

Gloucester Partnership Update

July 2008

Welcome to the third edition of the Gloucester Partnership Update providing the latest information on what's happening in the Partnership, partner news, knowledge and training.

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Gloucester JobLink Project Final Report Published



Gloucester JobLink was a one-year action research pilot for the Gloucester City Employment and Skills Plan, backed by SWRDA, DWP, and local partners. It arose from one of the key economic aims in the previous Community Strategy, 'Our Gloucester - Our Future'.

The project focused on the "hidden workforce" (those who are economically inactive, unemployed and/or benefit claimants or underemployed) in Westgate, Barton and Tredworth and White City. It successfully used community engagement activities and community learning champions (CLCs) to reconnect people with skills development and the local job market. Its findings also support further interventions through Community Counts, CLCs and the Westgate Community Trust's Four Gates Centre.

The final report highlights makes recommendations around partnership working, employer facing work, and learning, training and job-seeking support provision. The community engagement activities have been absorbed into the City Employment & Skills Plan, details of which can be found on the www.glosfirst.co.uk website.

To download an executive summary or full copy of the report please visit the latest news section on the Gloucester Partnership's homepage www.gloucesterpartnership.org.uk

Jenny Hall Moves On To Pastures New

After 15 months of working with the Gloucester Partnership, Jenny has now left the Gloucester City Council to start work at a Research Council in Swindon. Jenny said, "I have enjoyed my time working with the Gloucester Partnership and will miss seeing how the Partnership continues to develop and deliver the Sustainable Community Strategy. Thank you to all of you who have supported me in my role; your help has been invaluable both to me and the Partnership". Any administrative enquiries about the Partnership can be directed to Mary Little mary.little@gloucester.gov.uk 01452 396976. Any other queries can be directed towards Francis Gobey, francisg@gloucester.gov.uk 01452 396995.

Simplifying the Business Support Programme

Government Office South West and the South West of England Regional Development Agency are in the middle of developing a plan to simplify business support schemes across the region. Phase 1 of the Plan developed a process of the transition and audited the business support schemes supported by SWRDA and top tier authorities. The second Phase involves auditing the schemes supported by district authorities. For more information please visit www.gloucesterpartnership.org.uk

EXECUTIVE AND THEMATIC GROUP UPDATES

Executive

- Thematic sub-groups began reporting back to the Executive at the May meeting. The first groups to report were the Children and Young People Action Group and the Healthy City Partnership. Partners were keen to find out and understand what the groups had been working on. All future meetings of the Executive will include regular reports from the sub-groups.
- The Executive decided to use the remaining Second Homes money for the Tall Ships Festival, later on this year.
- At their next meeting (July) the Executive will be deciding on a proposal to commission the Proofing and Reference Group to proof each of the thematic action plans; and having a focused discussion on community cohesion.

Healthy City Partnership

- At their latest meeting, the Partnership discussed a proposal to investigate community services provision for vulnerable people in Gloucester and identify possible partnership working opportunities. The Partnership thought it was a good idea and asked Toni Drinan, Gloucester City Council to develop a multi-agency referral questionnaire; and decided to pass on the proposal to the County Health and Wellbeing Partnership.
- The Healthy City Partnership received an interesting presentation on the work of Gloucestershire Highways in developing School Travel Plans. The Partnership discussed how they could support this work and considered the links with wider walking, cycling and public transport issues.
- Physical activity actions from the action plan are happening across the city. 16 people attended a StreetCheer leaders course. StreetCheer combines street dance and cheerleading techniques. All the leaders will now go and deliver StreetCheer sessions in their community for young people, culminating in a Festival in the New Year.

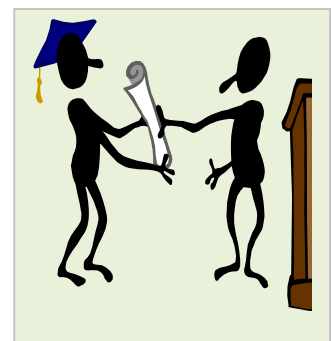
Westgate Priority Action Group

- At their last meeting, the group discussed possible measures for assessing the impact of regeneration in Gloucester
- The Group had a successful stand at the Future of the City Event in May 2008 where residents had the opportunity to comment on their views of the regeneration in Gloucester and what they would like to see.
- At their next meeting (July) they will be discussing a Transport Strategy for Gloucester.

Free Training

The Gloucester Partnership is a member of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) and as part of our membership we receive a number of free places on their training courses. If you are interested in attending a course that would benefit you and the Partnership, please contact Mary Little, 01452 396976, mary.little@gloucester.gov.uk To keep up to date with forthcoming training/events please visit www.cles.org.uk

- **Introduction to Local Economic Development**
- **Introduction to Strategy Building**
- **Introduction to Project Management**
- **Successfully Evaluating Programmes and Projects**
- **Introduction to Public Policy**



Don't have internet access?

If you don't have access to the internet then please contact us and we will be able to send you hard copies of any further information you require. Contact: Mary Little, 01452 396983

Dates for Your Diary

Below is a calendar of upcoming meetings and events for July, August and September. If you would like more information on a meeting or event please contact Mary Little, contact details below (unless contact details are given).

Month	Timing	Description	Location
July			
Tues 1 st	12.00 – 2.00pm	Children & Young People’s Action Group	Kingsholm Play Ranger Tent
Thurs 10 th	1.00pm – 4.00pm	Westgate PAG Quarterly Meeting	Gloucestershire Housing Association, Brunswick Road, Gloucester
Fri 18 th	9.15am	Executive Meeting	Oxstalls Tennis Centre
Tues 22 nd	6.30pm	Four Gates Working Group	North Warehouse
Wed 30 th		Gloucester Youth Movement Youth Day ‘Get Active – Get Involved’ (Contact Sarah Gilbert 01452 396285 email sarah.gilbert@gloucester.gov.uk)	Gloucester Park
Aug			
Mon 11 th	2.00-4.00pm	Stronger Communities Group Meeting	Gloucestershire Resource Centre, City Works, Alfred Street, Gloucester
Thurs 21 st	2.00pm	Executive Support Group Meeting	Phillpotts Warehouse
Sept			
Fri 19 th	9.15am	Executive Meeting	Oxstalls Tennis Centre
Tues 23 rd	6.30pm	Four Gates Working Group	North Warehouse

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Ashley Green, Gloucester Partnership Executive (Housing)

Ashley joined Gloucester City Council in 1977 and has seen many changes in Local Government during this time. Having moved to South Gloucestershire in the early 1980’s he returned to Gloucester in 1984 and became Head of Revenues and Benefits in 1993, overseeing the introduction of Council Tax and Housing Benefit changes. He was part of the team that also introduced the Community Charge (Poll Tax) in 1990 and remembers the hoards of “can’t pay, won’t pay” residents of Gloucester during the 3 years.



Ashley Green

In 2003, Ashley became responsible for Housing Management services as well as managing Revenues and Benefits, ultimately becoming Head of Housing in May 2004. In July 2004, the Tenants of Gloucester agreed to set up Gloucester City Homes Limited (GCH) an Arms Length Management Organisation and non-profit making company whose only shareholder is the Council. A move totally supported by the Council. The next two years were spent on setting up the Company and driving a service improvement programme to improve outcomes for tenants. In June 2007, GCH achieved a two star rating from the Audit Commission, designating the service as a good one with promising prospects for improvement. This meant that GCH unlocked £38.6 million to spend on tenants homes and community over the next 3 - 4 years.

It has been a roller coaster ride and also a fantastic achievement on behalf of everyone associated with GCH, particularly our tenants. GCH is able to play a major role in shaping services and places within Gloucester, often where there are the highest levels of deprivation. The next few years will be exciting times in the City and GCH sees this as a fantastic opportunity to work with the Gloucester Partnership to improve the lives and communities of the residents of Gloucester.

Not only are we able to invest around £9,000 per dwelling on average, GCH are able to improve environmental features by improving energy efficiency and water saving devices like dual flush systems. At the same time GCH makes a massive difference to people lives in a number of ways through creating safe and peaceful communities through robust anti-social behaviour intervention and support through to providing community grants through its community cohesion strategy, by way of examples.

Ashley is professionally qualified and holds a postgraduate management qualification. He is married with two children and was born and lives in Gloucester.

Knowledge

"Keeping you informed of the latest developments in partnership working and creating sustainable communities"

Engagement – Sustainable Development Commission

The Sustainable Development Commission, the Government's independent advisory body on sustainable development have developed a section of their website on engagement. You can find toolkits, guidance and case studies on how to engage effectively.

www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/engagement.html

The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)

The IDeA website contains lots of useful guidance and case studies of what works in local government. Their Partnership and Places Library contains numerous case study articles on a range of topics from health to belief. Find it at:

www.idea.gov.uk/idk/laa/home.do

If you're looking for some ideas about tackling climate change through sustainable development, there is a range of case studies on the IDeA website, including using wood chips as fuel in Gloucestershire:

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=8411339>

The June edition of the Local Government Association Analysis and Research Bulletin is now available: Please visit www.gloucesterpartnership.org.uk for further details.

This month LGAARB includes links to:

- The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) study, **Designing citizen-centred governance** which examines the relationship between new governance structures and the engagement of citizens, service users and the voluntary and community sectors.
- The second wave of the LGA's **War on waste - food packaging study** which measures the levels and composition of food packaging across 29 common food items from eight retailers.
- **The cost of mental health care in England to 2026** report from the Kings Fund presents current and projected needs for mental health services and their related costs.
- The **Life in affordable housing** report from the Housing Corporation examines the kind of affordable housing that people want and highlights issues that need to be addressed to better meet the needs of tenants.

CLES BRIEFINGS

The latest paper from the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) "Making Local Food Work" includes a case study on Stroud Community Agriculture Ltd. To access the full paper please visit

www.gloucesterpartnership.org.uk

Contact Us!

We would like to hear about any news or events from your organisation that we can include in the next edition of Gloucester Partnership Update. Please contact Mary using the details below by Friday 20th June 2008. We are also keen to hear any comments you have about this newsletter:

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