



# Newsletter

## Introducing the Mendip Strategic Partnership

The Mendip Strategic Partnership was set up in 2002 with the aim of encouraging cross-agency working for the benefit of the local communities. The Board comprises 18 members representing a wide range of local organisations (see list on page 2).

### So far the Partnership has:

- agreed terms of reference
- developed and agreed an Outline Project Plan
- agreed the process for identifying and agreeing key issues for the district-wide community plan
- gathered and considered baseline information data
- a communications strategy has been drawn up and accepted
- a logo has been designed, with the support of a local business
- begun to develop a website [www.mendipstrategicpartnership.org.uk](http://www.mendipstrategicpartnership.org.uk)
- decided on 3 core district wide issues to concentrate on over the next 6-12 months:
  - ∞ Employment
  - ∞ Education and Skills
  - ∞ Transport
- identified Shepton Mallet as its first pilot area for Community Planning

## What is a Local Strategic Partnership?

A local strategic partnership (LSP) is a single body that:

- brings together at a local level the different parts of the public sector as well as the private, business, community and voluntary sectors so that different initiatives and services support each other and work together;
- operates at a level which enables strategic decisions to be taken and is close enough to individual neighbourhoods to allow actions to be determined at community level; and should be aligned with local authority boundaries;
- is a non-statutory, non-executive organisation

## Recent Events

### Senior Stakeholder Event

Senior executives from key public agencies in Mendip and Somerset met in January to take forward the community planning process for Mendip. Those present included chief executives and senior offices of several organisations, including Somerset County Council, Mendip District Council, Mendip Primary Care Trust, Somerset and Avon Constabulary, Strode College, Mendip Housing Ltd and the Environment Agency.

Key objectives of this event were to:

- develop a shared understanding of:
  - the purpose of the community planning process, as set out in guidance from central government
  - the particular 'flavour' and approach that is being adopted within the Mendip area
  - describe the overall process of identifying key strategic issues
- discuss current proposals on how to move from agreed issues
- develop implementable action plans
- discuss and agree leading the implementation of eventual actions within partner organisations as well as on a multi-agency basis
- gain commitment on how the community planning process will be resourced over the next year in terms of consultancy/facilitation costs, staff time and administration costs
- explore joint training and development opportunities
- come to a shared understanding of emerging issues identified by the Baseline Data Task Group and to share any additionally held knowledge on issues.
- agree recommendations to be made to the Mendip Strategic Partnership Board in March 2003.

## Countrywide LSP Dialogue Day

On 20th February members of all Local Strategic Partnerships in Somerset attended a dialogue day in Taunton. As well as giving people the opportunity to network and find out about experiences and practices in neighbouring LSPs, those present received a presentation into how Shropshire was managing its two tier Community Strategy process.

There was also an opportunity to explore real challenges such as

- Links and splits in the roles and responsibilities of County and District LSPs
- How LSPs could measure success
- How LSPs should be managed and resourced



## Members of the Mendip Strategic Partnership

Board Member	Role /Job Title	Representing
<b>Penny Baker</b>	<i>Chair of Mendip Association of Chambers of Commerce</i>	Mendip Association of Chambers of Commerce
<b>Cathy Bakewell</b>	<i>Leader of Somerset County Council</i>	Somerset County Council
<b>Ron Ballantine (Chair)</b>	<i>Chair of Mendip Primary Care Trust</i>	Mendip Primary Care Trust
<b>Ian Bennett</b>	<i>Principal - Strode College</i>	Further Education Sector
<b>Peter Chapman</b>	<i>Chief Executive of Mendip Housing Ltd</i>	Registered Social Landlords
<b>Penny Church</b>	<i>Manager Frome and District Citizens Advice Bureau</i>	Voluntary Agencies
<b>Nick Cottle</b>	<i>Somerset Association of Local Councils</i>	Town and Parish Councils (SALC)
<b>Richard Dixon</b>	<i>Vice Chairman - Mendip Environment Forum</i>	Mendip Environment Forum
<b>Jilly Edwards</b>	<i>Manager, Voluntary Action Mendip</i>	Voluntary Agencies
<b>Stephen Harrison</b>	<i>Leader of Mendip District Council</i>	Mendip District Council
<b>Pam Iles</b>	<i>Chair of Mendip Head Teachers Group</i>	Head Teachers of Mendip Schools Group
<b>Kathryn d'Inverno</b>	<i>Non-Executive Director - Primary Care Trust</i>	Mendip Primary Care Trust
<b>Graham Livings</b>	<i>Trustee - Victim Support</i>	Voluntary Agencies
<b>Malcolm Lythgo</b>	<i>Area Environment Manager</i>	Environment Agency
<b>Zena Pollard</b>	<i>Personal Account Manager Barclays Bank</i>	Mendip Economy Forum
<b>Jim Shearer</b>	<i>Chief Superintendent of Police</i>	Avon and Somerset Police
<b>Pete Spooner</b>	<i>Mendip and South Somerset Cluster Manager Job Centre Plus</i>	Employment/Benefits Agencies
<b>Ian Wallace</b>	<i>Director- Young Somerset</i>	Young People's Organisations

## Forthcoming Events

**The next meeting of the Mendip Strategic Partnership Board will be held on 20th May 2003 at 3pm, at The Assembly Room, Memorial Theatre Complex, Christchurch Street West, Frome**

For more information about the Mendip Strategic Partnership or if you would like to join our mailing list, please contact:

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### Why better partnership working matters

Public, private, community and voluntary sector organisations all have a part to play in improving quality of life for this and future generations. The more they can work together, with local people, the more they can achieve.

Tackling key issues for local people – such as crime, jobs, education, health and housing – requires a range of local organisations working together. There are already many successful partnerships involving local government, local providers of other public services (such as health, the police, the Employment Service and the Benefits Agency), and local businesses and voluntary organisations.

Tackling the biggest challenges, such as social exclusion and the renewal of our most deprived neighbourhoods, demands concerted and co-ordinated effort across all sectors.

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