

A protocol between the Hartlepool Partnership and the Hartlepool Community Network.



Agreed by the Hartlepool Community
Network and the Hartlepool Partnership
Board in December 2008

Version 2

Contents

1. Purpose and context.....	1
1.1 The Hartlepool Partnership	1
1.2 The Hartlepool Community Network	2
2. Community and Voluntary Sector representation on the Hartlepool Partnership	3
2.1 The general role of Partnership members	3
2.2 Declarations of interest.....	4
2.3 Opportunities for Community Network representatives on the Hartlepool Partnership Board	4
2.4 Opportunities for Community Network representatives on the Hartlepool Partnership's Theme Partnerships	4
2.5 Opportunities for Community Network involvement in sub groups	5
2.6 Election process for Community Network representatives	6
2.7 Responsibilities of Community Network representatives on the Hartlepool Partnership Board and Theme Partnerships	6
2.8 Other routes for community and voluntary sector involvement in the Hartlepool Partnership.....	8
2.9 Non Community Network representatives on the Hartlepool Partnership Board and Theme Partnerships	9
3. Consultation activity.....	9
3.1 Hartlepool Partnership Board and Theme Partnership consultation activity	10
3.2 The Compact.....	10
3.3 Young People.....	11
3.4 Partners' consultation activity	12
4. Administrative arrangements.....	12
4.1 How agendas for Hartlepool Partnership Board meetings are set... ..	12
4.2 How papers for Hartlepool Partnership meetings are distributed....	13
4.3 How agendas for Community Network meetings are set.....	13
4.4 How papers for Community Network are distributed	13
4.5 How agendas for Theme Partnership meetings are set.....	14
4.6 How papers for Theme Partnership meetings are distributed.....	14
5. Mediation.....	14
5.1 Managing conflict.....	14
6. Measuring progress.....	14
6.1 Hartlepool's Local Area Agreement.....	14
6.2 Annual Self-assessments	15

1.0 Purpose and Context

This Protocol sets out the relationship between the Hartlepool Partnership and the Hartlepool Community Network. It provides a framework to strengthen working relationships between the two partners to secure quality community and voluntary sector involvement in the Hartlepool Partnership. The Protocol sets out how the Community Network can contribute to the work of the Hartlepool Partnership and how the Hartlepool Partnership and its associated Theme Partnerships can support the Community Network.

1.1 The Hartlepool Partnership

The Hartlepool Partnership is the town's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). It brings together all of the borough's partnerships delivering local services and is a network of partnerships. It provides opportunities for involvement for a wide range of organisations and individuals in the development and implementation of policy.

The Partnership has prepared a strategy that sets the planning framework for all services in the town called the Community Strategy. It describes a long-term vision – Hartlepool's ambition and aspirations for the future. The purpose of the Hartlepool Partnership as a whole is to realise the Community Strategy vision:

Vision

Hartlepool will be an ambitious, healthy, respectful, inclusive, thriving and outward-looking community, in an attractive and safe environment, where everyone is able to realise their potential.

Hartlepool Borough Council supports the provision of a Partnership Support Team to coordinate the day to day business of the Partnership and oversee the preparation and smooth running of meetings. The team also leads the preparation and implementation of the Community Strategy, Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and Local Area Agreement.

Contacting the Partnership Support Team

The Partnership Support Team can be contacted at:

Hartlepool Partnership
Bryan Hanson House
Hanson Square
Hartlepool
TS24 7 BT

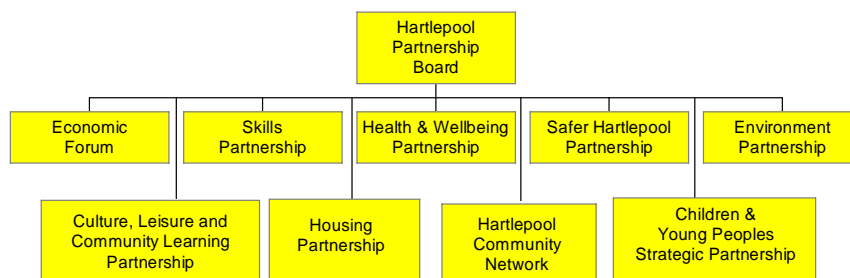
Tel. 01429 284147

Fax. 01429 523536

Email hartlepoolpartnership@hartlepool.gov.uk

Web www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk

The Hartlepool Partnership is made up of a Board and nine Theme Partnerships:



The Hartlepool Partnership supports the work of the Community Network by:

- Providing opportunities for elected representatives of the Network to be members of the Partnership Board and Theme Partnerships;
- Receiving reports and updates on their work at meetings;
- Holding regular meetings between the Partnership Support Team and Network staff to discuss future plans.

1.2 The Hartlepool Community Network

The Hartlepool Community Network is the means by which the community is brought together to influence the work of the Hartlepool Partnership and shape the delivery of the Community Strategy. The Network brings together voluntary/community and residents groups in a way that adds value to the Hartlepool Partnership. The aim is to bring the voluntary/community sector and residents' views into the development of the decision making process and to encourage wider resident participation in neighbourhood renewal.

Purpose of the Network

To ensure the involvement and engagement of the Voluntary / Community sector and resident input to the Hartlepool Partnership and other partnerships. To also ensure effective participation in neighbourhood renewal.

The Community Network has a Steering Group, made up of fourteen elected members, these being 3 North, 3 Central, 3 South and 5 Communities of Interest representatives and 1 from HVDA, as the accountable body for the Community Network. The Steering Group has three main functions. These functions are:

- To oversee the voluntary / community sector's involvement in partnerships in Hartlepool.
- To oversee resident involvement in local partnerships and neighbourhood regeneration.
- To set priorities and review progress against the Improvement / Action Plan

The Community Network employs two Community Network Officers and one Community Network Support Officer to support the development of the Network

Contacting the Community Network

The Hartlepool Community Network can be contacted at:

Hartlepool Community Network

C/o Rockhaven,

36 Victoria Road

Hartlepool

TS26 8DD

Tel. 01429 262641

Fax. 01429 265056

Email communitynetwork@hvda.co.uk

Web. www.hvda.org.uk www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk

2.0 Community and voluntary sector representation on the Hartlepool Partnership

2.1 The general role of Partnership members

The Hartlepool Partnership Terms of Reference identify the general role of all partnership members to be:

The General role of Partnership Members

The general role of all members of the Partnership will be to take a town wide perspective and to develop consensus in the best interests of the town as a whole. Members will bring their own perspectives and also represent their own organisation, interest group or area, and will be recognised for their valuable contribution bringing ideas, knowledge and expertise to the process.

All members of the Partnership shall be committed to applying the principles established in the Hartlepool Community Strategy:

Principles

- Decision making and communication
- Effective partnership working
- Efficient partnership working
- Integrity
- Involvement and inclusion
- Leadership and influence
- Performance management
- Skills and knowledge
- Sustainable development

As flexibility and continuity are essential to partnership working, each member of the Hartlepool Partnership Board may identify a named substitute in a register held by the Partnership Support Team who may attend on their behalf when necessary. Substitutes should be suitable senior representatives who are able to speak on behalf of their organisation or constituency.

2.2 Declarations of interest

Decisions of the Hartlepool Partnership Board must be taken and be seen to be taken in the interests of the well-being of Hartlepool. Members shall record on a register any personal interest, which they believe could come into conflict with their responsibilities as a member of the Board or Theme Partnership. This could include business or financial interests, employment, membership of any organisation which may be affected by a decision and ownership of property. The declaration of interests records will be kept by the Partnership Support Team at Bryan Hanson House as public documents.

2.3 Opportunities for Community Network representatives on the Hartlepool Partnership Board

There are five places for Community Network representation on the Hartlepool Partnership Board. These *Community of Interest* representatives seek to represent specific sections of society whose voice is sometimes not heard or recognised. The Community Network has decided that the term of office for Community Network representatives would normally be two years.

Community of interest Representatives		Feedback Groups
Minority Ethnic Community	A representative elected via the Community Network	BME Reference Group
Older People	A representative elected via the Community Network.	50+ Forum
Lifestyle and Recreation	A representative elected via the Community Network in collaboration with the Culture, Leisure and Community Learning Partnership. This representative is automatically a member of the Culture, Leisure and Community Learning Partnership.	
Disability, Health and Wellbeing	A representative elected via the Community Network. This representative is automatically a member of the Health and Wellbeing Executive and the All Ability Forum	All Ability Forum
One Young Person	Elected via the Community Network in collaboration with vInvolved.	Hartlepool Young Voices VInvolved

The Community Network also elects substitutes for the above Representatives.

2.4 Opportunities for Community Network representatives on the Hartlepool Partnership's Theme Partnerships

The Community Network will be represented on all key Theme Partnerships and representatives will be elected by the Network. It is not appropriate for the Hartlepool Partnership to specify the exact level of Community Network representatives on Theme Partnerships. It is the Community Network's aspiration that this representation is not less than 25%.

Community Network representation on Theme Partnerships	
Hartlepool Economic Forum	4 representatives elected via the Community Network
Skills Partnership	1 representative elected via the Community Network
Health and Wellbeing Executive	2 Representatives elected via the Community Network. 1 representative is the Disability, Health and Wellbeing representative elected to the Hartlepool Partnership Board 1 representative is a Carers representative.
Safer Hartlepool Partnership	6 representatives elected via the Community Network, of which 2 are elected to the Safer Hartlepool Executive.
Environment Partnership	3 representatives elected via the Community Network
Housing Partnership	3 representatives elected via the Community Network, (1 disability, 1 BME, 1 young person)
Culture, Leisure and Community Learning Partnership	6 representatives including 1 BME representative. 5 representatives elected via the Community Network and 1 BME representative elected via the BME Reference Group
Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership	4 representatives, including 2 BME representatives. 2 representatives elected via the Community Network and 2 BME representatives elected via the BME Reference Group.

2.5 Opportunities for Community Network involvement in sub groups

When sub-groups of the Hartlepool Partnership Board and Theme Partnerships are established it is expected that consideration is given to representation from the Community Network, together with that from the wider community and voluntary sector, including service users. The membership of the subgroup should be agreed by the Board/Theme Partnership and should be balanced and appropriate.

In the particular event that the Hartlepool Partnership Board recommends that a sub group is set up with the sole purpose of disbursing funding that has been allocated directly to the LSP, discussions with the Community Network will take place in relation to representation and it is anticipated that representation from the Community Network should not normally be less than 25%.

2.6 Election process for Community Network representatives

The Community Network has agreed that the election of its representatives on the Hartlepool Partnership Board and its Theme Partnerships should take place according to the guideline set out below.

Each partnership that asks the Community Network to organise elections for representatives, should determine if representatives are required to undertake a CRB check.

The Community Network will keep records of representatives' attendance at their partnership meetings and at Community Network feedback sessions. This information is kept as a public record and can be viewed at any time by request to the Community Network. This information will also be made available to an election meeting if a representative is seeking re-election.

Election process

- All representatives will be elected at an open meeting which will be externally advertised with nominations to be made prior to the meeting
- Nominations should be made prior to the meeting. However, nominations can be taken from the floor if there is insufficient interest received prior to the meeting
- For the election of a single position and where there are only two candidates the election will be by *first past the post*. Where there are more than two candidates and not one candidate has received more than 50% of the votes cast, a further election will take place with the top two candidates remaining in the ballot and the other candidates being eliminated
- Where the election is for several positions elected *en bloc* e.g. for three places, then those voting will be entitled to three votes of equal value, those who come first second and third in terms of the number of votes received will be deemed elected
- Elections will also take place to appoint substitute reps for Community Network representatives, ideally at the same meeting. However, where there are a number of representatives elected to a particular partnership only one substitute will be appointed for the block

2.7 Responsibilities of Community Network representatives on the Hartlepool Partnership Board and Theme Partnerships

The Community Network has agreed terms of reference and responsibilities for its representatives on the Hartlepool Partnership Board and Theme Partnerships. These are shown in the box below:

Terms of reference and responsibility of Community Network representatives

1. RESPONSIBILITIES

- To attend meetings of the Partnership(s) to which the individual has been elected.
- To be contactable as being a representative of their particular area of interest or neighbourhood. (This may be as an individual or/either through the Community Network or their themed group or partnership)
- To attend meetings of the Community Network on a quarterly basis and give an account of their contribution to their respective partnership and feed issues identified by the Community Network to their themed group or partnership.
- To attend any specific meetings outlined as the responsibility of the representative in relation to the work of the specific partnership and be willing to meet with groups and individuals who have an interest in their theme group
- Where representatives are unable to attend meetings of their respective partnership or group, the responsibility will be with the representative to contact the Community Network Support Officer who will then alert the nominated substitute.
- In instances where representatives are unable to attend a feedback meeting of the Community Network, a copy of the feedback proforma should be completed in advance of the meeting and returned to a member of the Community Network staff team (who will feed back in their absence)
- To be willing to participate in training activities
- Once elected, representatives will only take up their position when they have signed the Statement of Responsibilities (this applies to all existing representatives who will be obliged to sign the document to continue their tenure).

2. ELIGIBILITY

- Those nominated should be actively involved in a voluntary group in Hartlepool or be a resident of Hartlepool.
- Elected members of the Council, other than those who have attended four Community Network Meetings in the last two years will be ineligible.
- Officers employed in the public sector¹ whose role it is to support voluntary/community groups and fora are ineligible.

3. TERM OF OFFICE

- Representatives shall be elected for the period of two years after which a further election shall take place
- Any current post holder shall be eligible to stand for re-election
- In the event of non-attendance at three consecutive meetings of the partnership, even where apologies have been tendered, then the Community Network shall be able to declare a vacancy if it so wishes. If such an action is taken then a new nomination and election process shall take place.

2.8 Other routes for community and voluntary sector involvement in the Hartlepool Partnership

Not all representatives on the Hartlepool Partnership are elected by the Community Network. Residents are elected to the Hartlepool Partnership Board through the council's Neighbourhood Consultative Forums and additional *community of interest* representatives are drawn from local partnerships. This wider participation is replicated at a Theme Partnership level with service users and service providers drawn from the community and voluntary sector alongside public and private sector service providers.

Community of Interest representatives	
Faith Communities	A representative chosen by Hartlepool Churches Together
Young People	One representative to be Hartlepool's member of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament
Umbrella Voluntary Sector organisation	A representative from an organisation that provides general support for the development of the voluntary and community sector across the town. This place should be occupied by the accountable body for the Hartlepool Community Network

Resident representatives	
3 Neighbourhood Consultative Forum representatives	Resident representatives elected as the vice chairs of the north, central and south, Neighbourhood Consultative Forums from a meeting of the respective Neighbourhood Consultative Forum. The Community Network will support the elected Vice Chairs at Resident Representatives Hartlepool Partnership and pre-agenda meetings.

Eligibility Criteria for resident representatives of Neighbourhood Consultative Forums	
Resident representatives of each forum will be elected every two years. The following eligibility criteria apply:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. All residents of the Forum area aged 18 years or over will be entitled to vote. II. All residents of the Forum area aged 18 years and over, with the exception of Borough Councillors and Senior Council Officers (graded SO 1 and above) will be eligible to stand for election. III. All candidates for election must be willing to accept the roles and responsibilities of resident representative as set out in the attached note. IV. An elected resident member must resign from their position if they no longer reside in the neighbourhood forum area in which they were elected 	

¹ Within the context of this Compact this would include the parts of the economy that are concerned with providing basic government services.

The election process for resident members of Neighbourhood Consultative Forums

The election process will be supervised by the Returning Officer of the Council and may be conducted by an independent facilitator. The method of election will be as follows:

- I. Resident representatives will be elected at an open meeting.
- II. The meeting will be notified to all Hartlepool residents through meetings of the Forums and an advertisement in the local press.
- III. Three meetings will be held, one in each forum area.
- IV. The nomination period will commence 20 working days prior to the week of the elections and nominations must be delivered to the Returning Officer before 12 noon, 10 working days prior to the week of the elections. A nomination will not be valid unless it is subscribed by ten residents of the neighbourhood forum area ward for which the nomination is made. Both the nominee and the supporting signatories must appear on the current electoral register for the relevant ward. Voting will be by secret ballot.
- V. Following the election for the positions of Resident Representatives, the Resident Representatives elected shall elect one of their number to the office of Vice-Chair and another to act as substitute for the Vice-Chair.
- VI. In the event of a tied vote, a further vote will take place. If there is no outright result following this second vote, the Returning Officer will draw lots to decide on the successful candidate.
- VII. At least one resident representative from each Ward will be elected. In the event of there being no nomination for a Ward(s), vacancies will be filled by the remaining candidates with the highest number of votes regardless of the Ward in which they live.
- VIII. Casual vacancies will be filled at ordinary forum meetings, with all those present at the meeting able to vote (Councillors, Resident Representatives and members of the public).

2.9 Non-Community Network representatives on the Hartlepool Partnership Board and Theme Partnerships

All community and voluntary sector representatives should work to agreed roles and responsibilities that are determined through negotiation between the relevant partnership and constituency (i.e. the group that elected them). It is expected that these roles and responsibilities would cover:

- Eligibility criteria for representatives
- How representatives are elected
- Brief description of role, to include term of office and how representatives liaise with their respective constituencies
- Training and development opportunities

3.0 Consultation Activity

3.1 Hartlepool Partnership Board and Theme Partnerships Consultation Activity

The Hartlepool Partnership is committed to promoting local people's involvement in the planning of services and improving the area where they live. In further developing its key strategies namely the Community Strategy, the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, and the Local Area Agreement, the Partnership will strive to meet the standards set out in Hartlepool's Compact. In preparing and delivering the Strategies that make up the Hartlepool Partnership's Policy Framework, Theme Partnerships will ensure that they strive to meet the standards set out in the Compact and this Protocol too.

3.2 The Hartlepool Compact

The Compact is an agreement between Hartlepool Borough Council, local service providers and commissioners of services and the voluntary and community sector.

Compact Vision

The Hartlepool Compact aims to strengthen the relationship between public sector and voluntary and community sector working towards shared objectives to improve the quality of people's lives within Hartlepool.

The purpose of the Compact is to set out agreed codes of practice and terms of engagement that organisations agree to work to and sign up to. This ensures that all partners are aware of and can be responsible for the level of engagement expected from them and what they expect from others when working in partnership. This mutual agreement between partners will improve their relationships and benefit the communities within Hartlepool.

Compact Consultation and Policy Code 2008

- i) All partners will ensure inclusiveness with partners, and share strategy documents and consultation exercises.
- ii) All our documents will use simple, clear language and will be available in formats, including different languages if requested to meet the needs of residents.
- iii) All partners will build early consultation into plans for statutory policy and strategy development, allowing 8 weeks for consultation, where practicable.
- iv) All partners recognise the constraints upon, and resource implications for voluntary and community organisations, and will use a variety of consultation methods (innovative where possible) and levels, in order to be as inclusive as possible.

- v) All partners will make clear the purpose and scope of each consultation and will provide background information and contact details for additional information.
- vi) For each consultation, information will include details of the timescale, any decisions already made, arrangements for expressing views and clarification on what influence those views will have on any other contributory factors to the final decision making process.
- vii) All partners will ensure there will be clear and constructive feedback setting out reasons for decisions made or the adoption of a specific approach.
- viii) To avoid duplication and consultation fatigue, and to ensure the best use of resources, we will use existing networks and forums to publicise and organise consultation as well as ensuring closer coordination between departments of large organisations and between public sector agencies.
- ix) All partners to encourage the use of area based networks to ensure that information reaches the smallest/ more isolated groups to maximise resources.
- x) All partners will seek to ensure respect and confidentiality in relation to the privileged information that may be exchanged, within the constraints of the law and the proper performance of public duties.
- xi) All partners will support the 7 visions of the Participation Strategy to increase the effective involvement and participation of children and young people in shaping the Borough-wide services available to them across the statutory and non-statutory sectors.

3.3 Young People

Hartlepool Young Voices, a group of young people, from a range of backgrounds, including looked after children, nominated by members of the Hartlepool Participation Network, have come together and devised a Young People's Participation Strategy.

Their Vision Statement consists of seven statements that describe how young people should be involved in every aspect of an organisation's operation. It is supported by a set of standards and training materials, also devised by the young people, called 'Branching Out', to enable organisations to provide evidence that they are responding to the seven statements of the Vision.

Participation Strategy Vision

- i) All partners will ensure our staff and the children and young people that we work with receive training and support on how they can take part to make things better;
- ii) All partners will ensure that we inform and involve children and young people in the working of the organisation, including volunteering and work opportunities where appropriate;
- iii) All partners will share evidence, knowledge and skills on how we involve, support and praise children and young people;
- iv) All partners will identify what money, time and resources there is to support what we do;
- v) All partners will make sure there are different ways for our staff, and the children and young people who we work with, to be involved in participation;
- vi) All partners will take young people's views seriously about what all children and young people think is important;
- vii) All partners will explain and respect the rights and responsibilities of children and young people.

3.4 Partners' Consultation Activity

Many individual organisations and partners that come together in the Hartlepool Partnership develop policy and initiate new services in their own right. The Community Network can facilitate involvement in the consultation processes by organising specific theme, issue or neighbourhood meetings as appropriate. These meetings should take place early on when initial proposals or strategies are being developed to provide an opportunity to involve all interested individuals. Details of how the final proposals or strategies have been amended in light of consultation should also be made available.

4.0 Administrative arrangements

The Partnership Support Team is responsible for coordinating meetings of the Partnership Board, preparing agendas and distributing papers. Meetings are usually held every 6-8 weeks.

4.1 How agendas for Hartlepool Partnership Board meetings are set

Items for the agenda should be communicated to the Partnership Support Team at least three weeks before the meeting. An Agenda Item Request Form will then be forwarded for completion and return – on receipt, an agenda slot will be confirmed.

The Partnership Support Team should receive reports and any appendices electronically at least 2 weeks before the meeting. Reports received after this deadline are not guaranteed to be included on the agenda. Reports should be in the standard Hartlepool Partnership format – a template is available to download from the Partnership’s website or by request from the Partnership Support Team.

Reports are presented on the agenda in three categories:

- Presentation
- Items for decision
- Items for information

There will usually be only one Presentation on each agenda; presentations should be kept concise allowing time for debate.

It is expected that reports brought before the Board will have been discussed at and referred by an appropriate Theme Partnership or sub-group. There is also the flexibility for individual partners or Community Network representatives to present reports to the Board in their own right.

4.2 How papers for Hartlepool Partnership Board meetings are distributed

Papers for Hartlepool Partnership Board meetings will be made available by the Partnership Support Team at least a week before the meeting. Board members will be able to choose to receive their papers electronically or paper copies via the post. Copies of papers for meetings will also be placed on the Partnership’s website www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk

4.3 How agendas for Community Network meetings are set

Requests for an agenda item should be directed to the Community Network Team. These requests need to be put in writing and should be made at least 5 weeks before the Community Network Business meeting. The Community Network Steering Group will meet 4 weeks prior to a Business meeting and agree the agenda. Community Network members do also have the option to ask the Chair of the Community Network to request that an item be put on the agenda. This does not guarantee that the item will be placed on the agenda at the next meeting, it may be considered for the following meeting.

4.4 How papers for Community Network meetings are distributed

Papers, previous minutes and agendas will be made available at least 2 weeks prior to a Community Network Business meeting. Members and partners will be able to choose to receive their papers electronically or paper copies via the post. Copies of papers for meetings will also be placed on the Community Network pages of the Hartlepool Partnership and HVDA websites.

4.5 How agendas for Theme Partnership meetings are set

Theme Partnership should ensure that their Terms of Reference set out arrangements for agenda setting. This should include:

- Detailing who requests for agenda items should be directed to
- Timescales and preferred format for receipt of items
- Any decision making routes that should be followed i.e. discussion at a sub-group or task group before coming to the Theme Partnership.

4.6 How papers for Theme Partnership meetings are distributed

Papers for Theme Partnership meetings will be made available at least a week before the meeting. Partnership members will be able to choose to receive their papers electronically or paper copies via the post. Copies of papers for meetings will also be placed on the Theme Partnership's website pages of the main Hartlepool Partnership website.

5.0 *Mediation*

5.1 Managing conflict

If members of the Hartlepool Partnership Board, a Theme Partnership or the Community Network consider there has been a failure to agree the implementation or interpretation of elements outlined in this Protocol a meeting to discuss the area of conflict between parties should be held. If this then fails to resolve the issue a mediator, acceptable to both parties will lead the process of reconciliation. This role could be played by the Chief Executive of Hartlepool Borough Council, a representative from Government Office for the North East (GONE) or an independent mediator. A report of the outcome of mediation will be made publically available.

6.0 *Measuring progress*

6.1 Hartlepool's Local Area Agreement 2008-2011

Hartlepool's Local Area Agreement (LAA) sets out how the Community Strategy will be delivered in the coming three years. The LAA sets out outcomes and targets to be achieved. Annual Delivery and Improvement Plans are prepared to provide detail on the specific actions that will be carried out in each of the three years of the LAA. The Hartlepool Partnership will provide opportunities for the Community Network to review progress on the Local Area Agreement and comment on emerging priorities for future years.

6.2 Annual Self Assessments

As part of the annual Delivery and Improvement Plan, the Hartlepool Partnership and the Community Network will carry out annual self-assessments that review priorities and evaluate their progress. The Hartlepool Partnership's self-assessment is structured in six criteria:

1. Strategic
2. Inclusive
3. Action Focused
4. Performance Managed
5. Efficient
6. Learning and Development

Hartlepool Community Network's self assessment has seven criteria that review how the Community Network is organised and how it has been involved in the decision making of the Hartlepool Partnership. These are:

1. Communication and information
2. Organisational capacity and learning
3. Inclusivity
4. Representation and accountability
5. Neighbourhood level development
6. The LSP context
7. Influence and impacts

A number of standards within these criteria relate to the Hartlepool Partnership:

- That there is a sufficiently influential level and range of Voluntary/Community Sector representation on the Hartlepool Partnership, Thematic Partnerships and sub groups
- That there is an agreed protocol covering working arrangements between the Hartlepool Community Network and Hartlepool Partnership
- That Hartlepool Partnership decision-making processes have included the Voluntary Community Sector representatives in a way that has enabled them to contribute and have a real influence
- That Hartlepool Community Network representatives are fully involved in the Partnership's Performance Management Framework on an annual basis

