

Devon Strategic Partnership

DSP Annual Conference
3rd December 2009
Conference Report

1. Introduction

The Devon Strategic Partnership conference this year was held in the Coaver Conference centre at County Hall Exeter. A decision was made this year to put on a leaner, more focussed conference. Some 70 people attended, and delegates were encouraged to car share, with a bus arranged to take people from and to the Park and Ride. The aims of the day were

- a. to inform delegates about the activity of the last year, and the priorities for the next year, by Sustainable Community Strategy theme; also to hear about our Area Assessment from Devon's CAA Lead in the Audit Commission
- b. to consider the work of the Devon Futures Group, looking at the likely future of Devon in 2038, and to consider the impact on our strategic thinking now, and
- c. to hear about the national perspective and likely futures for Local Strategic Partnerships and LAAs.

2. The Programme

- a. **Introductory remarks** – Sally Foxhall, Chair of Devon Strategic Partnership. Sally welcomed delegates to the conference, talking about the aims for the day and quoting a definition of partnership as “true Partnership is the exchange of information to alter activities, and the sharing of resources and responsibilities to achieve a common purpose”.
- b. **Progress over the last year and challenges ahead.** Reports were received about what has been achieved over the last year in each Sustainable Community Strategy theme, and the challenges and priorities for the next year. This year for the first time, several theme partnership chairs presented, as well as theme lead officers, reflecting the closer relationship that is developing between the overall Devon Strategic Partnership and the theme partnerships that have so much expertise in particular areas of work. The presentation attached was supplemented by additional notes in the conference packs that gave more context and detail – these are also attached.



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PowerPoint - A World



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PowerPoint - Health



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PowerPoint - A Safer



Inspiring Young

People - Present...

3. **Devon's Area Assessment** – Martin Green, CAA Lead for Devon. Ahead of the publication of the first Area Assessment on 9th December, Martin gave delegates a preview of some of the key findings in the Area Assessment. He

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also identified those areas he may be looking at in more detail over the coming year, which include:

- a. Consideration of Value for Money.
 - b. How the partnership targets the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, especially in context of rurality inequality and poverty; including geographical variations.
 - c. Older people
 - d. Flooding
 - e. Health inequalities and preventative agendas
 - f. Housing - affordable homes, homelessness, condition and energy efficiency of existing stock
 - g. Cohesion and working with the Voluntary and Community Sector
 - h. Engagement with certain hard to reach groups e.g. children with learning disabilities
 - i. Children and Young People – bullying and 16+ provision
4. **Devon Futures** – report of findings and interactive task. What will Devon be like in 2038 and how should it affect our strategic planning now? The Devon Futures team explained that they had been hearing from experts in many areas of work over the past 18 months, looking at what Devon will be like in 30 years' time; any predictions about the future are always uncertain but information has been gathered to encourage thinking about the future from a shared baseline. The importance of this work is to encourage strategic thinking now that will influence what will happen in the future. Delegates were shown 3 possible scenarios about life in 30 years' time, acted out by members of the group, Pip Tucker, Paul Sadler and Nicola Channon: in the first scenario, the Devon Strategic Partnership had not taken any action and life was very difficult, in terms of flooding and adaptation to climate change, transport, health and social care provision, and food. The second scenario was slightly more optimistic, depicting a time after the Devon Strategic Partnership had taken some action, and the third scenario showed life in 2038 when the Devon Strategic Partnership had acted very decisively and fully over the previous 30 years. Delegates then discussed amongst themselves possible action that the Devon Strategic Partnership should consider. A booklet showing the shared baseline of information, entitled 'Think Before you Do Anything' (a message from Young People to the 2008 Devon Strategic Partnership Conference) was distributed.



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Think Before You Do
Anything.pdf



summary of
comments made

5. **The national perspective: the future for Local Strategic Partnerships, Local Area Agreements and the role of leadership** – Henry Peterson. Followed by a discussion about the implications for Devon. Henry outlined some possibilities, raised a series of questions and offered suggestions for the Devon Strategic Partnership to consider.
- a. Possibilities included more streamlined LAAs that are more outcome based with less reporting; less ring fencing of monies to allow greater potential for pooling; greater encouragement to use the Power of Well Being
 - b. Questions about how the Devon Strategic Partnership might develop its role included asking whether they had considered a role in vetting partner budgets; even having the DSP Delivery Board or Council sign

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off partner budgets; extending the use of the power of wellbeing – if they believed they understood the needs of the local people, then what was stopping them taking more control?

- c. Suggestions the partnership might consider included taking a lead on planning for and adapting to the future; on managing the area's resources; on gathering and monitoring evidence; and as a result being able to change behaviours and make better judgements. They may want to embed democratic leadership across the partnerships, and build more accountability back to residents.



Speaker Biography -
Henry Peterson



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PowerPoint - henry p.

6. Sally Foxhall then closed the conference with a reminder for everyone to please complete and return the questionnaires about partnership working that were in their packs. Lunch was served before delegates departed at 2.00p.m.

Please complete and return a partnership questionnaire!



Partnership
questionnaire