

# PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

## AGENDA

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 at 2.00pm in Council Chamber, Shire Hall Warwick

### Membership of Board

#### Council Leaders

Councillor Alan Farnell (Chair), Warwickshire County Council  
Councillor Michael Doody, Warwick District Council  
Councillor Marcus Jones, Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council  
Councillor Colin Hayfield, North Warwickshire Borough Council  
Councillor Craig Humphrey, Rugby Borough Council  
Councillor Les Topham, Stratford on Avon District Council

#### Voluntary & Community Sector

William Clemmey, Coventry and Warwickshire Infrastructure Consortium (CWIC)

#### Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce

Louise Bennett, Chief Executive

#### Warwickshire Police Authority

Ian Francis, Vice Chair of the Police Authority

#### Coventry and Warwickshire Learning & Skills Council

Kim Thorneywork-Chief Executive

#### Warwickshire Primary Care Trust

Bryan Stoten, Chair of Warwickshire PCT

#### Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils (WALC)

Councillor William Lowe

### **A-PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

#### **1 Apologies for Absence**

#### **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

- a) To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2009 (attached)
- b) Matters arising from the minutes and not otherwise covered by the agenda
- c) Notification of Items under Any Other Business

## **B-SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS**

### **3. Comprehensive Area Assessment**

Guide to the New Framework attached. Update from Mary-Ann Bruce, Audit Commission & CAA Lead for Herefordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.

### **4. 'What will Warwickshire Look Like in 2026'-A draft Sustainable Community Strategy for Warwickshire**

Report from Nick Gower-Johnson outlining approach to the development of an SCS for Warwickshire.

### **5. Block Update from Safer and Stronger Communities**

(i) Safer Communities-Verbal Update from ACC Andy Parker-Warwickshire Police.

(ii) Stronger Communities-Report from Chris Elliott, Chief Executive-Warwick District Council.

### **6. Update on Economic Downturn**

(i) Report from EDE Block on the economic downturn and Warwickshire's response.

(ii) Report from the North Warwickshire Community Partnership in response to the recommendations of the Public Service Advisory Forum meeting in November 2008.

## **C-BUSINESS PLANNING, FINANCE & PERFORMANCE**

### **7. Medium Term Financial Strategy-REPORT TO FOLLOW**

Report from Dave Clark, LAA Accountable Officer, Strategic Director of Resources (WCC)

### **8. Outcomes from LPSA 2 Consultation-REPORT TO FOLLOW**

Report from Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnerships Manager

### **9. Allocation of Area Based Grant to LSP's –REPORT TO FOLLOW**

Report from Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnerships Manager

## **D-ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **10. LAA Update**

Report from Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnerships Manager and Bill Basra, LAA Manager (WCC). Note that due to the ongoing nature of review and refresh an updated LAA will be tabled at the meeting.

## **E-CLOSE OF BUSINESS**

### **11. Any Other Business**

### **12. Future Meetings**

30 <sup>th</sup> April 2009- 2:00 p.m.	-	Committee Room 2, Shire Hall, Warwick
25 <sup>th</sup> June 2009- 2:00 p.m.	-	Committee Room 2, Shire Hall, Warwick
23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2009- 10:00 a.m.-		Council Chamber, Shire Hall, Warwick
25 November 2009- 10:00 a.m.	-	Committee Room 2, Shire Hall, Warwick
26 January 2010- 2:00 p.m.	-	Committee Room 2, Shire Hall, Warwick

## Objectives

The overriding aim of the Public Service Board is to join together to improve public services across Warwickshire and make a real difference to local communities, in particular by focusing on:

- (i) people, families and communities that require greater levels of support and interventions to bring them up to the county average
- (ii) priorities for improvement to services that are used by everybody to improve outcomes for all
- (iii) improving access to service provision within local communities and the accountability of service providers to local people
- (iv) sharpening our key partnership relationships by ensuring that there is strong focus on outcomes, together with clear responsibilities and accountabilities

## Accessibility

It is envisaged that the Warwickshire Public Service Board will meet at least four times a year, however additional meetings may be arranged as necessary

PSB meetings are open to the public.

Paper for the meeting will be available 7 days before the meeting and minutes of the meeting will available 7 days after the meeting.

Papers for the meeting will be available on the LAA website (see below) and also through contacting:

Jean Hardwick  
Interim Member Services Manager  
Tel: 01926 412476  
Email: [jeanhardwick@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jeanhardwick@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## Further Information

**Visit the Warwickshire LAA website for further information about the LAA**

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/newlaasite](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/newlaasite)

Or alternatively contact

Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnerships Manager, Tel: 01926 412053  
Email: [nickgower-johnson@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:nickgower-johnson@warwickshire.gov.uk) OR Bill Basra, LAA Manager  
Tel: 01926 412016, Email: [billbasra@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:billbasra@warwickshire.gov.uk)

**Minutes of a meeting of the Warwickshire Public Service Board held on 27 January 2009 at Shire Hall, Warwick.**

Present:

**Members of the Public Service Board**

Council Leaders:

Alan Farnell, Warwickshire County Council (Chair of Board)  
Michael Doody, Warwick District Council  
Colin Hayfield, North Warwickshire Borough Council  
Craig Humphrey, Rugby Borough Council  
Marcus Jones, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council  
Les Topham, Stratford on Avon District Council

Voluntary and Community Sector - William Clemmey (CWIC)  
C&W Chamber of Commerce - Dianne Williams (representing Louise Bennett)  
Warwickshire Police Authority - Ian Francis  
Learning and Skills Council (C&W) - Yvone Rose  
NHS Warwickshire (PCT) - Bryan Stoten  
Warwickshire Association of Local Councils - Councillor Bill Lowe

**Other attendees**

Audit Commission – Mary-Ann Bruce  
Rugby LSP – Paul Tolley  
Stratford LSP – C Goody  
Warwickshire County Council – Councillors Peter Fowler and June Tandy

**Officers**

District/Borough Council Chief Executives:

Chris Elliott – Warwick District Council  
Simon Warren – Rugby Borough Council  
Dave Nash – Stratford on Avon District Council

Warwickshire Police

Warwickshire Police Authority – Sue Howell, Chief Executive.

Warwickshire PCT – Helen King

Warwickshire Association of Local Councils – Alison Hodge

CWIC – Jacqui Aucott

GOWM – Terry Cotton

County Council     Bill Basra, LAA Manager.  
Ben Cahill, Assistant to the Political Groups  
Dave Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources  
David Carter, Strategic Director of Performance and Development  
Emma Curtis, Assistant to the Political Groups  
Marion Davis, Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families  
Nathan Devereux, Assistant to the Political Groups  
Janet Fortune, Economic and Social Regeneration Policy and Funding.  
Paul Galland, Strategic Director of Environment and Economy  
Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnership Manager.  
Jim Graham, Chief Executive  
Kate Nash, Head of Community Safety

1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  Were received from Louise Bennett, Keith Bristow, Paul Lankester, Jerry Hutchinson and Christine Kerr.	
2.	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>  The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2008 were agreed.	
3.	<b>LAA Financial Strategy</b>  The PSB considered reports from Dave Clarke, LAA Accountable Officer, Strategic Director of Resources (WCC) and from County Councillor Chris Davis, Chair of the Area Based Grants Scrutiny Panel.  Following comments from Dave Clarke relating to the background to the report from the Scrutiny Panel, Councillor Alan Farnell presented the following revised proposals on behalf of the County Council which, in the main, supported the recommendations from the Joint Scrutiny Panel:  (1) Those elements of Area Based Grant excluded from the Scrutiny Review as they are not linked to partnership working	

or directly to the LAA priorities and targets, are allocated directly to the services concerned. These grants total £4.114 million.

- (2) The three spending allocations recommended by the Joint Scrutiny Panel are funded. These are:
  - £0.200 million to the Safer Communities Block
  - £0.275 million to the Economic Development Block, specifically linked to responding to the economic downturn
  - £0.500 million to the Local Strategic Partnerships to continue their work on narrowing the gaps.
- (3) The remainder of the Area Based Grant is to be allocated towards funding existing commitments. However, to move away from historic funding patterns and towards a more holistic approach to the delivery of the LAA priorities and targets funding will be provided to larger “themed pots”. It will then be for each of the LAA blocks to decide the detail of how the allocation is to be used.
- (4) All allocations are for 2009/10 only. Before funding is released each of the LAA Blocks will report back to the PSB with the detail of their spending proposals.
- (5) The County Council will contribute £0.592 million towards funding of the LAA priorities and targets. This will be achieved by applying a 3% efficiency top-slice to its remaining £19.749 million Area Based Grant. This will ensure that this element of the County Council’s funding is subject to the same pressure to deliver improvements in efficiency as the rest of the public sector.
- (6) The LAA is a broad partnership, working towards collective outcomes for the people of Warwickshire. Funding, over and above partners core activities, should not be the sole responsibility of the County Council. The remaining £0.375 million funding required to fund the recommendations of the Joint Scrutiny Panel to be sourced proportionately from partners.
- (7) Without this additional funding from partners the allocations recommended by the Joint Scrutiny Panel to be scaled back.
- (8) The LAA Accountable Officer should come forward, to the next meeting of the PSB, with proposals for an LAA Medium Term Financial Strategy that takes account of the decisions made by the PSB today but also looks to identify all funding

streams supporting the delivery of the LAA outcomes and targets, including ABG allocations to all partner organisations.

The allocations and funding sources resulting from this proposal are as follows:

LAA Block	Themed Pot	2009/10
		Allocation £'000
<b>Children and Young People</b>		
	School Improvement and Support	3,877
	School Transport	377
	Empowering Children, Young People and Families	6,581
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>10,835</b>
<b>Healthier Communities and Older People</b>		
	Supporting Independent Living	629
	Social and Community Care	4,504
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>5,133</b>
<b>Safer Communities</b>		
	Safe and Sustainable Travel	1,584
	Safer Communities - Top up Allocation	200
	Safer Communities - Core Allocation	566
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2,350</b>
<b>Stronger Communities</b>		
	Safe and Sustainable Travel	1,039
	Local Strategic Partnerships	500
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1,539</b>
<b>Economic Development &amp; Enterprise</b>		
	Economic Development & Enterprise	275
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>275</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,132</b>

WCC Directorate	Excluded Grants	2009/10 £'000
AHCS	Supporting People Administration	297
PD	Local Involvement Networks	213
AHCS	Preserved Rights	2,454
E&E	Detrunking	1,102
CYPF	Child Death Review Processes	48
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>4,114</b>
	<b>TOTAL ABG ALLOCATION</b>	<b>24,246</b>



## Funding Proposals

Partner	Contribution £'000
Warwickshire County Council	592
Warwickshire Primary Care Trust	285
Warwickshire Police Authority	60
North Warwickshire Borough Council	5
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council	9
Rugby Borough Council	7
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	8
Warwick District Council	9
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>975</b>
Warwickshire County Council Remaining ABG	23,271
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,246</b>

Members then discussed various aspects of the proposal. The following points were noted during the debate:

- The revised recommendations were submitted in the knowledge that all organisations were currently preparing their own budgets.
- The Leaders of the District and Borough Councils confirmed, that subject to the agreement of their respective Councils, their respective council was likely to contribute proportionately to the funding over and above partners core activities. The PSB would be advised of individual council's decisions
- Ian Francis confirmed that, subject to the Police Authority's budget considerations and to the contributions being received for other partners, the Police Authority would be likely to contribute their proportion.
- Bryan Stoten reminded members that when the PCT was considering its budget, regard would be had to advice from the Professional Ethics Committee relating to resource priorities.
- Subject to meeting legal requirements, the PSB could possibly offer guidance to LSPs about the allocation of resources towards health issues that aligned with PCT priorities.
- A meeting of Block Chairs would be arranged to discuss the allocations for Stronger Communities and to report back to the March PSB.
- Consideration would be given to the allocations of the themed pots including resources to respond to the economic downturn, climate change and waste challenges.
- A report would be submitted to the PSB seeking clarification on certain aspects of Economic and Enterprise spending

	<p>proposals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration would be given later in the meeting to LSPA2 funding having regard to the arrangements agreed for the current financial year.</li> <li>• Deprivation existed at different levels throughout the county.</li> <li>• When considering the allocations to be made, regard must be had to the need to deliver priority outcomes and to achieve the desired outcomes.</li> <li>• The Stronger Communities Block would discuss with each LSP the need for action plans to ensure that PSB priorities were being reflected locally.</li> <li>• The bid process, including sign off must be as short as possible</li> </ul> <p><b>The PSB then agreed the proposals moved by Councillor Farnell.</b></p>	
4.	<p><b>LPSA 2-Quarter 3 Performance Report</b></p> <p>Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnerships Manager (WCC) presented the report on behalf of Block Leaders containing detailed information on performance and progress in relation to LPSA 2 targets, including the outcome of a recent consultation exercise on the criteria for the application of possible reward monies.</p> <p>Following discussion it was agreed that the Board</p> <p>(1) Notes the progress made to date in relation to LPSA2 and remedial actions suggested by the Block Leader in respect of those measures that are currently forecasted to miss target.</p> <p>(2) Notes the current position on the on the consultation on the existing criteria for the allocation of Performance Reward Grant and</p> <p>(3) Would receive a paper at its next meeting which detailed criteria on the possible application of reward money.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Report from the Public Service Advisory Forum: Warwickshire 2026</b></p> <p>The PSB endorsed the report from Steve Stewart, Chair of the Public Service Advisory Forum on the key findings and recommendations from a Visioning Event held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Healthier Communities and Older People Block Update</b></p> <p>Helen King, Joint Block Lead of the Healthier Communities and Older People Block and Director of Public Health-Warwickshire NHS, Helen</p>	

	<p>King, reported performance in this Block.</p> <p>In particular she mentioned that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75% of targets were on course to be met and that remedial action was being taken to resolve issue with those targets which were not on track.</li> <li>• Targets were being negotiated relating to a healthy workplace and would be the subject of a future report.</li> <li>• Economic development had also picked up healthy workplace and supporting people issues</li> </ul> <p>All partners were encouraged to adopt the healthy food policy guidelines that were to be circulated to all partners.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Reducing Health Inequalities in Warwickshire</b></p> <p>The PSB considered the joint report of the Chief Executive, Nuneaton &amp; Bedworth Borough Council and Strategic Director, Adult, Health &amp; Community Services and Acting Joint Director of Public Health.</p> <p>Following introductory comments from Helen King members discussed several aspects of the report. The following points were noted:</p> <p>The Strategy should include reference to the action being undertaken to improve educational attainment and employment. Care must be taken not to raise expectations or to widen the gap. Consideration should be given to the need to include the need for everyone to have a reasonable home</p> <p>It was agreed that the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Public Service Board approves the approach taken by the draft Health Inequality Strategy.</li> <li>(2) Public Service Board authorises the Healthier Communities &amp; Older People Partnership Board to agree the final version of the Health Inequality Strategy.</li> <li>(3) Public Service Board authorises the Healthier Communities and Older People Partnership Board to commence discussions with the Local Strategic Partnerships and other blocks to agree local targets and develop Delivery Plans to support the Strategy.</li> <li><b>(4)</b> Public Service Board support the notion of closer integration of the Health Inequality Strategy work with the wider Narrowing the Gaps agenda.</li> </ol>	

8.	<p><b>Economic Downturn Progress Report</b></p> <p>Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnerships Manager, advised members that work was being undertaken in response to the PSBs decision at its last meeting and that a full report would be submitted to the 3 March meeting.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Summary of LAA Performance and Progress (2008/09: Quarter 3)</b></p> <p>Bill Basra presented the report from the Block Leaders outlining headline and exception reporting in relation to LAA performance.</p> <p>The report was noted</p>	
10.	<p><b>ABG Quarter 3 Monitoring Report</b></p> <p>Dave Clarke, the LAA Accountable Officer, Strategic Director of Resources (WCC) presented the report.</p> <p>In doing so he confirmed that the underspends of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough and Rugby Borough LSPs will be carried forward to 2009/10.</p> <p>The PSB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Noted the 2008/09 Quarter 3 position and the projected 2008/09 outturn.</li> <li>(2) Noted that £0.150 million of the Narrowing the Gap funding allocated to the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) in 2008/09 is forecast not be spent by 31 March 2009, therefore some of the LSP spending will be deferred until 2009/10.</li> </ul>	
11.	<p><b>Review and Refresh</b></p> <p>Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnerships Manager presented the report relating to the Review and Refresh and Partnership Effectiveness.</p> <p>Terry Cotton of the Government Office for the West Midlands introduced the main points of the Annual Review that had been undertaken by the Government Office into Warwickshire's LAA arrangements.</p> <p>During the discussion the PSB was advised that the Governance Sub Group was to consider the current working arrangements having regard to the progress made with the LAA and the need to increase focus on outcomes and the work programme.</p>	

<p>The Board agreed:</p> <p>(1) The outcomes of the Partnership Effectiveness Event held by the Board on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008 are formally noted and approved.</p> <p>(2) The Board noted and endorsed the approach to LAA Review and Refresh as outlined in the report.</p> <p>(3) The Board noted the LAA Review produced by GOWM.</p> <p>(4) The Board agrees the best way of ensuring that a coherent approach is given to taking forward work relating to enhancing partnership effectiveness and governance</p>		
<b>PSB Work Programme (2008/09)</b>		
Date of Meeting	Procedural Items	Substantive Items
March	--LAA Update --Performance and Finance Update --Work programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embedding a Vision for a Stronger and Safer County</li> <li>• Narrowing the Gap Update</li> <li>• Refreshed LAA</li> <li>• Outline PSB Priority Areas for 2009/10</li> </ul>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	None.	
<b>12.</b>	<b>Future Meetings</b>	
	The next meeting to be held on the 3 March 2009 at 2.00 p.m. at the Shire Hall, Warwick.	JH

The meeting finished at 3.25 p.m.

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Chair



# Comprehensive Area Assessment

A guide to the new framework

From 01 April 2009



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# A guide to the new framework

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- 1 People deserve clear and impartial information about how well they are being served by their local public services, how that compares with elsewhere, and what the prospects are for the improvement of quality of life in their area. This information will help people to hold elected representatives and those providing local public services to account for their performance and use of public money. It will help people make informed choices and influence local decisions.
- 2 From April 2009 CAA will provide:
  - a catalyst for improvement: better local outcomes, more effective partnership working, more responsive services and better value for money;
  - independent assurance for citizens, service users and taxpayers;
  - an independent evidence base for central government on progress with national priorities and improving local services; and
  - a means of focusing, rationalising and coordinating inspection.



- 3 Individual assessment regimes will continue to provide assurance on the performance of services meeting the needs of people whose circumstances make them vulnerable (for example, inspection of care services and safeguarding arrangements for children and adults) and other services dealing with inherently high risks (such as probation services). In addition, and for the first time, we will bring together our work to provide an overview of how successfully local organisations are working individually and together to improve their area. Local services increasingly work through formal arrangements, such as children’s trusts, care trusts, crime and disorder reduction partnerships and others, with local strategic partnerships coordinating overall. CAA will allow us to reflect how well these, and less formal joint working, are improving outcomes for local people.
- 4 An illustrative example of how we will report our findings can be found at <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/caademo/>. We will also publish the detailed guidance we give our staff responsible for carrying out CAA.

- 5 What matters locally varies from place to place. Led by locally-elected councillors, councils and their local partners have developed sustainable community strategies to set out the local challenges and agreed priorities for their areas and how they plan to achieve sustainable development.<sup>I</sup> In addition, they have agreed with central government new local area agreements (LAAs) setting out improvement targets up to March 2011 for those issues that are most important locally and important to government.<sup>II</sup> Longer-term goals are set out in sustainable community strategies and local development frameworks. In CAA we will consider progress towards achieving local priorities, in relation to these different timescales.
- 6 Government has also introduced a set of national indicators to reflect its priority outcomes delivered by councils alone or with partners and to provide a consistent way of measuring progress. This National Indicator Set replaces a number of different information sets and simplifies and reduces the amount of performance data collected by government. CAA will report performance against the National Indicator Set, including the statutory education and attainment targets.

I Sustainable Community Strategies Guidance (Ref. 1)

II LAAs will be the only vehicles for agreeing targets between local government and their delivery partners and central government (except for the statutory education and early years' targets). See Communities and Local Government, Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities: Statutory Guidance for further information. (Ref. 1)

- 7 Examples of the issues being tackled by local partnerships include supporting the local economy; responding to the needs of the rapidly increasing proportion of older people; reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training; addressing shortages of affordable housing; improving environmental sustainability; reducing crime; preventing violent extremism; and tackling the causes of poor health. These issues are neither the preserve of any one public body nor issues for the state alone. They highlight the importance of effective local political leadership and governance, including purposeful engagement with local people whether as taxpayers, residents, service users, employers or volunteers.
- 8 In this context, the current focus of inspectorates in assessing individual services and organisations is no longer sufficient. The power of CAA to support improving outcomes in an area will come from the added value of joining up the assessment of local services. CAA will focus on outcomes and how well local public bodies work with each other, the private and third sectors, other organisations working locally, including town and parish councils, and their local communities.<sup>1</sup> It will be forward looking and assess the prospects for future improvement. Individual inspection regimes will continue to provide assurance on the performance of services meeting the needs of people whose circumstances make them vulnerable (for example, inspections of care services and safeguarding services for children and adults).

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<sup>1</sup> By 'third sector' we mean voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, cooperatives and mutuals.

- 9 Citizens expect local services to work together to make efficient and effective use of their collective resources to meet the needs and priorities of the community. They expect maximum value for their money and easy access to high quality and responsive services. Financial resources are under great pressure, making the search for efficiencies and value for money more critical than ever. CAA will provide independent assessment information to strengthen the ability of people to influence how services are provided and improved.
- 10 CAA will come into effect at a difficult time for the global and national economy and the effects are already being felt in local areas across England. With its emphasis on sustainable development, CAA has been designed to be flexible and adapt to such changes. We will judge how well councils and their partners understand the local impact of the recession and how well they are responding using the tools and influence available to them to mitigate the impact on their communities and prepare for the upturn. We will highlight examples of effective partnership working on the local economy as a source of learning for others, as well as highlight areas where inadequate action is being taken.

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## References

- 1 <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongsafeprosperous>

1st Floor, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4HQ  
Tel: 0844 798 1212 Fax: 0844 798 2945  
Textphone (minicom): 0844 798 2946  
[www.audit-commission.gov.uk](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk)

**Report to the Warwickshire Public Service Board**

**3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009**

**'What will Warwickshire look like in 2026' –A Sustainable Community Strategy for Warwickshire**

**Report of the County Partnerships Manager**

**Recommendations:**

1. It is recommended that the Board:
  - a) Endorses the progress and approach outlined in this report

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Members of the Board will be aware of the visioning exercise that was held at Nuneaton Town Football Club on 13<sup>th</sup> January and the production of a subsequent document outlining the basis for the development of a Sustainable Community Strategy for Warwickshire.
- 1.2 This report seeks to update the Board by providing an outline of the draft strategy together with a timeline for consultation, finalisation and adoption.

**2. Warwickshire SCS: Outline**

- 2.1 The strategy will be structured into the following key sections:
  - a) The Vision for Warwickshire
  - b) Key Outcomes
  - c) Making it Happen: How the document will be translated into action
  - d) How it all fits together: Structural and Planning Linkages
- 2.2 The key sections are a) Vision and b) Outcomes. In terms of the Vision it is proposed that this is:

**'Warwickshire Together and Unlimited-Improvement for All and Narrowing the Gaps'**

2.3 Roughly translated this equates to:

### Warwickshire Together

We will only achieve our ambitions if we work together, as organisations, across sectors and as communities. This also means recognising, embracing and utilising the diversity of Warwickshire. It also means reaching out to our neighbours for solutions that require a sub-regional response.

### Warwickshire Unlimited

By working together and planning for the future we can be aspirational. Too often being realistic has been euphemism for caution, short sightedness and a lack of ambition based in part on the baggage of historical legacy. We need to think outside of the box and think of the Warwickshire that we really want and then strive together to achieve that vision.

### Improvement for All

As a County we perform well. Warwickshire is a better place to live than many areas of the West Midlands. But when we look elsewhere (particularly the South East). It is evident that we could do better across the board for all of our residents.

### Narrowing the Gaps

Warwickshire is an unequal place where people are disadvantaged on the basis of where they live, who they are or what their background is.

As we get better we need to make sure no one is left behind.

2.4 In practice this equates to the views of the first workshop where people were asked about what kind of Warwickshire they envisaged in 2026. The views that were expressed then were:

- **People want to see:** Safe, cohesive vibrant, communities within a clean and green environment. Integrated public transport with good choice and access to services. A well skilled workforce living in County that is entrepreneurial and innovative.
- **People want to feel:** Proud to be part of a community where people are fair, safe, engaged and empowered and where there are opportunities for ambitious, creative and skilled people.
- **People want to hear in and about:** Communities are being listened to and actions are being taken. A County that is successful, innovative and where people want to live and work.

Above all there is a desire to tackle inequalities and a narrowing of the gaps.

2.5 The bulk of the document will then focus on the key outcomes that all we wish to achieve by 2026. It is proposed that these be grouped under the heading people, places and jobs and that each outcome be supported by the following headings:

- Outcome
- Reasoning
- How will we measure success
- What we (as partners) will do
- What you (as the public) can do

2.6 In drafting the SCS the following principles will be observed

- The document should be **outcomes based**
- The SCS needs to be **publicly accessible**
- The document needs to be **short**
- The document needs to be **aspirational**

### 3. Timeline

2.7 Subject to PSB agreement on the outline and approach it is suggested that a draft be circulated by 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The draft would then be subjected to a 10 week consultation period before finalisation at the end of May and approval by partners both individually and collectively during June 2009.

NICK GOWER-JOHNSON  
County Partnerships Manager  
MARCH 2009



**Warwickshire Public Service Board  
3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009**

**Progress of the Stronger Communities Partnership**

**Report of the Block Leader**

**Recommendation**

That the Public Service Board notes the progress of the Stronger Communities Partnership and comments as necessary.

**1. Progress against LAA Improvement Targets**

1.1 The Stronger Communities Partnership is responsible for ensuring the delivery of the following Improvement Targets:

National Indicator 1 – Community Cohesion

National Indicator 4 – Community Empowerment

National Indicator 6 - Volunteering

National Indicator 155 – Affordable Housing

We have also agreed a 'local target' around participation in sport and active recreation.

1.2 Progress against National Indicators 1,4 and 6 is measured through the Place Survey, the results of which are expected imminently through the Audit Commission.

As the methodology of the Place Survey is different to last year's LAA survey, it does not necessarily provide accurate comparative data against which we can assess our progress. Future Place Surveys will provide a more robust comparison against this year's survey as the baseline.

1.3 Progress for National Indicator 155 is measured through data from the District and Borough Councils.

We are unlikely to meet our target of 296 new affordable housing units in 2008-09. At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter performance stands at 116, and our end-of-year performance is unlikely to exceed 160.

This is to a large extent due to the economic downturn.

1.4 We will be looking to review all four targets with Government Office West Midlands through the 'review and refresh' of the Local Area Agreement.

1.5 Delivery of the Improvement Plan for Stronger Communities is broadly on track, and the Plan is being reviewed and revised by the Partnership for 2009-11.

## **2. Key Achievements**

2.1 Of the 30 Community Forums, 27 have now either met or have convened. Generally the forum meetings have been well attended and are integrated with the Safer neighbourhood/PACT panels. The remaining three forums to be convened are North Leamington, Warwick and Kenilworth. Discussions are ongoing with partners in these three areas and we are confident that these will be finalised shortly.

2.2 Over 13,500 local young people recently voted in elections for the District Youth Councils and Members of the Youth Parliament, representing nearly one third of the eligible electorate. There was a huge increase in voters and candidates (46) in comparison to previous elections.

2.3 Where local funding has enabled community development support in targeted neighbourhoods, this has led to significant increases in volunteers (over 60 volunteers now help with local projects in Overslade, Rugby)

2.4 Only one of Warwickshire's Districts (Stratford) now has a moratorium on building new housing

2.5 The register of Public Land in Warwickshire is nearing completion.

## **3. Key Issues and Challenges**

3.1 Delivering improvements while recognising pressures on budgets and capacity. Particular pressures facing voluntary and community organisations, and the need for strong support services.

3.2 Addressing the 'resource gap' to increase provision of affordable housing.

3.3 Developing flexible and innovative approaches to localising the management of services

3.4 Responding to emerging community tensions arising through the recession

## **4. Looking forward**

4.1 We have accessed funding through the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership ('Learning To Deliver') to develop a capacity building programme for the Community Forums

4.2 We have submitted a proposal to Government Office West Midlands to develop a local 'take part pathfinder' programme in support of National Indicator 4.

4.3 Over the next few months will be piloting 'on-line Discussion Forums' for the Community Forum areas.

4.4 There is now a real commitment from all partners to integrate our approach to communication, consultation and engagement in support of National Indicator 4.

4.5 The Public Sector Heads of Communication are holding a joint workshop in March with a view to developing a more integrated approach to communicating with Warwickshire's residents.

4.6 'Building Social Capital' to enable local people to take greater responsibility to find solutions to local issues emerged as a major theme in the recent Partnership Day to support the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

**Chris Elliott**  
**Chief Executive, Warwick District Council**  
**18<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

Report to the Warwickshire Public Service Board

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009

Update on Economic Downturn

Report of the Economic Development and Enterprise Block

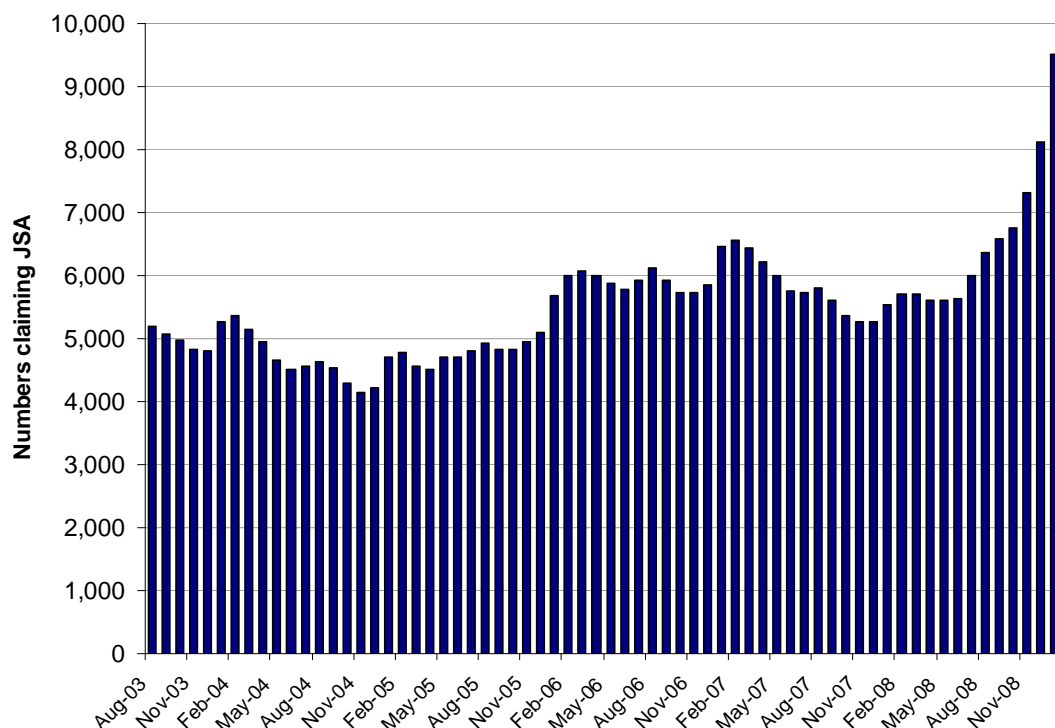
**Recommendations:**

1. That the report be noted.

**Economic Update**

- **Unemployment** : since mid 2008 and following the near collapse of the banking sector in Sept/Oct and rapid economic slowdown, unemployment has been increasing rapidly across Warwickshire. Latest statistics (Jan 09) records a claimant level (Jobseekers Allowance claimants) of 9,511 – the highest level for nearly 12 years, and double what it was just five years ago. This is up by 1,385 claimants on December and represents the largest single monthly increase since September 1984 – an increased growth rate for Warwickshire of 17% which is significantly higher than the UK and regional averages (11%).

**Figure 1: JSA Claimant Count in Warwickshire**



**Table 1: Changes in Claimant Count by District/Borough**

	Jan-09		Monthly Change Dec 2008 – Jan 2009*		Year-on-Year Change Jan 2008 – Jan 2009	
	Count	Rate	Count	% Change	Count	% Change
UK	1,282,645	3.4	129,317	+11%	452,103	+54%
West Midlands	146,790	4.5	14,090	+11%	48,189	+50%
Coventry	8,992	4.6	907	+11%	2,429	+37%
<b>Warwickshire</b>	<b>9,511</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1,385</b>	<b>+17%</b>	<b>3,964</b>	<b>+72%</b>
North Warwickshire	1,267	2.9	162	+15%	657	+108%
Nun'ton & Bedworth	3,147	4.2	399	+15%	1,279	+69%
Rugby	1,665	3.1	257	+18%	603	+57%
Stratford-on-Avon	1,302	1.9	254	+24%	581	+81%
Warwick	2,130	2.5	313	+17%	844	+66%

- Note, above, significant variations across the county in the rate of claimant increases – ranging from year on year increases of +108% in North Warwickshire to a more modest +57% rate in Rugby Borough. Stratford District, however, has just seen the greatest rise on a monthly basis reflecting the traditional Post-Christmas seasonal lay-off in the hospitality and tourism sector cutting deeper this year than ever.
- We are now technically in recession and will undoubtedly see further increases in unemployment before the end of the year. Revised forecasts from the Bank of England suggest that the recession will be sharper and deeper than expected, although growth is still expected to return in early to mid 2010. Unemployment, however, is a lagging indicator and inertia in the economy will mean that it is likely to continue to grow after we see the 'shoots of recovery'. We are currently forecasting JSA Claimant numbers in the county to exceed 12,000 by the end of 2009, and reach a peak of around 16,000 by the end of 2010.
- Jobcentre Plus are noting different cohorts of workless than we've seen in previous recessions - away from solely manufacturing and low skilled. There is a growing number of 'executive workless' – higher skills, supervisory grades, with long career history in a single company, often signing on for the first time in their life. For these, different approaches and models of support back into work, or self employment are being developed. It is critically important not to lose valuable skills from the sub regional workforce if we are to stand any chance of retaining a competitive edge in relation to growth sectors and retaining or growing our own to take advantage of planned new investments (eg Ansty).
- Redundancies. There are many sources of information for this but using a combination of JCP notified figures, the Chamber and our own local knowledge suggests from September 2008 to present, 1964 actual redundancies in Warwickshire have taken place with another 432 proposed /in the pipeline. Local business continue to face their toughest trading conditions – many still have orders on their books but their customers are being squeezed by lack of credit and cut backs in bank lending. The Chamber's most recent survey report that 57% manufactures report a drop in sales in the last quarter (16% an increase, remainder no change) and more than half employers in the service sector report a decrease and just 21% an increase.

- Debt and mortgage repossessions: The Citizens Advice Service in Warwickshire is reporting a significant increase in demand for advice services due to the economic downturn. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2008/9 the combined Warwickshire CAB service saw an increase in clients starting one or more new enquiries of 8% compared to the same period last year, rising from 5,184 to 5,639. January 2009 sees an accelerated rising trend with 2,600 clients starting a new enquiry in that month alone! As reported by JCP, the CABs are also noting a different cohort of clients, with people from average income households and the self-employed facing a downturn in trade, usually with a mortgage and children, that appear to be hardest hit. These are generally households where both people are (or were) working,. Many of these clients are just outside the Legal Aid limits, and as the majority of CAB casework services are funded by the Legal Services Commission for clients eligible for Legal Aid, their resources to provide support to these clients is limited.

## **Actions underway**

This report sets out some of the actions underway in Warwickshire to help lessen the impact of the recession on jobs. It summarises what's being done collaborately by partners and sets out plans for new additional activity. Throughout, we have tried to consider what needs to be done to accelerate the upturn when it comes but it is still very much work in progress and will not be complete or exhaustive. It will evolve as circumstances change and new opportunities (and new threats) appear and focuses on activity where there has been a significant change in emphasis since the downturn. Some of the activities have been facilitated through the establishment of the Coventry & Warwickshire Economic Recovery Partnership – strategic regional, sub regional and local partners coming together to collectively address issues and lobby for resources, to help support businesses, employees and the workless during this period

Key elements of this report :

- Intelligence gathering
- Help for business
- Help with jobs and the unemployed seeking work
- Preparing for the upturn

## **Intelligence Gathering and dissemination**

- Redundancy notifications. Info sharing networks. New notifications trigger exploratory contacts with businesses to see where help can be offered and pooling of expertise to present a cohesive service to employers in difficulty and employees facing redundancy
- Information Dissemination. Sub regional guides have been produced to hand out to people containing staff names within partner agencies as a back-stop for local contact. In addition most of the Districts as well as WCC have included web based advice and signposting to agencies offering support. Also news of local events and seminars. Check [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/recession](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/recession).

## **Help for Business**

- Property downsizing. Warwickshire Investment Partnerships traditionally engages with businesses moving to – or expanding in – Warwickshire. But general enquires have fallen rapidly eg Jan-March 2008 WIPs had 220 enquires, to date (Jan-Feb 09) it's just 67. Focus now shifted to dealing with companies struggling with reduced order books and looking to downsize into smaller (less expensive) premises. This at

least safeguards jobs. The WIPs database and knowledge of the property market helps us point them towards property solutions locally.

- Finance and Orders. Whilst our Business Support Team, the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Officers in the Districts channel many enquires through Business Link, their diagnostic and brokerage service has been often unable to respond quickly or appropriately to local needs. The establishment of the West Mids Taskforce and beginnings of a region-wide Rapid Response Team will help but in the meantime we have adapted our service locally to fill the gap
  - Access to Finance. Increased support to Coventry & Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust and Loans Panel to help fill void created by reduced lending from the banks. In the past few months we've helped 10 businesses secure loans to safeguard at least 63 jobs. Typically these are small firms needing £20k-£30k for working capital
  - Procurement and other events. A programme of seminars is underway to help business 'beat the recession'. This includes specialist procurement experts advising local businesses how to compete for County Council and other public sector contracts and seminars on the issues of managing waste for businesses struggling to cope with increased waste and energy costs.
- Fast Response Business Mentors. Through ABG, the Chamber, with help from partners, will be establishing a rapid response team to operate across Warwickshire to deliver guidance to SMEs and promote start-ups. The initiative will complement, and learn from, existing Chamber and partner resources eg experience in retail, the Coventry LEGI business mentor expertise etc.
- Payment of Invoices. WCC now aims to pay invoices from SMEs within 10 days to aid their cash flow. We understand that this practice is also being taken by some of the District Councils.

## **Help into Jobs and for the unemployed seeking work**

- Multi agency support for the workless. ABG will give a new impetus to multi-partner local actions in priority wards across the county. The idea is to target priority areas (localities) where there are high levels of workless and ensure individuals are networked to the help available, including barrier breaking help. The activity will include door step engagement in targeted communities. This activity is being piloted in March in Nuneaton (in conjunction with CHEERS- Camp Hill Employment & Enterprise Scheme).
- Helping people back into jobs. In addition to the above, we have a number of other new or revised initiatives:
  - Local Employment Team, currently based in Nuneaton & Bedworth and funded through 2008/9 ABG. Leading the submission of a bid for ERDF funding currently under appraisal for a community based Community Enterprise & Employment programme
  - Please note, 2 other schemes have also been submitted to AWM under the Sustainable Urban Development strand of the new (2006-15) ERDF programme. These are Winning Technologies (securing inward investment) and RE:think Coventry & Warwickshire (increasing energy efficiency and productivity amongst SMEs and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector). Both programmes confined to the N&B Regeneration Zone area in Warwickshire and will help NtGs between the disadvantaged communities and poor performance of the local economy here compared to the average for Warwickshire. It will hopefully provide an impetus to local actions ahead of any upturn in the economy.

- Skills for Jobs team helping those who've been out of paid work for 12months+ but want to return to employment and gain new skills. Funded by LSC/EU and prioritising disadvantaged wards across the county. The programme now enables people who have lost their jobs to participate which has greatly increased the number of people are able to help.
- Skills. One of the first activities – or budget heads - to be hit during a recession is training. In the current climate of budget restrictions and recruitment caps, it is not possible to do as much for the hard to reach priority individuals looking for jobs or work experience as we might have liked but progress is being made on expanding our Train to Gain (funded) programmes offer in WCC (through Employment Training Warwickshire) and exploring ways of introducing a new Warwickshire Apprenticeship as a small investment for the future. In addition ETW will be collaborating in a consortium bid to a new LSC programme to provide help and advice in redundancy situations – both private and public sector based.

### **Preparing for the upturn**

Warwickshire has a strong private sector economy, which is more flexible and adaptable than most. Whilst this means that we enter a recession quicker and suffer the impacts faster (i.e. faster than average increases in unemployment), it is likely that we will come out of the recession sooner. It is therefore important that we not only focus on providing help and support for those suffering from the downturn, but we also plan for and facilitate the inevitable upturn.

This includes

- maintaining our commitment to key sites for development (such as Ansty Park, the Nuneaton Masterplan, and Stoneleigh) and accelerating progress where possible;
- driving forward our plans for the sub-regional housing growth and infrastructure programme;
- supporting and fostering new business start-ups;
- maintaining the skilled population within the area through support to “workless executives” and graduates emerging from our sub-regional higher education establishments; and
- reskilling/upskilling individuals within likely growth sectors of the future (i.e. environmental technologies, particularly in the construction sector).

The Coventry & Warwickshire Economic Recovery Partnership will be discussing a co-ordinated approach to the upturn in their forthcoming meetings.

JANET FORTUNE/DAVID HILL

Regeneration Strategy & Europe Team, (WCC) on behalf of Ec Devt & Enterprise Board  
MARCH 2009



**Report to the Warwickshire Public Service Board**

**3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009**

**Local Area Agreement-Update on Key Issues**

**Report of the County Partnerships Manager**

**Recommendations:**

1. It is recommended that the Board:

a) Endorses the 'refreshed' LAA (paragraph 2)

b) Notes and Comments on the 6 month Narrowing the Gap Updates from North Warwickshire LSP, Rugby LSP & Warwick LSP (paragraph 3)

c) Notes and Endorses the approach to the Development of the Warwickshire Single Equality Scheme 2010-2013 (paragraph 4)

d) Approves the approach for developing a PSB Work Programme for 2009/10 (paragraph 5)

**1 Introduction**

1.1 This report seeks to update the Board on the following key issues in relation to the LAA and partnership working:

- The 'refreshed' LAA
- 6 month Narrowing the Gap LSP Action Plans
- Single Equality Scheme Proposals
- The Future PSB Work Programme

**2. 'Refreshed' LAA**

2.1 Members of the PSB will be aware that the LAA has been undergoing the annual review and refresh process since November 2008. The review element of the process was concluded in January and results submitted to the January meeting of the Board. At the time of writing this report the refresh process is still underway. However to accord with deadlines set by Government, the process will have concluded by the end of February and a refreshed LAA will be circulated at the meeting. For ease of reference changes from the original LAA will be highlighted within the document.

### **3. 6 Month LSP Narrowing the Gap Updates**

- 3.1 Members of the Board will recall that 6 month updates are required in respect of the monies allocated to LSPs in 2008 in relation to the Narrowing the Gap Action Plans. The following updates presented are in respect of those projects that were approved in September 2008.

North Warwickshire: Appendix A

Rugby: Appendix B

Warwick: Appendix C

### **4. Single Equality Scheme Proposals**

#### Context

- 4.1 In 2009/10 we will see a number of changes, which will impact on the equalities and diversity work for all agencies and place a significant focus on our equalities partnership working, these include:
- Single Equalities Bill - The Bill will reduce nine major pieces of legislation, and around 100 statutory instruments into a single Act, making the law more accessible and easier to understand. The Bill will require public bodies to give due regard to the need to tackle discrimination and promote equality through their purchasing functions. It will also replace existing equality duties for race, gender and disability with a single duty which will be expanded to cover sexuality, faith and age also.
  - Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) – the CAA process will measure our success at working together to achieve positive outcomes for Warwickshire’s communities. There is a strong equalities focus requiring us to demonstrate how we know our communities, understand our ‘equality map’ and use these to focus and guide our work.
  - Revised/new Equality Standards/Frameworks for public agencies – new equality frameworks/standards are being developed for local government, the Police and the NHS, although there are some differences the overall frameworks/standards are comparable and in many cases mirror each other. These frameworks not only enable us to monitor our progress and bench mark ourselves nationally against our peers but indications are they will also be used to measure our equalities work through the CAA.

#### Opportunities to Work Together

- 4.2 There are already numerous examples where as individual agencies we have worked together on equalities issues, these range from specific events e.g. promoting Black History Month, to shared forums e.g. Disability Forums, to investment in third sector equalities work e.g. WREP through to developing shared support mechanisms for staff e.g. staff networks.

- 4.3 The new Single Equality Duty (enshrined in the new Single Equality Bill) will require us to review and refine our individual agency equality schemes, for the first time it will also enable us to agree key equality priorities for Warwickshire rather than requiring a standard national approach. This provides the opportunity to move our existing joint work forward and develop a shared equalities vision and agenda for Warwickshire, which in turn will be able to reflect locality needs.
- 4.4 Agreeing a shared strategic approach to equalities will enable us to:
- Have an agreed multi-agency understanding of Warwickshire's equalities profile, a shared vision for the future and recognise the issues we must resolve
  - Prioritise those we and our communities wish to target first
  - Share resources to enable this to happen
  - Recognise those that relate to individual agencies and provide additional support and guidance to tackle these
  - Ensure all our elected members, executive boards and employees have a consistent and shared understanding of our equalities priorities and work
  - Deliver positive outcomes consistently and through a joint approach
  - Demonstrate our commitment and understanding of the CAA equalities agenda
- 4.5 A shared scheme would not only belong to the PSB but would be adopted by individual agencies therefore meeting our legal requirements. The key purpose however would be to achieve better outcomes for people through our joint understanding, commitment and willingness to work collectively. This in turn will have a direct impact on the Narrowing the Gaps agenda where many of the recognised socio-economic and health inequalities are interwoven with equalities issues for example health inequalities being intrinsically linked to issues around disability.

### Next steps

- 4.6 Although the Single Equality Bill is not due to be published until later in 2009, we already know the broad detail. Work on a shared scheme for 2010 onwards will need to begin formally in September. It is therefore proposed that we establish a working group to move this work forward which will include seeking opinion from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission in its role as national equalities regulatory body. Members of the working group will be drawn from the equalities leads across all members of the PSB.

## **5. Work Programme**

- 5.1 The Public Service Board was set up in April 2007. In June 2008, the Public Service Board acknowledged that the implementation of the first LAA and the development and subsequent approval of the New LAA has resulted in an excessive focus on the operational aspects of the LAA.

5.2 It was agreed at the meeting to delegate some of these aspects to other bodies and assign necessary elements within an en-bloc segment within the agenda. This would then enable the Board to adopt the following approach:

- Address gaps /issues affecting geographical communities in all five areas of the county and
- Also address gaps / issues affecting communities of interest no matter where they may reside (e.g. some disabled people, some people with mental ill health or learning disability, some people from BME groups, some carers etc.)
- Focus on complex issues that can only be addressed through a genuine partnership approach whereby agencies pool resources and effort in pursuit of the shared ambition of narrowing the gap.
- Focus effort though through joint action in relevant local communities / with communities of interest

5.3 At a result the following issues were identified as key strategic issues:

- The Growth Agenda – visioning the impact of the Regional Spatial Strategy from the particular perspective of its impact on service demands
- Narrowing the Gap and Raising Achievement as an ongoing driver for all of our partnership work.
- Addressing expanding service delivery needs within the context of potentially diminishing public sector budgets
- Changing Population and Demography of the county - developing a shared and balanced understanding across the public sector of the impact of migration and the ageing population on the economy, community cohesion and service delivery
- Promoting Economic Growth and the Skills Agenda including the Regional Economic Strategy
- Promoting Health and Addressing Health Inequalities including the essential interface with Educational Achievement
- Embedding a vision for a Stronger and Safer County
- Addressing the impact of Climate Change

5.4 Whilst there have been improvements to business conducted at PSB it would be fair to state that there is still room for improvement. This was acknowledged within the GOWM review of the LAA, the PSB itself in the light of the CAA partnership effectiveness event and the setting up of a Governance Review Sub-Group.

5.5 Meetings for the Public Service Board have been set for (2009) June, September, November and January 2010. It is suggested that the LAA Team work outside of the meeting to draft a work programme for the year together with

NICK GOWER JOHNSON &  
County Partnerships Manager  
March 2009

BILL BASRA  
LAA Manager

### Update from the North Warwickshire Community Partnership

#### 1. Introduction & Context

- 1.1. The Public Service Board (PSB) at its meeting on 12th March 2008 agreed that a total of £800,000 be allocated to LSP's in 2008/09 in respect of the 'Narrowing the Gaps' agenda subject to approval by the PSB, of an appropriate spending / action plan.
- 1.2. A total of £100,000 was awarded to North Warwickshire Community Partnership at the meeting of the PSB in September 2008. A condition of the allocation is the reporting of progress at 6 months and 12 months. This report is a 6 month update report on agreed targets.

#### 2. Progress on the North Warwickshire Community Partnership Action Plan

- 2.1 A copy of the North Warwickshire Narrowing the Gaps Action Plan 2008/09 is attached at **Appendix A1**. The plan provides funding support to seven projects totalling £168,391. The projects are:
  - i. **Y Weight** ~ a bespoke healthy lifestyle programme for young people and adults in Atherstone and the surrounding area to support individuals in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.
  - ii. **Royal Meadow Drive Play Area** ~ installation of toddler, junior and teen play equipment and appropriate lighting at Royal Meadow Drive Play Area, Atherstone.
  - iii. **Reach Out** ~ a programme of projects aimed at raising aspiration, motivation and attainment both of young people at their parents in Kingsbury and the surrounding area.
  - iv. **Local Nature Reserves Project** ~ development of Kingsbury Linear Park site as a Local Nature Reserve with an associated 'Friends of' group and volunteering opportunities leading to a formal award.
  - v. **Community Consultants Project** ~ delivery of a ten week training course for community members and a master class for practitioners in Kingsbury to help local people to have the skills and self confidence to influence local decision making processes.
  - vi. **Debt Advice Project** ~ employment of one full time worker to provide debt advice to residents from across the borough experiencing multiple debt problems.
  - vii. **Rural Housing Enabler** ~ facilitation of the development of affordable homes to meet housing needs within rural communities.

In addition to the Narrowing the Gap funding, £60,891 has been allocated from the North Warwickshire Area Committee and £7,500 from the Learning to Deliver Programme 2008/09.

2.2 Progress against agreed targets is attached as **Appendix A2**. Key points are noted as follows:

- i. Project/Programme Plans are in place to take forward the Y Weight (formally Wellness Matters) and Reach Out (Educational Attainment in Kingsbury) projects. Both of these projects are currently finalising their programme content and, having already purchased necessary equipment, will both start implementation post Easter.
- ii. Having secured external funding, the Royal Meadow Drive Play Equipment Project will begin installation of equipment shortly, hopefully in time for a spring launch. With a funding bid to the Big Lottery Changing Spaces programme to be submitted by the Local Nature Reserves Project in March, the Project is now focusing on consulting with residents living near proposed sites and development of stage 2 of the funding bid.
- iii. The Rural Housing Enabler project is making good progress. To date the project has completed five housing needs surveys, met with 3 Parish Councils, and identified two possible development sites in Ansley.
- iv. Progress has been delayed on the Community Consultants project due to the resignation of the Project Officer. This post is currently being advertised. People in North Warwickshire are now benefiting from the availability of additional debt advice following the appointment of a full-time Money Advisor through the Debt Advice Project in January.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 North Warwickshire Community Partnership will be pleased to report further progress on these projects to the Public Service Board in six months time. However, it is advised that many of the projects will still be ongoing at this time and it may be necessary to provide a final report at a later date.
- 3.2 To date, the projects have demonstrated the importance of consultation and the impact this can have in terms of refining or refocusing initial project plans. The added value that can be gained from the synergy and alignment of projects and the need to co-ordinate projects and agencies at a strategic level have also been highlighted.
- 3.3 As many of the projects are only just entering the implementation stage, it is too soon to determine whether gaps are being narrowed. Hopefully, the impact of this work on narrowing the gaps in North Warwickshire will start to emerge over coming months, although in the case of some of the projects, such as the work around educational attainment being carried out in Kingsbury, it may take longer for the true benefits to be seen. Finally, each project has been asked to put in place arrangements to ensure their sustainability beyond the life cycle of the project plan. Please refer to the Progress Reports attached at Appendix B for further information.

**David Clarke**  
**North Warwickshire Community Partnership Vice-Chair**

## Narrowing the Gap Action Plan 2008/09

Project Description	Lead Officer	NTG Indicator(s)	LSP Priority 08/09	Costs	Risks	Exit Strategy	Outcomes
<p><b>1. Tackling obesity and encouraging physical activity in Atherstone</b></p> <p>Investing in the improvement of play facilities in the Atherstone area is identified as a priority in the North Warwickshire Play Strategy and Draft Green Space Strategy. Specifically, Area Forum East identified Royal Meadow Drive Recreation Ground as a priority; the lack of facilities/lighting at Royal Meadow Drive causes young people to congregate around nearby shops, especially in the winter, creating anti-social behaviour problems.</p> <p>North Warwickshire is significantly worse than the England average for children getting active, adults eating healthy meals and above average obese adults. North Warwickshire has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest estimated number of obese adults out of the 5 boroughs and districts in the county. The borough has almost one third of boys who are either overweight or obese by year 6. The number of obese children significantly increases from reception and year 6.</p>							
<p><b>The Wellness Matters Project</b> - a rolling 12 week healthy lifestyle programme in Atherstone targeting young people and adults to support them in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>The programme will include healthy eating, weight management, physical activity sessions and advice and guidance. It will include cooking sessions including looking at different ways of cooking healthy meals on a budget.</p> <p>The programme will also</p>	<p>Terry Leather (Health Improvement Manager, Warks PCT)/ Joanne Rooke (Community Development Officer – Health Improvement, NWBC)</p> <p><i>Health and Wellbeing Theme Group</i></p>	<p>NI 120 All age, all cause Mortality</p>	<p>Enable individuals to make healthier choices / promotion of healthy eating and physical activity.</p>	<p>£13,896</p>	<p>Sustainable sources of funding for ongoing work not secured – <i>suitable funding streams are being identified and applied for.</i></p> <p>Outcomes based on assumption that people participate in programmes – <i>promotion and marketing included within scheme to help secure participation.</i></p>	<p>An existing Action for Wellbeing Project funded for three years will support the delivery of this project.</p> <p>Capacity building will be undertaken within local communities to enable them to continue the delivery of activities.</p> <p>Application to</p>	<p>Reduction in overweight and obese people.</p> <p>Increase in the percentage of people who are eating 5 portions of fruit and vegetables per day.</p> <p>Increase in the percentage of people engaged in the recommended levels of physical activity.</p>



Project Description	Lead Officer	NTG Indicator(s)	LSP Priority 08/09	Costs	Risks	Exit Strategy	Outcomes
look at improving self esteem and confidence and increasing awareness and knowledge around maintaining a healthy lifestyle.						be made to funds, such as Warks PCT LDP process in 2009/10.	
<p>Royal Meadow Drive Play Area - <b>purchase and installation of play area facilities at Royal Meadow Drive, Atherstone.</b> Despite being a key site in Atherstone the recreation ground currently makes no provision for children or young people. Through this project play equipment suitable for a broad age from toddlers to teens would be installed, along with a multi-use games area and teen shelter.</p> <p>Atherstone is an area with the second highest level of identified child deprivation in North Warwickshire. Provision of these facilities will offer much needed play opportunities for those children and young people</p>	<p>Jaki Douglas (Partnership &amp; Development Manager, NWBC)</p> <p><i>Children, Young People and their Families Theme Group</i></p>	<p>NI 21 dealing with local concerns about anti social behaviour and crime</p> <p>NI 175 access to services and facilities</p> <p>NI 4 % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality</p> <p>NI 1 % of people who believe people from different</p>	<p>Reducing anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Continue to develop a better coordinated approach to the provision of services, activities and facilities that meet the needs of children, young people and their families.</p> <p>Encourage and assist children and young people to have a</p>	<p>£12,000</p> <p><i>(match: £75,000 secured, outcome awaited on funding bid of £50,000)</i></p>	<p>Inappropriate equipment purchased/sited in the wrong place – <i>consultation to identify local needs.</i></p> <p>Lack of lighting limiting use of play facilities after dark, reducing access to services and potential increase in ASB and criminal damage in and around the local area – <i>SSCF Capital Grant application has been submitted.</i></p>	<p><b>Site owned &amp; managed by NWBC &amp; included in their routine grounds maintenance schedules, funded from their revenue budget. A sinking fund is being set up to pay for future replacement.</b></p> <p><b>The equipment will be inspected weekly &amp; maintenance will be carried out as necessary. Additional visits will be made during the week to pick litter and maintain cleanliness. An external</b></p>	<p>Accessible, safe facilities provided for young people</p> <p>ASB reduces in the local area</p> <p>Reduction in fear of crime</p> <p>Increase in number of people who feel people get on in the local community</p> <p>Increased participation in physical activity</p>

Project Description	Lead Officer	NTG Indicator(s)	LSP Priority 08/09	Costs	Risks	Exit Strategy	Outcomes
		backgrounds get on well together in their local area.	greater involvement in the life of their community, to reduce disaffection and promote active citizenship.  Promote the benefits of physical activity and provide opportunities to increase participation in physical activity.		Adverse reaction from public/lack of support from members - <i>Public consultation with local residents and members.</i>  Failure to secure funding – <i>decreased level of play provision will be put on the site.</i>	<b>consultant will carry out an independent safety inspection on an annual basis.</b>  Youth workers and diversionary activity staff to provide activities at the location to reduce the opportunity of ASB and ensure the facility is utilised.	
<p><b>2. Raising Educational Attainment in Kingsbury and the surrounding area</b>  North Warwickshire is now the worst performing district in the county on GCSE attainment. Kingsbury is one of the lowest 5% of wards across the county where 41% or less of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C GCSE (or equivalent) grades during the academic year 2005/06 (Warwickshire Observatory).  North Warwickshire is the only district in Warwickshire with no designated Local Nature Reserves.</p>							
<b>Educational Attainment</b> – working with schools and other agencies within Kingsbury and the surrounding area to raise aspiration, motivation and attainment both of young	Peter Thompson (Senior Schools and Communities Officer, WCC)	NI 75 5+ GCSEs A*-C or equivalent including Maths and English	Support the supply of learning and skills provision in the borough.  Engage with	£75,000  (Dare to	Outcomes based on assumption that people participate in programmes –  Opportunities for	Additional funding would influence the speed at which change can be made though work	Increased number of active volunteers at a local level.  Increased

Project Description	Lead Officer	NTG Indicator(s)	LSP Priority 08/09	Costs	Risks	Exit Strategy	Outcomes
<p>people and their parents.</p> <p>Project will apply a whole family and community approach to raising educational attainment and widening life views in Kingsbury and the surrounding villages. It aims to build capacity within the community, to generate momentum and to begin to change mindsets.</p> <p>It will include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dare to Dream</li> <li>• Notebooks for families</li> <li>• NEETS – peer mentoring for those most at risk</li> <li>• Community Service Project</li> <li>• Youth Motivation</li> <li>• Young Parents into work</li> </ul>	<p><i>Education and Lifelong Learning Theme Group</i></p>	<p>NI 117 16-18 year olds who are Not in Education, Employment or Training</p> <p>NI 1 % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area</p>	<p>the development of Extended Services.</p> <p>Actively promote opportunities to access and take part in voluntary and community activities and local opportunities.</p> <p>Encourage and assist children and young people to have a greater involvement in the life of their community, to reduce disaffection and promote active citizenship.</p>	<p><i>Dream programme costs being met by WCC Extended Services. Possible contribution from Kingsbury School on Youth and Community elements tbc)</i></p>	<p>voluntary work within the community not yet identified – <i>project will link with North Warks CVS and Volunteer Centre to ensure opportunities can be identified.</i></p> <p>Project not delivered within the timeframe set for NTG – <i>Area Committee Funding can be used over a longer period.</i></p> <p>Schools decide not to participate in the initiative – <i>Kingsbury School has been a key partner in the development of the proposal.</i></p>	<p>will continue to be undertaken should no further resources be available.</p> <p>It is hoped that the outcome of this project will generate interest from the business community and help to lever in support from such.</p>	<p>educational attainment by providing formal and informal learning opportunities leading to accreditation/ qualification.</p> <p>Contribution to the reduction of NEETS in the borough.</p> <p>Increased confidence, aspiration and motivation amongst young people within the project area.</p>
<p><b>Local Nature Reserves Project</b> – creation of</p>	Zoe Davies	NI 4 % of people who	Protect and enhance open	£7,000	Outcomes based on assumption	Additional funding sought	Local Nature Reserve

Project Description	Lead Officer	NTG Indicator(s)	LSP Priority 08/09	Costs	Risks	Exit Strategy	Outcomes
<p>informal learning opportunities for young people, particularly those who do not engage well with formal education, and the wider community through participation in conservation work and educational activities within local green space areas.</p> <p>Development of Kingsbury Linear Park site as a Local Nature Reserve with an associated 'Friends of' group which will have the chance to decide on how their green space is developed and managed. Opportunities for volunteering will also be developed and young people will be able to work towards the John Muir environmental award scheme.</p>	<p>(Community Development Officer – Environment, NWBC)</p> <p><i>Environment Theme Group</i></p>	<p>feel they can influence decisions in their locality</p> <p>NI 175 access to services and facilities.</p> <p>NI 117 16-18 year olds who are Not in Education, Employment or Training</p>	<p>space.</p> <p>Support the supply of learning and skills provision in the borough.</p> <p>Actively promote opportunities to access and take part in voluntary and community activities and local opportunities</p>	<p>(application to Big Lottery Changing Spaces Programme to be submitted)</p>	<p>that people participate in programmes – <i>young people will be targeted through existing outreach work carried out by NWBC and Youth Service and links with Kingsbury School.</i></p> <p>Site fails to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve -</p>	<p>to enable the development of more sites across North Warwickshire.</p> <p>Establishment of the 'Friends of Kingsbury Linear Park' Group will help to support the future management of this site.</p> <p>NWBC commitment to Local Nature Reserves through Green Space Strategy.</p>	<p>established in the borough.</p> <p>Increase the number of active volunteers at a local level.</p> <p>Young people receiving accredited informal training.</p>
<p><b>Community Consultants Training</b> – helping local people to have the skills and self</p>	<p>Fleur Fernando (Project Development Officer, WCC)</p>	<p>NI 4 % of people who feel they can influence</p>	<p>Actively promote opportunities to access and</p>	<p>£7,000</p> <p>(project is</p>	<p>Outcomes based on assumption that people participate in</p>	<p>Trained practitioners work in partnership to</p>	<p>Increased Social Capital available in the community.</p>

Project Description	Lead Officer	NTG Indicator(s)	LSP Priority 08/09	Costs	Risks	Exit Strategy	Outcomes
<p>confidence to influence local decision making processes.</p> <p>Delivery of a 10 week training course for 15-20 community members and one Master Class for 15-20 practitioners in Kingsbury. Will cover key skills such as presentation skills, research methods, understanding the community and recruiting others.</p>	Community Life	<p>decisions in their locality</p> <p>NI 1 % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area.</p>	<p>take part in voluntary and community activities and local opportunities.</p> <p>Engage with the development of Extended Services within North Warwickshire.</p>	<i>part funded through WCC)</i>	programmes –	<p>run training in Kingsbury.</p> <p>Trained community consultants are expected to recruit community members to become actively involved in their local community, hence the project could become self-sustaining within the area of Kingsbury.</p>	<p>Encourage participation by local people to reduce rural and community isolation, linking to local Area Forums.</p> <p>Increased number of active volunteers at a local level.</p> <p>Increase voluntary groups and community members confidence and expectations.</p>
<p><b>3. Supporting key work around housing enablers and debt management across the borough</b></p> <p>In May 2006, the Rural Affordable Housing Commission reported on the chronic shortage of affordable housing in rural areas. Citizen Advice Bureau money advisers are currently dealing with £3.2 million of debt and are working at capacity. The need for independent money advice free at the point of delivery has never been greater.</p>							
<p><b>Money advice and CAB, Money Advise Worker</b> to provide face-to-face debt advice to residents in North Warwickshire.</p>	Carol Musgrave (Manager, North Warks CAB)	NI 116 proportion of children in poverty	Provision of financial management advice to those in need	£36,495	Sustainable sources of funding for ongoing work not secured –	Alternative funding sources are being sought to ensure	<p>Additional debt counselling services.</p> <p>Improved</p>

Project Description	Lead Officer	NTG Indicator(s)	LSP Priority 08/09	Costs	Risks	Exit Strategy	Outcomes
<p>Money advice will be tailored to client needs and will include dealing with financial capability issues, money management, benefits checks and an individual debt repayment plan.</p> <p>The project will address the following local trends: stricter recovery measures by creditors, increases in repossessions, more redundancies, higher levels of personal indebtedness, more bankruptcies, more pensioner clients, more users of high cost credit.</p>	<i>Local Economy Theme Group</i>	NI 152 working age population on out of work benefits			Demand for debt advice not met – <i>clients will be prioritised on a needs basis.</i>	continuation of this level of service in future years.	<p>physical and mental well-being for clients.</p> <p>Prevention of homelessness by early intervention in the debt spiral.</p> <p>Provision of guidance and support to vulnerable households.</p>
<p><b>Rural Housing Enabler in North Warwickshire</b> – continuation funding to support the work of the Rural Housing Enabler Project.</p> <p>The project works in partnership with local communities and others</p>	<p>Kay Wilson (Chief Officer, WRCC)</p> <p><i>Community Life (Housing) Theme Group</i></p>	NI 4 % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality.	<p>Develop a range of affordable housing options to meet housing need in the borough.</p> <p>Deliver</p>	£17,000	<p>Sustainable sources of funding for ongoing work not secured –</p> <p>Financial climate could restrict number of homes being</p>	<p>Alternative funding sources are being sought to ensure continuation of this project in future years.</p>	<p>Housing needs surveys undertaken.</p> <p>Possible development sites identified.</p> <p>Increase community</p>

Project Description	Lead Officer	NTG Indicator(s)	LSP Priority 08/09	Costs	Risks	Exit Strategy	Outcomes
<p>to facilitate the development of affordable homes to meet housing needs within rural communities.</p> <p>The aim of the project is to identify local need and potential sites for affordable housing by working closely with village communities, councils, housing associations and landowners.</p>			<p>position choices to address housing need and homelessness.</p>		<p>built or acquisition of development sites -</p>		<p>members confidence and expectations.</p>

**Narrowing the Gap 2008/09  
Progress to Date – March 2009**

**Project: Y Weight (formerly Wellness Matters Project)**

**Project Description & Area to be delivered**

Bespoke healthy lifestyle programme for young people and adults to support individuals in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Project is focussed in Atherstone and the surrounding area.

**Progress to Date**

Following consultation the project group decided that the Y weight programme should concentrate on basic cooking skills. Research has continued and a meeting with Gunn Hill School, Arley, has resulted in developing a pilot 5 week cook and taste course. Families are being encouraged to attend the course and the school have agreed that if the course is successful they will look into ways of maintaining a monthly cookery club.

A project plan has been written and agreed. Promotion has been designed and sent out to the school and a start date has been set for April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Various agencies have been approached to find a cookery tutor. We are liaising with North Warwickshire and Hinckley college, WI etc

A programme is currently being designed for the 5 weeks, along with putting together displays and a pack for each family containing weekly recipes, information on weight, healthy eating advice, 5 a day, healthy lunch boxes etc.

**A Blenda Venda (Smoothie bike) has been purchased and is currently being designed. This will be incorporated in the 5 week programme and at future consultation events.**

**An equipment list has been compiled and risk assessments have been started.**

**We are currently looking at Atherstone to deliver another cook and taste course subject to community consultation.**

**Outputs Achieved**

1. Project plan agreed and written.
2. Promotion information designed and circulated to schools
3. Commence of Project - 22 April 2009.



4. 5 week programme being designed and Blenda Venda (Smoothie Bike) purchased
<b>Publicity</b> Posters/ leaflets and sign up slips have been sent out. A press release is currently being put together.
<b>Sustainability of Project</b> Under discussion but so far have agreement from Gunn Hill School, Arley that they will look into maintaining a weekly cookery club after the 5 week pilot.
<b>Lessons Learnt</b> Consultation can change everything! It is important to find out what people want.
<b>Other Comments</b>

<b>Project: Royal Meadow Drive Play Area</b>
<b>Project Description &amp; Area to be delivered</b> Installation of toddler, junior and teen play equipment and appropriate lighting at Royal Meadow Drive Play Area, Atherstone
<b>Progress to Date</b>  <b>Contracts have been exchanged with WREN, securing £50,000 funding. The proposed location of the equipment will be marked out on site shortly for neighbouring residents to view and for any concerns they may have to be addressed. Installation will then commence. It had been hoped to have commenced the installation by now but progress has been delayed by the winter weather – this is not expected to delay the spring launch.</b>
<b>Outputs Achieved</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. External Funding secured with WREN</li> <li>2. Consultation with residents taking place regarding the proposed location of equipment</li> </ol>
<b>Expenditure £0</b>

<b>Publicity</b>				
<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Publicity Activity</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Output</b>
<b>Consultation and planning underway</b>	<b>February 2008</b>	<b>Article in North Talk (the Borough Council newsletter)</b>	<b>Brief headline to raise awareness that the project is planned to take place later in the year</b>	<b>Delivered to all households in February 2008</b>
<b>Marking out on site</b>	<b>December 2008</b>	<b>Leaflets to surrounding residents Drop-in session on site</b>	<b>To raise awareness of the proposed location of the play equipment within the recreation ground To address any concerns from local residents</b>	
<b>Work starts on site</b>	<b>January 2009</b>	<b>Photo shoot Press release to local newspapers and free papers Special edition of Atherstone Town Council newsletter News update on NWBC and ATC websites</b>	<b>To raise awareness of the project in the local community Notify local media of the project Raise awareness of funders and partnership working</b>	
<b>Completion</b>	<b>March 2009</b>	<b>Article in North Talk and special edition of Atherstone Town Council newsletter News update on NWBC and ATC websites</b>	<b>To raise awareness that the project is complete and that there will be an opening event</b>	
<b>Celebration</b>	<b>April 2009</b>	<b>Easter Event Photo shoot Press release to local newspapers and free papers Special edition of Atherstone Town Council newsletter News update on NWBC and ATC websites Plaque installed on site</b>	<b>To officially open the facilities and to encourage use To celebrate completion of the programme to refurbish twelve play areas across the Borough To recognise and acknowledge the work achieved, those involved in delivery and the funders Long term recognition of the project</b>	
<b>Sustainability of Project</b>				

The facilities will be included in the Borough Council's routine inspection and maintenance schedules will be inspected annually by an independent consultant, in line with industry best practice. Minor repairs will be carried out as a matter of course by the in-house team and any major repairs will be put out to contract as necessary. Inspections and maintenance are funded through the Borough Council's revenue budget.

The equipment is expected to have a fifteen year lifespan. A replacement fund has been established to hold annual contributions from the revenue budget to renew the facility at the end of this period as necessary.

#### **Lessons Learnt**

#### **Other Comments**

## **Project: Reach Out (Educational Attainment in Kingsbury)**

#### **Project Description & Area to be delivered**

Programme of projects aimed at raising aspiration, motivation and attainment both of young people and their parents in Kingsbury and the surrounding area.

#### **Progress to Date**

A programme of projects has been established and costed. The programme includes a number of projects funded through NTG and projects funded through other means but aligned to the work of the Kingsbury Programme in order to best target resources. Lead Officers and partners from a range of agencies have been identified and commissioned to take project elements of the programme forward. Project details and progress are as follows:

Non-Attendance: (nb aligned to Kingsbury Programme but not funded through NTGs) project will work with young people showing signs of non-attendance and will look at what will be helpful to young people to help them to engage.

Path: trained Educational Psychologist to work with a designated year group looking at their ambition and to try to broaden horizons. The project will commence in Autumn 2009.

Driving Forward: two ten week courses to work with pupils in year 9 with motivation/self esteem issues and year 10 pupils at risk of exclusion. The first course will run at the Wheels Park in Birmingham after Easter. A second course will be run in the Autumn term, based on the success or otherwise of the first course.

40 Days of Community: community based activity to run in the summer term, linked with local PCSO's. Activities to be undertaken have still to

be determined and planned links will be made with North Warwickshire CVS in the near. The activities will aim to bring the school out into the community, to forge better links between the school and community.

Learning Ambassadors: Up to four young people will be recruited from within the college community to act as Learning Ambassadors/mentors to link particularly with young people at Kingsbury School at risk of not achieving their full potential. The young people will be recruited and trained in May/June and will participate in activities at Kingsbury School in the academic year 2009-2010.

Education Business Partnership: to encourage/support the running of an Education Business Partnership event in feeder Primary Schools to Kingsbury School. Likely to be undertaken in Autumn 2009.

My Kingsbury: week long activity focussed on 14 GCSE Art pupils. Will provide pupils with the opportunity to sample different arts based courses, specifically photography and animation culminating in the production of a colour digital mural and picture boards depicting the pupils' take on Kingsbury. The project will be led by a Digital Photography Tutor who used to live in Kingsbury and whose parents still live in the village. The project will help to promote the possibility of arts based studies at college, to which there is currently low take-up by Kingsbury pupils.

NeXperience: all year 10 Kingsbury pupils to be provided with the opportunity to visit and receive a taster of university life. Visits likely to be undertaken in June at DeMontford University (tbc) and will include tour of campus, accommodation, student union, library, sports facilities and tour on open top bus around the city centre. Currently around 80% of Kingsbury students progress into further/higher education.

Where do I fit: project aiming to engage up to 8 disaffected young people aged 16+ from within the Kingsbury area. The project will include vocational tasters and provide incentives for attendance.

All About You: joint project run by North Warwickshire and Hinckley College and Kingsbury Children's Centre. The project will involve a series of three week programmes involving young families, encouraging them to progress.

Notebooks: Notebooks have been purchased and will be used to support access to e-learning (linking with the Dare to Dream project). The next step is to discuss the use of these resources by Primary Schools and Kingsbury library and to investigate links with Adult and Community Learning.

Dare to Dream: (nb aligned to Kingsbury Programme but not funded through NTGs) family programme working with parents of children with low aspirations. Project will be delivered through e-learning over a 10 week period focusing on motivation and helping parents to understand how they can motivate their children. A trial programme is currently being undertaken in Hurley and a member of staff from Kingsbury School has been trained to deliver the Dare to Dream programme. This project links with the Notebooks project.

PAYP Community Project: (nb aligned to Kingsbury Programme but not funded through NTGs) Potential project which would be run by PAYP offering afterschool / holiday activities in Kingsbury. Further work to be undertaken to develop links with PAYP and establish whether project is to be included within the programme.

#### **Outputs Achieved**

1. Programme Management Group established and met 3 times.
2. Programme of activity finalised, costed and projects commissioned.
3. Notebooks to support e-learning purchased.

**Expenditure £31,000**

**Publicity**

Articles will also be placed in North Talk and the Head of Kingsbury School will use his column in the Tamworth/Atherstone Herald to promote the programme.

Flyers are being produced to advertise individual elements of the programme. The possibility of developing a Kingsbury Programme brand is also currently being investigated.

The possibility of promoting the work and merits of the Programme at the North Warwickshire Community Partnership Day 8 in March, Area Forum West in April and Area Committee and Area Forum West in July are also being considered.

**Sustainability of Project**

Each project lead is being asked to consider issues of sustainability beyond the immediate life of the programme . Some projects such as 40 days of Community and NeXperience , once established in the school , may well be things the school would wish to continue doing from its own resources in future years . Others , such as Notebooks project will continue to benefit the adult and pupil community well beyond the programme end as resources remain available for use in schools and Library .The Programme Management Group will seek to identify and engage with other potential sources of funding such LEADER and the Area Community Fund. Other activities which have purely been aligned to the Kingsbury Programme will hopefully continue to run in future years.

**Lessons Learnt**

- co-ordination of projects and agencies at a strategic level is essential
- synergy and alignment of projects can significantly add value
- development of impact measures from the outset and over time

**Other Comments**

## **Project: Local Nature Reserves Project**

### **Project Description & Area to be delivered**

Development of Kingsbury Linear Park site as a Local Nature Reserve with an associated 'Friends of' group which will have the chance to decide on how their green space is developed and managed. Opportunities for volunteering will also be developed and young people will be able to work towards the John Muir environmental award scheme.

### **Progress to Date**

Project team and partners identified:

Project Team:

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Groundwork Coventry & Warwickshire, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

Other partners:

Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, Revolve, North Warwickshire & Hinckley College, Warwickshire Butterfly Conservation Group.

Project Plan and timescales agreed

Stage 1 funding bid drafted – to be submitted by March 2009

Consultation and stage 2 funding bid at planning stage

### **Outputs Achieved**

1. Project Team and Key Partners identified.
2. Project plan agreed
3. External Funding (Stage 1) bid drafted for submission by March 2009

### **Expenditure £0**

### **Publicity**

**A communications plan for the project has been drafted. Consultation will begin in March 2009. Residents living around the sites will be leafleted with information about the project and an opportunity to feedback. On site surveying will be carried out at larger sites (Cole End, Abbey Green) to determine views of existing users.**

Further publicity is planned if the stage 2 funding bid is successful.

<p><b>Sustainability of Project</b>  Additional funding will supply support for 3 years. Support will continue via the Borough Council's Community Development Officer (Environment). Play Ranger training will be offered as part of the wider project – this will allow members of the community to deliver activities after funding has ended.</p>
<p><b>Lessons Learnt</b></p>
<p><b>Other Comments</b></p>

## **Project: Community Consultants Project**

<p><b>Project Description &amp; Area to be delivered</b></p>
<p>Delivery of a 10 week training course for 15-20 community members and one Master Class for 15-20 practitioners in Kingsbury to help local people to have the skills and self confidence to influence local decision making processes.</p>
<p><b>Progress to Date</b>  Currently recruiting for a Project Officer, project will commence upon appointment of this post.</p>
<p><b>Outputs Achieved</b></p>
<p><b>Expenditure £0</b></p>
<p><b>Publicity</b></p>
<p><b>Sustainability of Project</b></p>
<p><b>Lessons Learnt</b></p>
<p><b>Other Comments</b></p>

## **Project: Debt Advice Project**

### **Project Description & Area to be delivered**

Employment of one full time worker who will provide face-to-face debt advice to residents from across North Warwickshire who are experiencing multiple debt problems.

### **Progress to Date**

Money Advisor appointed 12.1.2009

Bankruptcy **2**

Fraud **1**

Housing arrears **5**

1 eviction prevented

IVA **1**

Other debt **6**

Priority debt £17000

Non priority debt £275000

**4** cases have been closed

### **Outputs Achieved**

See above

**Expenditure £3520**

### **Publicity**

Front page article in Atherstone Herald January 2009. We will issue further release/releases throughout the year.

We are working with Warwickshire Trading Standards on a newspaper feature as follows- in desperate times don't take desperate measures.

### **Sustainability of Project**

We will identify suitable funding opportunities as they arise. I am currently applying for a short extension to the project from the Wellbeing Fund.

### **Lessons Learnt**

### **Other Comments**



## **Project: Rural Housing Enabler in North Warwickshire**

### **Project Description & Area to be delivered**

Facilitation of the development of affordable homes to meet housing needs within rural communities.

### **Progress to Date**

#### Quarter 1 ; 1 July 2008 – 30 September 2008

Meetings with Parish Councils ;Polesworth Parish Council (Warton) 2 July 2008, Nether Whitacre Parish Council 21 July 2008  
Housing Needs Surveys undertaken ; Curdworth July 2008, Arley August 2008

#### Quarter 2 ; 1 October 2008 – 31 December 2008 (to date)

Meetings with Parish Councils ; Fillongley Parish Council 16 October 2008  
Housing Needs Surveys undertaken ; Middleton October 2008, Warton November 2008, Nether Whitacre December 2008  
Site Canvassing undertaken ; Ansley ongoing  
Possible Development Sites identified ; Owners of 2 sites in Ansley expressed interest in considering selling land

### **Outputs Achieved**

See above.

### **Expenditure £8,494**

### **Publicity**

Letters have been written to all parish councils in North Warwickshire.

### **Sustainability of Project**

We are considering a variety of options including approaching other funders including NWBC and also asking RSLs for an increased contribution and charging parish councils.

### **Lessons Learnt**

### **Other Comments**

## Update from the Rugby LSP

### 1 Introduction & Context

- 1.1 The Public Service Board (PSB) at its meeting on 12th March 2008 agreed that a total of £800,000 be allocated to LSP's in 2008/09 in respect of the 'Narrowing the Gaps' agenda subject to approval by the PSB, of an appropriate spending / action plan.
- 1.2 A total of £100,000 was awarded to the Rugby LSP at the meeting of the PSB in September 2008. A condition of the allocation is the reporting of progress at 6 months and 12 months. This report is a 6 month update report on agreed targets.

### 2 Rugby LSP Approach

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 30th June 08 the LSP board considered 16 initial project proposals that had been identified through the theme groups. From those 16 proposals the board identified 8 projects to be investigated / developed further. The final action plan (appendix1) was approved by the LSP board at its meeting on 26th August 08. A copy of Rugby LSP Narrowing the Gaps Action Plan 2008/09 is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 2.2 The plan provides funding support to four projects totalling £100,000. The projects are:

#### ***Fresh Start***

A reduction in those resettled as survivors of domestic and sexual violence returning to the cycle of abuse through practical and holistic support for the whole family

#### ***Community Development***

The enhancement of Community Development in the priority neighbourhoods of the Borough.

#### ***Evolution***

Diversions activities and training/employment opportunities for young people at risk of offending

#### ***Financial Inclusion***

Financial advice and guidance to reduce the debt spiral.

- 2.3 Though the four projects contain their own distinct outcomes, they shall work together to reduce duplication of effort and maximise benefit for the community. There have been several meetings of the delivery organisations during which opportunities for joint working have been explored and where appropriate, acted on.

2.3 Due to a delay in the allocation of funding, the projects start dates were put back until January 2009. All projects have now recruited staff where necessary and have begun project delivery

### **3 Project Progress**

#### 3.1 Community Development

A Community Development Worker has now been recruited to the post and has begun a comprehensive mapping exercise of the Benn and Newbold Wards of the Borough.

This mapping exercise will allow a greater understanding of the sub-ward inequalities which exist, with particular reference to the Narrowing the Gaps Indicators.

Initial contact has been made with local Community Centres, Childrens Centre, Extended Schools Cluster Co-ordinators, Rugby Credit Union, the Safer Neighbourhoods team and Warwickshire Cava to develop an approach to improving access to services for the residents of the wards.

Work has begun to build on small groups of committed residents, with the aim of forming fully functioning residents association for the area.

#### 3.2 Fresh Start

A Project Officer has now been recruited to the post and will shortly begin delivery against the project outcomes.

#### 3.3 Evolution

Due to the re-allocation of an existing member of staff, the project has been able to deliver many positive outcomes over the first three months of delivery. The project is currently working with 16 Young People, of which

- 06 are school age and attending the Project - at risk or been excluded
- 11 are young offenders
- 10 have statements of 'special educational needs'
- 5 are unemployed
- 2 are engaged in casual work
- 1 is attending part time college

- 1 has long term health disabilities
- 2 are Local Authority Looked After young people

Outcomes to date have included:

- 16 young people developed ICT skills through using the internet
- 14 young people took part in sports activities
- 10 young people took part in enterprise activities
- 6 young people attended an awareness raising session led by an Entry to Employment provider
- 4 young people began work on pre-vocational qualifications (Edexcel ICT)
- 1 young person achieved their ASDAN Silver qualification
- 3 young people were helped into temporary employment
- 3 young people received intensive support and advocacy through work with the whole family
- 7 young people completed individual action plans
- 1 young person engaged in driving theory workshop
- 1 young person recruited as a peer mentor

#### 3.4 Financial Inclusion

The Credit Union has been able to expand it's work and focus on engaging residents from the areas of the Borough experiencing the greatest levels of inequalities.

Workshops have been delivered in partnership with Community Development Workers in the wards of Overslade, Benn and Newbold. Work will now begin to widen the reach of the Credit Union with a particular focus on the wards of Brownsover and New Bilton.

#### 4 Conclusion

Though delivery of the Rugby projects has been delayed, significant progress has been in the delivery of outcomes relating to all projects.

The projects will continue to work together to ensure that the gaps in Rugby are indeed narrowed and the value for money is achieved.

A further progress report will be produced in 6 months time, giving details of continuation of the projects beyond the life cycle of the current project plan and details of any lessons learnt.

## Rugby LSP-Narrowing the Gaps Action Plan 2008/09

The Rugby Local Strategic Partnership propose the following project for the allocation of £100,000 to address the Narrowing the Gaps agenda. The project comprises of 4 key areas of work:

1. The enhancement of Community Development in the priority neighbourhoods of the Borough
2. A reduction in the recurrence of domestic violence in the Borough
3. Diversionary activities and training/employment opportunities for young people at risk of offending
4. Financial advice and guidance to reduce the debt spiral

The four key areas of work will function together to ensure that those experiencing the greatest inequalities are able to access services and provision to enable them to raise their quality of life and participate fully in community life. Identifying areas of commonality has been key to the development of this project and it is anticipated that further areas for joint work will emerge as the project develops. This will provide added value to the work undertaken and ensure beneficiaries receive a holistic approach to the issues they face.

An underpinning theme of the project is to increase community empowerment through volunteering, increased civic participation and an increase in the number of people who feel they can influence decision making in their locality. Rugby currently ranks 5<sup>th</sup> out of the five Boroughs of Warwickshire with regard to this indicator.

Though the project has a Borough wide remit, work will be focussed around the Boroughs 'target neighbourhoods' of Brownsover, Benn, Newbold, New Bilton and Overslade to enable resources to be directed towards those experiencing the greatest inequalities.

The project has been endorsed by the LSP Board and its 6 theme groups. The theme groups will provide support to the projects, ensuring that by working together, their impact is maximised. The LSP Board will monitor and evaluate the project against outcomes to ensure that value for money is achieved.

Measurable outcomes will be recorded and reported through service user feedback, project statistics and statistics from partner organisations/ service providers within the Borough.

The project will be funded to run for one year from November 2008 to November 2009.

The following table shows the Narrowing the Gap indicators as agreed by the Warwickshire Public Service Board.

NI No	LAA Theme	Description
75	<i>Children &amp; Young People</i>	<i>5 + GCSEs A* - C or equivalent including Maths and English</i>
116	<i>Children &amp; Young People</i>	<i>Proportion of children in poverty</i>
117	<i>Children &amp; Young People</i>	<i>16-18 year olds who are Not in Education Employment or Training</i>
15	<i>Safer</i>	<i>Serious Violent Crime (inc Domestic Violence)</i>
16	<i>Safer</i>	<i>Serious Acquisitive Crime</i>
21	<i>Safer</i>	<i>Dealing with local concerns about anti social behaviour and crime by the local council and the police</i>
4	<i>Stronger</i>	<i>% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality</i>
1	<i>Stronger</i>	<i>% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area</i>
120	<i>HCOP</i>	<i>All age all cause mortality</i>
152	<i>Economic Development &amp; Enterprise</i>	<i>Working age population on out of work benefits</i>
163	<i>Economic Development &amp; Enterprise</i>	<i>Working age population with Level 2 qualification</i>
166	<i>Economic Development &amp; Enterprise</i>	<i>Average earnings of employees in the area</i>
175	<i>Economic Development &amp; Enterprise</i>	<i>Access to services and facilities by public transport walking &amp; cycling</i>
195	<i>Climate Change &amp; the Environment</i>	<i>Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter detritus and fly posting</i>

Project Description	Lead Officer	NTG Indicator(s)	Costs	Risks	Exit Strategy	Outcomes
<p><b>Fresh Start</b></p> <p>This project intends to utilise the expertise and resources of all partners to deliver a service that supports families resettling as survivors of domestic violence or sexual violence to sustain their tenancies and integrate themselves and their children into the community</p> <p>There is further evidence that the children of in these families are delayed in their social and academic development, the project will support reducing these gaps</p> <p>Current levels of 'floating support' are inadequate to support the needs of the victims of domestic abuse, which can in turn lead to them returning to violent partners.</p> <p>Current funding does not enable any support to be given to male referrals, this project will enable support to be offered to male and female victims.</p>	Teri Watts (WDVSS)	NI 116, 117, 15, 16, 21, 4, 1,152 and 163	£35,000	<p>Volunteer co-ordinator not recruited</p> <p>Volunteer Mentors not recruited</p> <p>Programme becomes over-subscribed</p>	<p>The project and evidence gained will form the basis of a bid to continue the project beyond the current funding.</p> <p>By working in a more cohesive way with the other partner organisations, and volunteer recruitment and training, it is hoped that elements of the project will continue without further funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer Co-ordinator recruited</li> <li>• 7 Volunteer Mentors recruited</li> <li>• 7 Volunteer Mentors fully trained to provide support</li> <li>• 20 families supported</li> <li>• Reduction in re-offending rates</li> <li>• Increase in the uptake of benefits</li> <li>• Meetings/drop in sessions delivered in a range of Community Venues</li> <li>• Referrals made to partner organisations and other service providers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Development</b></p> <p>This project aims to extend</p>	Dan Green (WCC)	NI 175, 21, 4 and 1	£35,000	Recruitment to a one year provision.	Work with Warwickshire CAVA to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit 10 key volunteers in the Benn ward.</li> </ul>

Project Description	Lead Officer	NTG Indicator(s)	Costs	Risks	Exit Strategy	Outcomes
<p>current Community Development provision (Overslade, New Bilton and Brownsover) to the remaining 2 targeted Neighbourhoods within the Borough (Benn and Newbold). Service providers from many disciplines currently view community development workers as a route into the hardest to reach communities in the Borough.</p> <p>The Community Development Officer will work imaginatively to encourage local people to get involved in community life. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging people to get involved in plans to improve the area</li> <li>• Encouraging and supporting people to volunteer in a range of local activities - sustaining, supporting and building on existing volunteer networks</li> <li>• Supporting the development of local initiatives</li> <li>• Helping groups to access funding</li> <li>• Helping individuals and groups access appropriate training</li> </ul>				Unable to recruit volunteers	<p>establish a network of 'Community Anchors' to continue work beyond current funding.</p> <p>Work with partner agencies to develop a co-ordinated plan and funding package for Community Development in the Borough from September 2009 onwards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit 10 key volunteers in the Newbold ward</li> <li>• Improve attendance at the Rugby Town North Community Forum by 15%</li> <li>• Develop a 'Locality Plan' for the Rugby Town North locality (ensuring citizen engagement in all stages of the planning process)</li> <li>• Assist in the development 4 additional Residents Groups</li> <li>• Broker closer working arrangements between partner organisations, elected members and</li> </ul>



Project Description	Lead Officer	NTG Indicator(s)	Costs	Risks	Exit Strategy	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CDO will be responsible for ensuring that local residents and community activists are empowered within decision-making structures. Liaison with Elected Members will be vital in this regard.</li> <li>• The Officer will encourage people to engage in health improvement activity which will in turn contribute towards reducing the gaps experienced in health inequalities.</li> </ul>						<p>the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish mechanisms for residents to access 5 additional services (outreach work, drop in sessions etc.)</li> <li>• Deliver 3 Community events in each ward</li> <li>• Provide additional support to individuals referred by WDVSS Fresh Start project</li> <li>• Refer individuals to Financial Inclusion Project and Evolution as appropriate</li> <li>• Engage community with preventative care services, social care services and</li> </ul>

Project Description	Lead Officer	NTG Indicator(s)	Costs	Risks	Exit Strategy	Outcomes
						healthcare provide services specific to local needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents experience:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased Community cohesion</li> <li>- Reduced fear of crime</li> <li>- Reduced anti social behaviour</li> <li>- Reduced isolation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Evolution</b></p> <p>This project focuses on young people at risk of social and educational disengagement and in particular, although not exclusively, young people at risk of offending, or who are prolific offenders, living on or near the Overslade Estate, New Bilton, Benn and Newbold.</p> <p>Critical components of the success of the project include:</p> <p>That it is completely voluntary for</p>	Lita Thornhill (connexions)	116, 117, 15, 16, 21, 4, 1, 152, 163, 175	£20,000	Volunteer Mentors not recruited	The project and evidence gained will form the basis of a bid to continue the project beyond the current funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment of 2 peer mentors</li> <li>• 25 NEETs referred to the project</li> <li>• Individual 'tailored' action plan developed for each young person referred to the scheme</li> <li>• 25 action plans followed and</li> </ul>

Project Description	Lead Officer	NTG Indicator(s)	Costs	Risks	Exit Strategy	Outcomes
<p>young people. That Peer Mentors known to the participants are part of the support team. That participants are involved in design, delivery and evaluation. Long standing relationships between the key worker and young people and their families. Work with the whole family where appropriate. Meaningful inter-agency working, particularly with the Youth Offending Service.</p>						<p>evaluated at exit stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% of referrals progressing on to educational programmes or employment</li> <li>• Additional support provided to young people who's parents are coming out of a domestic abuse situation</li> <li>• Referral to regular volunteering opportunities through Community Development Worker network</li> </ul>
<p>Financial Inclusion</p> <p><b>The Financial Inclusion Project will operate in community settings or</b></p>	Clare Montague (WCAVA)	NI 116, 117, 15, 4, 1, 152, 166	£10,000	Not able to recruit Volunteers.	Working closely with WVAVA volunteer centre on recruitment and good practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 Volunteer mentors recruited to support staff member</li> <li>• 10 awareness</li> </ul>

Project Description	Lead Officer	NTG Indicator(s)	Costs	Risks	Exit Strategy	Outcomes
<p>from our town centre office. Identifying families at risk by working with partner agencies and then working with those families in raising financial awareness through early intervention activities, initiatives and toolkits. For example; changing attitudes and behaviour to money and debt, doing things differently, exploring why people get into debt, planning ahead, increasing knowledge and skills, motivation and confidence.</p> <p>We would also recruit volunteer mentors across Rugby Borough in partnership with WCAVA Volunteer Centre to support the staff member in the delivery of the Financial Inclusion project.</p>						<p>raising presentations to community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 beneficiaries:</li> <li>• Fewer families borrowing from traditional doorstep lenders</li> <li>• Increase in families having some savings provision</li> <li>• Increase in confidence around managing money and feeling able to make the right financial choices and decisions</li> <li>• Increase in volunteer mentors</li> </ul>

## Update from Warwick LSP

### 1 Introduction & Context

- 1.1 The Public Service Board (PSB) at its meeting on 12th March 2008 agreed that a total of £800,000 be allocated to LSP's in 2008/09 in respect of the 'Narrowing the Gaps' agenda subject to approval by the PSB, of an appropriate spending / action plan.
- 1.2 A total of £100,000 was awarded to the Warwick LSP at the meeting of the PSB in September 2008. A condition of the allocation is the reporting of progress at 6 months and 12 months. This report is a 6 month update report on agreed targets.

### 2 The Warwick LSP Action Plan-Progress

- 2.2 The action plan comprises the following projects as agreed by the Warwick Partnership Executive Group in July 2008:-
  - 2.1.1 **Hybrid Arts: NTG Funding Allocation = £30,000**  
**Access to training and income maximisation for young people**  
**Aims of project:**  
To give young people a safe, constructive environment in which to develop and to give them the opportunity to progress into enterprise activity, peer support and volunteering involving inter-generational projects.
  - 2.1.2 **Warwickshire Primary Care Trust: NTG Funding Allocation = £11,650**  
**Tackling obesity**  
**Aims of project:**  
A solution focused programme involving families with overweight and obese children to help them gain knowledge and skills to embed healthier lifestyle habits and messages.

**2.1.3 Brunswick Enterprise Zone: NTG Funding Allocation = £33,059**

**Community Enterprise Officer**

**Aims of project:**

The new post of Community Enterprise Officer, an essential part of the delivery of the Brunswick Enterprise Zone project, will enable work to be extended to other communities in Warwick District where there are inequalities of opportunity and income.

**2.1.4 Warwick District Council Housing Advice = £10,275**

**Parish planning & rural enabling**

**Aims of project:**

Provide support, advice and information to parishes across the district to assist in addressing local issues, including the implementation of their action plans dealing with anything from highways to housing. Identifying housing need via parish planning and housing needs surveys and facilitate the provision of housing through Rural Exception Policy, identification of potential sites and aid in the identification of a Registered Social Landlord who can then bid for funding to develop the scheme.

**2.1.5 Mediation and Community Support Ltd. = £13,400**

**Housing Mediation Service**

**Aims of project:**

To provide a constructive conflict resolution service to those in dispute, particularly targeting young people facing immediate or future homelessness because of family disputes.

**2.1.6 Warwick District Council Leisure Facilities = £1,902.00**

**Swimming Lesson Programme for Asian Ladies**

**Aims of project:**

To create opportunities for women from the black and minority ethnic communities within the district to learn to swim and benefit from regular physical activity. To address the underlying issues for Type 2 Diabetes in this population group.

3.2 Progress against agreed targets for each project is detailed in Appendix 1. However the Public Service Board should note the following:-

2.2.1 Due to a delay in the allocation of funding, the project start dates were put back until January 2009, with the exception of Hybrid Arts.

2.2.2 The post of Community Enterprise Officer has been re-advertised as a suitable applicant was not found at the first attempt.

2.2.3 The start of the Swimming Programme for Asian Ladies has been delayed due to staffing shortages at St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre, Warwick.

### **3 Conclusion**

- 3.1 Despite delay in the commencement of the projects, significant progress has been made already in the delivery of outcomes as detailed in Appendix C1.
- 3.2 A further report will be produced in 6 months time at which point there will be clear evidence detailing how the projects are contributing towards narrowing the gaps in the key areas of health, housing and economy and skills across the district.
- 3.3 Consideration will also be given as to how the projects will be sustained in the long term.

## Narrowing the Gap 2008/09-Progress to Date – Date



Narrow the Gap 2008/09  
Progress to Date – Date



Project (Description/Areas to be delivered)
Hybrid:arts Access to training and income maximisation for young people

The project is based at Hybrid:arts Indestructible Music Club in Leamington Spa, the facilities are designed to create a safe place for young people to meet, participate in music rehearsal, digital music production and performance. Traditionally young people / musicians would gather together depending on which genre of music they are interested in, influenced by the cultural background of the individual and their family. Indestructible Music Club has created a 'scene' that is above cultural separation and actively encourages cross cultural co-operation, tolerance and collaboration.

Narrowing the Gap project is currently 90% on or above its set targets and is currently set to meet and surpass targets by March 09

Outcomes/Targets	Progress at 4months (inc. Key outputs)
Short term aim – to give young people a safe, constructive environment in which to develop	The music environment is proving to be a real draw for young people – they feel comfortable and safe and this leads to them feeling at ease with each other and helps to create a constructive atmosphere.
Medium term aim – to give young people the opportunity of progressing into enterprise activity, peer support and volunteering involving inter-generational community projects	Young musicians helped to complete successful funding proposal for new equipment. Participants are planning their own concerts and DJ nights. Participants are producing quality music products to sell in shops and at market stalls. Producing merchandising materials to sell at gigs. Young bands are encouraged to set up gigs at a variety of different venues, charging at the door means they will earn an income doing this.
Specific targets: Numbers of young people attending over the course of the project. 50 aged 11 – 16 yrs 10 aged 17 – 18 yrs	There are 70 participants regularly engaged in positive activities from recording to marketing their music. This is predominantly 15 to 16 year olds with the majority being 15. The youngest age range yet (5 aged 9-11 yrs) is yet to reach target



5 aged 19 – 25 yrs 5 aged 9 – 11 yrs	and this is being addressed by setting up a specific activity in partnership with Primary Schools and the PRU. There are 10 in the 19 to 25 yr old category and this is 100% more than the target
15 young people to gain nationally recognised accredited unit in for e.g. events management, financial literacy, marketing music or web design	25 young people have signed up to take the NCFE Level 1 Qualification in Exploring Enterprise Capabilities. This is 10 more than set in the targets. The qualifications will have been completed by 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2009.
15 adults continue to remain involved in project	Volunteering predominantly takes the form of parents helping to supervise concert performances. We have reached the target of 15 committed to helping at concerts. This is something that some of them indicated that they would be prepared to do as an ongoing duty to help us sustain the activities into the future. Other volunteering has included help from a recently graduated digital artist sharing skills in graphic design for participants wishing to make a professional looking CD or other merchandise.
Audiences attending the community celebration events up to 160 people of all ages x 4 events per year	69 attended the first performance event in early November and 165 people attended the performance in December, this number is set to grow as more young people are enquiring about participating. These events are quite unique as they bring together young people and adults from different cultural backgrounds.

### Additional comments

The project has supported young people at risk of social exclusion, some at risk of anti social behaviour, and young musicians that would normally not have an outlet for their music by providing resources for them to express themselves and to see their ideas become products.

A major achievement of the project is to overcome some of the barriers in society between those known as 'chavs' and 'punks'. A few years ago these young people would definitely not mix in a musical scene or in public in general. When they did mix the result would often be deliberate antagonism and sometimes a violent outburst.

During Narrowing the Gap we have noticed a growing tolerance between these two groups and there are cases where they are collaborating musically.

We are proud of this achievement and it is something we are keen to continue to develop. This is just one of the elements of a project that has a real positive impact on society in general as the young people take to the streets with a more positive attitude to their peers and themselves.

There is a new excitement amongst some of the participants, that they can actually plan their own activities such as a concert and reward themselves by doing so.

By joining in this process the young people attain awareness of financial planning, logistics, hosting and health & safety. This is a positive outcome with long term benefits because participants will be seen by others as having the confidence to make decisions, put them into action and benefit from their endeavours.

*“this is a fantastic project, it gives young people the chance to experience and participate in live music and to access professional facilities and equipment” Mr Durrant – parent volunteer.*

*“its great to have a place for under 18's to enjoy making music because they're excluded from most premises where adults go. It's brilliant that they can rehearse for free because most of the kids have no money” Ms Kwasnik parent volunteer.*

**Narrowing the Gap 2008/09**  
**Progress to Date – Date**

<b>Project (Description/Areas to be delivered)</b>	
Ladies Asian Swimming	
<b>Outcomes/Targets</b>	<b>Progress at 6 months/End Project (incl. Key outputs)</b>
Angela Liu has made some progress towards developing interest from the Asian community. Project ready to start after Easter holidays.	Recruiting instructor due to start Easter 2009. Staff turn around at site has made it difficult to recruit.
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Nil at present	

Complete for every project activity

**Narrowing the Gap 2008/09**  
**Progress to Date – Date**

<b>Project (Description/Areas to be delivered)</b>
Funding from the “Narrowing the Gap” fund will enable the new post of Community Enterprise Officer, an essential part of the delivery of the Brunswick Enterprise Zone project, to be increased from one part-time (0.5fte) officer to equivalent of 2 part-time (1.0 FTE) officers, enabling the work to be extended to other communities in Warwick District where there are inequalities of opportunity and income.

<b>Outcomes/Targets</b>	<b>Progress at 6 months/End Project (incl. Key outputs)</b>
<b>Annual figures (no. people):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessing Business Link training modules: 10</li> <li>• Attending events focused on enterprise creation: 50</li> <li>• Attending events designed to promote and improve understanding of social enterprise: 20</li> <li>• Young people accessing the project: 15</li> <li>• Women: 15</li> <li>• BME: 15</li> </ul>	NIL for all targets – see comment below.  WDC were unsuccessful in finding a suitable candidate for this new post which was advertised last autumn.  The two part time posts are currently being re-advertised as one full time post on a fixed term 2 year contract with a view to a suitable candidate being appointed by April 09. Closing date for applications 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb 09. Interviews 11 <sup>th</sup> March 09. Outputs to commence May 09 onwards.
<b>Expenditure</b> NIL	

<p><b>Project (Description/Areas to be delivered)</b></p> <p>Provide support, advice and information to parishes across the district to assist in addressing local issues including the implementation of their action plans dealing with anything from highways to housing.</p> <p>Identifying housing need via parish planning and housing needs surveys and facilitate the provision of housing through Rural Exception Policy, identification of potential sites and aid in the identification of a Registered Social Landlord who can then bid for funding to develop the scheme</p>
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<b>Outcomes/Targets</b>	<b>Progress at 6 months/End Project (incl. Key outputs)</b>
3 housing needs surveys undertaken	Housing needs surveys have been carried out in Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton. In addition meetings have been held with a further 2 parish councils with a view to their undertaking a HNS and meetings are arranged with another 5 parish councils. Baginton are in contact regarding undertaking a site canvassing exercise.
3 parish plans commenced	Offchurch and Beausale have commenced parish plans and preliminary discussions have been held with Lapworth, who have agreed to hold a public meeting to gauge interest in a plan.
<b>Expenditure: £3,425</b>	

Complete for every project activity

**Narrowing the Gap 2008/09**  
**Progress to Date – Period 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2008 – 31 Jan 2009**

<b>Project (Description/Areas to be delivered) Housing Mediation Service</b>
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<b>Outcomes/Targets</b>	<b>Progress at 4 months/End Project (incl. Key outputs)</b>
23 Referrals of young people 13 -25 and their families Target pro rata 33 referrals	23 cases received
Percent positive outcome 48% perceived as positive Baseline 33% positive	48% perceived positive outcomes
Percentage female 74% Baseline 71%	71% female clients
Percentage Single Parent Family 60% (Baseline 58%) Of which 64% female clients from Single Parent Households 50% male clients from Single Parent Households	60% from single parent households
<b>Expenditure</b> £ 4,466 for period, total budget for year £13,400	

Complete for every project activity