

**Chichester in Partnership – Annual Report 2015/16**

**1. Contacts**

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**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the committee reviews the progress of Chichester in Partnership in 2015-16 and make any recommendations it considers appropriate to the partnership.**
- 2.2 That the committee endorses the revised Chichester in Partnership Community Strategy 2016-2021 and recommends to Cabinet that it is adopted by the Council.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1. Chichester in Partnership (CIP) was formed as a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in 2002. The Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on local authorities to prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) to promote and improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas, and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It was expected that this would happen through LSPs. In 2006 the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill considered Local Strategic Partnerships as the overarching partnership to bring together key themes and deliver the priorities in the Local Area Agreement and Sustainable Community Strategy. The Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities Guidance in 2008 also provided an impetus for working in Local Strategic Partnerships.
- 3.2. The statutory guidance (*Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities*) that governed LSP's was rescinded by Government in 2012. Government also revoked the Duty to Involve and the Duty to Prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy in 2014, therefore there is no legal obligation for the Council to have an LSP or a Sustainable Community Strategy. However Chichester in Partnership's current SCS is a 20 year document and still in place until 2026. This document was published in 2009 and developed via a full public consultation that involved focus groups, citizen's panels, questionnaires and special themed events. The delivery of this strategy is the main ethos of the partnership and has influence over partner's service delivery and priority setting.
- 3.3. Although current government thinking may appear to place less emphasis on formalised local partnership arrangements, they still see collaboration and joint working as a key part of the national agenda on health reform, policing, and economic development. Support for the Localism and Devolution agenda remains. It is therefore considered good practice to maintain ways to encourage partner conversation and collaboration.

- 3.4. Over the years Chichester in Partnership has changed and developed. Partners have completed a number of reviews to ensure it is fit for purpose. The most recent review was in 2015, partners raised interesting points such as:-
- That this is the only meeting where strategic level people meet locally and is a good place to discuss and debate the local issues
  - It adds to the knowledge base of organisations and strategic individuals
  - Only place that some partners get to meet as the Wider meetings are highly valued as information source and networking event
  - Partners are positive about the partnership and the projects it has been able to deliver in recent years.

However there were some improvements that need to be made in specific areas such as:-

- Setting a vision/ aim/ clarity for the partnership
  - Improving communication, especially between meetings and about the projects
  - Increasing strategic partner involvement in projects
  - Improving strategic links within organisations
- 3.5. Improvements have been implemented including a newly agreed strategy and vision for the partnership. In recent years the partnership has become more focussed, productive with action plans and strategies, priorities developed and set, outcomes planned and projects delivered. The partnership now enables work to happen on cross cutting issues that can be integrated into partner plans.( For example the Getting people into Work strategy) With the deep funding cuts that all partners face, there could be a tendency for partners to move away from the partnership to protect themselves. In other areas such as Horsham, Crawley, Havant and Gosport the LSPs have ceased or amalgamated with other partnerships. In Chichester the opposite is happening, partners are more engaged, and, we have engaged new partners including Chichester College, Festival Theatre, Department of Work And Pensions and Councillors from WSCC.

#### **4. Outcomes to be achieved**

- 4.1. The priorities for the partnership in 2015/16 were:
- Getting People into work
  - Dementia friendly Chichester
  - Helping residents with low level mental health needs
  - Think Family
  - Targeted Support for neighbourhoods
  - Delivery of the Community Safety Partnership action plan
- 4.2. The Community Safety Partnership plan and the Think Family priority are reported separately in the Community Safety Partnership Annual Plan. Chichester in Partnership has oversight of both of these.
- 4.3. Specific outcomes are set out in the Chichester in Partnership Annual Report. (appendix 1)

## 5. Progress so far

5.1 Some of the highlights from this year are:

- The Partnership has been reviewed with all partners involved in the process, due to this we are currently in the process of drafting a new Community Strategy to take us into the future. (draft included as appendix 2) The new community strategy will be taken to the July cabinet of Chichester District Council for adoption.
- ChooseWork provided 68 work experience placements and helped over 313 people, this far exceeded the targets set of 50 work placements and 120 people engaged. The project has funding until March 2017 but will focus more on the holistic approach to helping people, as they will be focussing on the more difficult to reach clients.
- A “Tackling financial exclusion” strategy has been published and this will be actioned over the coming years. This strategy looks at how we can help people with debt problems and was written in partnership with other partner organisations.
- SelseyWorks now has a full time worker funded by the town Council and working from their building. They have been recognised by Department of Communities and Local Government as an “Our Place” neighbourhood and in conjunction with them will be developing a delivery plan.
- A Community Assessment tool has been developed and approved by the Core Group of the partnership. It has been piloted in Selsey working with the Selsey Community Groups and we now plan to use it in Chichester South.
- Dementia Arts festival was sponsored by the partnership, the event was very successful with over 200 participants and positive feedback. A second festival is happening in 2016 and is again sponsored by the partnership.
- We held a Showcase event in January 2015 in the Novium museum. This event was designed to show the work of partners and get them talking to each other. It was attended by over 100 people and lots of networking took place between partners. Feedback from the event was positive.

## 6. Future of the Partnership - plans for 2016/17

- 6.1 In light of the funding cuts to some of the projects under Getting People into Work Strategy we will need to review this with partners to assess what current need there is and what is deliverable with the available resources. Specifically we will look at the future funding for the ChooseWork project and its development. This will take the form of an evaluation of ChooseWork which will be considered by the committee in September.
- 6.2 The delivery of the Tackling Financial Exclusion Strategy.
- 6.3 We want to research and develop work on low level mental needs. This has been a difficult area because of the amount of organisations involved and their level of engagement. However, focussing the work down to specific areas should help in engaging partner organisations and we wish to find ways to support projects that are already happening. Issues we have been looking at are: loneliness, hoarding, Dementia friendly, Community hubs.

## 7. Partners

7.1 Partners are part of the discussion when developing the forward plan for the partnership and issues they want to look at are Public transport and the voluntary sector. We will continue to review plans to consider emerging issues.  
**Resource and legal implications**

7.1 Chichester District Council is the lead partner on the partnership and is responsible for taking the lead and initiating projects this is done by the Partnerships officer.

7.2 Chichester District Council is the lead accountable body for the partnership, therefore is responsible for any funding that comes through the delivery of this action plan. For example, Chichester District Council is ultimately responsible for the delivery of the Work Experience Coordinator post.

## 8. Consultation

8.1 Partner organisations consulted upon in the development of the strategy and Annual report:

- Department for Work and Pensions
- Sussex Police
- West Sussex Fire and Rescue service
- Voluntary Action Arun and Chichester
- Chichester Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Chichester College
- University of Chichester
- West Sussex County Council
- South Downs National Park

8.2 Consulted with the wider partnership which has membership of over 80 different organisations

## 9. Community impact and corporate risks

9.1. The work of the partnership encourages local organisations to work together to deliver on issues relevant to the local community. By working together they can share resources, avoid duplication and offer better value for money

## 10. Other Implications

<b>Are there any implications for the following?</b>		
	Yes	No
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder:</b> Supports the work of Chichester Community Safety Partnership	✓	
<b>Climate Change:</b>		✓
<b>Human Rights and Equality Impact:</b> Partnership projects such as ChooseWork and SelseyWorks are fully inclusive and have been highly successful at reaching minority and hard to reach groups.	✓	

<b>Safeguarding:</b> Partnership projects are developed to help the most vulnerable in society. The partnership supports the work of the CSP including its Child Sexual exploitation work.	✓	
<b>Other (Please specify):</b> eg Biodiversity		

## 11. Appendices

1. Chichester in Partnership Annual Report 2015-16
2. Revised Chichester in Partnership Community Strategy 2016-2021