

# DERBYSHIRE LAA Bulletin for the VCS



## Issue 2 - What's the latest from the Derbyshire Partnership Forum?

Hi there,

Welcome to the 2nd issue of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) Bulletin, written especially for those of us who work in the VCS (Voluntary and Community Sector). Hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break and have come back to work ready for 2009!

The last issue looked at the basics— what is the LAA? What is an LSP? What have they got to do with the VCS? If you didn't receive a copy, do get in touch and I'll be happy to send you one.

The following issues will keep you up to date with the latest news from each of the partnerships and keep you informed about training or events going on around the county.

Please feel free to forward the bulletin to your friends, colleagues and volunteers. Do get in touch if you would like to know more or would like to receive the bulletin directly from Voice.

Best wishes,

Claire Thornber, Voice for the Voluntary Sector in Derbyshire Project Officer.

### National Indicator 7 Event.

November 21st 08

Back in November last year Voice for the VCS Project organised an event in partnership with the Culture Board of Derbyshire County Council. Our public sector partners were looking for our ideas about how they can support our sector to thrive. This is one of the 35 priorities part of Derbyshire's Local Area Agreement (LAA). You can download a full report of the event from [www.3dsupport.org.uk/Voice\\_Project/Events](http://www.3dsupport.org.uk/Voice_Project/Events) Keep your eyes out for updates on the action planning process in the Culture Board section of this bulletin.

### Comprehensive Area Assessment

(CAA) is the new way that public sector partners will be held accountable for their service delivery and the quality of life of people living in their local area. CAA will review and report on how well public money is spent and how well those partners work together to deliver common priorities. The Audit Commission will work together with the Commission for Social Care, Healthcare Commission, Police and Prison Inspectors and OFSTED to complete a holistic assessment of the public sector and its partnerships. At the DPF Meeting in September, Bev Parker of the Audit Commission welcomed Voluntary Sector involvement in the assessment and plans to discuss how this will happen with 3D members.

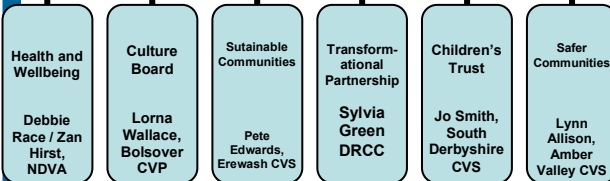
#### Inside this issue:

- What is CAA?
- Updates from each of the LAA partnerships, including free training from the Children's Trust, the Personalisation agenda and Derbyshire's new plans to combat climate change
- Bolsover's VCS get an intro to their Local Strategic Partnership
- LAA Training in the Derbyshire Dales

[www.3dsupport.org.uk/Voice\\_Project](http://www.3dsupport.org.uk/Voice_Project)

## Safer Communities Partnership

Derbyshire Partnership Forum



*The Derbyshire Partnership Forum is supported by a number of sub-groups which all have a representative from the VCS who is there on your behalf. These two pages will summarise what's been happening. If you'd like to make any comments, please contact the appropriate rep via the 3D website*

The Safer Communities Partnership is driven by national crime statistics. Below the Board sits another group called the SCTAG (Safer Communities Task and Advisory Group). It is this group that brings together representatives from each of the District Community Safety Partnerships and allocates funding to projects which it feels reduce crime or reduce fear of crime. If you feel that your organisation

works towards these priorities and would like to get more recognition and support from the District Community Safety Partnerships you can contact them directly. Details are available to download from the Voice website [www.3dsupport.org.uk/Voice\\_Project/What\\_is\\_the\\_LAA?](http://www.3dsupport.org.uk/Voice_Project/What_is_the_LAA?) You can also download the partnership's LAA priorities from the same page.

## The Children's Trust

At the last meeting of the Children's Trust in November, the 3 VCI (Voluntary, Community and Independent development workers gave a presentation on their findings so far. This sparked a discussion about how the Trust can support smaller groups without stifling them.

Jo Smith of South Derbyshire CVS gave a presentation about the new Volunteer Passport scheme, which

officially credits volunteers for basic training in Health & Safety, Safeguarding Children, Equal opportunities and First Aid. The passports will last for 3 years and will be accepted by any of the Children's Trust partners. For more info contact the Development workers, via the County Council website.

The Children's Trust have just produced a new

training directory for VCS organisations who work with children and young people. The free courses are funded by the Children's Workforce Development Council. The programme is much improved on the last one. You can download it from the Voice website [www.3dsupport.org.uk/Voice\\_Project/What\\_is\\_the\\_LAA?](http://www.3dsupport.org.uk/Voice_Project/What_is_the_LAA?)



The Children's Trust is a statutory partnership which engages with the Voluntary, Community and Independent Sector via 14 GRID reps around the county. GRID stands for Group Influencing Development. You can find out who your GRID rep is at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social\\_health/services\\_for\\_children/](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social_health/services_for_children/)

## The Culture Board

At the last meeting of the Culture Board in November, 30 frontline organisations and 18 Infrastructure Support agencies joined Board members to discuss how we can create an environment in which the 3rd sector can thrive.

This is a priority indicator in Derbyshire's LAA and will hopefully mean big improvements in the way

we work with our public sector partners.

Thanks to everyone who made a contribution on the day. A report of the event can be found on the Voice website. This will be used as a basis for developing a three year action plan. The 4 main themes are ability to influence decisions, partnership arrangements; funding relationships and

support from 2<sup>nd</sup> tier (infra-structure) agencies. A core group of 3D members will develop the plan together with representatives from key partners like the County Council and the Primary Care Trust. Hopefully, a draft will be produced by the end of January 09 which you will be able to download from the Voice website and comment on.

*" N.I. 7 is one of the biggest opportunity the sector in Derbyshire has had. I hope it will give some teeth to the Derbyshire Compact. "*

## The Transformational Partnership

This partnership have put forward 12 bids to the East Midlands RIEP (Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership). Most of these projects will help District and County Councils to be more efficient, making cash or energy savings by sharing back room facilities. However, if approved by the RIEP Board, others will bring more obvious benefits. Projects set to receive a cash injection include the YES Scheme which aims to create life-long solutions for

disaffected youth. It will be able to extend into Chesterfield, Buxton, Alfreton, Shirebrook and Clay Cross. Another scheme aimed at Derbyshire's Youth hopes to create 'Safe Centres' in Chesterfield, Ripley, Shirebrook and Swadlincote which will open on Friday and Saturday nights to give kids an alternative to drugs and alcohol and offer them support and advice.

The partnership have also asked the RIEP to fund a Community Cohesion Fund to deliver NI 1.

## Community Cohesion Working Group to look at NI 1.

So, what is NI 1?

Community Cohesion is one of Derbyshire's top 35 priorities and it will be measured by NI 1—Percentage of people who believe people from a different background get on well together in their local area. This will be judged by the responses to a survey which was sent out at the end of last year and will be sent out again in another two years.

The Derbyshire Partnership Forum understand that this is an issue which affects everyone and which everyone must work towards so have set up a working group with representatives from all the LAA partnerships. James Lee of Chesterfield Links represents the Voluntary Sector. They have applied to the RIEP, via the Transformational Partnership, for a post to coordinate a £100,000 pot aimed at delivering activities which increase community cohesion.

## Sustainable Communities Partnership

The Sustainable Communities Board has now agreed the 6 sub-groups which will support it. These will be; Regeneration, Climate Change, Waste & Street Scene, Transport, Employment & Skills and Housing. It is expected that most of these will have a voluntary sector rep but the only one to have met so far under the new structure is the

Climate Change group. They have begun to draft action plans around NI 186 (Per capita CO2 emissions in the Local Authority area) and NI 188 (Adapting to Climate Change) and these can be downloaded from the Voice website [www.3dsupport.org.uk/Voice\\_Project/News](http://www.3dsupport.org.uk/Voice_Project/News) The target for Derbyshire is a 0.5% per year reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>

emissions across the county, from a baseline of 6.6m tonnes, by May 2011. The total reduction required over the LAA period is 9.06% including that which comes from national measures. If you'd like to make any comments to the group contact Carol Lawton of Chesterfield Links who is the 3D representative at the group. More to follow on the other groups.



## Health and Wellbeing Partnership

One of the big topics at the Health and Wellbeing Partnership is the Government's Personalisation agenda. Based on a 2007 concordat 'Putting People First' the County Council have begun work on a series of projects to deliver the new agenda.

Put simply, the Vision is that people in need of support will be able to

choose where they buy that from. An assessment will establish a personal budget which the individual can choose to manage themselves or have managed on their behalf. It is still very early days and no-one really knows yet how the Vision will become reality or what these changes could mean for small VCS

organisations. The County Council is currently establishing 7 Project Boards to deal with different aspects of the Vision. Personalised budgets must be offered to everyone receiving long term social care by March 2011. Voice will work in partnership with North Derbyshire Voluntary Action (NDVA) and 3D to ensure Voluntary sector

representation at each one so that you can be kept informed of developments.

You can download the concordat from the Voice website [www.3dsupport.org.uk/Voice\\_Project/News](http://www.3dsupport.org.uk/Voice_Project/News) together with a report from a VCS consultation event. Get more information from NDVA. [www.ndva.org.uk](http://www.ndva.org.uk)

**What is the Voice for the Voluntary Sector in Derbyshire Project?**



You can find out more about 3D and what they do by going to [www.3Dsupport.org.uk](http://www.3Dsupport.org.uk)

In Derbyshire we have a consortium of infrastructure organisations who meet regularly to combine their efforts to improve support for frontline organisations.

Members of the consortium include local CVSs, and other more specialist organisations like SDVSMHF or DCIL.

They realised the importance of the LAA and the effect it could have on voluntary organisations who deliver services on behalf of the public sector or who work with people who use those public services. They applied to the Big Lottery for funding for a project which aims to support the frontline VCS to have a greater under-

standing and involvement with the LAA.

The Voice for the VCS in Derbyshire Project will bring you this bulletin every 2 months, offer free training opportunities, keep a website up to date with minutes of meetings and reports to the DPF which might interest you and will organise events which will give you the opportunity to talk directly to policy and decision makers.

**Still confused about the LAA?**

If you work in the Derbyshire Dales area you might like to come along to Ashbourne Leisure Centre on the 26th March (10 am -12.30) for some free training on Local Area Agreements.

You can download a booking form from the Voice website [www.3Dsupport.org.uk/Voice\\_Project/Events](http://www.3Dsupport.org.uk/Voice_Project/Events) or go to the CVS website [www.ddcv.org.uk/training](http://www.ddcv.org.uk/training)

Please book through Derbyshire Dales CVS who will confirm your place.

The Voice Project Officer can also deliver training in the LAA to your staff or management committee. Knowing how your organisation is delivering against County priorities can only assist in strategic planning or funding applications. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do

contact

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*"If you've got any questions about the LAA, just give me a ring and I should be able to help"*  
**Claire Thornber,**  
*Voice for the VCS Project Officer.*

**Bolsover's VCS get an intro to their LSP**

On the 4th November the Voice Project organised an event in Bolsover in partnership with Bolsover CVP and the District Council. VCS reps on the LSP were joined by other organisations from the district for updates on the partnership and the LAA.

Wes Lumley, Chief Executive Officer and Cllr Eion Watts, Leader of BDC, welcomed us to the Council offices and Mandy Chambers

(who chairs the LSP) gave a presentation stressing the importance of the voluntary sector's contribution.

In the first of the afternoon workshops we discussed what being a rep involved and how the CVP and the Voice project could support that. In the second workshop, we made recommendations for improvements to a 'Working with the VCS' Protocol which will be taken to their next Board meeting in the New Year.



"A very useful event"