



Performance Update - March 2009

OUR PROGRESS SO FAR

About Shaping Thurrock

Shaping Thurrock is the Local Strategic Partnership for Thurrock. It aims to bring together the various organisations that make up the public, private, community, voluntary and faith sectors in Thurrock to improve the quality of life of local people. Its members include representatives from:

 **THURROCK COUNCIL** Thurrock Council

 **NHS**
South West Essex NHS South West Essex



Essex Police



Thurrock Thames Gateway
Development Corporation

Shaping Thurrock takes ownership of delivery of Thurrock's Sustainable Community Strategy (the long term vision for Thurrock) and the Local Area Agreement (the three year delivery plan for the Sustainable Community Strategy).

The Local Area Agreement contains many partnership improvement targets which were negotiated by members of the Shaping Thurrock Partnership and Government. Partnership money has funded many projects to help meet these targets and if we are successful, Thurrock could earn up to £4.5million in reward funding to be reinvested in the local area.

Crime and Safety

There has been a significant reduction in alcohol misuse in Thurrock. This is important to the Community Safety Partnership because of the link between alcohol misuse, violent crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime. 234 fewer people have been victims of assault with actual bodily harm¹ compared to the same period in the previous year². This will see a reduction in hospital admissions and free up capacity for the police to deal with other matters. Partnership money has also funded the services of a dedicated alcohol worker so that short-term support related interventions can be delivered more effectively. Alcohol misuse remains a priority for the whole Shaping Thurrock Partnership because of its impact on overall health and wellbeing.

Protecting Thurrock's vulnerable residents is a priority in Thurrock, and the Partnership is addressing this directly through tackling hidden crimes, such as domestic, sexual and hate related violence. To do this, victims of abuse sometimes need extra support so they feel able to report such crimes. Partnership money has funded a Domestic Violence Co-ordinator and an Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy worker within the criminal justice system to support victims.

People are often afraid to report such crimes due to their sensitive nature. In Thurrock we have been encouraging such reporting, therefore incidents of domestic violence, sexual violence, and hate crime reported to the police are increasing. However, this is having a positive impact as more perpetrators of domestic violence are being brought to justice, with the police's detection rate³ increasing from 63% to 66.5%.⁴

¹ As per Home Office definition of national indicator 20 'assault with less serious injury; which relates to recorded incidents of actual bodily harm (ABH)

² 234 fewer people have been wounded between 1/10/07-30/9/08 and 1/10/06 and 30/9/07

³ 'detection rate' refers to sanctioned detections as measured by the police

⁴ 63% is the figure for 1/4/07-31/12/07, 66.5% is the figure for 1/4/08-31/12/08

Children and Young People

Standards in maths amongst seven year olds have improved compared to last year. In the 07/08 school year, 70% of seven year olds in Thurrock achieved a level 2b or higher in their Key Stage 1 tests.

Sixty-six⁵ children have completed the MEND programme, a community based healthy lifestyle programme for overweight children. This programme aims to prevent overweight children from becoming obese, and to treat children with obesity. The programme covers nutrition, exercise and behavioural change. The programme is also being improved to make it easier for eligible children and their families to get involved and stay involved.

Reducing the number of 16- to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) is a priority for Shaping Thurrock. This is important because we want to improve the life chances of Thurrock's young adults. Being NEET between the ages of 16-18 is a major predictor of future unemployment, low income, teenage parenthood, depression and poor physical health.

Since 2005/06 we have reduced the percentage of 16-18 year olds who are not in employment, education or training from 9.58% to 7.4%⁶. This is a 25% improvement over 2 years.



⁵ Sixty six children have completed the MEND programme (1/4/07-31/12/08)

⁶ 7.4% is the figure for November & December 2008

Environment

Shaping Thurrock Partnership has set ambitious targets to reduce the amount of waste and rubbish that goes to landfill. Since April 2007, Thurrock has recycled and composted 37,396 tonnes of waste. This is equivalent to the weight of 4,966 London buses⁷.

Thurrock Council conducted a widespread consultation exercise in 07/08 to determine how much waste and rubbish residents wanted to be recycled in Thurrock in the future. Feedback indicated that residents wanted to recycle as much as possible. The Council will be implementing a range of initiatives to enable residents to recycle as much as they can so that this positive improvement continues well into the future.

Shaping Thurrock is working closely with our Regional Heritage and Environment partners to make improvements to Coalhouse Fort, East Tilbury. Significant improvements to the surrounding area will be made so that the site is given the "Green Flag" award the national standard for parks and green spaces in the United Kingdom. Thurrock already has one "Green Flag" at Grays Beach.



⁷ A London route master bus is 7.53 tonnes
[source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/A8688766>]

Culture

Shaping Thurrock is passionate about providing high quality cultural and sporting opportunities for all. The library service was one of only 3 in the country to meet all 10 library standards. The equivalent of over 75% of Thurrock's residents have bought a ticket for cultural and heritage events⁸ and the brilliant '12 Days of Christmas' won a prestigious national award.

Building works on the Production Park in Purfleet will commence in 2009. This will see the Royal Opera House relocate its set and design production facilities to Thurrock. In addition, a Creative and Cultural Skills Academy will be built on the site, and the "High House Farm", a Grade II listed set of buildings, will be preserved and transformed into a community resource.

Health

In the UK, smoking kills more than 120,000 people each year and is the biggest single cause of preventable illness and death⁹. There has been a big increase in the number of people giving up smoking in Thurrock since the start of the LAA. 2,290 people have stopped smoking¹⁰ since April 2007, with 749 of these people living in disadvantaged areas where rates of smoking are highest¹¹. This increase is the best in the Eastern Region and the good work undertaken by NHS South West Essex in conjunction with its partners is being shared with other organisations in the region.

NHS South West Essex in conjunction with Impulse Leisure, have introduced exercise programmes to encourage overweight adults to become more physically active. NHS South West Essex and Thurrock Council have also jointly funded a range of health improvement initiatives.

⁸ For events at Thameside Theatre, Tilbury Fort, Coalhouse Fort, Tilbury Cruise Terminal and open air locations.

⁹ Department of Health, Choosing Health? Resource pack, Spring 2004.

¹⁰ For a minimum of 4 weeks

¹¹ Disadvantaged areas are Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) – a statistical term. Figure is Q2 cumulative figure 1/4/07-30/9/08.

Over £1.05 million will be invested in playground facilities in a range of parks and open spaces and schools across Thurrock. In 2009/10 residents in more disadvantaged communities will be able to use a free bus service to access Leisure Centres across Thurrock and free swimming for adults aged 60 and above will be introduced¹². For Thurrock's older and vulnerable residents, partners have invested in outreach programmes to ensure that older people have access to care they need, and are helped to continue to live independently in their own homes.

The Community

The Community Involvement Board (CIB) has undergone a successful period of change. It has evolved to provide better support, and a stronger platform for Thurrock's communities to influence public services through its voluntary, community and faith networks and organisations.

One aspect of this is to host bi-monthly themed meetings focused on the sector's priority topics so that those who are interested can come along and make their views heard to the relevant partner agencies. A new mechanism is being introduced to ensure feedback from these meetings is influencing how services are delivered across the partnership. Similarly, the partnership will be improving its communications with the community, voluntary and faith sector about the impact of such feedback.

A strong emphasis of the CIB's work is also to provide support for Thurrock's growing voluntary sector, to ensure it has its issues heard at the appropriate level and to ensure its expertise is represented effectively and appropriately, promoting true partnership working.



¹² Until March 2011, when pools are open for public swimming.

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Please visit the Shaping Thurrock website

www.shapingthurrock.org.uk

Alternatively, please contact our Shaping Thurrock Performance & Communications Manager at shaping@thurrock.gov.uk or telephone 01375 652492.