

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 5 NOVEMBER 2003

PARTNERSHIP MAPPING

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

<u>Purpose</u>

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Commission of progress regarding the partnership mapping exercise.

Background

- 2. Members may recall that following the difficulties experienced with the Early Years and Childcare Partnership, the Commission requested officers to undertake a review of the County Council's involvement in partnership. Earlier reports to the Commission and Scrutiny Reference Group provided an initial analysis of the County Council's involvement in partnerships and draft advice and guidance prepared for managers involved in partnership working aimed at reducing risks associated specifically with working in partnership.
- 3. The second stage of this exercise was to identify all the partnerships operating in the county, their purpose and membership, identify the main public strategies and policies and to consider the extent of duplication and conformity between both partnerships and strategy documents. This part of the work has also been identified as a priority by the Leicestershire Local Strategic Partnership as the Government has identified rationalisation of partnership as a key priority for LSPs.

Advice and Guidance

4. Advice and guidance has now been prepared and published on the County Council's intranet. It provides a range of information about procedural, financial and legal issues that should be taken into account before, during and after partnerships are formed and dissolved.

Process of Mapping Partnerships

- 5. A questionnaire has been circulated to all key county and district wide partnerships. A copy of the questionnaire is attached as Appendix A. At the time of writing this report approximately a third of questionnaires were still outstanding (partnerships not highlighted in Appendix B). Reminders have been sent. The information gathered to date has been input into a database ('Enterprise Modeller'), which has been built around the following headings:
 - partner organisations
 - partnership purpose
 - partnership policy/strategy documents (including strategic objectives and key performance measures)

- source of partnership income
 - partnership staff resources
- partnership structure

Initial analysis

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6. Some initial analysis was undertaken of the question concerning the role of the Leicestershire LSP prior to the last Board meeting. The question was:

'What do you consider are the main opportunities for joint working through the Leicestershire LSP?'

- 7. The results are set out in Appendix C. In summary other partnerships look to the LLSP to:
 - identify common priorities and align strategies
 - co-ordinate planning and other activities and avoid duplication
 - identify and disseminate best practice
 - co-ordinate knowledge management
 - influence spending plans and share resources
 - developing a shared understanding and approach to strategic service delivery issues.

This information will be taken into account in the review of the LLSP which is taking place this Autumn, the results of which will be reported to the December LLSP Board meeting.

8. A full analysis will be undertaken once the outstanding partnership information is available. So that the analysis is based on a cross agency/section understanding an officer working group has been established and this Group will be responsible for bringing forward initial proposals for partnerships and policy rationalisation for the consideration. The Group comprises senior representatives of:

Leicestershire Constabulary Leicestershire Education Authority Children and Young Persons Strategic Partnership Connexions LSEP District Council/district-based LSP Leicestershire County Council Transport Section

Recommendation

9. That the progress regarding the partnership mapping exercise be noted.

Officer to Contact

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