

2010/11

# Bucks Strategic Partnership Annual Report

*"Promoting Prosperity – Tackling Inequalities"*

**BUCKS STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIP**



*promoting prosperity, tackling inequalities*

**Executive Summary**

## Welcome to the Bucks Strategic Partnership (BSP) Annual Report for 2010/11.

There is no doubt that the scale and pace of change over the last 12 months has been unprecedented as we respond locally to the impact of the Coalition Government's agenda. All partners - whether public sector, business or voluntary and community sector - are affected. We are dealing with radical funding cuts and major policy changes affecting all aspects of public services. It has been - and looks set to continue to be - one of the most challenging and turbulent periods in which to maintain a clear and collective focus on our shared priorities.

Yet, as you read this report, I hope you will be reassured to see how partnership working in Buckinghamshire continues to thrive, make a difference to the lives of local residents and deliver improved value from our combined resources. The BSP has re-grouped, streamlined and reduced where appropriate. But it has also maintained a clear focus on where it can add value, and prioritised its efforts in those areas. The Local Area Agreement format is now disbanded, but we can and should celebrate the success of our joint efforts in many areas. We finish the year with a clear change from a top-down performance managed approach from central government, to an outcomes-focussed 'contract' with residents on what the BSP can influence and deliver locally.

For the future, It is clear that innovative and purposeful partnership working is more crucial than ever if we are to achieve the commitments we have jointly signed up to in our Buckinghamshire family of Sustainable Community Strategies. We need to continually review how we are working; challenging organisational boundaries and ensuring the full range of partners are working well together if we are to make the most of public monies invested in Buckinghamshire. Whilst we are responsive to adjusting how we work and arrange ourselves to respond most effectively to the challenges ahead, we have a confident and well-established partnership base from which to develop.

This report is a summary document, presenting the key facts and highlights. More information about the work of the complementary district Local Strategic Partners can be found in the Annual Report 2010/11 *Appendix*, and the link documents listed on the final page.

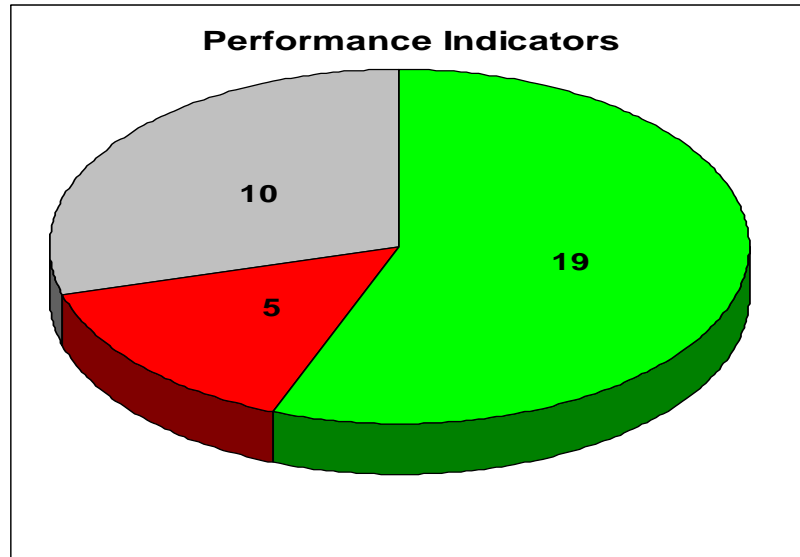
*Chris Williams, Chairman, BSP Implementation Group*

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## Key achievements 2010/11

### Local Area Agreement performance



Key:

	On or above target
	Target missed
	No longer reported/measured

The Buckinghamshire's three-year LAA has 34 indicators, 7 of which are local indicators and 27 National Indicators. As a result of national changes, 10 of the 27 National Indicators are no longer measured.

Whilst the potential LAA reward grant of £2.87m was withdrawn, it is clear that Bucks would have achieved a significant percentage of this.

The significant majority of LAA targets were delivered at the end of Year 3, including:

- All the Safer Communities targets
- Number of vulnerable people achieving independent living;
- All the Superb Environment targets
- Children and young people's mental health and closing the achievement gap for children eligible for free school meals at KS2
- Primary fire fatalities
- Affordable housing and homelessness.

#### Highlights are:

- Of the indicators that we can still measure, **79% were met.**
- **Numbers of first time entrants** to the Youth Justice system aged 10-17 fell by 43% from the previous 12 months.
- **1,117 fewer victims** of serious acquisitive crime, than were targeted;
- **530 more affordable housing units are available** and fewer people are now in temporary accommodation.
- A significant increase (73.1% against a baseline of 66.4%) in the number of **vulnerable people achieving independent living.**
- An increase in the number of **people supported to live independently.**
- **4% reduction in CO2 levels** from Local Authority buildings.

The areas where targets were not met include:

- **Closing the achievement gap for children eligible for free school meals at GCSE level**
- **Obesity among primary school children in year 6.**
- **Adult participation in sports;**
- **Working age population qualified to at least level 2 or higher**

## Working together effectively

The BSP Board has continued to develop strong working relationships over the past year, resulting in an agreed work programme for the year which focuses on:

- **Tackling crime and fear of crime:** This year has seen the establishment of the IOM scheme across Buckinghamshire. The project focuses on working with people who have committed Serious Acquisitive Crimes, involving closer collaboration between Thames Valley Police and Probation in working with those with the highest likelihood of reoffending. New systems are now in place to ensure people are being offered the opportunity to change and others targeted for continuing their criminal behaviour. Through the IOM project there is greater sharing of information, less duplication of work and greater resource available to motivate and encourage people to change.
- **Promoting prosperity:** The aim of the BSP Broadband project is to secure 100% coverage of 40Mbs broadband across Buckinghamshire by 2015. The project includes work with BT to upgrade exchanges and by the end of 2012 it is expected that 75% of premises will be connected to an upgraded exchange. Wireless solutions are being sought for the several 'not spots' in the east of Aylesbury Vale, including the installation of a wireless mast at Wingrave business park and service supplied to Slapton. An improved bid for government funding to provide superfast services elsewhere in the county will be submitted in 2011.
- **Narrowing the gaps:** The first Buckinghamshire Child Poverty Strategy has been developed through the Children and Young People's Trust. Work is now beginning on tackling the issues identified, including a number of initiatives specifically aimed at supporting children, young people and families in poverty and on low incomes. The BSP has also contributed funding this year to the Family Intervention Project, a project which provides short-term, intensive support to families with complex needs. Since the project began in July 2010 it has helped 16 families with a total of 69 children. Although still in the early stages, evidence gathered to date indicates that the project is improving attendance at school and work and reduced incidences of domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour.
- **Big Society:** The BSP recognises the benefits of individuals, families and communities in taking more responsibility for their lives, but also understands the challenges this brings. Buckinghamshire is fortunate that many people are already very involved in their local communities and the BSP is currently considering how the partnership can further help the development of the Big Society in Buckinghamshire.
- **Mapping the public state:** The changes happening across the public sector are some of the biggest seen for generations. The BSP is well placed to keep an overview of planned changes, looking at the effects they are or could have on communities across the county and, where necessary, taking mitigating action.

The BSP Implementation Group has supported the Board with an improvement agenda, which included:

- **Early development of our local approach to the Community Budgets agenda**

Whilst the Community Budgets pilots nationally have only just commenced, we have been preparing ourselves locally for the potential future roll-out. As part of this approach, we have allocated some of the BSP pooled fund to support relevant BSP work programme projects, looking afresh at how to achieve these in a preventative context whilst making best use of the public resources invested in those areas. This covers our work on families with complex needs and also the Integrated Offender Management work - where there are also some clear overlaps. Through exploring the benefits and challenges experienced by the national pilots, BSPIG is striving to keep abreast of the latest developments to inform our future working.

- **Workforce development**

We have built on the innovative partnership work started last year to further develop a Bucks-wide workforce plan. Whilst the main focus has been on the public sector, this is now being extended to a Bucks-wide approach. As many public services are now being delivered in partnership with private and voluntary sector partners we want to engage with them to share best practice. Successes include the establishment of a new Institute of Applied Leadership and Management, led by Bucks New University, Bucks Healthcare Trust and the County Council, which is providing a focus for collaborative learning. The Institute is focussed on developing leaders and managers equipped to deliver the transformational change required by all public sector organisations. The group has also been involved in promoting the Future Jobs Fund across Buckinghamshire. This scheme provided a subsidy to employers who created new jobs for young people who had been in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance for six months or more. Partners have employed over 50 young people giving them that vital first step into work.

- **Shared approaches**

Through developing common, partnership approaches we are reducing duplication of effort and increasing our shared ability to maximise tailored approaches. Over the last year, examples include using our Acorn data to inform planning, establishing one shared set of population projections, and increasing access and transparency around consultations to the public through one consultation portal. Other examples include analysing deprivation data and sharing the outcome with all partners to reduce effort across the partnership and joint working in relation to the 2011 Census. We will continue to develop this approach including more sophisticated Customer Insight work.

#### **Day in the Life Project – an example of more sophisticated Customer Insight work**

There was a concern that existing consultations were insufficiently robust, so an innovative approach of narrative boards telling the story of each child/family was commissioned to get detailed qualitative information on life in Bucks for a very small cohort of vulnerable children, young people and their families (some in poverty, some with complex needs).

The findings were very interesting and posed some questions (below), and the BSP has agreed to explore this type of methodology further:

How well do our collective policies support **social networks**? (Big Society Issue)

How can we ensure the **language and processes** we employ are more young person friendly.

How can partners support their staff to have **meaningful relationships** with young people and unlock their potential.

## Other achievements

As well as the work completed to successfully deliver the performance indicators, a number of key achievements have also come to fruition.

- **Knowing Bucks** – the BSP website has been redesigned and renamed. It is now simple to use and contains all the relevant information that partners need. It also contains content that residents would find useful and interesting.
- **Common Evidence Base** – on Knowing Bucks, partners are now sharing data on the website to create a common evidence base for Buckinghamshire. This ranges from information on population, deprivation, profiles including Acorn and ward profiles as well as and most importantly partners sharing data that is produced by them with other partners to better aid decision making across the County. We are looking to extend this now to include the voluntary and community sector. This data and information is also available to residents.
- **Using a Geographic Information System (GIS)** - we are at pilot stage with displaying some of our common evidence base via interactive maps. This will enable users (partners and residents) to easily and clearly see data by geographical area. This functionality will also be used to map all property by the statutory sector in Bucks.
- **Consultation portal** – on Knowing Bucks, partners and residents can access all consultations that are taking place across Buckinghamshire. In addition, we have formed the Buckinghamshire Partnership residents panel which is a community of people who have agreed to be consulted regularly about decisions that impact on Buckinghamshire residents..
- **Integrated Impact Assessment** - we have developed a single impact assessment form for all partners to use which will be accessed from Knowing Bucks. This is in the form of an on-line tool. Partners have developed this together and formed the user testing group.
- **Discussion Forums** – we have developed the functionality for discussion forums on Knowing Bucks, where groups of people can communicate privately on line on matters of interest. There are a few groups set up and we aim to roll this out further.
- **Assets forum (eBay type facility)** - we are currently developing an eBay type facility for partners to advertise assets that they have available for use and benefit of other partners.
- **Big society pages** – we have Big Society pages on Knowing Bucks, providing information on the Big Society in Buckinghamshire as well as examples of the Big Society in action.
- **Benefits from collective working – the softer side** - we have provided a summary on what we have achieved last year, both in terms of achievement of the performance indicators as well as the successful delivery of a number of projects and key pieces of work. We also know that you value the ability to work on issues and problems together, create joint solutions, provide support for each other and sometimes just let off steam. This benefit is hard to quantify in real terms but is important to partners and we would be remiss in not highlighting this.

## How have we used our collective resources?

The Pooled Fund, which has spanned the last 3 years, has helped to support the following projects. You can read more about the impact of some of these projects through the case studies found later in the report.

<b>Completed Projects</b>	
Adult participation in sport	£230,000
Carbon dioxide reduction	£320,000
Fly tipping	£125,500
Home safety checks	£133,000
Rural housing	£45,000
Stroke rehabilitation	£19,980
Supporting people	£41,493
ZapCarbon	£10,770
HCA Single Conversation	£35,000
<b>Ongoing Projects</b>	
Broadband	£100,000
Family intervention programme	£97,019
Integrated offender management	£136,000
Knowing Bucks	£61,500
<b>VCS Reporting</b>	
BCF Recession Proofing Projects	£100,000
Interim Expert Volunteers	£47,242
<i>Totals to date</i>	<b>£1,502,504</b>
TOTAL Unallocated funds, at April 11	<b>£197,496</b>

## Looking Ahead; Key challenges

### Focus for 2011/12

- Deliver the BSP work programme
  - Tackling crime and fear of crime: Integrated Offender Management
  - Promoting prosperity: Broadband
  - Narrowing the gaps: childhood poverty. Families with Complex Needs
  - Big Society: Personal Responsibility
  - Mapping the public state
- Realise the benefits from the projects funded through the BSP Pooled Fund
- Develop BSP approach to Community Budgeting - and link this to the outcomes sought from our work on Families with Complex needs
- Capitalise on the partnership tools developed through 'Knowing Bucks'; including our shared consultation portal, impact assessment, property mapping and discussion forums
- Continually review governance arrangements to suit our local requirements
- Continue to evolve Bucks workforce development

## Working together to deliver the Buckinghamshire family of Sustainable Community Strategies

The work of the Bucks Strategic Partnership complements, and is complemented by, the work of each of the four district Local Strategic Partnerships in the county. We share 5 common themes and underlying shared outcomes, as identified in our family of Sustainable Community Strategies. Together these set out our long-term vision for Buckinghamshire to 2026, and provide the common framework for our partnership activity. The Sustainable Community Strategy themes are:

**Thriving Economy Sustainable Environment Safe Communities Health and Wellbeing Cohesive and Strong Communities.**

In addition to these five common themes, the Partnership has a cross-cutting theme of Tackling Disadvantage.

Working to these common goals, each LSP focuses on targeted areas of work to ensure that our collaborative effort is greater than the sum of the parts. On the following pages you can read highlights of the work we have undertaken in 20010/11, set out against these 5 themes.

*South Bucks Partnership*



Aylesbury  
Vale local strategic  
partnership



## Thriving Economy

We aim to:

- Build business, enterprise and innovation and promote global competitiveness.
- Develop skills and employment for the future.
- Increase affordable housing
- Support strategic infrastructure requirements.
- Promote investment in Buckinghamshire.

### Key achievements

**530 more affordable housing units are available and fewer people are now in temporary accommodation.**

## Rural Housing Enabling Partnership

BSPIG approved funding of £45,000 in 2009, to support the creation of a County-wide Rural Housing Enabling Partnership, ensuring a co-ordinated and coherent approach to improving the provision and quality of rural housing in the County.

The Bucks Rural Housing Partnership comprised of Community Impact Bucks (the Rural Community Council for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes), the District Councils within Buckinghamshire, Hastoe Housing Association, English Rural Housing Association, The Guinness Partnership and Sovereign Housing Association.

The Partnership has provided 42 units within rural exception schemes and returned 87 properties to use. The funding from BSPIG has been instrumental in getting the Partnership in place and has successfully facilitated engagement of South Bucks and Wycombe District Councils in rural housing.

## Street Dreams – Developing potential for the future

Classic furniture brands that put High Wycombe on the map more than 100 years ago are back with a 21st century twist, thanks to a project run by disadvantaged young people. This social enterprise scheme, which celebrates the town's rich manufacturing heritage, is run by Street Dreams, a Wycombe-based charity that motivates disadvantaged and disruptive young people. A team of young workers have cleared out an old furniture workshop in High Wycombe, transforming the premises into a workshop and gallery which hosts the 'Out of the Dark' project. Esteemed brands among the donated pieces include Ercol, G Plan and Parker Knoll. The pieces are given a modern design and then exhibited with any money raised going to help other disadvantaged young people. The young designers are encouraged to take ownership of the work - from coming up with the initial ideas to painting and even making a sales pitch on the exhibition night. The exhibition provides people with the opportunity to buy unique furnishings for their home and traders or local businesses and groups to snap up a bargain.



## Sustainable Environment

We aim to:

- Tackle climate change
- Enhance and protect the local environment
- Reduce waste, re-use resources, increase recycling and energy recovery
- Efficiently manage and maintain the transport network

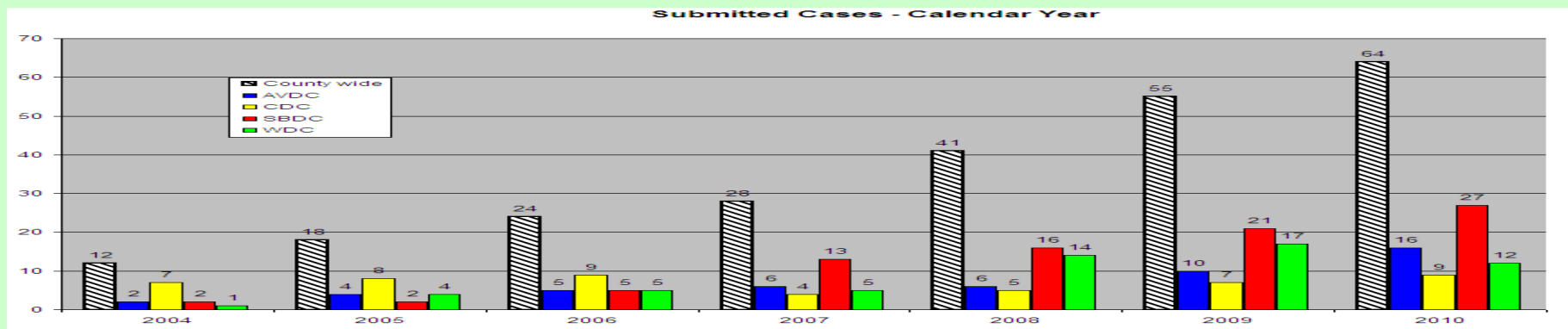
## Key achievements

**4% reduction in CO2 levels** from Local Authority buildings.

Strong record on flytipping maintained

## Flytipping

The BSP funding was used to support the 'Illegal Dumping Costs' campaign, advising both businesses and householders on their responsibilities regarding the duty of care of the removal of their waste. The remaining funding was used to highlight the importance of residents coming forward when they have witnessed fly tips. This recognises that over a third of all convictions in 2010 arose from witnesses who reported seeing someone fly-tip. This work led to an increase in the number of case files submitted to the legal services team at Bucks County Council to 64. In addition, a total of 104 Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) interviews were carried out in 2010 and flytippers are now 10 times more likely to be convicted in Buckinghamshire than elsewhere in the country. The impact of this can be seen in the following graph:



## ZapCarbon! – Race2Reduce Contest - “The contest has opened our eyes to how much energy we used..”

The South Bucks and Chiltern Partnership each allocated £10,000 towards reducing the carbon footprints of their districts, being amongst the highest in Great Britain, with BSPIG matching the funding. It was championed by the voluntary sector and administered by ZapCarbon!

The competition engaged communities and groups of households to reduce their carbon footprint (electricity usage). The key successes were - **768 households registered with 477 households completing the competition and 20% of the competitors reduced their energy usage by 20%**. Projected Carbon savings from the contest are 109,600 kg CO<sub>2</sub> / year – with more to come as energy saving measures taken kick in.

In Bedgrove and Haddenham, where a similar contest took place, the annual Carbon savings from the two leading teams in each region are projected to be 570 kg CO<sub>2</sub> per household for Bedgrove and 650kg CO<sub>2</sub> from Haddenham.

## Safe Communities

We aim to:

- Reduce crime including anti-social behaviour
- Reduce fear of crime
- Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs
- Improve the safety of local people
- Promote safe development
- Sustain local resilience to violent extremism

### Key achievements

**Numbers of first time entrants** to the Youth Justice system aged 10-17 fell by 43% from the previous 12 months.

**1,117 fewer victims** of serious acquisitive crime, than were targeted.

## Reducing First Time entrants

The numbers of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time has dropped significantly continuing a steep downward trend since 2005/6. There were only 220 first time entrants in 2010/11, compared to 314 in 2009/10 – a 43% reduction in the last year.

The Buckinghamshire YOS Prevention & Early Intervention Team continues its effective partnership work with Thames Valley Police to ensure interventions are targeted to those at highest risk of offending. The delivery of prevention services is based on a risk led approach, working with partners to identify those most at risk of entering the criminal justice system and ensuring the length and intensity of intervention are commensurate with the factors identified during assessment.

A youth forum has been implemented effectively with young people receiving YOS prevention services – this has given the YOS important information regarding the quality and impact of its service and creative proposals for future development

## Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) Partnership

The Buckinghamshire multi-agency Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) Partnership Project Board was created to drive partnership activity and performance to reduce serious acquisitive crime (constituting burglary of dwellings, theft of and from motor vehicles, and robbery of personal and business premises). As a result, combined partnership crime reduction and prevention activity has been significantly improved, with a number of SAC initiatives:

- an intelligence/ information dissemination process and a communication/public awareness strategy
- a property marking strategy for Burglary (dwellings)
- an enhanced Automatic Number Plate Recognition structure and an "Items on Display"/"Clear Car" policy for Thefts (from vehicles)
- a "cocooning" policy for Burglary (dwellings)
- programme of car park and identified "hotspot" surveys for vehicle crimes
- a partnership response to "Distraction" and "Vamoose" (car key) Burglaries) being introduced and successfully implemented across the county

Our actual number of recorded SAC offences was 5,518, a highly impressive 1,117 offences within target and a very notable achievement".

## Health and Wellbeing

We aim to:

- Promote healthy lifestyles
- Reduce health inequalities
- Improve the quality of life for an ageing populations
- Improve the quality of life for children and young people
- Reduce homelessness
- Create well-connected communities

### Key achievements

A significant increase (73.1% against a baseline of 66.4%) in the number of **vulnerable people achieving independent living**.

An increase in the number of **people supported to live independently**.

## Reactivate Bucks

Reactivate Bucks saw the creation of [www.reactivatebucks.org](http://www.reactivatebucks.org) which is the focal point for marketing activity of adult sports activity in Bucks. There have been three 'Give it a go' weeks, as well as 700 weekly activities loaded on to the website with close to 200 offered as free taster sessions during 'Give it a go' weeks. The website is achieving 4000 hits during 'Give it a go' weeks and 2000 per week the rest of the year.

Key partners such as NHS Bucks, Badminton England, England Netball, England Athletics and the four district councils are using the branding and campaigns to promote activity to residents.

Reactivate Bucks has also successfully helped set up hundreds of new activities across the County and has engaged over 6000 residents into new activity with many more joining the existing clubs and sessions promoted via the website.

Reactivate Bucks has also worked with health professionals and leisure providers in Wycombe and Aylesbury, to develop schemes that will allow health professionals to refer residents at medium and high risk, to accredited instructors who can work with them to reduce obesity levels and the risk of heart disease.

## Supporting People – The Move on Project

In 2007 and 2008, Buckinghamshire Supporting People found that although a proportion of residents no longer required this support, they were unable to move on to independent living. Funding was secured from BSP to fund a Move On Co-ordinator and a project to address these issues. The key successes were:

The Move On Co-ordinator, with the four district councils, created a vulnerability form which is completed by the service user and their key worker, to enable benefit to be paid directly to a private landlord. This has worked well, and facilitated several moves from supported accommodation to independent private rental properties. The Move On Co-ordinator has attended private landlord forums, made links with High Wycombe Rent Deposit scheme and with a key landlord in Buckinghamshire, leading to several clients moving into properties. Following the successful pilot of Independent Living Skills workshops in March 2010, more courses were rolled out across Buckinghamshire, in partnership with Bucks Adult Learning. From July to February six courses were delivered, four in High Wycombe and two in Aylesbury, with feedback from participants largely positive. Twenty seven service users "graduated", and to date 68% of these have moved on into independent accommodation.

## Cohesive and Strong Communities

We aim to:

- Sustain and grow a thriving voluntary and community sector
- Increase the confidence of communities
- Help all communities get on well together
- Reduce levels of disadvantage

## Key achievements

**Closing the achievement gap for children eligible for free school meals at KS2**

## Big Society Bank

Voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in Buckinghamshire will be able to access low-cost loans from a new Bucks Big Society Bank which was launched in March. The Bucks Big Society Bank will be administered by Buckinghamshire Community Foundation, and the idea has been developed in partnership with Community Impact Bucks and The Clare Foundation.

The bank will provide a loan fund for smaller voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations across the county and aims to help them to access other sources of income, including grants, private donations, lottery funding and trading income. Organisations eligible to apply for funding from the bank will need to be situated in Buckinghamshire and be providing services or support just for local residents.

As well as showing the ability to repay the loan over a term of up to five years, loan applicants will need to show broad community support and public benefit, either directly through the services provided or indirectly through the generation of income to support activities.

Richard Dickson, Director of Buckinghamshire Community Foundation, believes that a low-cost loan from Bucks Big Society Bank - as part of a mix of different funding streams including grants - may help some groups and social enterprises to become more self-reliant. He says that the success of Bucks Big Society Bank will also depend upon the extent to which other local individuals, businesses and trusts get behind the idea and also contribute towards the bank's funds.

## Interim Expert Volunteers Project

**“They are helping us with a much needed business plan and the quality of the work they are doing for us is of a calibre far superior to anything we would normally expect to be able to access. They are pure gold! – VCSE**

**“This has been one of the most rewarding things I have done, and it is because of you I found this. So thank you very much” – Expert volunteer.**

Led by Community Impact Bucks, the project recruited business experts, who found themselves out of work due to the economic downturn, to volunteer their services to voluntary and social enterprise groups (VCSE) whilst job hunting. 63 expert volunteers completed the workshops, inducting them to the voluntary sector, with 40 having undertaken 72 assignments. In addition, 5 expert volunteers have become Trustees and a further 21 are now involved in longer term volunteering. The BSP invested £47,000 and has yielded a financial benefit to the VCSE in Bucks in excess of £250,000.

## Links and background papers:

- See Safer Bucks Plan 2011/12
- See Children and Young People's Trust monthly outcomes reports

## For further information on the work of the Bucks Strategic Partnership, see:

The BSP e-magazine 'Buckinghamshire Together' on [www.buckinghamshiretogether.org.uk](http://www.buckinghamshiretogether.org.uk)

The BSP website – Knowing Bucks; [www.buckslsp.org.uk](http://www.buckslsp.org.uk)

Our telephone: 01296-387831

The Buckinghamshire family of Sustainable Community Strategies can be accessed on [www.buckslsp.org.uk](http://www.buckslsp.org.uk)

