

June 2011

Introduction

Welcome to the County Durham Partnership (CDP) newsletter. Additional information about many of the articles in our newsletter is available on [our website](#). You can also [contact us](#) if you'd like any further information.

Please [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.

Altogether Greener Durham

More than 3,000 visitors to Durham's Millennium Place on Saturday 4 June were treated to a fun filled day of activities with an 'altogether greener' theme including willow weaving, bracelet making and meeting anti-litter mascot Tidy Ted.

The event, which was hosted by Star radio's Tom Davies, was arranged by the County Durham Environment Partnership to mark World Environment Day. A wide range of partners were present to provide advice and information.



Visitors at the bees and butterflies planting stall

Three new projects were launched at the event:

- New look neighbourhood watch champions scheme, which now covers environmental crime issues such as littering and fly tipping
- [Visit Woods](#), the Woodland Trust's new website, which encourages people to find and make the most of their local woodland
- Environment awards 2011 (see below for further information)

Environment awards

The [Environment Awards](#) have been developing and growing every year since they began in 1989 and this year is no exception, with the introduction of three new awards and a refresh of some of the categories.

The awards provide an opportunity to recognise a wide range of craftspeople, designers, architects, schools, community groups and individuals who factor environmental concerns into everyday work and lifestyles.

Anyone can submit nominations for the awards before the closing date of Friday 15 July 2011. Further information and nomination forms are available on our website.

County Durham Partnership board

In our newsletters we will share the key decisions and discussions from recent [CDP board](#) meetings. Please see below for information from our April meeting.

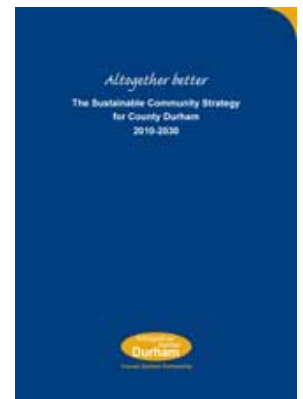
- The County Durham Economic Assessment was presented. This will provide a solid evidence base on which the partnership can make plans. Key implications are being addressed in implementation plans and key pieces of work will be taken forward by the partnership working groups.
- The board received updates on: the key NHS changes; the process to put these changes in place; and progress on the development of the new Health and Wellbeing Board, which will have a strategic role. Work is on-going to track all partnership changes so that these can be looked at together.
- The key elements of the Localism Bill and how this will affect partnership working were discussed, with the board keen to receive updates on a regular basis.
- Safe Durham Partnership, the 'altogether safer' thematic lead, has a new draft plan which was discussed. The plan with a strong focus on a locality based approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. Comments offered will be considered in the plan
- The Third Sector Strategy group have identified key building blocks for a Big Society in County Durham and have prioritised work. Further information will be reported to CDP regularly.
- A review of the Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) will aim to ensure that AAPs remain "fit for purpose" and the future, with findings reported back to the CDP in autumn 2011.

Sustainable Community Strategy action plan

The [Sustainable Community Strategy](#) (SCS) 'Altogether Better' Durham 2010-2030 was published in summer 2010. The SCS Action Plan is a key element of the partnership's performance management framework and sets out actions and measures against the SCS objectives to drive improvements.

Since publication of the SCS, all of the thematic partnerships have seen more changes than anticipated in the landscape in which they work, however partners remain committed to the SCS objectives as local needs and aspirations remain the same.

Reviews have looked at how partners can continue to work together to deliver results using different approaches and revised structures, which minimise impact on front line delivery and achievement of outcomes. A revised [action plan](#) has been developed and is available on our website. Performance against the action plan is reported to the partnership board as and when appropriate and these [reports](#) are published on our website.



Diverse Durham

A series of events has been arranged to promote positive messages about the people of Durham whatever their faith, culture or background. Diverse Durham will celebrate the diversity of communities who live, work and study in the county.

The main focus of the celebrations will be a day of activities in Millennium Place, on Saturday, 18 June, which will include belly dancing, African drumming, Japanese calligraphy and origami, Polish food, talks and story-telling. Further information is available [on the news and events](#) section of our website.

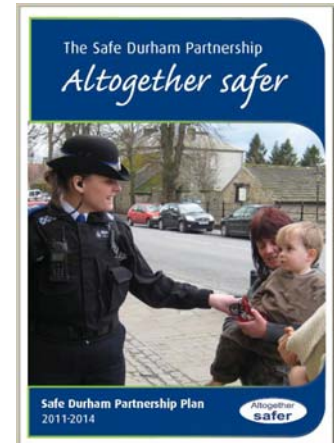
Making County Durham safer



County Durham is one of the safest places in the country to live. You may not be aware, but crime and anti-social behaviour in the county has fallen significantly over the last two years. Overall crime in 2010/11 is down by 11% and anti-social behaviour (ASB) is also down by 11%.

We want to build on this success and you can see how we intend to do this by viewing the draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2011 - 2014 at <http://www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/safedurham>

The Safe Durham Partnership has also developed a Reducing Re-offending Strategy and an Anti-social Behaviour Strategy for 2011-14. Both strategies can be downloaded from links on the [Safe Durham Partnership's news and events](#) page of our website.



Award nomination



The Total Home Safety Project has been short-listed for the [Municipal Journal Awards 2011](#). The project provides safety and security measures to the homes of vulnerable people and has contributed to significant reductions in domestic burglary and fire.

Vulnerable people have been identified and a service developed around their needs: not only making them feel safer but helping them access other services; keeping them warmer, healthier and more independent. The project has exceeded all targets and is currently approaching £1m of savings to public services.

'One point'

An agreement has been reached that will see a range of services, currently provided by either DCC or County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, brought together into one service, with effect from September 2011.

'One point' is aimed at giving children, young people and their parents easier access to services including health visiting, school nursing, educational psychology, education welfare, family and parenting support, behaviour support, youth work and personal careers guidance and support. The integrated service will see ten teams set up across County Durham to work with and support children and young people based on an assessment of their needs.

Bringing the services together will lead to improved efficiency as well as better support where it is needed and more effective early intervention to help prevent problems developing.

International Day against Homophobia (IDAHO) conference



Bishop Auckland Theatre Hooligans performing at IDAHO conference

The County Durham Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Steering Group organised an event to mark IDAHO day on 17th May 2011.

The event focused on the Equality Act and its implications for both employers and service providers and was attended by 100 people, mostly from County Durham public and voluntary sector organisations. Feedback from participants showed that they found the event varied and informative.

Key messages and feedback from the conference are available on the [news and events](#) section of our website.

Be a sport...volunteer Durham

A new community campaign has been launched which aims to recruit and support at least 200 new volunteers to grassroots sport and leisure across the county, in eighteen months. The campaign has been launched by DCC and is supported by local partners including the voluntary and community sector, County Durham Sport and clubs and national governing bodies for sport. The scheme will be rolled out across the county in the coming months starting in the Durham and Chester-le-Street area.

'Be a sport...volunteer Durham' is part of the 'Join in...' 2012 Olympic legacy programme, which has pledged to provide community based support for local sports clubs and groups across the County, encouraging more people of all ages and abilities to try something new or simply pick up an old hobby.

Volunteering offers many benefits, including learning new skills and the prospect of improving your employability and CV.

More information about the scheme is available by emailing sportandleisurevolunteers@durham.gov.uk or calling 0191 3729153.

Help shape the future of County Durham

Residents and businesses are being invited to help shape the future of County Durham in a wide ranging consultation exercise which runs until 8 July 2011.

The County Durham Plan is designed to revive the county's economic fortunes. Its strategic policies will guide development and change in the County to help achieve the 'Altogether Better Durham' aim of the SCS.

Feedback from the preliminary consultation has been included and more detail has been provided on some of the issues raised. Details of the consultation and exhibitions throughout the county can be found on [DCC's website](#).

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