



**'Communities in Control'
Autumn 2008
3 Regional Workshops**

**Ashford, Kent – 3rd November
Aylesbury Vale, Buckinghamshire –
17th November
Waverley, Surrey – 25th November**



This autumn, South East Employers and Progress through Partnership are running a series of workshops, free of charge, across the Region. The workshops will provide an update for both local authorities and Local Strategic Partnerships on the recent Government White Paper.

Each workshop will also feature a local example of where an authority or LSP is working in an innovative way, in relation to community empowerment.

Each workshop will be hosted by a local authority and will be held over lunch, with an option for further discussion afterwards.

The White Paper "Communities in Control: real people, real power" aims to bring communities closer to local decision making, and build a stronger role for local councillors. Highlights of the White Paper include:

- A new duty for local authorities to promote democracy
- Extending the existing 'duty to involve' local people in key decisions
- Councils to be subject to a new duty to respond to petitions
- Powers of overview and scrutiny to be updated and made more visible to the public
- Making it easier for people to get a directly elected mayor

The new Local Area Agreements have given authorities an opportunity to work with their key service delivery partners to respond to local needs and lead the design and delivery of public services in their localities, whilst a slimmed down list of assessment indicators has the potential to allow local authorities more freedom to prioritise the issues that really matter in their areas.

Comprehensive Area Assessments (CAAs), which are replacing Comprehensive Performance Assessments (CPAs) from April 2009, will focus much more on the performance of an area, rather than individual organisations and will expect to find evidence of strong partnership arrangements and services that are clearly driven by the needs of the local community. 'Communities in Control' gives an insight into how the government is expecting this to be done.

Further details over the page.

Communities in Control – Implications for Local Authorities and LSPs

Why SEE and PtP are holding this event:

- To raise awareness of the White Paper
- To explore the likely impact on local authorities and LSPs
- To showcase good and innovative practice already in place
- To explore what kind of support SEE and PtP might offer to the Region

Objectives/Outcomes of the event:

- Delegates develop their understanding of the White Paper
- Delegates are aware of how the White Paper might impact an area through the Comprehensive Area Assessment
- Delegates discuss their current community empowerment activities and how these might be developed further.

PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
12:00	Registration and Refreshments
12:30	Welcome and Introduction
12:40	Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of Communities in Control (Mark Palmer, Head of Improvement and Governance, SEE and Davy Jones, Independent Consultant)• Local example of community engagement
13:30	Plenary Discussion
14:00	Workshop Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Break out into smaller groups for facilitated discussion on specific aspects of the White Paper
15:00	Close