

Nottinghamshire Partnership Update

Issue 2 - September 2005

Note from the editor

Hello all and welcome to issue two of 'Nottinghamshire Partnership Update'. This issue is a 'Summit special', in which I hope to provide those of you that attended the 'Partnership Summit' with answers to some of the many questions and concerns you raised; and to give those of you that didn't attend a good overview of what went on.

Those of you that attended the Summit may have picked up some useful information sheets giving an update on each of the four Local Area Agreement blocks (children and young people, economic development and enterprise, safer and stronger communities and healthier communities and older people); further copies of these can be obtained by contacting me using the details below. The next edition (three) of 'Nottinghamshire Partnership Update' will provide you with details of what has been happening in the blocks since the Summit.

I hope you'll find this edition useful and please don't hesitate to get in touch with any feedback you may have - comments and suggestions are always welcome. I'd also be interested to know whether you passed the first issue on to colleagues within your organisation, and whether there are others who should be receiving a copy of this update directly. Please let me know. Thanks.

Lindsay

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Summit Summary page 2

Monday 5 September saw over 70 representatives and key decision makers from organisations across Nottinghamshire come together at a 'Partnership Summit' held at Kelham Hall, Newark.

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Governance arrangements page 4

Delegates at the Summit showed support for the governance arrangements, which are the outcome of work undertaken by the LAA Interim Partnership Working Group supported by officers from the County Council. Evaluation of partnership arrangements from other county areas was made and consideration given to the best solution for Nottinghamshire.

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Questions and comments page 10

The workshop which formed part of the Partnership Summit provided plenty of opportunity to raise questions and concerns and voice comments regarding any aspect of the Partnership work. Find responses to your queries here.

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Community Strategy page 14

The Community Strategy, amended to take into account the feedback received from agencies and individuals across the county in the consultation process, was endorsed as a way forward.

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Summit summary

Monday 5 September saw over 70 representatives and key decision makers from organisations across Nottinghamshire such as the County Council, Police, District/Borough Councils, Fire and Rescue Service, voluntary and community sector and Chamber of Commerce come together at a 'Partnership Summit' held at Kelham Hall, Newark.

The event, chaired by Councillor Tony Roberts, Leader of Newark and Sherwood District Council, was a landmark in our partnership developments and enabled partners to work together to agree three key things:

- 1 agreement in principle to work together as a 'Nottinghamshire Partnership' which will strive to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the county
- 2 the endorsement of the Community Strategy - a document setting out the priorities and concerns of Nottinghamshire people and describing the kind of place people would like the County to become over the next four years
- 3 general agreement of the governance arrangements for the Local Area Agreements - a three year agreement between central government, local government and key partners which sets out the priorities for a local area and gives public sector organisations the freedom to work together to find local solutions to local problems - with the incentive of gaining extra funding if they succeed.

The Summit also provided a valuable opportunity for networking, a chance to ask questions and voice concerns, and time to gain useful information on each of the four Local Area Agreement themes listed below:

- ◆ children and young people
- ◆ safer and stronger communities
- ◆ healthier communities and older people
- ◆ economic development and enterprise.

Copies of the briefing sheets given out by representatives of each of these four blocks at the Summit event can be obtained by contacting Lindsay Narey, Communications Development Officer on 0115 977 2386 or email lindsay.narey@nottscc.gov.uk

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Who attended the Summit?

The Summit was attended by representatives from the following organisations:

- ◆ Ashfield District Council
- ◆ Ashfield Links Forum
- ◆ Ashfield Partnership
- ◆ Bassetlaw CVS
- ◆ Bassetlaw District Council
- ◆ Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership
- ◆ Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust
- ◆ Beeston Volunteer Centre
- ◆ Broxtowe and Hucknall Primary Care Trust
- ◆ Broxtowe Borough Council
- ◆ Broxtowe Local Strategic Partnership
- ◆ Business Link Nottinghamshire
- ◆ Connexions
- ◆ East Midlands Development Agency
- ◆ Environment Agency
- ◆ Gedling Borough Council
- ◆ Gedling CVS
- ◆ Gedling Partnership
- ◆ Gedling Primary Care Trust
- ◆ Government Office for the East Midlands
- ◆ Learning & Skills Council
- ◆ Mansfield Area Strategic Partnership
- ◆ Mansfield CVS
- ◆ Mansfield District Council
- ◆ NAVO
- ◆ Newark and Sherwood CVS
- ◆ Newark and Sherwood District Council
- ◆ Newark and Sherwood Partnership
- ◆ Newark and Sherwood Primary Care Trust
- ◆ Nottingham City Council
- ◆ Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils
- ◆ Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Nottinghamshire Community Foundation
- ◆ Nottinghamshire County Council
- ◆ Nottinghamshire DAAT
- ◆ Nottinghamshire Police
- ◆ Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue
- ◆ Notts Rural Community Council
- ◆ Rushcliffe Borough Council
- ◆ Rushcliffe CVS
- ◆ Rushcliffe Primary Care Trust
- ◆ Southwell Diocese
- ◆ The Pension Service
- ◆ West Notts College

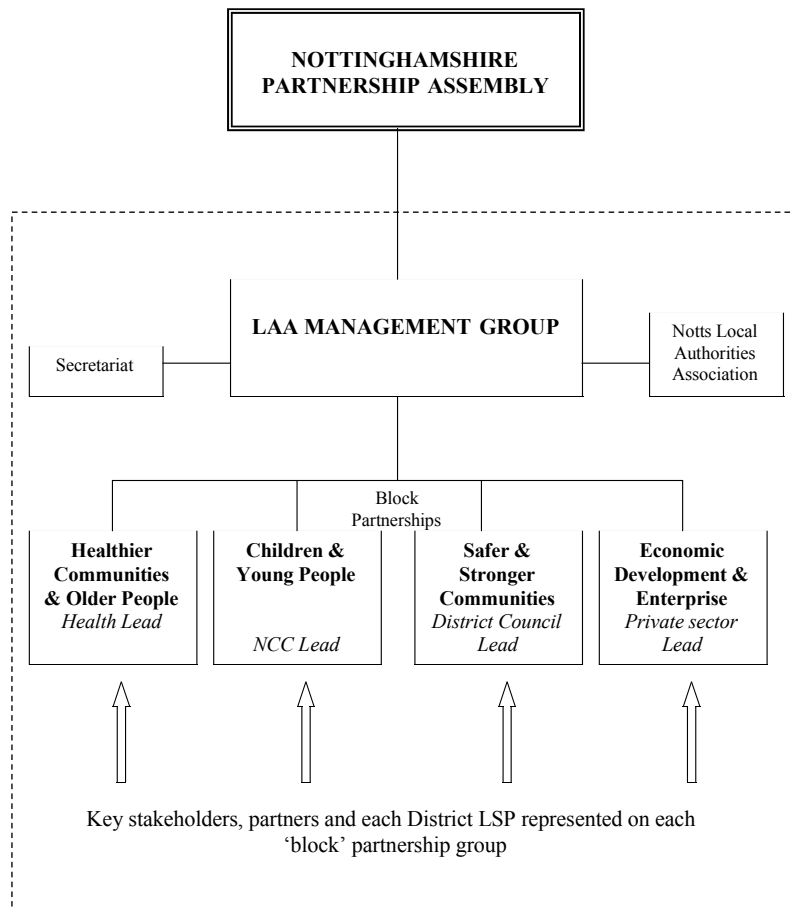
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Governance arrangements

Delegates at the Summit showed support for these governance arrangements, which are the outcome of work undertaken by the LAA Interim Partnership Working Group supported by officers from the County Council. Evaluation of partnership arrangements from other county areas was made and consideration given to the best solution for Nottinghamshire. This has been a collaborative process and the proposal represents the collective views of the Working Group. The key driver for this work is the Local Area Agreement and the need for robust governance arrangements to manage its production and future performance.

As a new venture, we recognise as partners that our governance and structural arrangements will need to evolve and we therefore propose that the effectiveness of these arrangements should be continually reviewed and a report to the Partnership Assembly should be made in 12 months so that any changes can be considered and agreed.



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Governance arrangements - summary of purpose and responsibilities

Nottinghamshire Partnership Assembly

- ◆ Over-arching partnership assembly
- ◆ Agree Community Strategy and vision for Nottinghamshire
- ◆ Agree management framework to produce and deliver an LAA for Nottinghamshire

Draft terms of reference for Nottinghamshire Partnership Assembly:

1. Develop a collective vision for Nottinghamshire.
2. To agree the County Community Strategy.
3. To agree the principles and framework for the production and management of the LAA and to receive reports on progress with the LAA.
4. To endorse the membership of the LAA Management Group.
5. Provide a networking opportunity for all key stakeholders in the County in order to:
 - a. Share agendas
 - b. Identify common practices
 - c. Evaluate the impact of the LAA, the LAA Management Group and supporting structures (which could include recommendations to rationalise existing partnerships)
 - d. Make representations to the LAA Management Group regarding priorities that fall outside the blocks of the LAA but feature within the County Community Strategy
6. Commission work to support the County Community Strategy which falls outside the scope of the LAA.

Draft working arrangements:

A Chair and Vice Chair of the Partnership Assembly will be elected by its membership for a period of 2 years.

Membership:

Membership of the Partnership Assembly will be open to all public, private, voluntary and community sectors in Nottinghamshire. The assembly will normally conduct its business by building consensus and working in an inclusive way.

The Partnership Assembly will keep its membership and role under review to ensure that it is inclusive and effective in its role.

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LAA management group

- ◆ Responsibility for producing the LAA
- ◆ Negotiation moderation with Government
- ◆ Performance management of the LAA delivery
- ◆ Providing synergy and coherence across the 4 LAA blocks

Draft terms of reference for the LAA Management group:

1. Oversee the delivery of the Local Area Agreement for Nottinghamshire including:
 - a. Approval of priorities proposed by block partnerships
 - b. Approval of any cross-cutting priorities
 - c. Approval of stretch targets, funding streams, priorities and areas for freedoms/flexibilities to be negotiated as part of the LAA
2. Performance manage the implementation of the Local Area Agreement including:
 - a. Quarterly monitoring and 'exception reporting' of progress against block targets
 - b. Annual reviews
 - c. Reporting progress to GOEM
 - d. Reporting progress to the Nottinghamshire Partnership Assembly
 - e. Taking action where under-performance is identified
3. Communicate effectively with the block partnership boards and District LSPs to ensure that the focus is maintained on delivering outcomes for Nottinghamshire citizens.
4. Develop an overview of the LAA and partnership work to identify duplication of effort and any unmissed opportunities for joint working.

Working arrangements:

A Chair and Vice Chair will be elected by the membership annually.

The LAA Management Group will be made up of individuals who are empowered to make decisions for their organisation(s) on matters of policy and finance that fall within the agreed scope of the LAA.

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Membership:

Phase 1: September 2005 - March 2006

In the first phase, up until the LAA is submitted in February 2006, the Management Group will have a broad and inclusive membership.

- 7 representatives - one nominated by each District LSP
 - 7 representatives - one nominated by each District Council
 - 1 Nottinghamshire County Council representative
 - 1 Nottinghamshire Police representative
 - 1 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service representative
 - 1 Health Community representative nominated by PCTs
 - 2 Voluntary Sector representatives
 - 1 Job Centre Plus representative
 - 4 LAA block partnership Chairs
- Total membership = 25

Phase 2: March 2006 onwards

In phase two the membership of the LAA Management Group will be reviewed by the Nottinghamshire Partnership Assembly at its meeting in February 2006 to ensure that it is fit for purpose for the ongoing management of the LAA. It is recognised that the membership will need to be streamlined to ensure an efficient body for the delivery and performance management of the LAA.

LAA block partnerships

- ♦ Identify priorities for improvement/stretch
- ♦ Agree actions for delivery

Draft terms of reference for LAA block partnerships

1. Prepare and propose priorities, targets and resourcing arrangements for the LAA, support the LAA negotiation process.
2. To identify the issues that are NOT priorities and explain the reasons behind those decisions.
3. Consider new and innovative approaches to service delivery between partners.
4. Implement and performance manage the delivery of LAA priorities and report progress to the LAA Management Group.
5. Take on specific projects and support the LAA Management Group in the delivery of its responsibilities.

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Membership:

Based on current Board/ Partnership arrangements for the Blocks and including:

- ♦ 1 lead individual responsible for chairing each block
- ♦ 1 representative nominated by each District LSP to provide the link with the appropriate LSP sub-group(s)
- ♦ 1 representative from all key service delivery partners

Each block will be led by a chair agreed by the block partners. To ensure broad involvement in the LAA it is suggested that blocks should be chaired by different partners. These lead roles will need to be regularly reviewed by each block and a pattern of initial lead roles is suggested below.

Healthier Communities & Older People	Health Lead
Children and Young People	NCC Lead
Safer and Stronger Communities	District Council Lead
Economic Development and Enterprise	Private sector Lead

Each block will review and report to the LAA Management Group on its current arrangements for membership. This will allow the LAA Management Group to ensure that a balanced approach to lead roles and inclusivity is maintained.

Draft terms of reference for Secretariat:

1. To organise meetings, agendas and papers so that the LAA Management Group can discharge its business effectively.
2. To commission background advice and work on behalf of the LAA Management Group.
3. To coordinate information and communications about the LAA on behalf of the partners.
4. To oversee the protocols, processes and systems by which the LAA will be developed and managed.
5. To keep appropriate decision records.

The secretariat role will be organised by Nottinghamshire County Council and supported by partners through secondments and other contributions where this is possible.

To ensure continuity, the secretariat will continue to draw on support from individuals that have contributed to the interim working group and will welcome any additional contributions from partners to support the effective organisation of LAA business.

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Role of the Nottinghamshire Local Authorities Association

Local Area Agreements are intended to join up the work of local authorities with their partners through a community strategy. Our partnership approach is inclusive and intended to offer the greatest scope and flexibility to deliver the right action at the most appropriate level. Local Authorities recognise that all partners need to have the opportunity to be involved in the partnership's work but that the resulting complexity in partnership business needs to be carefully managed.

Local authorities have a community leadership role as well as being service providers. In Nottinghamshire, with County and District tiers of local government, the community leadership dimension needs to be coordinated and connected with elected members so that the LAA reinforces local democracy.

The Nottinghamshire Local Authorities Association includes the county, district and city councils and, as an existing organisation, is well-placed to provide the necessary coordination of local government input to make the LAA work effectively. It is therefore proposed that the Nottinghamshire Local Authorities Association undertakes the following role in relation to the LAA:

1. Provides the forum through which local government agrees its community leadership priorities that will shape the LAA
2. Enables local government to coordinate and review the effectiveness of its contribution to the LAA
3. Provides 'good governance' scrutiny for the LAA
4. Provides an effective information and scrutiny channel through which all local authorities can be engaged with the work of the LAA
5. Enables the Nottinghamshire LAA to coordinate its work at a strategic and political level with that of the Nottingham LAA.

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Questions and Comments

The workshop which formed part of the Newark Partnership Summit provided plenty of opportunity to raise any questions and concerns and voice any comments regarding any aspects of the Partnership work. The information below gives responses to your queries:

How will the City Council be included in this work?	Nottingham City Council has its own Local Area Agreement to prepare. Clearly there will be a number of issues which impact on both the City and County. These are being tackled through the LAA blocks as and when they arise. Regular meetings are being held with representatives from the City Council to update one another on work in progress and to look at where we can work together effectively.
There isn't enough voluntary sector representation on the proposed LAA Management Group	The composition of the LAA Management Group is not intended to be a wholly representative body. However this has been discussed by partners and it has been agreed to increase the LAA representation to two places. It has been proposed that a voluntary sector representative chairs the Healthier Communities and Older People block of the LAA. This suggestion is being actively pursued.
Parish Councils should be included in the Partnership	The way for Parish Councils to be involved is through the 7 district -based Local Strategic Partnerships. A meeting will be held with the Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils (NALC) to confirm arrangements.
Meetings should be open to the public	A culture of openness is actively encouraged and information will be made available to the public through a dedicated website and various publications. Regarding public attendance at meetings, this is something to be kept under review. The nature of meetings so far is that they have included significant develop sessions which do not lend themselves to public observation. There may also be occasions, for example, when sensitive issues are being discussed and it would not be appropriate for the public to be invited. This issue should be revisited as part of the six -month review of arrangements.
Should it be stipulated that Local Strategic Partnerships cannot nominate any councillors to the Management Group and that LSP places should be filled by other partners?	Initially Local Strategic Partnerships are being asked to determine their own nominations. Once nominations have been made, it will be possible to see the range of organisations that are represented on the Management Group. The six-month review can then consider this issue again.

For more information about this bulletin please contact Lindsay Narey in Culture and Community's Communications Team on 0115 977 2386 or e-mail lindsay.narey@nottscc.gov.uk

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<p>Is the title 'Nottinghamshire Partnership Assembly' definitive ?</p>	<p>No alternatives have been offered to date, however this will be considered as part of the 'fine tuning' process for the governance arrangements.</p>
<p>How will the Chairmanship of the Assembly be arranged?</p>	<p>Initially it was decided that the meeting should be chaired by a representative from the geographic area in which the meeting was being held. An alternative suggestion is that a Chair and Vice -Chair are appointed for a two-year period. It is proposed to appoint a one-off Chair for the next meeting of the Partnership in February 2006 and a decision can then be taken on the long term arrangements.</p>
<p>There isn't enough involvement from the private sector, how will this be dealt with?</p>	<p>Leadership of the Economic Development and Enterprise Block of the LAA will be sought from the private sector. Strong relations with East Midlands Development Agency are also being developed. Once these arrangements are up and running, it will be possible to consider further private sector representation if it is felt to be too light.</p>
<p>Concern about size of Local Area Agreement Management Group and balance between sectors.</p>	<p>The Local Area Agreement is in its formative stage and will remain so until February when proposals are submitted to Government. The membership of the Management Group therefore reflects the current situation. In the longer term it will be necessary to consider the most viable size and membership for the Management Group.</p>
<p>What is the role of the 'Nottinghamshire Partnership' in driving through issues that don't fall within the LAA?</p>	<p>The Nottinghamshire Partnership has a far wider role and remit than simply overseeing the LAA – one of the Partnership's key roles will be to ensure we collectively deliver the Community Strategy – work is already in hand to develop a 'Together We Will' Delivery Plan for partners to consider. In addition the Partnership will have an important co-ordination and communication role to ensure all partners are aware and involved in wider developments.</p>
<p>How is the LAA going to address cross cutting issues that go across all 4 blocks?</p>	<p>It is recognised that each of the blocks do not stand alone and some issues will cross some or all of them. The LAA Management Group will have a key role to play in ensuring that cross-cutting issues are addressed adequately. However it will not be feasible to set up a number of new cross-cutting Blocks so the likely solution will be to allocate the issue to an existing Block to act as lead, referring to the other Blocks as appropriate.</p>

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<p>Communications are a vital part of this work, what arrangements have been made?</p>	<p>A comprehensive communications strategy has been put together to help us to work effectively as a partnership and promote openness in information sharing. This electronic bulletin, sent to all partners on a regular basis, will provide up to date information on the latest news and developments, as well as useful contact details. A 'Nottinghamshire Partnership' website is also being developed, which it is hoped will provide general information to the public, and details of meetings, documents and other information to partners involved.</p>
<p>Priorities identified should be a reflection of what the people of Nottinghamshire want and not simply a reflection of government targets.</p>	<p>The Community Strategy has been drawn up in response to the views of the Nottinghamshire public as surveyed through MORI opinion polls and focus groups, for example. The Community strategy should directly influence the content of the LAA. Clearly the Government has targets it wants to hit as well. Therefore the LAA negotiation process will be vital in ensuring that the LAA reflects Nottinghamshire residents' priorities.</p>
<p>How will the LAA be delivered? How will it work on the ground?</p>	<p>The agreed LAA will comprise a series of objectives and targets. The accompanying Action Plan will set out the roles various partners will play in delivering those objectives. The LAA Management Group will have a leading role in addressing any problems and ensuring that the whole process is performance-managed.</p>
<p>Issues such as business crime, support and resources for local enterprise need addressing – how will this be done?</p>	<p>These will be raised with the appropriate LAA Blocks to ensure that they are at least being considered as part of the process for developing the content of the Blocks.</p>
<p>Are we able to create our own LAA targets?</p>	<p>Government Guidance sets out parameters for the LAA and what funding streams can be used within each Block. We will have freedom to be innovative in setting targets within that framework. All targets are subject to negotiation with GOEM (Government Office of the East Midlands) before final sign off with the Government.</p>
<p>Funding streams – which are 'in' and which are 'out' of the LAA?</p>	<p>The Government Guidance sets out which funding streams are available for pooling or aligning within each Block. It also states any particular restrictions on those funding streams. The Partnership will have the ultimate responsibility of deciding which funding streams they would wish to utilise within each Block.</p>

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Will Nottinghamshire LAA be part of the 'Single Pot' agreements ?	No – this was decided at the point of application for the Local Area Agreement. Given the unfamiliarity of the LAA process, it was decided that the four Block structure (safer and stronger communities, healthier communities and older people, economic development and enterprise, and children and younger people) provided a solid structure from which to work. The majority of LAAs are based on these four Blocks whilst 13 areas are based on the 'Single Pot' approach.
Impact of changing Primary Care Trusts needs to be taken into account.	Changes within PCTs will undoubtedly impact on the ability of the health sector to engage in the LAA process. However once the new structure for Health has been implemented, it is to be hoped that PCTs will be able to enhance their engagement.
How will elected members be involved in this work?	Members will be involved in the overall Partnership Assembly and through the seven Local Strategic Partnerships. There will also be a specific role for the Nottinghamshire Local Authorities' Association to play in the LAA process.

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Community Strategy - next steps

<p>What's next?</p>	<p>The Community Strategy, amended to take into account the feedback received from agencies and individuals across the county in the consultation process, was endorsed as a way forward for countywide partners at the 5th September summit. This gives us an agreed document which embodies the shared priorities and concerns of local people and outlines the problems we all face and should jointly address.</p> <p>It was however thought that at this stage, when local partners are negotiating the Local Area Agreement targets, it would be premature to publish the Together We Will section – the action plan - of the Community Strategy which will have these targets at its core.</p> <p>The core strategy, now endorsed by partners at the Summit, may also need to be agreed formally by individual partners including the County Council, but will be widely distributed in the next few weeks. Once the LAA negotiations are concluded in February of next year, the jointly agreed targets which are central to the agreement will be built into the Community Strategy action plan and then brought together into the final full document which will identify what will be delivered in the period to April 2009. This final document will be widely distributed in spring 2006.</p>
<p>Who can tell me more ?</p>	<p>Alistair McGrady is a Community Strategy Project Manager and can be contacted on 0115 977 3932 or email alistair.mcgrady@nottsc.gov.uk</p>