

Adding Value.

The future of partnership working,
by Cllr. Sue Adeney.

The Vision 21 Partnership is made up of organisations that are already doing a professional job in their place of work, amongst their constituents, residents, clients, or patients. There are already like-minded, or objective focussed partnerships striving towards the same ends, be it in health, education, housing, community safety, environmental issues or regeneration.

So why have the Vision 21 Malvern Hills Partnership?

The Local Strategic Partnership brings them all together under a shared Vision and purpose for the District. In doing so it provides a forum for debate and discussion and resolution around the key issues and challenging problems, which might not take, place so comprehensively.

- It acts as a 'critical friend' to service providing organisations or partnerships on behalf of the community and itself in a way that can offer a new perspective, suggest new ways of service provision and always looking for ways of adding value to existing services.
- Whilst having no executive powers, the Vision 21 partnership involves people at the highest levels of their organisation who have an influence.
- Corporately too the Partnership can strive to influence at higher levels of government and support local communities in their aspirations for improved quality of life.
- It is also a collective of the voices of the individuals who live, or work in this District.
- The Partnership is based on goodwill and a shared common purpose.
- It can harness the creative powers of people as they take ownership of local issues.

At a strategic level added value is difficult to perceive and measure.

The outcome of the theme groups over the next 12 months however should reveal real tangible 'added value' achievements, which come about only because the vision 21 Partnership exists.

These are being identified through the feedback from the Conference in 2003, together with the ongoing process of the theme groups and will be seen as gaps in provision, or possible resolutions to existing challenges.

The Partnership realises that without the evidence of these its worthy aims are difficult to justify to the public at large to which it is accountable.

As a commitment to achieving 'added value', the Strategic Board challenges the wider Partnership to achieving two cross-cutting objectives over the next 12 months. Support will be provided by the relevant theme groups to introduce and advise on best practice. The Strategic Board will co-ordinate and monitor the results and seek to help in their implementation.



Objective one:

Each partner organisation is asked to complete and begin to plan implementation of a 'travel to work plan'.

You will for example survey the modes of transport used, the catchment and spread of your employees or members and the time taken to travel to and from work. Then based upon the findings seek to introduce or suggest possible ways of reducing dependency on the car through car share and use of alternative modes of transport. You may seek other ways to reduce congestion on the roads by changing hours of work. You may find you can operate a care share scheme with another partner organisation. The benefits include an understanding of transport issues for employees, a contribution to their health and well-being, reduction in care dependency, a healthier environment and many more.

Objective two:

Each partner organisation is asked to complete and begin to plan the implementation of a Community Safety Audit to help make your workplace and the community in which it is based a safe place to live, work and socialise.

You will for example examine your premises for areas which could encourage anti-social behaviour and seek ways to improve them. E.g. narrow alleyways or open car parks. You may find that your lighting is not adequate for employees or member's safe arrival and departure, or that it discourages them from walking or cycling.

The 'added-value' will come as we share the findings and address the issues together as a Partnership. The results of this will demonstrate our commitment to working together towards the long-term vision set out in the Community Strategy.

It is without a doubt that this would not happen without the Partnership, which is our benchmark for real 'added value'.

No pomp... Just circumstance...

This first update of the Vision 21 Malvern Hills Partnership is a working document, and as such states partners intentions at a point in time, namely at the Conference in December 2003. The Theme Groups will be going back to the Partnership to assess all that has been achieved as well as those gaps in provision that they have identified.

It is hoped that each partner will strive to fulfil the vision of the District as they set their business plans and objectives in the short term. In a sense this is each partner organisation taking their individual *new perspective* on their planning for the future.

The Strategic Board has a new perspective too but would like to be sure that the whole Partnership feels that their comments at the beginning of this new phase have been addressed.