

# **Local Spelthorne Partnership**

## **Assembly 2006**

### **Report**



**Local  
Spelthorne  
Partnership**

Together, improving Spelthorne.

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## **Local Spelthorne Partnership Assembly 2006**

### **Executive summary**

The report gives an account of the Local Spelthorne Partnership (LSP) Assembly, which took place on 23 January 2006.

Presentations were made on the progress that has been made through the Partnership over the last year. There have been many successful projects relating to community safety, young people, transport, health, learning and creating a thriving environment. The year had also seen the publication of a new Community Plan for Spelthorne and the LSP continues to develop.

Delegates also heard about the work of the Surrey Strategic Partnership on the county Community Strategy. A medium term action plan is being developed, which includes the Surrey local area agreement (LAA).

During round table discussions, delegates examined what issues needed to be addressed under the themes of the Community Plan. After this, they worked on proposals for solutions to some of the priority issues. The partnership group associated with each theme of the Community Plan will consider these proposals. Also, it was noted that some issues relate to a number of different themes and the LSP needs to make sure that work on these is coordinated.

The day was well-received by delegates, although numbers were not as high as had been expected and a number of suggestions for improvements were made.

Overall, the Assembly produced a lot of information and ideas, and communication regarding the outcome of the day is essential.

## Introduction

Every year the wider body of the Local Spelthorne Partnership (LSP) meets to discuss partnership issues. The 2006 Assembly heard feedback on the first year of the Spelthorne Community Plan 2005-2015. Delegates had the opportunity to input their ideas and to develop proposals for partnership projects, which will be taken forward where possible by the LSP's themed strategy groups.

This report summarises the proceedings of the day as well as the key outputs. Notes from the round table discussions are included as appendices. The PowerPoint slides from the day are available to download from the LSP's website [www.spelweb.com](http://www.spelweb.com).

The outcomes from the day will be communicated via a newsletter and at the next Assembly in 2007.

## Overview of the LSP

The LSP is the local strategic partnership for the Borough. It acts as a "partnership of partnerships", bringing together all of the joint work that happens in the area. The LSP is made up of representatives from across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors.

The focus of the LSP's work is the Spelthorne Community Plan 2005-2015, which sets out how partners intend to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of Spelthorne. The Plan has targets relating to the following six themes:

- Safer Spelthorne
- Young People's Spelthorne
- Getting Around Spelthorne
- Healthy Spelthorne
- Thriving Spelthorne
- Learning Spelthorne

The targets in the Plan are intended to fulfil the LSP's vision, which is "to make Spelthorne a safe, healthy, inclusive, prosperous and sustainable community"

The structure of the LSP has three main components:

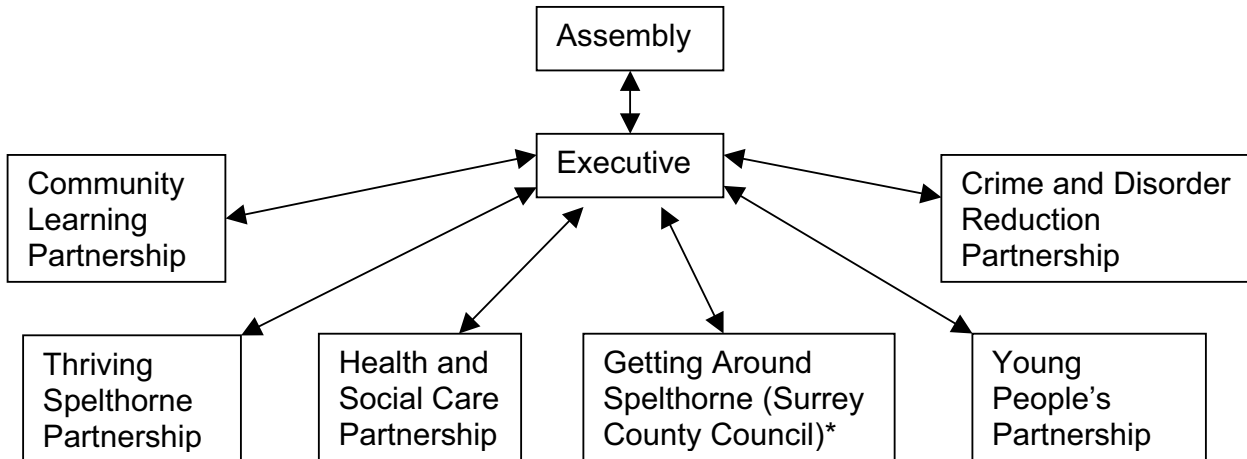
The Executive – this group consists of representatives from around 20 organisations, who monitor overall progress on the Community Plan.

Strategy Groups – these are themed partnerships, which are each responsible for developing and monitoring an action plan dealing with a particular theme of the Community Plan. These are:

- Spelthorne Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)
- Young People's Partnership (YPP)
- Spelthorne Health and Social Care Partnership
- Thriving Spelthorne Partnership
- Spelthorne Community Learning Partnership

\* There are a number of partnerships feeding into the Getting Around Spelthorne theme, which are administered by Surrey County Council.

The Assembly – this is a wider body that meets every year to discuss partnership issues, such as ideas for future projects, and monitors overall progress and success.



## **Proceedings of the day**

The LSP Assembly 2006 took place on Monday 23 January at Spelthorne Leisure Centre, Staines.

### Agenda

The full agenda for the day is given in Appendix A. The key sessions during the day were:

- Local Spelthorne Partnership: summary of the past year
- Update on Community Plan themes
- Round table discussions 1 – what still needs to be addressed?
- Surrey in 2020
- Round table discussions 2 – what can be done to address the gaps?

Through this agenda, the day fulfilled three purposes. The first was to provide information to delegates on the partnership work that is currently happening in Spelthorne. The second was to give the wider community of those living and working in the Borough the opportunity to input to the work of the LSP through identifying priorities for action and developing solutions to problems. The final purpose of the day was to provide the opportunity for networking and improved communication between people working in the local area.

### Delegates

Over 80 people from public, private, voluntary and community organisations attended the event. Around 50 individual organisations were represented (see Appendix B for a full list).

Prior to the event, it was hoped that the number of individuals and organisations attending would be greater than this. A number of apologies were given due to illness and priorities arising at work.

Although these events cannot be controlled, it is suggested that the following steps are taken in future years to maximise the number of people who attend:

- Continue to advertise the date approximately six months in advance
- Provide prompt feedback on the outcomes of this year's Assembly
- Widen the invitation list by asking current Assembly members if there are any other individuals in their organisations who should be invited
- Consider whether to advertise the event in the local press

More women than men attended the event, and rates of those attending from an ethnic minority background or with a disability were lower than the general Spelthorne population. In addition, there were fewer young people and more older people than in the Spelthorne population. Whilst the views of all the delegates are important, the LSP must continue to look for ways to make future conferences more representative of the wider population.

#### Event staff

Paul Temple, an independent consultant, facilitated the Assembly. Discussion groups were facilitated by staff from a number of local organisations.

### **Local Spelthorne Partnership: summary of the past year**

Brian Harris (Assistant Chief Executive, Spelthorne Borough Council) gave an update on the key developments that have happened within the Partnership over the last year.

#### Community Plan

The second Community Plan for Spelthorne was launched in July. The Plan sets out how a wide range of organisations will work together to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Borough. There are now fewer themes than the original community Plan (a reduction from ten to six themes), which will help concentrate the work.

#### Monitoring progress

The LSP Executive and other partnerships have committed to monitoring progress on the Community Plan every six months. Whilst there is not much information yet on progress towards the SMART targets, a summary of progress has been put together which sets out the many projects and work that are going on to achieve each of the targets (see Appendix C).

A report has also been put together on "quality of life indicators". This is a new set of indicators designed by the Audit Commission to reflect a range of issues that affect well-being and sustainability, and the LSP needs to consider them to see where it should be focussing its work and, over time, it should be able to see where improvements have been made (see Appendix D).

The Assembly will be updated on the first year of the Community Plan in July and again at next year's Assembly.

#### Involving everyone

The purpose of the Assembly is to involve the wider community of people who live and work in Spelthorne in planning the LSP's activities. Last year, the ideas and comments made by delegates were passed on to the relevant strategy group to consider and action. We plan to do the same again this year so that we can develop a robust process for involving the community in a real way.

It is not always possible to follow up on some of the ideas because similar things may already be happening or because there are not enough resources. However, we hope that there will be new ideas from today's meeting that can be used to make Spelthorne a better place.

#### Other developments this year

The LSP has agreed an equalities statement to ensure that as a partnership we pay attention to issues of discrimination, equality of opportunity and developing good relations between people from different backgrounds.

We hope to start a regular newsletter to update the Partnership on progress. The LSP's website is now updated and contains information on its structure, purpose and documents (including the equalities statement and LSP Executive minutes). Visit [www.spelweb.com](http://www.spelweb.com)

Several members of the LSP have come together to jointly produce and fund an A-Z directory of public services in Spelthorne, which will be distributed with the March Borough Bulletin.

#### The future

It is hoped that over the coming year, the strategy groups will continue to deliver on the targets in the Community Plan, whilst meeting new challenges as the role of LSPs develops.

### **Update on Community Plan themes**

Presentations were made on each of the Community Plan themes, including what has been done following the 2005 Assembly, progress over the last year and plans for the future. Brief summaries are given below. Please see Appendix C for detailed information on progress made so far on addressing the priorities for each of the themes in the Community Plan.

#### Safer Spelthorne

The overall level of crime in Spelthorne has reduced. This year, there have been many successful projects such as graffiti removal, partnership action days, neighbourhood panels and the installation of youth shelters in several parks. Over the next year, the CDRP plans to focus on anti-social behaviour, the national priority crimes and reassurance.

#### Young People's Spelthorne

The 2005 Assembly recommended more opportunities for young people and increased consultation with them. This year, the YPP has been working on increasing consultation through the Youth Council, providing additional activities such as the youth café, as well as supporting voluntary groups who work with young people, improving play facilities and promoting the stop smoking message. The focus for the future will be on continuing to increase the depth of consultation and interagency working.

#### Getting Around Spelthorne

Since the 2005 Assembly, improvements have been made in partnership working with bus operators, developing the cycle network and the promotion of public transport to hospital. There are now 13 school travel plans in place in Spelthorne and a Community Speedwatch scheme has been introduced. Future plans include a review of traffic signals in Staines town centre and the promotion of walking, cycling and public transport.

#### Healthy Spelthorne

Following the 2005 Assembly, the Community Plan includes targets on sexual health, smoking, substance misuse and independence for older people. Achievements in the last year include the setting up of a group to look specifically at sexual health, participation in a campaign to increase benefit take up in the elderly and the agreement of an LSP smoke free charter. The Health and Social Care Partnership's plans for the future include promoting assistive technology and working on the local obesity plan.

### Thriving Spelthorne

The Thriving Spelthorne Partnership has agreed to address issues from the 2005 Assembly including recycling, affordable housing and air pollution. Examples of recent progress include increasing flood awareness, increasing recycling rates and an increased number of business start-ups. In the future, the Partnership plans to continue its work, including developing an allotment strategy, developing Spelthorne Museum and improving the Borough's leisure services.

### Learning Spelthorne

Following the 2005 Assembly, the Community Learning Partnership (CLP) has worked on reducing the number of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), as well as maintaining the sustainability of the mobile construction bus. Key achievements in 2005 include 180 Spelthorne students achieving accreditation in construction skills through the mobile construction bus, 6 apprenticeship placements and a family learning fun day in Staines attended by over 300 people. The future work of the CLP will include a garden project at Stanwell Fields School, increasing vocational provision and planning for future developments at Spelthorne College.

## **Round table discussions 1 – what still needs to be addressed?**

Delegates were asked to choose a theme of the Community Plan to discuss. The number of discussion groups per theme was as follows:

- Safer Spelthorne – three groups
- Young People's Spelthorne – two groups
- Getting Around Spelthorne – one group
- Healthy Spelthorne – three groups
- Thriving Spelthorne – one group
- Learning Spelthorne – one group

During the first discussion session, delegates gave their opinions on the current partnership work and what issues still need to be addressed. Groups were asked to choose their top three issues, which would make Spelthorne better in terms of the Community Plan theme.

The notes from the groups are attached in Appendix E, however the priority issues for each theme are shown below in Table 1.

<b>Community Plan theme</b>	<b>Priority issues</b>
Safer Spelthorne	Celebrate success/acknowledge failure/communication Street scene issues Young people – as victims, fear of crime, need their views Bringing generations together

	<p>Building on stronger community  Diversity  Greater safety in and around rail stations  Neighbourhood Watch  Targeting vulnerable people  Impact on the targets of different organisations have  Generating pride in neighbourhood  Improve clean off of graffiti and repair damage to street furniture  Easier access for residents to contact numbers for responsible agencies  Working with housing associations on support people  Voluntary sector – targeting  Offender programmes  More help needed to help perpetrators  Building a safer community  Diversity aspect of Community Safety  Impact of Licensing hours  Target of different organisations - impact on resources  Licensing Laws  Helping perpetrators not to repeat abuse</p>
Young People's Spelthorne	<p>Lack of communication regarding activities/things to do  Activities  Resources  After school activities  Affordable activities (low income families)  Lack of information (ref. Activities)  Family activities</p>
Getting Around Spelthorne	<p>Improve accessible buses and supporting information  Continue highway improvements to bus stops to maximise benefits of accessible buses  Strategic co-ordination of public transport, including concessionary fares  Extension of existing programme, funded through LTP ++ as funding is made available  Promote 'Golden Boot' challenge and SRS programme</p>
Healthy Spelthorne	<p>Families with young children  Communicating and networking  Health and Independence of Older People  Alcohol misuse  Promote positive mental health  Services – accessibility/information/appropriateness  All schools to get involved with healthy school programme  Older people should have social stimulation outside their own home e.g. activities  More work with mental health issues for all (currently missing) especially for vulnerable communities e.g. prisoners, sex workers</p>
Thriving Spelthorne	<p>Improve local business partnerships  Improve recycling opportunities  Re-establish a balance of activity/opportunity across the Spelthorne towns and villages  Streetscene – flyposting – remove clutter</p>
Learning	<p>Access to Taster Courses for adults with aim of 'getting adults linked into</p>

Spelthorne	learning' To identify support and have an impact on identified 'pockets' of education/learning deprivation Performing Arts
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Table 1: priority issues identified according to themes of the Community Plan

These priority issues and the other comments in Appendix E will be sent to the strategy group associated with each theme of the Community Plan so that they can consider what may be done to address them in partnership.

#### Idea boards

Delegates also had the opportunity to post other comments on the different themes on ideas boards. This allowed delegates to contribute their opinions on any theme, irrespective of their chosen discussion group. These ideas have been included in Appendix E and will be considered by the strategy groups.

### **Surrey in 2020**

Dr Michael Edley (Head of Community Planning, Surrey County Council) updated the Assembly on the work of the Surrey Strategic Partnership (SSP).

#### Vision for Surrey

The vision for Surrey as agreed by the SSP is of a county:

- Of distinctive, confident, caring, creative, and safe communities, where individuals and organisations have taken responsibility for resolving the many challenges that the county faces.
- Where the beauty and richness of the natural and built heritage, the diversity of the landscape, the distinctiveness of the local communities and the strength of the economy are safeguarded.
- Where social, economic and environmental well-being have been addressed to improve the quality of life of the people living and working there.

#### Principles of Surrey Strategic Partnership

The SSP is the local strategic partnership for Surrey. It focuses on projects that require a county-wide approach and addresses gaps where there are no obvious partnerships to address aspects of the vision for Surrey.

#### Surrey in 2020

The seven priorities of Surrey's Community Strategy are:

- Building a skilled and flexible workforce
- Improving transport across the county
- Increasing and broadening range of housing
- Improving health and life chances of children
- Transforming social care
- Building safer and stronger communities
- Changing attitudes and behaviours

#### Developing a medium term action plan

A short term action plan for Surrey’s Community Strategy has already been put in place. This includes the local public service agreement (LPSA) for the county. Work is now being conducted on setting out a more challenging medium term plan of action, which will include the projects that are part of the Surrey local area agreement (LAA).

Local area agreement

The LAA is a “three year agreement that sets out the priorities for a local area agreed between central government, a local area and other key partners at local level”. Through the agreement, the Government will give the county certain flexibilities that enable it to meet its targets. The final draft of the LAA will be sent to the Ministers for agreement by 24 February.

**Round table discussions 2 – what can be done to address the gaps?**

During this session, delegates discussed possible solutions to the issues they raised during the first group discussion. They were encourage to be as practical as possible when developing ideas for projects and to suggest who would be involved, when and where it would take place as well as how it would be funded. Some groups developed two or three proposals whereas other chose to develop one proposal in more detail.

The detailed project proposals developed by the groups are given in Appendix F. A brief description of the ideas is given in Table 2 below.

<b>Community Plan theme</b>	<b>Description of proposal</b>
Safer Spelthorne	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Broadening the role of Neighbourhood Watch to strengthen communities</li> <li>2. Greater civic awareness in Spelthorne Network Rail</li> <li>3. Mobile coffee shop</li> </ol>
Young People’s Spelthorne	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promotion of young people’s activities</li> <li>2. Family residentials and days out</li> <li>3. Easy access for volunteers</li> <li>4. Kick about for Nowt – increasing access to leisure facilities</li> <li>5. Volunteer after your career</li> <li>6. Bridging the generation gap</li> </ol>
Getting Around Spelthorne	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategic co-ordination of public transport including concessionary fares</li> </ol>
Healthy Spelthorne	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensuring that older people live life to full mental/physical/social well-being</li> <li>2. Health and social care information fair(s)</li> <li>3. Ensuring that the community within Spelthorne are able to get the right information at the right time that is accessible</li> <li>4. Reduce alcohol abuse</li> </ol>
Thriving Spelthorne	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve recycling opportunities</li> <li>2. The Staines balance – increasing focus on other areas of the Borough</li> </ol>
Learning Spelthorne	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Writing and implementation of a policy for the promotion of the arts</li> <li>2. Preparation and implementation of an arts policy</li> </ol>

Table 2: Descriptions of project proposals

These proposals will be passed on to the relevant strategy group to consider whether they are able to take them forward.

## **Analysis of cross-cutting issues**

The vast majority of delegates' comments and proposals clearly related to one of the Community Plan themes. However, there are sometimes initiatives or projects that affect targets on more than one theme. One example is the link between reducing traffic through walking or cycling and reducing obesity. Young people being the victims and/or cause of crime is an issue that is relevant to both the Safer Spelthorne and Young People's Spelthorne themes of the Community Plan.

It is important that the strategy groups and the LSP Executive are aware of these cross-cutting issues, in particular so that work in the various parts of the Partnership may be coordinated rather than duplicated.

## **Evaluation of the day**

All of the delegates who returned their evaluation forms (approximately 50%) were satisfied with the day. 65% of respondents said they were very satisfied while 25% were fairly satisfied.

All of the comments on the day are attached in Appendix G and a summary of the key issues is given below.

### What worked well

In general, delegates felt that the day worked well because of:

- Networking opportunities
- Clear speakers
- Good facilitation
- Variety of participants
- Good organisation/structure
- Time for everyone to contribute

### What did not work well

There were some areas in which delegates felt that the Assembly could improve. In general these were:

- Variable heating
- Needed more time for discussion
- More delegates needed
- More young people needed
- Pro-formas were too long
- Mixed feedback from groups during plenary

### Other comments

Other comments and suggestions included:

- Needed to bring feedback together at the end
- More communication required including to the general public
- Lunch was good but needed to move table away from wall to allow more people at the same time

- Idea boards were useful
- Hope that things actually happen

The LSP needs to build on the positive aspects of the day for future events and examine ways to address the things that did not work so well.

### **What happens next?**

All of the comments and suggestions for the various themes of the Community Plan will be sent to the relevant strategy group to consider. Where possible, they will build them into their action plans. Spelthorne Borough Council will also consider the issues regarding the structure and format of the day when working with the LSP Executive to plan next year's event.

The lead organisations in the LSP are committed to keeping the wider body of partners informed about the work that the Partnership is undertaking. A newsletter will be distributed to members of the Assembly in summer 2006, which will provide an update on the Community Plan. In addition, the 2007 Assembly will include feedback on what has been done following this Assembly's recommendations.

### **Conclusion**

The 2006 Assembly has produced a mass of ideas and suggestions and it will take time for the partnership groups to consider them fully. In some cases they may be able to use the ideas, whereas in other cases there may be problems that prevent them from doing so. However, it is essential that the outcomes of the day are communicated to those who participated as well as the wider community.

Feedback on the Assembly was largely positive and the LSP should commit to building on its success. This will help it to develop a robust process of partnership work, which will harness all the skills and knowledge of those involved in the Partnership in order to achieve the vision for Spelthorne in the Community Plan.