

Local Strategic Partnership South Somerset Together (SST) - 6 Month Update

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Purpose of the Report

1. As requested by the Executive in June, this report updates on progress following the introduction of simplified governance arrangements for the partnership from 1 June 2016.

Forward Plan

2. This report has appeared on the Executive Forward Plan.

Public Interest

3. South Somerset Together (SST) is the local strategic partnership (LSP) for the District. It is an informal alliance between the main service providers bringing together senior representatives of public and voluntary sector organisations that are focused on the District. It considers complex issues and needs, that require a multi-agency approach. The aim is to raise awareness and consider fresh approaches that can address these issues and improve the effectiveness of service provision and community self - help for the benefit of local people.

Recommendation

4. That the District Executive note the report.

Background

5. Since 2012 annual reports on the activities of the Partnership have been presented to the Executive. A simplified Partnership model was adopted in April 2012 and ran for 4 years, being updated annually, until 31st March 2016. The Partnership was lead through an independent Chairperson and Coordinator, underpinned by a package of funding and other support from Partners, which met the core operating costs. A pump priming fund was available to help new initiatives to be launched.
6. A report was given to the June Executive to note the progress made by the Local Strategic Partnership on strategic priorities during 2015/16. It also briefed on a major review of the Partnership, which considered its role going forward. There was unanimous support to retain the Partnership; however, budgetary pressures had resulted in agreement to adopt new simplified governance arrangements for the Partnership that started from 1 June 2016.
7. Partners agreed the main strengths and added value of the Partnership to be:
 - Enabling the opportunity to share knowledge and forge crucial relationships and linkages, some of which may not have been so easily accessible

- Raising the profile of our area and its needs/ opportunities with key bodies like LEP/ SCC etc.
 - Creating the ability to mobilise rapidly with joined up thinking on major issues and opportunities for external funding
 - Sharing of good practice sessions
 - Running well targeted Assemblies which can open up all kinds of new links and understanding shine a light on important issues, etc.
8. Partners no longer make a cash contribution to the running costs and there is no dedicated staff input or independent leadership. Instead partners share the chairing and hosting of the bi-monthly meetings. SSDC holds a small residual pot of partnership funding that is available to fund any Assemblies/events, innovative projects or other activity that the LSP wishes to pursue. Task and Finish Groups have been retained/are set up, as required, led by the most appropriate partner.
9. In June the Executive requested that a report be presented in 6 months' time to update on the progress of these much simplified arrangements.

Activity June to November

10. The LSP has met 4 times, hosted by a lead partner on each occasion (Fire, SSDC, Yeovil College and Yeovil Hospital Trust).
11. The key activities supported by partners have been:
- a. To agree financial support of £16,000 towards a £850,000 project to develop much greater capacity at Yeovil College to offer **qualifications in hospitality, catering and construction skills**. Funding from LEP required a significant amount of local funding to be secured. By July 2018 the College expects to have supported 173 new learners and 83 new jobs.
 - b. An event to tackle **Loneliness** in South Somerset, held in October. This was attended by 100 people and promoted by 3 main partners: Spark (formerly SSVCA), SSDC (Cllr Sylvia Seal chaired the event) and SCC Public Health. It was sponsored by Somerset Community Foundation. Participants heard about the scale and impact of loneliness, had videos and presentations from projects that had been successful in tackling it, including Age UK Somerset. Participants spent time discussing what is already in place and what is needed to offer more effective support to individuals to overcome loneliness. Follow up work is planned, both locally and via the Health and Wellbeing Board, across Somerset
 - c. The **Digital Inclusion Group** was formed at the start of the year to promote greater digital inclusion across South Somerset. The group is currently chaired by SSDC and membership includes: Yarlinton, Yeovil College, South Somerset Spark (formerly SSVCA) Cosmic, Barclays Bank.

It organised an event aimed at parishes and community groups which was held late March. It is now focusing on targeted work in the 2 areas of South Somerset with greatest digital exclusion, as identified by Somerset DI Group report published last spring.

Firstly the focus will be on Chard. An event is being planned in the early spring to complement the launch of the Chard Business Hub. After that the focus will be on the Templecombe / Henstridge areas. The group is promoting a tool kit to help

communities consider how they use digital tools to communicate effectively and improve skills for those at risk of digital exclusion.

- d. The **Impact of Welfare Reforms sub Group** has been disbanded, but the roll out of Universal Credit means that many partners are still meeting to work together on plans to support vulnerable people to access the new electronic only services. This is being led by SSDC Revenues and Benefits service.
- e. The **Healthy Communities Sub Group** is a formal sub group of the LSP, now chaired by South Somerset Spark (formerly SSVCA). It has adopted terms of reference and reports back to the Strategy Group, where any important issues will be discussed & taken up with the Somerset Health & Wellbeing Partnership as required.

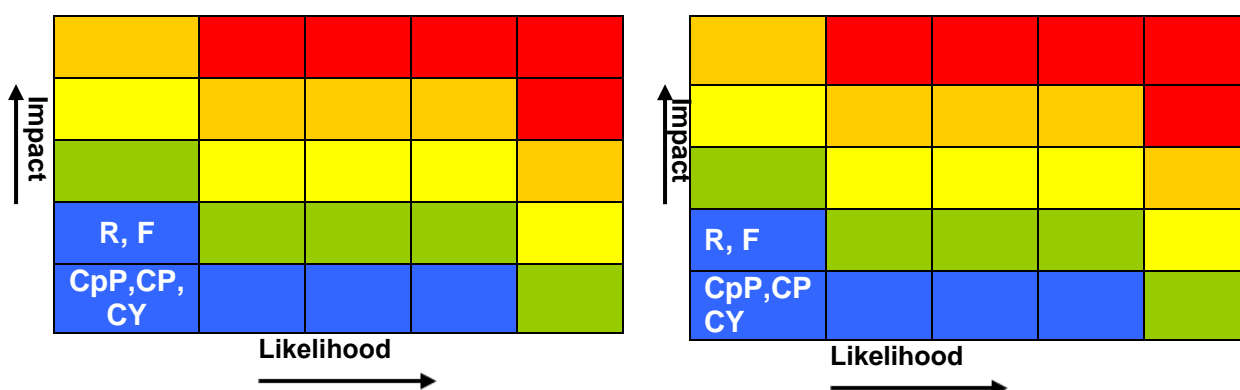
Originally it was set up to take forward actions identified from the Access to Health Services Assembly held in Spring 2015. In particular, it is now linking up work on social prescribing (funded through Symphony, initiated in Wincanton, Yeovil, Martock and most recently South Petherton) with other health promotion work. The focus on alternatives to drug therapy forms a key plank of the Health Services' *Somerset Sustainability and Transformation Plan*, which is out for consultation and aims to change, quite radically, the way that the public both access health care and take more control over their own health and wellbeing. Communities themselves have an important role to play by providing a diverse range of activities accessible to local residents.

Financial Implications

- 12. A balance of £9,000 of uncommitted project funding is held in the Reserve for the LSP. This is a once off pot of residual funds from contributions in previous years. From 2017/18 there is a saving of £12,000 in the MTFP from the cessation of Partnership funding to the LSP.

Risk Matrix

- 13. No implications as the report is for information



Key

Categories	Colours (for further detail please refer to Risk management strategy)
R = Reputation	Red = High impact and high probability
CpP = Corporate Plan Priorities	Orange = Major impact and major probability
CP = Community Priorities	Yellow = Moderate impact and moderate probability
CY = Capacity	Green = Minor impact and minor probability

F = Financial	Blue = Insignificant impact and insignificant probability
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Council Plan Implications

14. South Somerset Together and its priorities help contribute towards all of our corporate focus areas, jobs, environment, homes, health and communities.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

15. The Partnership lobbied for and completed a programme of work on lowering carbon emissions as one of its strategic priorities. This is now mainstreamed within partner organisations.

Equality and Diversity Implications

16. These projects support the outcomes of the Council's Equality Objectives.

Privacy Impact Assessment

17. None

Background Papers

18. DX Report in June 2016
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