

# County Durham Partnership newsletter



February 2011

## Introduction

Welcome to the County Durham Partnership (CDP) newsletter. If you'd like any more information about any of the articles in our newsletter please let us know. Please also [get in touch](#) if you have any partnership news or issues that you would like us to cover in future newsletters or on our website. We look forward to hearing from you.

The partnership is made up of key public, private and voluntary sector organisations, that work together to improve the quality of life for the people within County Durham. Local communities are represented at the partnership forums by the Chairs of the 14 [Area Action Partnerships](#) (AAPs) and the Chair of County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC).

Five lead thematic partnerships each concentrate on specific areas of work. These partnerships are: County Durham Economic Partnership, Children's Trust, Health & Wellbeing Partnership, Safe Durham Partnership and Environment Partnership.

## Would you like to find out more about the County Durham Partnership?



Then click on our website

[www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk](http://www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk)

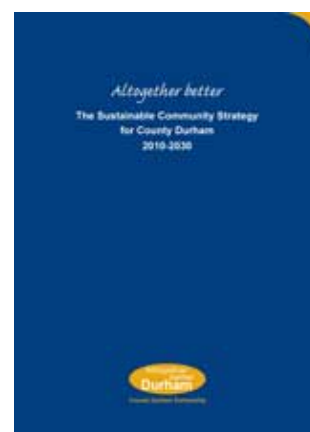
The website contains information about the CDP and all the thematic partnerships. The site, which was launched at the end of August 2010, is regularly updated with information, news and events. The number of visitors has been steadily increasing and we've now had over 3,300 visits to the site.

## Sustainable Community Strategy

County Durham's [Sustainable Community Strategy](#) (SCS), 'Altogether Better Durham', was developed by the CDP following significant consultation with residents, communities and key partners. The SCS sets the long term vision for the future of the County Durham and identifies the key priorities for change over the next 20 years.

The [SCS action plan](#) sets out the high level ambitions, outcomes we aim to achieve and how we plan to deliver them. Our annual review process will ensure we adapt to changing conditions, to ensure time and resources are focused and priorities continue to be achieved.

If you'd like more information about the SCS and how we are performing and achieving our goals you can access this information on our website.



## County Durham Partnership board

In our newsletters we will share the key decisions and discussions from recent [CDP board](#) meetings.

- The Government has invited bids for funds from the [Regional Growth Fund](#) (RGF), which will operate across England to stimulate private sector led sustainable economic growth.
- The ['Healthy lives, healthy people' white paper](#) sets out the Government's long-term vision for the future of public health in England. The aim is to create a 'wellness' service and to strengthen both national and local leadership. Consultation runs until 8 March 2011.
- The [Police reform and social responsibility bill](#) has started its passage through Parliament. It includes proposals for directly elected police and crime commissioners and overhauling licensing.
- The Government responded to the County Durham proposal for a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) by recommending that a joint proposal be developed with neighbouring authorities (see page 3 for an update).
- The draft Child Poverty Strategy, which requires completion by March 2011, was discussed.
- Safe Durham Partnership's progress over the last year was reported. Achievements include reduced overall crime, household burglary and vehicle crime, as well as some success in dealing with anti-social behaviour.
- The Tobacco Alliance Plan has been signed.
- [One Voice Network](#) recently held their annual conference. The sector is working on the implications for County Durham of the Big Society and development of a Third Sector Strategy.
- A workshop considered how to address the impact of the severe weather on vulnerable people.

Representatives of the Area Action Partnerships and County Durham Association of Local Councils joined board members for the CDP Forum in November. The forum centred on the following issues:-

- Public sector partners outlined the implications of the comprehensive spending review.
- A presentation outlined the role of local councils in the CDP and how they can interact.
- Presentations were given on some of the innovative activities being driven forward by the 14 AAPs.

## Commendations for Stop Smoking team

The County Durham Tobacco Control Alliance has been highly commended in two categories at the 2010 No Smoking Day, Organiser of the Year Awards. The partnership was commended in the Best Community/Local Partnership Activity category for its work to promote a stop smoking drop-in service. The alliance was also highly commended in the Best Use of Local MPs or Celebrities category for recruiting the help of former international footballers Malcolm MacDonald, Bernie Slaven and Micky Horswill, in promoting the initiative on their radio phone-in show.

[No Smoking Day](#) 2011 will take place on Wednesday, 9 March. For information on the support available to stop smoking contact County Durham and Darlington NHS Stop Smoking Services on freephone 0800 011 3405.

## Knock next door

The Safe Durham Partnership, assisted by Consett YMCA and volunteers, cleared snow and delivered food donated by local shops and supermarkets to elderly and vulnerable people having trouble getting out, because of the snow in North West Durham. Welfare checks and crime prevention advice were also provided.

County Durham residents are encouraged to 'knock next door' and help friends and neighbours during spells of bad weather. Residents have been asked to call on those living near to check if they need anything, look after the vulnerable who may need a hand and help clear drives and footpaths for those who struggle to do so themselves.

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## North Eastern Local Enterprise Partnership

One of the largest Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in the country has been given the go ahead. The North Eastern LEP covers the seven local authority areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland.

With a population of two million, and an economy valued at £32 billion per annum, it will be the fourth largest of 28 LEPs in the UK. The partnership brings together local authorities, businesses, universities, colleges and the voluntary and community sector to drive economic growth.

The business-led LEP proposal was agreed with Government in January, and a Board is being established to drive it forward. Members of County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) helped develop the proposal, and CDEP will play an ongoing role in supporting the LEP and LEP members within the County.

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## Justice award comes to Durham

County Durham Youth Offending Service has won an award at the Children and Young People Now Awards 2010 for its successful work to reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system.

The 'Pre-Reprimand Disposal', developed and implemented together with Durham Constabulary, won the Justice Award for being the initiative that has made the biggest contribution to improving the chances of young offenders or those at risk of offending.

The Pre-Reprimand Disposal is offered to young people who would otherwise receive a police reprimand for an offence and gives them a second chance. Young people are assessed and a series of options, including family support, is considered.

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## Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The [County Durham Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2010](#) (JSNA) is now available on Durham County Council's website. The JSNA 2010 has been structured around the five 'Altogether Themes' of our SCS, to take into account the vision for County Durham: Altogether Better for Children and Young People; Altogether Healthier; Altogether Safer; Altogether Wealthier and Altogether Greener.

Each theme contains indicators, performance measures and local data in relation to the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the people of County Durham. There is also an overview of the population, demographic information and a closer look at our communities section and associated analysis. Section summaries identify the needs of the population, key inequalities, associated plans and strategies in existence and future implications.

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## Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy

The Safe Durham Partnership has developed a multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Strategy 2011-2014. The strategy outlines the approach to tackling ASB through early intervention, education and preventative measures.

The majority of ASB involves relatively minor incidents that can be effectively addressed through education and preventative work. A smaller proportion of cases require a support work with perpetrators or mediation to find solutions. Where prevention and support do not provide a solution a robust enforcement policy will be adopted.

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## Migration and Cohesion Action Learning Project

A recent project was established with key contacts from organisations which are, or would like to be, involved in working with migrant communities.

The aim was to develop positive approaches to working with migrant communities and strengthen relationships within communities. Consultation work was carried out with Polish residents from varying backgrounds on issues such as child development; educational needs and problems; training, benefits and employment problems; housing issues; and isolation, cohesion and hate issues.

The project is now looking at further engagement events, maintaining relationships within the community, service improvement and hopefully reaching more members of the Polish community. A best practise guide on how best and most effectively to work and engage with migrant communities is being developed.

## Women stronger together

An exciting women's event will take place on 27 February at St Cuthbert's Hospice. The event, originally due to take place in December, aims to bring women together from across Durham and Darlington to hear inspirational stories of women's lives, to learn and discuss issues affecting women, such as: health and wellbeing; being safe; adult learning; self employment and benefits of supporting each other, regardless of culture, faith or background.

For further information or to book a place please contact Julie Kelly on 0191 3752969.

## Excess winter deaths: Facing public health challenges together

County Durham Healthy Homes Partnership presents the above event, which was also originally planned for December. The event will now take place on Thursday 10 March 2011, 9am – 1pm at the Glebe Centre, Murton. The aim is to bring partners together to celebrate achievements in tackling excess winter deaths and fuel poverty (including Durham Cancer Survivorship Pilot), and to consider future challenges and opportunities in the context of budget cuts and Government re-organisation.

For further information or to book a place please contact Sarah Lee on 01642 373880.

## Children's Trust

The Children's Trust is consulting partners in a review of its arrangements to help ensure County Durham has a trust that can continue to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people at a time of significant change. If you'd like to participate in the [consultation](#) please refer to the information on our website.

The Trust is also starting to develop its new Children and Young People's Plan and is undergoing extensive consultation with partners and clients on how the plan for 2012/15 should look. As this is now a voluntary plan the trust has the flexibility to make it Durham focused in order to ensure the children, young people and families who live, or access services, within the County receive the most appropriate care and support.

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