



Leicester Partnership News September 2008

Welcome to the September 2008 issue of Leicester Partnership News. This newsletter is for everyone, in every sector, who works in organisations and partnerships in Leicester to improve the city, its services, and the quality of life for people who live here.

If you know anyone who you think would like a copy, please pass it on. And if you would like to be put on the mailing list for future issues get in touch – our contact details are at the end of the briefing.

We are interested in your news and views too – so do contact us if you have questions, comments or information to share. Tell us if this information is useful – or if there is anything else that you think it would be helpful to include in future. We look forward to hearing from you.

Involving the voluntary and community sector in the work of the partnership

Earlier this year the partnership set up a task group to look at improving the way the voluntary and community sector (VCS) are involved in the partnership.

The task group looked at how VCS groups that represent communities of interest (such as women's groups and BME groups) are selected to be members of the partnership. It was decided that we needed to get VCS groups themselves to suggest who should represent them.

To facilitate this, Voluntary Action Leicester are organising a series of events over the next few months with voluntary groups themselves.



There will be at least seven of these events for VCS groups – one for each community of interest – women, BME people, disabled people, faith, young people, older people, and lesbian, gay bisexual or transgender people.

The events will –

- explain what the partnership is and why VCS involvement is so important;
- help groups look at ways of developing the way they network with each other and collaborate effectively;
- ask them how they want to be involved in the work of the Leicester Partnership; and
- ask them to put forward suggestions for ‘host’ VCS organisation that could lead each of the seven communities of interest and support a representative on the partnership.

A wide range of groups will be invited to take part, but if you do work in a VCS organisation that is focussed on working specifically with one of these communities and would like to make sure you are invited please get in touch -

Contact

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One Leicester – delivering excellence

Following the launch of the *One Leicester* strategy, Leicester City Council has started work on a new wide ranging change programme called *Delivering Excellence* to frame and direct that work within the council and between partners to change the way the council works.



At a meeting of the Leicester Partnership Executive on the 10th September, Sheila Lock, Leicester City Council Chief Executive outlined the programme which consists of four main programmes of change -

1. Support for the seven **strategic priorities** identified in *One Leicester*.
2. A **service transformation** programme that defines how services are best organised and delivered in the future and then implements the organisational and operational changes required to support this.
3. A **customer service improvement** programme focused exclusively on improving our customers' experience of dealing with the council, as well as the council's overall approach to customer relationship management :and
4. A **partnership development** programme that will clarify the role of the Leicester Partnership and the council, and shape the framework and activities needed to improve joint performance monitoring and management, along with the allocation and use of resources across the city.

The proposed changes are ambitious and are likely to run for at least two years. For more information –

Contact

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The Place Survey 2008

The Government have introduced a new postal survey - the Place Survey, which all local authorities must undertake every two years. The survey is being sent to thousands of homes across Leicester from the 29th September to give us a range of data about people's views. The survey will cover issues such as -

- satisfaction with the neighbourhood as a place to live
- community cohesion



- whether people think they are treated fairly by services
- views on how anti social behaviour is tackled
- how far people are getting actively involved in the community

The survey is one of hundreds being carried out across the country, designed to help judge how far areas are meeting some of the targets in the Local Area Agreement that are based on improving people's perceptions and experiences.

The addresses to which the survey will be sent have been selected at random. It takes about 20 minutes to complete and people have until 19th December to send it back.

For more information on the survey visit the Government's Place Survey web pages

www.leicester.gov.uk/placesurvey or

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MORI survey of Leicester residents 2008

Another survey of city residents is taking place between 2nd July 2008 and 24th September. The Ipsos MORI survey of local residents, unlike the Place survey, is interview based rather than postal, and is designed to give us a more in depth picture of people's views.

The survey is jointly commissioned by Leicester City Council and Leicester City Primary Care Trust. It will cover 2,000 residents to find out what they think of the services they receive, and it will include a 'booster sample' of 250 people from the most deprived areas of Leicester to help us understand the differences between the experiences of people in those areas as compared to the rest of the city.

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Environmental sustainability news

The new Climate Change Programme Board was launched in July, and the chair, Councillor Michael Cooke, outlined the Board's comprehensive work targets.

On the 13th of July eight Bishops from around the world came to Leicester to speak of the effects of Climate Change at a Leicester Diocese event called 'Gods Fragile Earth'.

'Greening the Laughs' was also launched in July, in conjunction with the Leicester Comedy Festival. Each festival venue was assessed for their environmental performance with a view to being awarded a prize in March.

Plans are also afoot to start a 'Clean-Tech Hub' where commerce and industry in Leicester can tap into emerging developments in environmental sciences and techniques. And there are also plans to run a series of workshops in mosques around the city to improve environmental understanding by working with a new Islamic environmental group called 'Kafila Al Ard'.

On the 11th September there is a showing of the film 'Crude Awakening' and there will be a number of electric vehicles for people to come and see. All the original 250 tickets have been distributed, but because of demand there will be a second showing on the 25th September. So if you would like to see the film please e-mail debbie.hill@leicester.gov.uk – there are about 150 free tickets left.

In the next few months the council's Environment Team are holding a series of events to improve resource efficiency for businesses, and they will also be working in partnership with the Highcross Leicester to run three events to display the benefits of electric vehicles to tie in with the 100 electric vehicle charging points that have been installed in the new car park.

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About the Leicester Partnership

Leicester Partnership is Leicester's 'local strategic partnership'. It has about 50 members drawn from the public, voluntary and community, and private sectors of the city. Our job is to bring these sectors together to drive forward a single vision and strategy for the city, and ensure that different services, programmes and initiatives work together effectively.

The Partnership provides the single over-arching local coordination framework within which other partnerships and organisations can operate.

We have two main responsibilities –

- To develop and deliver the 25 year *One Leicester* strategy; and
- To deliver the targets in Leicester's Local Area Agreement 2008-11.

Contact the Leicester Partnership Team

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