

Partnership News

Issue 4 July 2008



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Welcome to Partnership News

Partnership News is the e-newsletter for the Coventry Partnership.

The aim of the newsletter is to give you a taste of the activities carried out underneath the banner of the Coventry Partnership, the city's Local Strategic Partnership that brings together the public, private, voluntary and community sectors of the city.

If you have any comments or would like to see a particular story covered, then please contact Tim Coleman on **024 7683 7143** or tim.coleman@coventrypartnership.com

New Chair for the Partnership

The Leader of Coventry City Council has been named as the new chair of the Coventry Partnership.

Cllr Ken Taylor, who has been leader of the local authority since 2004, took up the new position recently.

He replaces Les Ratcliffe, Community Relations Manager at Jaguar and Land Rover who has held the position for the last 12 months and who was recently named Business in the Community Ambassador for the West Midlands by Business in the Community president HRH Prince Charles.

The position of chair of the Coventry Partnership rotates on a yearly basis between the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Cllr Taylor has been a councillor for the Earlsdon ward in Coventry for 18 years and was also Lord Mayor of the city between 2002 and 2003.

He says, "Partnership working is something that this city does very well. The Coventry Partnership plays an important role in bringing together the different sectors of the city that all want the same thing – a city that is a great place to live and work. I look forward to being chair over the next 12 months, particularly as we work together to deliver our new Sustainable Community Strategy. After months of public consultation across Coventry and much hard work by the Coventry Partnership, this new vision



Les Ratcliffe (pictured right) hands over the reins to Cllr Ken Taylor (pictured left) outside the Council House.

document will set the course for our city for the next twenty years. I would also like to thank Les Ratcliffe for the excellent work he has carried out during his time as head of the Partnership."

Les adds: "I have known Ken for many years so I know the Coventry Partnership is in good hands. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time over the last 12 months and have many highlights including the creation of the first-ever Business Group to encourage greater private sector involvement in the Partnership. The ongoing support that the business sector can bring to the partnership will be critical as we move to a Local Area Agreement."

Coventry's first Sustainable Community Strategy signed off by Hazel Blears



The Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with new Chair of Coventry Partnership, Cllr Ken Taylor at the launch of the new SCS

Chair of the Coventry Partnership Cllr Ken Taylor and the Council's Assistant Chief Executive Jos Parry joined Hazel Blears recently at the Department for Communities and Local Government in London for the formal launch of the twenty year vision plan

for the future of Coventry. Entitled *Coventry-The Next Twenty Years*, the Sustainable Community Strategy supersedes the Community Plan and will inform the new Local Area Agreement (LAA), the blueprint under which Coventry City Council and its partners within the Coventry Partnership will shape policy and deliver services across the city over the next three years. (see below). Key organisations – such as Coventry City Council, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service, Job Centre Plus, the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses, Coventry Primary Care Trust, the Community Empowerment Network and Coventry Voluntary Services Council –



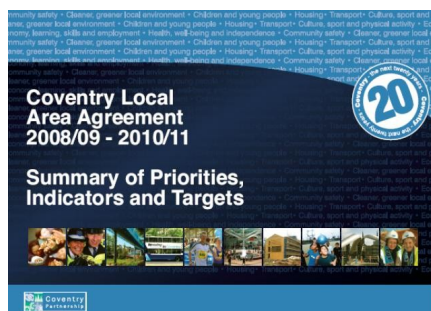
have already been invited to review the findings from an initial strategic assess-

ment of the city and have helped develop Coventry's Sustainable Community Strategy. A two-month public consultation was completed in January this year, with workshops and an online questionnaire just two of the ways people could become involved. A copy of the document can be downloaded:

<http://www.coventrypartnership.com/scs>

An update on Coventry's new Local Area Agreement

Hazel Blears says: "*The LAA is the agreement between all those who have an interest in improving services and the quality of life for local people. Negotiations have progressed well over the last few months, resulting in an excellent LAA for Coventry tackling some of the most difficult and cross-cutting challenges for the city. Your council and your partners have already shown their commitment to the agreement by signing up to the targets in the LAA. Formal approval now signals central government's commitment to the deal whilst also marking the formal end of the negotiations.*



The ideas behind the new LAA's are to:

- recognise that 'one size does not fit all' and local services should reflect what local people want;
- reduce red-tape and improve value for money;
- make local authorities and other public services more

accountable to local people; and

- enable local people to get more involved in decisions about local services.

Each LAA captures up to 35 priorities chosen from a menu of 198 indicators in the National Indicator Set, in addition to 16 statutory indicators for education and early years development, plus local priorities decided on by the Coventry Partnership.

The local priorities chosen can be found on the Coventry Partnership website;

www.coventrypartnership.com/LAA



So many people give up their time to ensure the Coventry Partnership is one of the most forward-thinking and often pioneering Local Strategic Partnerships in the country.

Welcome and Goodbye is a new feature to Partnership News to raise awareness of new members while recognising the contribution of those moving on to a new challenge.

Welcome to.....

Michael Vincent, Age Concern



Michael Vincent joins the Coventry Partnership as a new board member for the voluntary sector, as Chief Executive of Age Concern Coventry. He has a strong background in consumer products marketing and new

business development with major brands including Walls Ice Cream and H.J Heinz. He has 15 years of experience in the voluntary sector, including 8 years at Oxfam and the last four years at Age Concern Coventry.

Age Concern Coventry is a vibrant and growing local charity, whose purpose is to promote and enhance the wellbeing and quality of life of all older people in Coventry,

to help make later life a more fulfilling and enjoyable experience. He says he's pleased to have been recently elected by the voluntary sector to be one of its three representatives that are nominated through the CVSC on the Coventry Partnership, and he's been an active member of the Coventry Older People's Partnership for the past 4 years. He hopes to be able to help strengthen the links between it and the Coventry Partnership.

Goodbye to.....

A Stella performance

Coventry City Council's Chief Executive, Stella Manzie, left the Council at the end of June after nearly seven years in charge of the organisation. During her time in Coventry she led massive change, which saw the Council becoming one of the fastest improving in the country. She also played a major part in making partnership working a reality in the city. Chair of Coventry Partnership and Leader of Coventry City Council, Cllr Ken Taylor pays tribute to her contribution:



Stella Manzie says goodbye to the Coventry Partnership with incoming chair, Cllr Ken Taylor (pictured left) and outgoing chair Les Ratcliffe

"Being a chief executive of an organisation as large as the Council is a massive challenge. We have more than 17,000 employees, an annual budget of around £240million and deliver around 700 services to the people of Coventry. So there's plenty to keep you occupied if you're in charge of an organisation the size of ours.

However, Stella's energy, passion for the city and commitment meant that she also found the time to lead and support partnership working in Coventry in all its shapes and forms, and all of us who care about working together for the benefit of the city owe her a great deal."



Coventry Community Safety Partnership

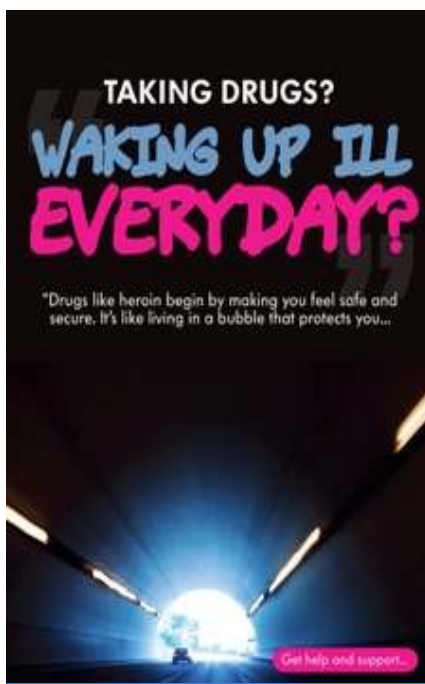
Former drug users are at the forefront of a new campaign to encourage people misusing heroin and crack to seek treatment.

Ex-clients of CDT - Coventry's specialist drug treatment centre - tell their own stories of how drug misuse and treat-



ment has affected their lives in a series of posters on city buses, phone kiosks and bus shelters. Matching postcards are also being distributed through GP surgeries and community events over the next few months.

The posters reflect the experiences of real-life clients who have battled addictions and suffered - or are still suffering - from drug-related conditions like Hepatitis C. Anyone affected by drug misuse can get help and advice from CDT by calling 0800 783 0447 or calling into 8, Ironmonger Row in the city centre. More information about local drug treatment services are available at www.safercoventry.org.uk



Housing

Pupils across the city have received lessons in life, thanks to an education project with Whitefriars Housing Group. Staff at Whitefriars have headed back to the classroom to teach young people about how they can play a positive role in society. A number of secondary schools have signed-up to the **'your life, your choice'** scheme, including Ernesford Grange Community School, Caludon Castle School and Lyng Hall School. Whitefriars has also sponsored a **'Respect'** guide which covers youth action groups people can join, how to take control of your life, staying safe and crime prevention. It also tackles issues including drugs, anti-social behaviour and bullying. Karen McDowell, who is heading up the initiative for Whitefriars, says: *"As the largest affordable housing landlord in the city we want to ensure that the communities our residents live in are pleasant and safe."*

Physical and Sensory Impairment Partnership



Hi, I'm Alison Porter and I'm the Physical and Sensory Impairment Facilitator. My role involves supporting and co-ordinating the Physical and Sensory Impairment Partnership's work and meetings. As part of this role I also make sure that everyone involved is able to fully participate by ensuring that they have the right support and information.



Each month I chair a public Reference Group meeting that is open to anyone with physical and/or sensory impairments, their carers and representatives from community and voluntary organisations. At these meetings we have discussed topics such as access to information, equalities, housing and transport. We are always looking for new members and would

particularly like to involve more carers and people from small volunteer-led organisations. You don't have to be able to attend our meetings to get involved so please contact us to discuss other ways that you could participate. The Physical and Sensory Impairment Partnership Board continues to meet every two months and brings together representatives from the Reference Groups, Community Services, the teaching Primary Care Trust, University Hospital and Housing. If you would like to find out more about the Physical and Sensory Impairment Partnership or to get involved in any way then please contact : psi.partnership@coventry.gov.uk

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP

A "Days out in Coventry" leaflet has been co-coordinated by Gary Hall, CEO of Coventry Transport Museum, highlighting the cultural attractions of the City for visitors and tourists. Gary says: *"The Chief Executives of Coventry's top ten days-out leisure venues have recently joined forces to implement a campaign to promote the City and everything it has to offer."*

What can you do in a day?



Their aim is to encourage residents and visitors to stay longer in the City by visiting more than one attraction or to take part in a variety of leisure activities. The group have also just started planning the Christmas edition which will highlight a week-long schedule of activities and events around the Christmas lights switch on (16th November) to further promote the Days Out theme so keep checking the website www.coventrydaysout.co.uk

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

Annual Data day

The Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) held its annual data day recently. Over 80 people from the different groups, boards and work-streams of the partnership attended the event at St Mary's Guildhall. A DVD presentation by children and young people kicked off the day in the most appropriate way: *"focusing on good outcomes for our children and young people."* Those involved took part in a voting exercise to help determine the key priorities for 2008/09. The top one for each of the six outcomes were as follows:

Being Healthy - Reduction in Teen Pregnancy.

Staying Safe - Improved assessment of need.

Enjoying & Achieving - Children more ready for school.

Making a positive contribution - more involvement in voluntary activities including inter-generational.

Economic Well-being - More 16-19 year olds in education, employment or training.

Having Supportive Families, Friends and Communities - Supporting vulnerable young people in their communities.

For further information please contact: Marc Harder, Programmes & Projects Manager, Children, Learning & Young People's Directorate:SS12, Civic Centre 1, Earl St, Coventry, CV1 5RS

tel: 024-7683-4337

11 Million Takeover Day

The second national 11 Million Takeover Day is scheduled for the 7th November 2008 to coincide with the climax of the National Youth Work Week 2008. Local authorities, businesses, charities, schools and the media are encouraged to invite children and young people to takeover their organisations for one day.

The first 11 Million Takeover Day took place on the 23rd November 2007 and was a huge success both nationally and locally.

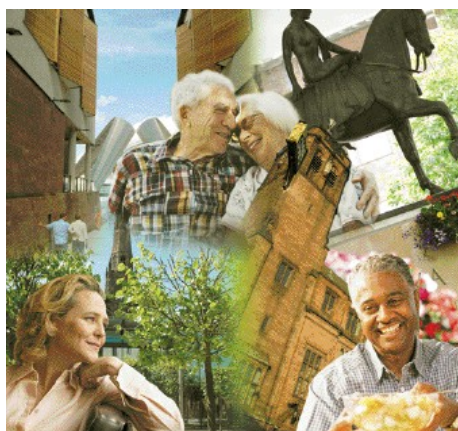
In Coventry children and young people took part in many exciting activities including shadowing senior politicians and Chief Executives, taking over the roles of roaming reporters for the Coventry Telegraph, and starring alongside Bob Brolly on his afternoon radio show on BBC C&W.

Some Coventry children and young people also took part in national events such as the young people from Vibes who took over the running of the 11 Million website for the day.

<http://www.11million.org.uk>

If you're interested in knowing more please contact Sheila Bates Children's Champion on 024 7683 1432 or alternatively e-mail Sheila.bates@coventry.gov.uk

Older People's Partnership



Ageing well in Coventry
Improving life for older people



Coventry City Council
www.coventry.gov.uk

Coventry NHS
Teaching Primary Care Trust



International Older People's Week is 1-5 October 2008 .

UK Older Peoples' day is a national event that aims to raise the profile of issues surrounding older people. Inter-generational engagement is the theme for this year and the Older Peoples' Partnerships is looking for schools and organisations who can work with it to develop activities for this year's event.

If you have any ideas please contact details

Sarika Dewitt
Community Services, Room J,
Lower Ground Floor,
Civic Centre 1
Little Park Street
Coventry
CV1 5RS
Tel: 024 7683 2430
Email:
Sarika.dewitt@coventry.gov.uk

Environment Group

Over the next few months the Environment Group will be disbanding its current structure and will be re-launching with a new structure on September 12th.

Andy Vaughan and Michael Checkley from Coventry City Council's City Services are currently in the process of assisting in the preparation of this.

OTHER NEWS/ INFORMATION



Groundwork is Coventry's leading environmental regeneration organisation. It operates as a federation of independent trusts, each working with its partners in deprived areas to improve the quality of the local environment, the lives of local people and the success of local businesses.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.groundwork-coventry.org.uk/>

Community Safety Partnership key numbers:

To report a crime or request crime prevention advice:

West Midlands Police on 0845 113 5000 or 999 in an emergency

To report anti social behaviour:

contact It's Your Call on 02476831300

To request fire prevention advice:

contact West Midlands Fire Service on 0800 389 5525

To report a problem with the street scene:

contact the Street Services Hotline on 0500 834 333

Local drug and alcohol misuse services:

CDT for adults affected by drug misuse – 0800 783 0447

Discovery / CADDY for young people and their families

affected by drug and alcohol misuse – 0800 783 0319

Community Alcohol Service for adults affected by

alcohol misuse – 024 7622 6619

National Helplines:

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

FRANK (national drug advice helpline) 0800 77 66 00

National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247