

# East Sussex Strategic Partnership

## 2007/08 Annual Report

# Changing lives, changing places



# A letter from the Chair...

It is a privilege to present the annual report of the East Sussex Strategic Partnership to the many communities that make up East Sussex. The Partnership draws together many strands of public service delivery in East Sussex, it identifies where better partnership working could achieve more and inspires everyone to take up the challenge of achieving this.

This year has been the point in our cycle where we have refreshed our strategy for the County, Pride of Place, and sought to make it more 'joined-up' whilst also ensuring that everyone remains focused on delivering the current action plans. We have also drawn up a new agreement with Government to guide action on those specific priorities we all share and that also fit with government's approach to monitoring local performance. It has, as a consequence, been a busy year that represents something of a watershed. We move ahead now with a very integrated set of County and District strategies that we must turn into equally integrated new action plans to meet the needs that we have identified.

I would personally like to thank the partners who make up ESSP for their wholehearted commitment to partnership working, to the County Council who provide us with expert and unflagging support and especially to all the members of the District and Borough Local Strategic Partnerships for the strong local dimension that they bring to making things happen where they count: in the local community.



**Jeremy Leggett**  
Chair, East Sussex Strategic Partnership

# Our achievements

## ***Pride of Place***

The new Sustainable Community Strategy for East Sussex, *Pride of Place*, has been published ([Pride of Place](#)). This strategy sets out the long-term plan for improving the quality of life for all those within East Sussex, and has been developed from wide-ranging consultation with partners and the public. *Pride of Place* has gone further than the previous strategy by connecting the countrywide plan to the local Sustainable Community Strategies of the District and Borough LSPs. It is the first integrated strategy of its kind in the country.

## ***New Targets***

The [Local Area Agreement](#) (LAA) continued to prove challenging in some areas, but also delivered real benefits for local people. This LAA is being replaced by a new three year LAA, a draft of which was submitted to Government at the end of May for Ministerial approval. The new LAA takes effect from 1 April 2008 and includes 33 areas for improvement, based on the priorities identified in *Pride of Place*.

## ***A New Look***

ESSP recognised the need to improve engagement with communities. In response, it developed its first communication and engagement plan. One of the first areas to receive attention was the ESSP website, which was completely redesigned and re-launched in June 2007. The website now attracts over 1,500 visits per month, three times the level achieved prior to its re-launch in June. In addition to the extensive consultation surrounding *Pride of Place*, a monthly electronic bulletin, ESSP e-News, was launched in December 2007.

## ***Investigating Migration***

ESSP has been keen to address the limited availability of up to date, accurate local information on migrants coming to live and work in East Sussex, in order to ensure we provide the right services for their needs. An audit has been undertaken to contribute to the on-going work to understand and cater for the changing population of East Sussex.

*"The ESSP has enjoyed tremendous success this year and risen to the significant challenges the year has provided, including a new Local Area Agreement. There is clearly work still to be done, and Pride of Place - the first integrated sustainable community strategy of its kind in England - presents a clear statement of jointly agreed priorities for improvement. I would like to join the Chair in thanking all our partners and support staff for their hard work and commitment throughout the year."*

Councillor Bob Tidy, Vice Chair of East Sussex Strategic Partnership

# Children and Young People

The overall aim of this block is to improve young people's life chances. Teenage pregnancy remains a cause for concern despite a further reduction in the rate, and the 2010 target of a 50% reduction currently looks unlikely to be achieved. The percentage of 16-18 year olds who are NEET (not in education, employment or training) has reduced for the third year in a row but is still above the very demanding target. Below highlights some of the significant successes this year:

## Staying safe

The priority area of protecting children and young people from harm and neglect has seen significant success, particularly in terms of crime affecting children. In 2007/08 222 fewer children were the victims of crime than in 2006/7.

## Being healthy

78% of the schools in East Sussex have achieved the Healthy Schools Standard, exceeding both local and national targets, improving both physical health and awareness of health issues. An additional 22 schools now have an approved school travel plan, making significant improvements to how a child's safety is reviewed and protected on their school journey.

## Enjoying and achieving

A major achievement was made in meeting the target of 28 designated Children's Centres a year ahead of schedule. Other key areas where targets have been significantly exceeded are a 35% increase in the number of young people attending swimming lessons; and the number of young people achieving the junior sports leader award rising from 241 to 1841.

## Positive contribution

The number of exclusions in schools in the Hastings Excellence Cluster were reduced in line with the target, and the reduction in number of days lost was double the target. The target for agencies improving the involvement of young people in decision making was also met, aided by the newly formed Participation Champions Group agencies who work to support young people getting involved.



*"Good partnership working is at the heart of the children services reform programme. Across the Children and Young People's Trust partnership we are really pleased with the outcomes of some of our joint work on LAA targets, particularly reducing the number of young people who are victims of crime and reductions in days lost from school through exclusions."*

Alison Jeffery, Children's Trust Manager

# Healthier Communities and Older People

The overall aims of the Healthier Communities and Older People Block are to build healthier communities, reduce health inequalities, improve access to information, local services and economic wellbeing, and improve independence, choice and services for older people. Falls do continue to cause concern, however preventative work continues through the multi-agency Falls Strategy Group. Below highlights some of the significant successes this year:



*"Partnership working has been the foundation for this low level preventative service. Incorporating basic sign posting across various services, it has enabled many people to remain independent within their own home."*

Caryl Ganley, County Connect.

## **Living independently**

There has been considerable success in the priority to increase the number of people supported to live at home independently. To help achieve this, the pilot County Connect service, a referral system for partner agencies, was introduced in July 2007. This service is being monitored closely and has proved a popular resource. As a result the pilot has been extended for the rest of 2008/09 and sustainable funding is being sought for the future.

## **Exercising to healthy living**

The commitment to promoting physical wellbeing has been reflected in the health improvement achievements this year, including a steady increase in GP referrals for exercise, particularly with the Hastings Project, and consistent increases in the percentage of sexually active people aged 15-24 accepting Chlamydia screenings.

## **Involving and engaging residents**

The commitment to improving the user, patient and carer experience and engagement has been enhanced by developing new ways to involve and engage residents such as the Older People's Engagement Day and the new Public & Patient Involvement Strategy. There was an increase of 652 older people taking part in forums compared to last year.

## **Getting quality care**

Residents have given extremely positive reviews of Social Care Direct, the contact centre providing a single point of contact across East Sussex for Adult Social Care services. It provides help and guidance to those finding it difficult to manage daily tasks at home. 94% of those surveyed rated the service as satisfactory or excellent, testament to the high standards of service being delivered.

# Economic Development and Enterprise

The overall aim of the Economic Development and Enterprise Block is to increase the prosperity of the residents and communities of East Sussex. There has been considerable policy and funding changes which relate to this block, not least in relation to the new Area Based Grant (ABG) and the allocation of Working Neighbourhoods Funding (WNF) to Hastings. The utilisation of WNF is a key issue in the delivery of the new iteration of LAAs. Below highlights some of the significant successes this year:

## Better wages

Hastings and Eastbourne are areas that suffer some of the worst deprivation in the county but both have seen an improvement in the average wage since last year. Eastbourne has been a particular success, where wages in these deprived areas are now 112% of the East Sussex average.

## Encouraging business

Hastings and Eastbourne have seen a net gain of 11,400 sq m and 11,100 sq m of business space respectively. This year has also seen good increases in the number of businesses; Hastings' target of 190 businesses was achieved and within Eastbourne, the target was exceeded by a 100 businesses.

## More homes available

The cumulative total of empty homes brought back into use this year is 334, exceeding the target by 164 homes. A 112% increase in affordable housing was also achieved, against an annual target of 87.5%.

## Gaining the skills

The number of adults undertaking skills development opportunities as a result of the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) was 1257, achieving over double the target for this year. Over 600 adults undertook work-based/related training opportunities and over 400 adults undertook accredited training as a result of LEGI.



*“Partnership working has delivered significant progress over the past year, facilitating wide-ranging changes, business support, more premises and new skills, all of which has delivered real value to the local economy.”*

Ken Stevens, Federation of Small Businesses

# Safer and Stronger Communities

The overall aim of the Safer and Stronger Communities Block is to create a safer and stronger county and increase residents' engagement in their local communities. The numbers of people killed and seriously injured on our roads continue to be a cause for concern, the rural nature of large parts of the county contributing to this issue, and many targeted initiatives continue to be undertaken. Below highlights some of the significant successes this year:

## Crime reduction and prevention

There has been a 20% reduction in British Crime Survey crimes, against a target of 18.2%. Only 17 crime reduction partnerships in the South East met this target and of these four (of 5) were in East Sussex. We are the highest performing county in the south-east on this target.

## Quality Councils

In East Sussex 18% of parish and town councils now have the Quality Council status compared to a national picture of 6%.

## Supporting volunteers

The volunteering target, as well as meeting its targets for this year, has had a beneficial effect on establishing a model to provide a consistent approach to, and levels of support for, volunteers. Crowborough has also benefited from the establishment of a new volunteer information point.

## Waste reductions

A concerted effort by all the local authorities in the county has led to significant achievements on all of the waste management targets, including the end of LAA (March 2009) stretch target for the reduction of non-biodegradable household waste to landfill, which has already been significantly exceeded.



*“We've found that good team working among all our waste partners, including Parish Councils, is the way to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill; and a number of joint initiatives have helped boost the amount of waste East Sussex recycles.”*

Councillor Pam Doodes, Leader of Wealden District Council

# Narrowing the Gap

Many people in Hastings suffer from “postcode deprivation” which Neighbourhood Renewal Funding is designed to address. Work in this area is aimed at narrowing the gap between these most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the town. Some areas have seen slower progress, including some health targets, which highlights the difficulty of showing an impact on long-term trends in one year. Below highlights some of the significant successes this year:

## Children & Young People

1296 children and young people were involved in positive activities in the neighbourhoods highlighted as most in need of attention, 196 over the target. Over 1400 young people received accessed additional support this year through Neighbourhood Renewal Fund commissions and other referrals, far exceeding the target.

## Healthier Communities & Older People

Good progress has been made in reducing premature deaths from heart disease, stroke and related diseases in Hastings.

## Economic Development & Enterprise

Reductions have been made in the average benefits claimant rate for wards identified by the Department for Work and Pensions. Improvements through the commissioning of Working Neighbourhood Funded interventions are expected.

## Safer & Stronger Communities

There has been significant work in building relationships between local residents and the police, resulting in large increases in the percentage of residents satisfied with the local police, up to 57%, and a 58% decrease in anti-social behaviour in crime ‘hot-spot’ areas.



*“Neighbourhood policing working with partners and the community has contributed significantly to understanding the issues impacting on local people and then implementing measures to drive down anti-social behaviour.”*

Chief Superintendent Nick Wilkinson

# East Sussex Strategic Partnership

East Sussex Strategic Partnership (ESSP) was set up in 2000 to help organisations work together in a coordinated way to plan local services and tackle the issues that matter to local people.

Our main tasks are to develop and deliver the [East Sussex Community Strategy](#), a long-term plan for improving quality of life for those living and working in East Sussex; and to deliver the East Sussex [Local Area Agreement](#), a three year action plan covering 'high priority' services.

ESSP monitors its performance by collecting and analysing information from partners involved in delivering services. We use this information to produce performance reports which we publish data on our website. Read our latest [performance report](#).

ESSP works closely with the five District and Borough [Local Strategic Partnerships in East Sussex](#), and provides leadership on county-wide issues.

## Find out more... and get involved!

To find out more about ESSP and to access a range of information, including meeting papers, reports, publications and information about consultation please [visit our website](#) or contact us:

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