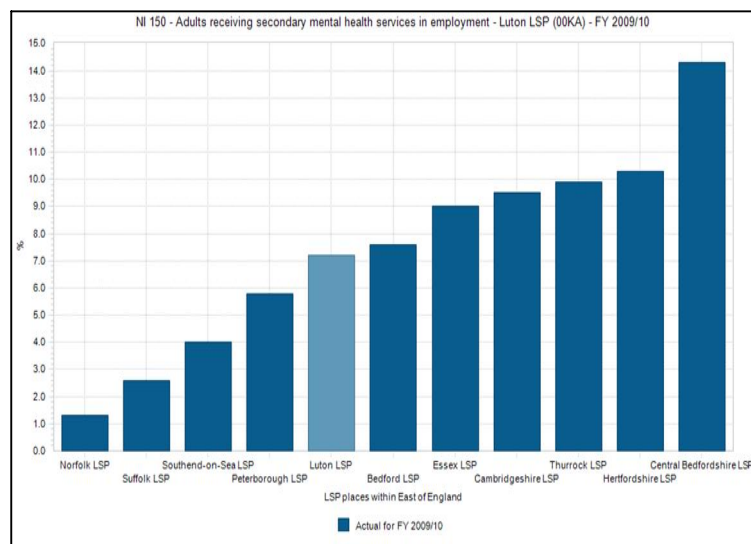
Some of the activities undertaken by the partnership to improve outcomes include:

- Privately owned homes - during 2009/10 - 1181 boiler replacements, 143 cavity wall insulations, 328 draught proofing, 181 heating insulations, 400 loft insulations and 24 water tank jackets were fitted
- New affordable homes built such as the development at the Heron Industrial Estate in Sundon Park

The condition of private sector stock in Luton is consistently above the national average.

Improving mental health services

- The South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) acquired mental health and social care services in Luton and Bedford from 1st April 2010. The SEPT provides a range of services such as: mental health services; drug and alcohol services; older people services and eating disorder services.
- Luton's mental health profile show there were 2,800 claimants of incapacity benefits due to mental health conditions in 2006. (*Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Oct 2009 supplement*)
- Improving employment outcomes for adults with mental health conditions is key to reducing the risk of social exclusion - 7.2% of adults who receive secondary mental health services and are in employment



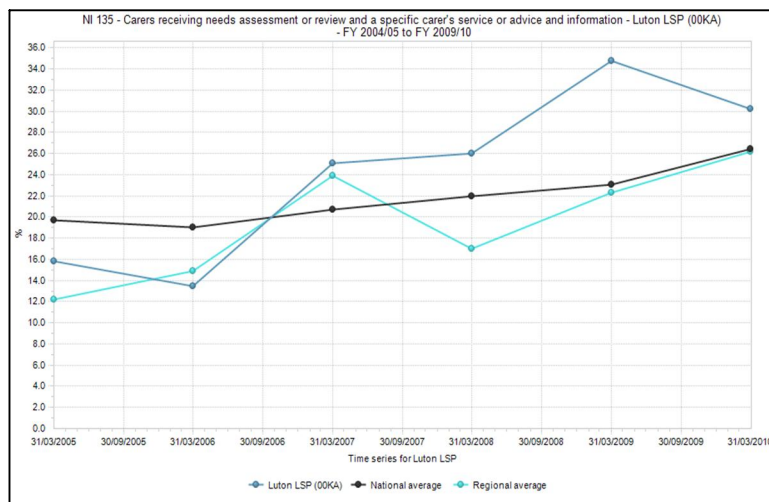
Some of the activities undertaken by the partnership to improve outcomes include:

- The provision of a specialist dementia centre within Jill Jenkins Court sheltered accommodation
- Services provided by a host of community groups and charities such as luncheon clubs and befriending services
- NHS Luton and Luton Libraries working together to pilot a 'books on prescription' scheme as an alternative to medication

The regional average is 7.7% and the national average is 6.7%

Improving services for carers

- Over 3,000 people in Luton provide 50+ hours a week of unpaid care.
- The partnership have been trying to get to the many “hidden carers” that exist to provide them with advice and support
- A new carers’ centre, which is funded by the Council but run by the charity Family Action was opened on the 12th of June 2009 to strengthen the voice of carers and a focal point for receiving advice, information and emotional support.



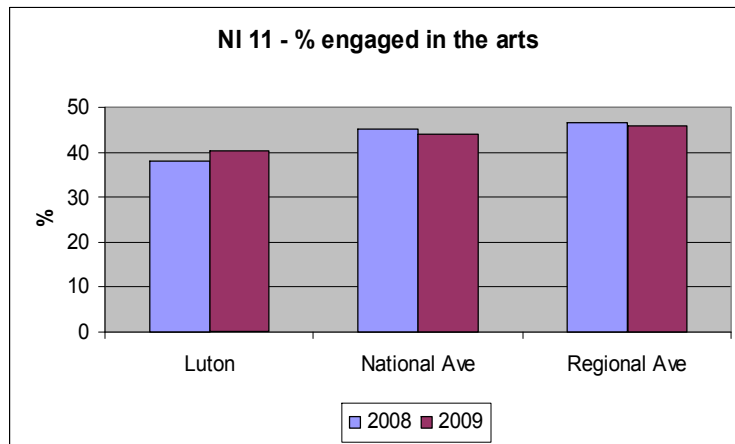
Some of the activities undertaken by the partnership to improve outcomes include:

- During 2009/10, 171 direct payments were made to carers to enable them to take a break
- 437 carers have used culturally appropriate services funded by the local authority in the voluntary sector
- Assisting carers to write a “Carers’ Emergency Plan” to plan for the care needs of their loved ones should an emergency arrive

More of our carers are supported by local providers than compared to regional and national averages

Improving leisure and cultural opportunities for all, and better access

- Local data collected shows usage of Active Luton sites are increasing year on year.
- Access to natural parks and spaces has improved by making them more attractive to visitors. Luton now has five parks awarded with the prestigious Green Flag.
- Engagement levels in the arts is increasing (NI 11).
- Luton Adult Community Learning - learning & development options to improve quality of life and access to service



Some of the activities undertaken by the partnership to improve outcomes include:

- The opening of the Stockwood Discovery Centre and refurbishment of Luton Central library
- The Carnival, Mela, St Patrick and St George's day celebrations
- Programming at The Library Theatre and The Hat Factory reflects the town's diversity

Engagement in the arts has gone up but is lower than the regional and national averages

Understanding that different service delivery will be necessary to ensure fair health and wellbeing outcomes for all

- The partnership has launched The Health Inequalities Plan 2010-2015 – to narrow the low life expectancy in five middle layer super output areas compared to the highest
- Fairer health and wellbeing outcomes are being delivered is through transforming adult social care to give customers more choice and control over the services they receive
- The Future Choices programme will integrate traditional day care services into the mainstream and offer customers more activities and job and training opportunities. The first of these is in Hockwell Ring, where the day centre has combined with the community centre over the road.

Some of the activities undertaken by the partnership to improve outcomes include:

- Health Needs Assessments carried out for Gypsies and Travellers, the homeless and asylum seekers
- The Health Inequalities Strategy with joint action plan concentrating on 5 middle super output areas with the lowest life expectancy: Dallow, Farley, Challney, Biscot and High town
- National scheme Health Checks in areas of low life expectancy
- Direct payments made to social care customers and their carers which gives them more choice and control over the services accessed

Listening to the views of children and young people

- There are 53,200 0-19 year olds in Luton – 28% of the total population (*2008 mid year estimates* www.luton.gov.uk)
- Since the SCS was agreed there have been many activities across the town to ensure the views of children and young people are heard and acted upon.
- In developing The Children and Young Peoples Plan for 2010-11, the views of children and young people were sought through various consultations and presentations and have genuinely informed its development and will directly impact on service delivery.

Some of the activities undertaken by the partnership to listen to the views of children and young people include:

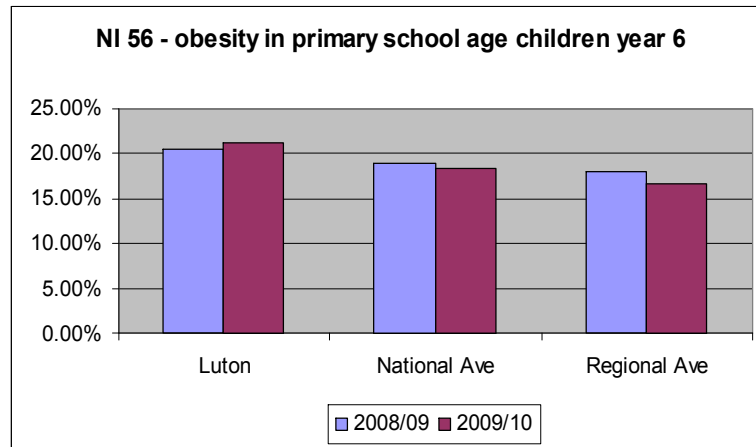
- The online Anti-bullying Survey - 1766 students took part from 29 schools during the 2009 survey.
- Young people are also working with architects and developers on the Myplace project which will deliver a new youth hub in the town centre (TOKKO).

Other platforms for children and young people to air their views have been established. They include:

- ✓The Young People's Panel
- ✓Young Voice groups
- ✓The youth elections and election of a Youth MP
- ✓Young Fundz - £256,100 awarded to 58 different projects across town during 2009/10
- ✓SoLUTiONs Summit 2009 – presentation given by young people on how they are often stereotyped in a negative way

Improving the health of children and young people

- Luton Borough Council and NHS Luton are one of the 30 sites nationwide that are taking part in the Department of Health's 'Healthy Places Healthy Lives' programme; Luton has chosen to focus on Childhood Obesity
- Groundwork has teamed up with Whipperley Infant School to encourage pupils and their families to grow and cook their own fruit and vegetables and eat a healthier diet.
- Teenage pregnancies - latest results show conceptions rates are down by 18% compared to the 1998 baseline (43.1 conceptions per 1000 girls aged 15-17 years old)



Some of the activities undertaken by the partnership to improve outcomes include:

- There is now a full complement (23) of Sure Start centres located across town which are helping to improve the health and well being of children and their parents.
- Sustrans have run advice programmes in schools to promote active living such as encouraging young people to do more walking and cycling
- New school based sexual health services (SBHS) in four Luton high schools

Obesity levels for children in year 6 is higher than the national average.

Ensuring children and young people in Luton are safe and well cared for

- Results from the online Anti Bullying Survey indicates bullying is reducing both in and outside school
- Additional pressure has been put on Luton's children's social services since the tragic case of Baby Peter made the headlines.
- The number of children in care however in Luton is falling and children in care for significant amounts of time are more stable in their placements and being moved around less (NI 63).

NI	Description	2008/09	2009/10	Latest	Direction
NI 63	% of looked after children in care for more than 2.5 years who have been in the same placement for 2 years or more	66.7 %	68.3 %	72.1%	↑
NI 148	% care leavers in employment, education and training	53.5 %	76.5 %	81.3% (Q1 10/11)	↑
NI 101	% of children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)	14.7 %	11.8 %		↓

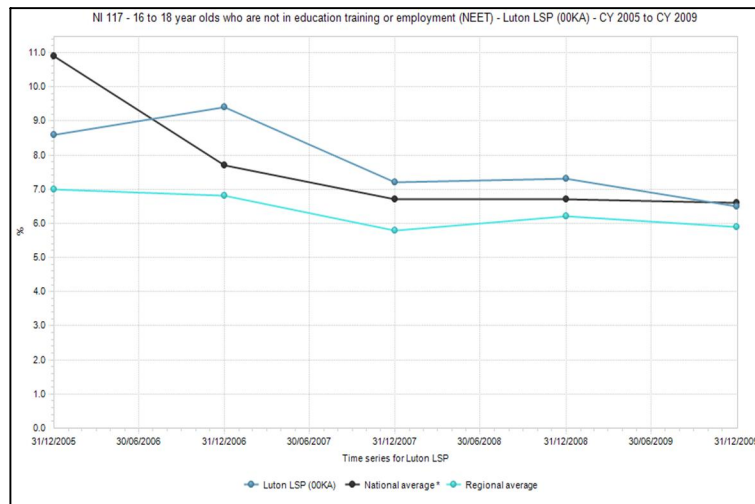
Some of the activities undertaken by the partnership to improve outcomes include:

- The recruitment of more foster carers around town
- More dedicated focused support for care leavers to carry on studying or to find work
- Luton Assembly have devised a Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Safeguarding Toolkit, which gives advice and support on statutory and advisory safeguarding processes to VCS organisations working with children and young people

A higher proportion of children leaving care are staying in education or finding employment, but GCSE pass rates remain low

Supporting our children and young people to achieve skills and experience to enhance their prospects for the future

- Improvements in pass rates can be seen at all levels of education in the last few years – GCSE pass rates (5 A*-C grades inc maths and English) for example have risen every year for the past five years 2005: 36.5% - 2010: 52%
- The banking crisis followed by the economic downturn since late 2008 made it harder for young people to find work or remain in education. The number of 16 to 18 year olds **not** in education, employment or training (NEET) did fall from 2008/09 to 2009/10 and was lower than other similar councils around the country, however there has been a slight increase as we entered 2010/11 (NI 117).
- Geographical analysis reveals that NEET proportions are highest in the South Neighbourhood



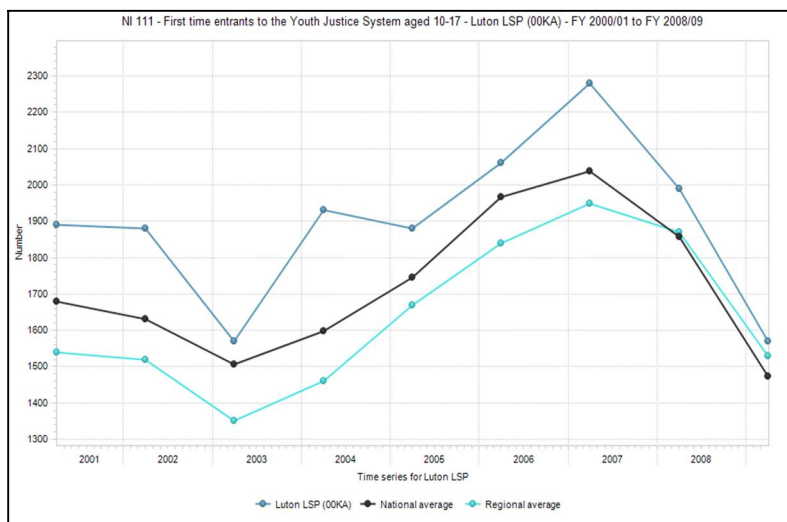
Some of the activities undertaken by the partnership to improve outcomes include:

- Personal advisors pro-actively identifying young people during the summer holiday at risk of becoming NEET and supporting them
- Ensuring 16 and 17 year olds have a guaranteed offer of learning complying with September Guarantee
- Building schools for future programme – see slide 8 for more details

Young people not in education, employment or training has been falling but there was a slight rise (7.7%) as we entered Q1 2010/11.

Providing positive activities for young people and reducing anti social behaviour

- Children and young people have told us providers didn't always give good enough information – now there's a website dedicated for the youth of Luton – and press releases have gone out promoting and publicising positive activities laid on by the Integrated Youth Service.
- Anti-social behaviour committed by people of all ages has increased by 2% from 2008/09 to 2009/10. See priority "*reducing anti social behaviour and the fear of crime, ensuring all people feel safe*" under the Safer, Stronger Theme for more information
- The number of first time entrants into the Youth Justice System has significantly reduced since 2007.



Some of the activities undertaken by the partnership to improve outcomes include:

- The launch of The Boom Bus and the L-Town Bus; Luton's youth clubs on wheels.
- Project Turnaround has been helping young people in risk of offending and supporting their parents and carers'
- Leagrave Youth Work Action Group organise and run the Annual Luton Youth Festival and Family Fun Day providing performance opportunities, fun activities and an information fair with advice on youth services including health issues and clubs.

Focusing on prevention and providing young people with things to do has resulted in a decline

Reducing the differences in educational achievement between ethnic groups

- 63% of school age children in Local Authority controlled schools are from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. 43% of pupils have been identified as having English as a second language. The split for primary and secondary was 45% and 40 % respectively. *Source: School Census 2009 & January 2010*
- Some ethnic minority groups are now performing better than the average pass rates at key stage 2 and GCSE, however, gaps in attainment do still exist for others

Significant gaps in education attainment still exists for the following ethnic groups (based on the 2009 results):

NI 107 Key stage 2 at level 4

- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Of Irish Heritage
- Any other white
- Black Caribbean
- Pakistani

NI 108 5A*-C grades at GCSE (and equivalent), including

GCSE English and Maths:

- Any Other White
- Black Caribbean
- White and Black Caribbean
- Pakistani

Some of the activities they have undertaken include the Luton Ethnic Minority Achievement team include:

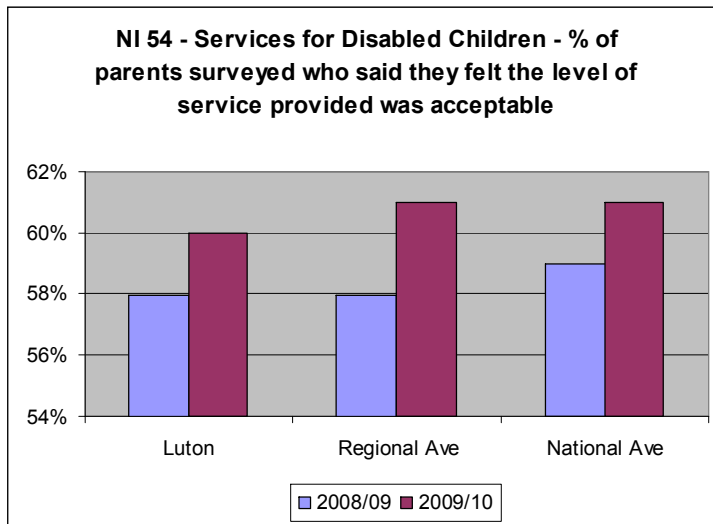
➤ Promote effective learning and teaching of English as an additional language

➤ Identify and share curriculum approaches that reflect, celebrate and promote cultural and linguistic diversity

➤ Facilitate and enable improved access to education for groups such as refugee and asylum seeker pupils and Gypsy, Roma and Travellers.

Better meeting the needs of children and young people with disabilities/learning difficulties

- It is estimated the number of children and young people with disabilities in Luton falls between 1676 and 3017 children. It is estimated there are between 559 to 670 children with severe disabilities in the borough. *Source: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2009 supplement.*
- The Children and Young People's Trust has revised The Children and Young People Plan. It includes, amongst other things, the commissioning of more respite and short breaks.
- Parents satisfaction with services received has increased (NI 54)



Some of the activities undertaken by the partnership to improve outcomes include:

- Establishing a parents and carers forum called Family Voice, who has been commissioned to develop a guide for parents.
- Secured funding to build a Centre of Excellence in Marsh Farm in conjunction with the Sure Start children's centre including co-located provision for children and young people
- Developed a strategy to transform the quantity and quality of short breaks provision.

Satisfaction has increased and inline with regional and national performance

Supporting Building Schools for the Future

- Luton has been badly impacted by the new coalition government's decision to stop funding the Building Schools for the Future programme. The development of these high schools would have offered the Council the capacity to deal with population growth by providing an additional 1,400 school places.
- Currently, surplus school places in years 1 and 2 are critically low at 4.1% and 2.7% respectively. The Council has undertaken measures to ease the problem such as expanding some schools.
- However, with school surplus places running low in some year groups, a high birth rate in Luton and the stopping of the school building programme, the lack of school places is likely to continue or even worsen in future.

Luton's schools that are being rebuilt or refurbished include:

- *Academies West and South*
- *Lea Manor*
- *Challney Girls*
- *Lealands*
- *Ashcroft.*

Luton's schools affected by the cancellation of Building Schools for the Future programme

- *Stopsley; Cardinal Newman; Challney Boys; Denbigh; Putteridge; Icknield*

Some of the activities undertaken by the partnership to support the school building programme includes:

- Luton Assembly has been encouraging the building of ecofriendly schools through work as appointed Building School for the Future external champions.

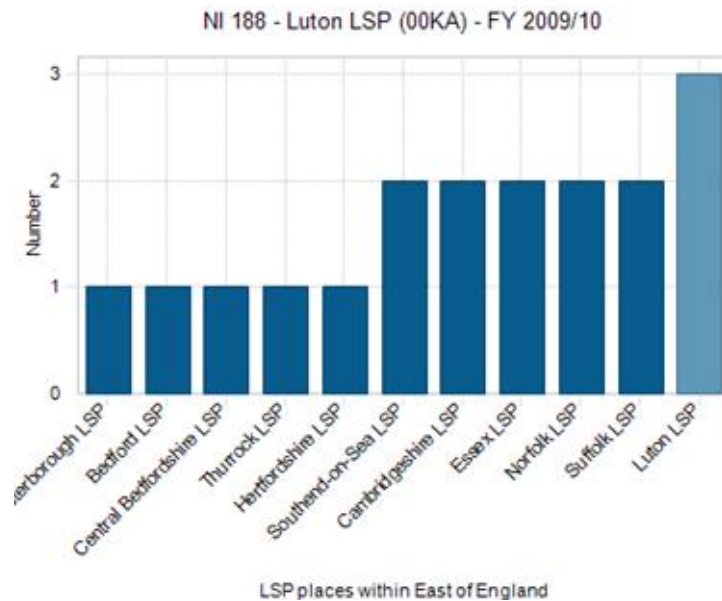
Successfully adapting and mitigating for climate change

Luton Forum is implementing the Comprehensive Adaptation Action plan

NI 188 Planning to adapt to Climate Change – Green – Level 3 out of 4 as at 2009/10.

More than 40 schools have registered for “Eco Schools” international sustainability award.

Luton is the only Authority in the eastern region to have reached Level 3 by March 2010, it is aiming to reach Level 4 by March 2011.



Luton Forum is implementing the comprehensive adaptation action plan across the local authority area, and there is a robust process for regular and continual monitoring and review.

Protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment, including our rivers and natural habitats within Luton's green spaces.

Luton Secured 5 Green Flag Awards for its parks in 2009/10

- **NI 197** improved local biodiversity – Green.
- **NI 195** improved street cleanliness: Green

Luton Assembly has identified land sites for allotments and biodiversity sites, managed Galley and Warden Hills Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and enhanced High Town Conservation Area.

Luton Friends of Parks and Green Spaces formed in Sept 2009 to work in partnership to maintain and improve green spaces in Luton.

In Mayne Avenue open space a natural play area, upgrade of the traditional play facility and provision of teenage facilities, orchard creation and wild flower meadow project have been completed.

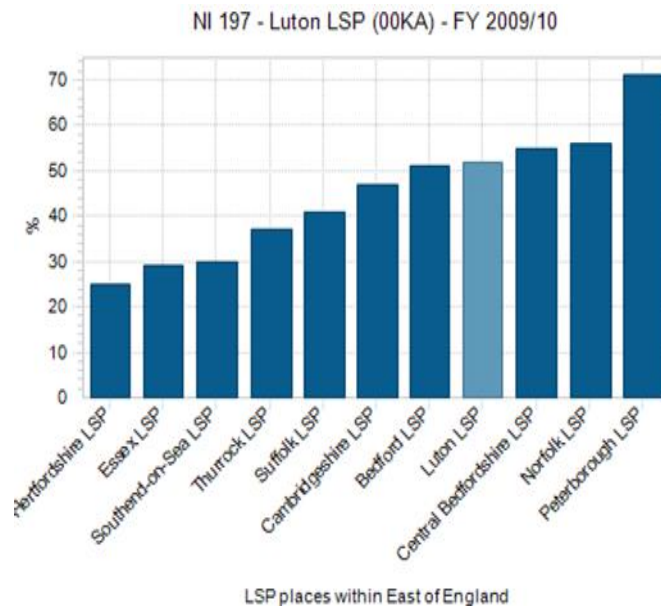
12 local play areas have been upgraded as part of the Year 2 Playbuilder programme.

Upgrade of traditional play area at Great Bramingham Park and North East Luton Green Corridors wild flower meadow project.

Walks, marked trails, orchards, pond creation and wild flower planting in Stockwood Park, Wardown Park, Limbury Riverside Parks, Kidney Wood and Stoney Hills.

Luton Historic Landscapes - Access improvements and interpretation across 5 river corridor and 1 chalk grassland sites, all of which are County Wildlife Sites.

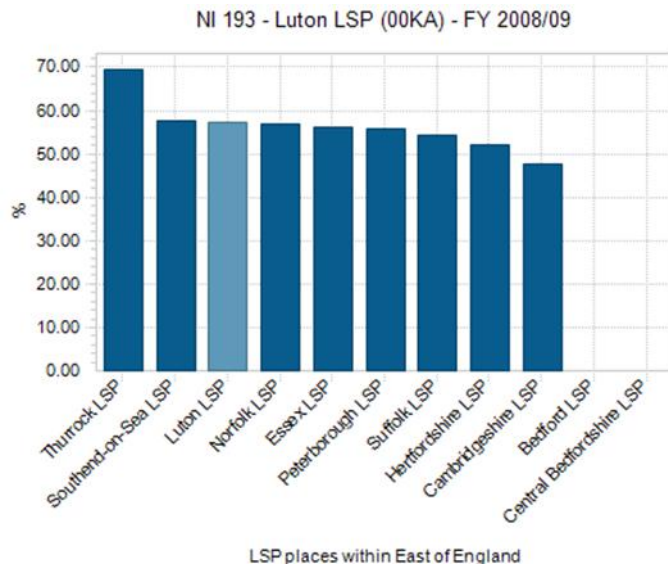
North East Luton Green Corridors - Integrating Galley and Warden Hills, SSSI, County Wildlife Site and Local Nature Reserve into its adjacent urban area by increasing accessibility along historic routes.



Reducing consumption of water, energy, materials and minimising waste, including addressing issues around the generation of energy.

Transition Luton: promoting/ advising on renewable energy generation
Luton Assembly: appointed BSF external champions on renewable energy/eco building

- **NI 186** – Per capita Co2 emissions – Reduction from 5.4 to 4.7 tonnes per capita
- **NI 191** Residual household waste per household – Green
- **NI 192** percentage of household waste sent for recycling etc – red
- **NI 193** Percentage of municipal waste filled – Green
- Affordable Warmth
- Go Green
- Energy Bus
- Highly commended in Sustainable FM awards for energy-aware local authorities.



An Energy Policy was developed in 2009.

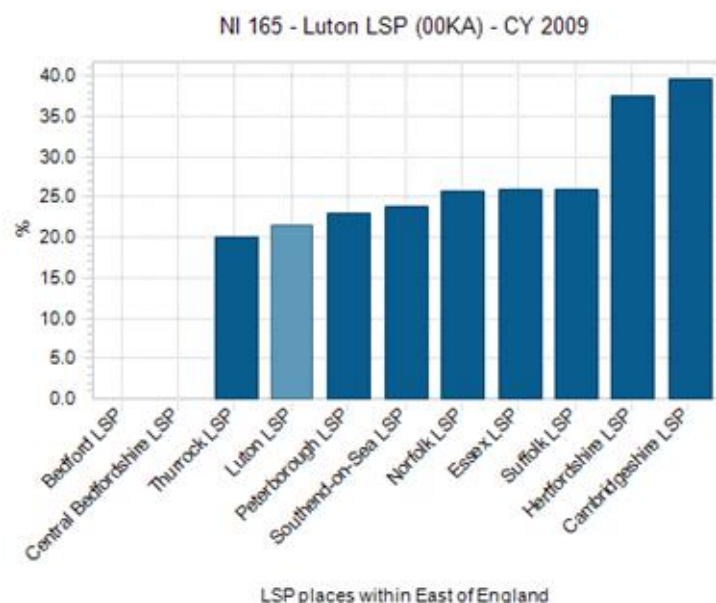
The Council and the Carbon Trust published a Carbon Management Plan (CMP) in June 2010.

The revised EU waste framework directive has a new 5 step hierarchy focusing on waste prevention, & preparing for re-use.

Enhancing skills for employability and entrepreneurship and reducing differences in achievement levels between communities

Luton Forum is beginning to contribute to the formation of South Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

- **NI 161 – NI 165** – qualifications to Entry Level, Level 2, 3 and 4 in the population.



- Economic Participation programme
- European Social Fund: Investing in Jobs and Skills.
- Marsh Farm Community Enterprise and Resource Centre (CERC)
- Voluntary Action Luton: Future Jobs Programme for unemployed 18 to 24 year olds. Training courses, financial advice and services for the Voluntary and Community Sector and Social Enterprises

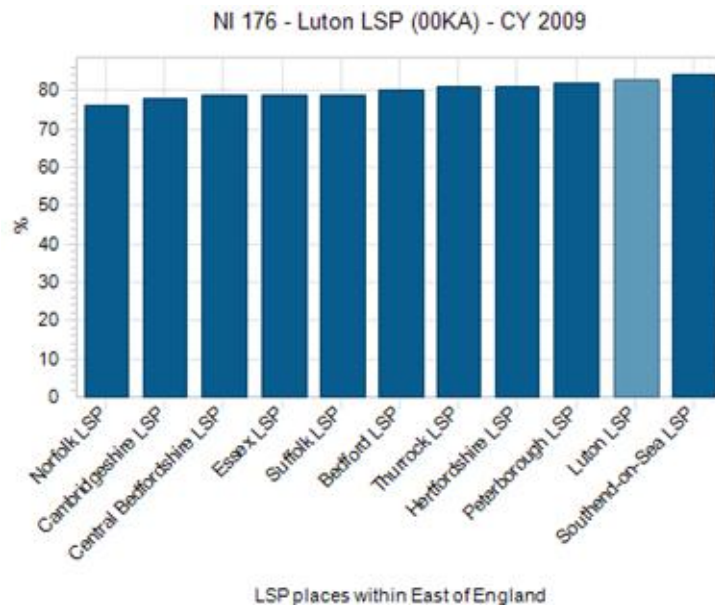
The Department of Business, Innovation & Skills is currently consulting both on “A Simplified Further Education and Skills Funding System and Methodology” and on “Skills for Sustainable Growth”.

£200 million of the Train to Gain budget will be redirected to fund the delivery of 50,000 Apprenticeship places and establish a fund for college building programmes.

Improving public transport, access and mobility and increasing travel to work by sustainable modes of transport e.g. public transport, walking, cycling

Luton – Dunstable Busway has been approved, the result of work by Luton Forum

- **NI 198** children travelling to school
- **NI 175** Access to services and facilities by public transport, working and cycling – 98.3% in 2008/9
- **NI 176** Working age people with access to employment by public transport etc (deleted) – 83% in 2008
- **NI 177** Local bus passenger journeys originating in the local authority area – green – 10.2 million against 10.5 million target in 2009/10 (within 5%)



- 78% of schools have Travel Plan
- Improved cycle routes
- Sustrans: Promoting sustainable modes of travel in school. Active Travel Plans with local businesses. Cycle loan scheme. Publicising walk and cycling routes in central Luton.
- Transition Luton: Promoting sustainable modes of transport through public information.

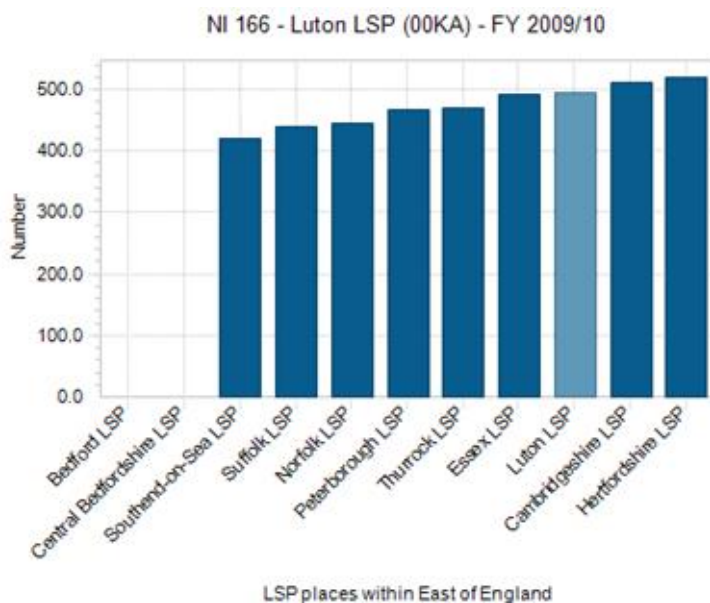
Cycle ways have been opened from Luton to Harpenden and Leighton Buzzard by Sustrans and partners.

Increasing economic activity and good local jobs for local people by working with new and existing businesses and social enterprises and inward investors

Luton Forum has prepared a bid for City Status to promote Luton to employers.

NI 166 “Median Earnings of Employees in the area” - Green - £493.30 in 2009/10 .

People who live in Luton earned were paid £1200 less a year than the national average in 2009.



The Mall extension has opened and is now host to new employers.

Station improvements, including car park, are nearly finished.

100+ jobs created through the Future Jobs Fund

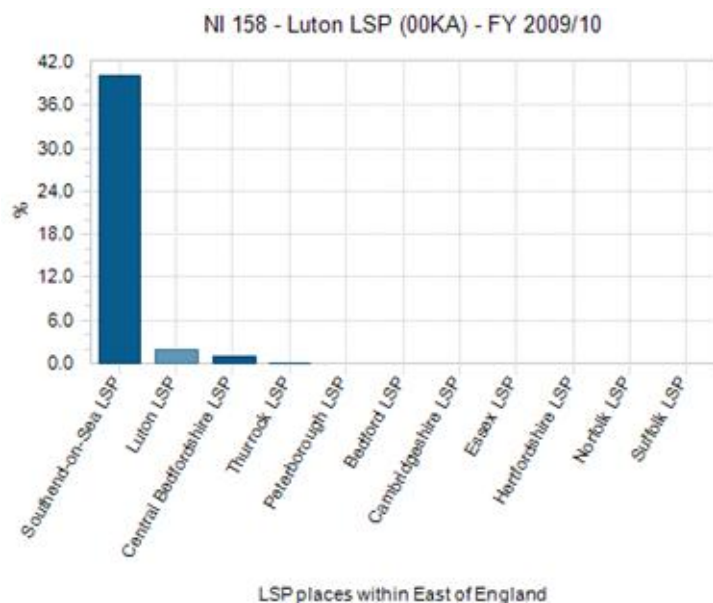
A new affordable housing scheme currently under construction on Marsh farm has required use of local labour and has offered skills training and taster sessions to local residents.

In August 2010 there were 5,907 people of working age claiming Job Seekers Allowance in Luton (5.4%)

Improving the amount and range of housing suitable for the needs of Luton's existing and future residents

Housing Joint Venture with Luton Learning and Community Partnership (LLCP)

- **NI 155** 160 affordable homes were delivered in 2008/9 and 225 in 2009/10 – this is above the agreed target.
- **NI 158** - % non-decent Council homes – 2.3% for 2009/10
- 225 affordable homes delivered in 2009/10 against a target of 80
- 364 additional homes delivered in 2008/09
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment produced



Despite the financial crisis, Luton Learning and Community Partnership (LLCP) still has several projects ongoing for 2010/11 and the proposed Housing Joint Venture is well advanced with planning permission secured for two of the three sites included in the first phase, providing a wide range of new homes with a range of tenure options – 606 properties planned in total.