

A Framework
Community
Strategy for

Nottinghamshire

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A Community Strategy for Nottinghamshire

Introduction

The partners who have drawn up this strategy believe that:

Nottinghamshire should be a county where everyone can thrive and succeed. Local authorities have a particular responsibility to work together to promote the county's economic, social and environmental well-being. The Government has said that the main way we can make this happen is through agreeing a **community strategy for Nottinghamshire**.

This document (written following widespread consultation) sets out to:

- be the foundation of an ever-evolving community strategy
- focus on where a countywide approach will add value to what individual organisations or more local partnerships will deliver
- provide the context for detailed work at local level by individual organisations, partnerships and communities.

We recognise that a community strategy must evolve to suit changing circumstances. It should provide a vital link between local concerns and priorities and regional and national frameworks. It cannot be a blueprint upon which all future work should be based.

Priorities set out here have been highlighted by local people as something for all organisations to address over the next few years.

Many issues raised are cross cutting and can only be sensibly addressed through joint work across the priorities.

For example, there are links between **employment** and **health**; a clean and green **environment** affects decisions about the location of **business** and housing choice.

The Government paper on sustainable communities, published in February 2003, emphasised the need for complex issues such as housing, planning and neighbourhood renewal to be dealt with in an integrated way.

We must also consider the relationship between rural and urban areas, and how social and economic needs affect the vitality of villages and market towns.

For local partners this means taking a wide view of the problems and agreeing co-ordinated services.

Two principles central to all our work are **equalities** and **sustainable communities**. National reports into **community cohesion**, published last year, stressed the need for inclusive policies and services for all, regardless of gender, race, age, sexual orientation or disability.

This strategy explains the priorities of local people, suggests how local partners should tackle these and describes how progress should be measured.

The indicators listed in those blocks of text under each priority have been selected from the Audit Commission's *'Using Quality of Life Indicators'* publication. They were developed to be the most appropriate indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of community strategies. Most of the indicators suggested rely on information already collected by various agencies; those shown in italics are either under development or will rely on local survey work to monitor progress.

We would like to hear partners' views on what targets we might aim for under the suggested indicators.

The final part of the document outlines how partners have developed new approaches which call on the expertise of many organisations to meet particular needs. These include the Public Service Agreement, 'e-government' and better sharing of information to help in service delivery.

May 2003

Partnerships in Nottinghamshire

There's a strong tradition of partnership work in Nottinghamshire -there are over 300 partnerships across the county. These may be working regionally or sub-regionally, or based primarily on district boundaries, or addressing town, parish or neighbourhood issues.

The most important geographically-based partnerships are two major sub-regional strategic partnerships – the **Greater Nottingham Partnership** and the **North Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire SSP**, which focus on delivering on economic targets on behalf of the East Midlands Development Agency.

Also very important, and now in place across much of the county, are the district based **local strategic partnerships (LSPs)**, which have a wider remit involving all sectors of their local communities.

There are also partnerships focusing on health, crime, transport, and childcare, many of which are steered by local voluntary or community organisations and establish joint agendas in which services are planned and delivered.

This document builds on existing plans and strategies - providing an opportunity to see these as part of a wider and more strategic picture. It should not duplicate or supersede them, but adds value to existing activities.

This work gives a context to more detailed local work being carried out by individual organisations, partnerships or communities. The strategy should also provide a vital link between local concerns and priorities, expressed through LSPs and neighbourhood strategies, and the regional and national framework.

The Nottinghamshire Partnership Forum

The Nottinghamshire Partnership Forum comprises all major stakeholders, including those who attended the conferences held in November 2002 and March 2003. It should form a standing conference, meeting at least annually, to discuss priorities and set the vision for the subsequent twelve months.

The Forum will be advised by regular community conferences to ensure that work is rooted in community needs and aspirations. Practical actions and projects identified through community conferences may be commissioned by the Forum from existing groups or networks or, where these don't exist, from new networks or agencies.

The Nottinghamshire Partnership Forum will be responsible for steering the further development of this Foundation Community Strategy which should evolve to meet changing circumstances and demands. Draft partnership protocols outlining roles and responsibilities are being circulated for comment alongside this strategy.

The views of Nottinghamshire people

We have a lot of information about what Nottinghamshire people think. Many of the district-based LSPs have run surveys to determine local priorities. Many agencies working on particular issues have consulted people before drawing up their own strategies and delivery plans.

But to get an up to date picture of local people's views about the county, last autumn MORI was commissioned to undertake a **'liveability'** survey of 1,600 citizens drawn from across the county.

First results of this survey were presented to the Nottinghamshire Stakeholder Conference in November 2002. The main findings were:

- 60% of respondents identified strongly with the county
- 83% of respondents were satisfied with the county as a place to live
- 90% of local residents said that they wanted to continue to live in Nottinghamshire
- younger people were slightly less satisfied with life in the county than other age groups
- a large percentage of local residents thought that the county had good road links, good hospitals and health services, good schools and further education opportunities
- a lower percentage of residents however thought that the county had good facilities for young people, safe areas with low crime or strong communities

The survey revealed that for most people, the main priorities for action were:

- safe areas with low levels of crime and disorder
- clean areas
- facilities for young people
- quiet areas
- good schools / quality jobs
- leisure facilities for local people
- quality hospitals / good local health services

When asked what they would like to be different in 10 years time, respondents said that they would like to see improvements in:

- crime and policing
- facilities for young people
- leisure / entertainment facilities
- street cleaning / reduction in litter
- transport
- educational achievements
- hospitals / health services

Although residents in every part of the county said that exam results in schools, training and education opportunities for adults and quality of public services overall had got better in recent years, they felt less happy about the quality of employment opportunities and relationships between different groups in our communities.

These views, taken alongside partners' views and guided by recent research into the state of the county, shaped the priorities in our first draft foundation document, which we consulted on in February and March 2003.

Those priorities were checked during March in focus groups held around the county. They told us that while the priorities identified were sound, youth issues and transport were also important.

Taking account of this feedback - and that received through consultation - youth issues have been added as a further priority and sport, recreation and transport issues have been highlighted.

A further draft of the Foundation Community Strategy went to the Nottinghamshire Partnership Conference in late March and following further feedback, this latest version has been produced.

The condition of Nottinghamshire

Many studies have reported on the state of the county. Major ones, which have provided useful baseline information for this strategy, have included those from the Learning and Skills Council, the Trent Public Health Observatory, Nottinghamshire Agenda 21 Forum, the East Midlands Regional Assembly and Nottinghamshire County Council.

- *Nottinghamshire has a population of 750,000, an area of 805 square miles and a workforce of 356,000.*
- *The Nottingham conurbation has a population of over 500,000; main towns outside Nottingham range in size from Mansfield with a population of 50,000 and Worksop with 40,000, to Newark and Retford with populations of between 20,000 and 25,000. One third of the county's population lives in towns and villages with less than 10,000 inhabitants. The county has a slightly older population than the UK as a whole.*
- *The county has a diverse local economy. It is home to 23,000 businesses, over 80% of which employ less than 10 people. World-renowned companies in sectors such as healthcare, pharmaceuticals, engineering, textiles and clothing and services are based here. The economy has recovered well from the coal closures of the early 1990s and later clothing and textiles job losses and is diversifying out of dependence on manufacturing into services, food and drink and knowledge based industries.*
- *Educational achievement has improved in recent years, particularly at primary level, but results overall for fourteen and sixteen year olds are still below the national average. Workforce skills, qualifications and business formation rates need to be significantly improved.*
- *29% of North Nottinghamshire workers travel to work outside the area, with 13% commuting to Nottingham, 6% to South Yorkshire and 10% to Derbyshire and Lincolnshire. On the other hand, only 12% of employed residents in the Nottingham travel to work area work outside that area.*
- *Two of the county's seven districts and 16 of our wards are ranked within the 10% most deprived areas in England. Although much of this deprivation is concentrated in the north-west of the county, there are also pockets in urban, suburban and rural areas elsewhere. Unemployment rates have fallen in recent years and are now only slightly above the average for the region.*

- *Health statistics show that the county has premature death rates which are slightly higher than the national average, considerably so in some areas. Teenage pregnancy rates in parts of the county are very high.*
- *After several years of falling crime, except for violent crime, in 2001/02 there were increases in vehicle crime and domestic burglaries. There were 9,500 violent crimes recorded in 2001/02. Road accidents and casualty numbers continue to fall.*
- *The county's historic and natural environment includes the new National Nature Reserve of Sherwood Forest, the former ducal estates of Clumber Park, Rufford Abbey, Thoresby and Welbeck, most of which are now accessible for recreation and tourism and which provide huge natural assets for local people and tourists. Less than 2% of the county's natural environment is nationally important for its wildlife, compared with 7% nationally, reflecting intensive land use and an environment that has been affected by its industrial heritage. The county has 2,300 km of public footpaths and over 800 km of bridleways.*
- *Some key pressures on the environment include: **housing** – it is estimated that around 50,000 new dwellings will be required in Nottinghamshire between now and 2021; **transport** – road traffic in the county continues to grow, for example, between 1990 and 2000 there was a 15% increase in traffic on Nottinghamshire's rural A roads; **waste** – industry, commerce and households in Nottinghamshire produce around 2.5 million tonnes of waste each year. Disposal of municipal waste costs the County Council alone £11 million each year; **wildlife** – Nottinghamshire contains fewer protected landscapes and wildlife sites than neighbouring counties. The county has 50% less ancient woodland than in 1920, 90% less heathland than in 1922 and 97% less wildflower-rich grassland than in 1930.*

PRIORITY ONE A Safe County

People need to feel safe in their homes, on the streets and in our communities

Vision

We will promote security, combat crime and reduce accidents. We will focus upon priority areas and vulnerable groups. We will work with young people to reduce anti social behaviour, stimulate engagement with education and work and promote responsible citizenship.

Background

Crime and safety were highlighted in the MORI survey as the main focus of local people's concerns. Burglaries and violent crime are priorities. Drug related crime, vehicle crime and youth crime are areas where joint work will continue to tackle prevention and detection. This theme also incorporates the wider **community safety** agenda, including quality of life issues such as anti-social behaviour, accidents (whether on roads or in the home), and fire prevention.

The engagement of **young people**, through education, community development or youth work, is important. There are vital links too with services for children and young people, transport, public protection and emergency planning, work on alcohol and drugs strategies, fire safety, road safety and health issues.

There is scope for concerted, joined up work between agencies, whether public, private, voluntary or community-based as well as between local authorities, health, and police, to address areas such as preventable accidents, domestic violence and youth disaffection.

Drugs are a particular problem in certain neighbourhoods and need to be addressed through concerted action including advice, prevention, interruption of supply and treatment and rehabilitation services.

Consultation and engagement with communities and issue groups is vitally important. Feelings of engagement and involvement are central in combating the fear of crime, which is often a more difficult problem to deal with than crime itself.

There are good examples of joined up work between agencies under this priority, often funded by special initiative budgets, which could be rolled out across the county.

These include work on accidents, fire prevention and avoidable injuries being funded by the Public Service Agreement – (see **practical action** section) and co-operation between schools and police on unauthorised absence.

Work between police and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships is also highlighting drugs and alcohol issues, more visible policing, the introduction of CCTV schemes in town centres and the specific problems of rural areas.

Measuring success

You told us that you were worried about crime and safety:

We will measure our success in this area through progress against the following quality of life Indicators:

- Domestic Burglaries, Violent Offences and Vehicle Crimes – QL16
- Deaths from Accidents – QL10d
- *The percentage of residents who feel safe during the day and after dark in their areas – QL15*

PRIORITY TWO

A Clean and Green County

Looking after our environment

Vision

Most people in Nottinghamshire enjoy a quality environment which we must maintain for the future. We will minimise the production of waste and pollution and reduce the environmental impact of development and transport. We will safeguard natural resources and improve the local environment in towns, villages and the countryside. We aim to protect and enhance wildlife, natural heritage, the countryside and the historic environment.

Background

Sustainable development means making sure the generations to come can enjoy opportunities and options as good as, or better than, those we have now.

We must preserve basic 'life support' such as clean air, fresh water, fertile land, diverse and stable ecological systems and a stable climate.

The **natural environment and country parks**, with opportunities for sports, recreation and exercise can contribute to health and well-being, tourism and the local economy as well as quality of life. The county's built and archaeological heritage also makes a significant contribution to local distinctiveness and quality of life.

The county has a wide range of significant natural assets. **Sherwood Forest** and the **Trent Valley** are important. The 'On Trent' initiative has recently underlined the importance of the latter and has drawn attention to the potential of other waterways such as the Grantham and Chesterfield Canals. Wetlands and floodplains, some of which are the product of earlier extractive industries, are key natural assets, which are not only important for wildlife but also offer recreation and economic opportunities.

Transport is a key issue; increasing traffic and congestion, noise, safety and access in the conurbation, around towns and in rural areas, can best be addressed through **integrated transport policies**.

These should include road and highway improvements, more investment in comfortable, convenient and affordable public transport – bus, rail and tram – as well as campaigns and infrastructure improvements to encourage drivers to change their travelling habits. Awareness-raising and education, promotion of alternatives such as cycling and walking, school and workplace travel plans all have contributions to make to a cleaner and safer local environment.

Air transport and links to airports are key sub-regional issues that can benefit the economy and travellers, but can also have an impact on the lives of local people.

The pattern of **development** for housing or employment is also crucial to our environment. It affects travel patterns, the use or reuse of land, the pressures on rural areas, market towns and on urban regeneration. Proposed changes to the planning system make it vital that a single countywide voice on the development of sustainable local communities is heard. Patterns of migration and demographic change affect the demand for housing; there are clear relationships between where jobs are and people's housing choice.

Agencies in the county have made a major commitment to tackling **waste and pollution**. Local authorities have set ambitious targets for increased recycling of household waste and there are programmes across the county to reduce air, water and land pollution.

This priority should capture not only the big strategic issues but also more immediate and local issues such as quality of neighbourhoods – **litter, noise, grass cutting, and cleanliness** can be important local issues.

There are opportunities for employment under environmental improvement projects, pollution control technologies, recycling programmes and alternative energy applications, where the county has a track record of expertise. The **environmental industries** employ substantial numbers and may grow further.

In **rural** parts of the county key environmental issues include changes in farming practices, declining farm incomes, potential diversification and the reuse of redundant buildings. The local **rural economy** and the county's traditional strengths in food crops, food production and processing, are being supplemented by farmers' markets and increasing interest in local marketing and supply.

Measuring success

You told us that you were worried about your local environment;

We will measure our success in working in this area by monitoring progress against the following quality of life Indicators:

- CO2 emissions by sector and per head of population - QL28
- Percentage of household waste that is recycled, composted, used for energy production or landfilled - QL32
- Percentage of highways that have high or acceptable standards of cleanliness - QL34
- *Percentage of children travelling to school by different modes - QL37*
- *Percentage of residents concerned about noise in their area - QL17*

PRIORITY THREE Learning and Earning

A good education and decent jobs contribute to thriving communities

Vision

Partners will promote education, lifelong learning and employment opportunities to help everyone contribute to a cohesive society.

We will help people gain the right skills for a rewarding and productive job. We will stimulate 'enterprise', small firm formation and growth, job creation and a diverse local economy.

We will address the pressures caused by an ageing population.

We want all children to reach their full potential - childcare, play and early years' education are important. We recognise the advantages of a wider curriculum including a focus on life skills. We will exploit the links between our culture, the natural and historic environment and learning.

We also recognise the role education and skills development plays in building a healthy economy, and will, through '*Building Learning Communities*', encourage higher collective aspiration in our towns and villages and contribute to healthy and sustainable communities.

Background

We've had better results in primary education in recent years, where seven and eleven year olds are now above national average. But in GCSE results Nottinghamshire still lags behind other parts of the region and of the country.

We need to build on our good track record of including children with special educational needs in mainstream education.

Up to 23% of adults in Nottinghamshire have literacy and numeracy needs. Skill levels at 19 are 20% lower than those specified in national training targets.

Unemployment in the county has fallen from the high levels of the early 1990s and now matches regional averages; we need to drive this down further and help the hardest to reach, for example disabled people and lone parents, into work. We need to raise skill levels in the workforce if we are to build a higher value and more productive local economy.

We should ensure that all areas have **access to work**; transport services to towns and district centres where jobs are concentrated should be improved. Tackling barriers preventing access to learning, training and work should be a shared priority if we are to help the hardest to reach.

In spite of successful **job creation**, the county's employment and economic activity remains 5% below national average. Many jobs are low value and concentrated in low wage industries. Small firm formation and survival rates are well below national levels.

Currently 13.5% of young people are lost to **further education**, training or work at age 16. We must reduce this figure and raise participation in **higher education**.

The structure of the local economy means that some jobs are at particular risk from continuing globalisation and structural economic change.

Partners need to address the development of **local businesses** as well as the needs of **inward investors**. We should jointly exploit the locational advantages and the range of incentives available in the county. This will help build a diversified and flexible economy in which companies can recruit and train their employees, ensuring their expansion and building local prosperity.

Measuring success

You told us you wanted to see good schools and good jobs.

We will measure the success of work in this area by monitoring progress against the following Quality of Life indicators;

- People of working age in employment – QL1
- Increase or decrease in the number of VAT registered businesses – QL4
- Proportion of the population who live in the most deprived wards in the country – QL6
- Percentage of people of working age who are claiming key benefits – QL7
- Proportion of 19 year olds with 5 GCSE A-C or NVQ equivalent- QL9

PRIORITY FOUR A Healthy and Caring County

Healthy, happy individuals in healthy communities

Vision

We will raise standards of health for everyone by tackling the causes of poor health. We want everyone to be able to get the services they need.

We will improve the health of the most vulnerable in our communities through partnerships between the health service, local authorities, the private sector and voluntary and community organisations.

The wellbeing of Nottinghamshire people can be addressed by providing equal access to services dependant on need.

Together we will provide services focused on health and well-being, addressing health inequalities and health promotion.

Background

Health and well-being are greatly influenced by social and environmental factors, as well as by access to high quality health care services.

Many reports show the link between poverty and other indicators of social disadvantage – homelessness, housing conditions - and ill health. Health can be positively affected by measures aimed at reducing **poverty and inequality**.

Maximising household incomes and managing debt, for example, can be helped by easy access to independent **advice and information** services, which are often only available from community-based or voluntary sector organisations.

A recent Trent Public Health Observatory report showed where there is poor life expectancy and major diseases such as heart disease, strokes and cancers.

Teenage pregnancy is similarly linked to social disadvantage. Some Nottinghamshire districts have some of the highest rates in the country.

Poor diet and low levels of exercise can also lead to obesity. Convenient and affordable **leisure, sport and recreation** will improve health and fitness. Specialist school and college status may help encourage more participation in sports.

The promotion of better diets through local food initiatives can also contribute to **healthier lifestyles** - and encourage local production and marketing.

We can also promote healthier lifestyles through transport initiatives, which encourage people to walk or cycle to work or for recreation, improving personal health, reducing congestion, enhancing air quality and reducing accidents.

We should address the particular needs of **elderly people** – promoting their independence, preventing accidents and stimulating their fuller engagement in local and neighbourhood activities. This can be helped through local and community transport schemes, home adaptations, health promotion and exercise, neighbourhood warden schemes and older people's forums.

The elderly population has grown and there are high 'elderly in need' rates in certain parts of the county. Deaths from accidents amongst older people remain at high levels.

Drug and alcohol misuse contributes directly and indirectly (for example through domestic violence) to poor physical and mental health. It can only be addressed through multi-agency work.

Everyone, the young, the old and the disabled, needs access to responsive **medical and health services**. Better partnership work can help, between health professionals and local authorities, voluntary and community organisations and the independent sector. We should all work together to devise and deliver a coherent range of caring and health services.

Working together on issues like hospital discharge, home support and other **community based services** can improve people's quality of life - and relieve pressures on acute services.

The range of services for older people, **people with disabilities** and **children with special needs** should include family centres, respite care, home care, support for carers, residential homes and sheltered housing.

Measuring success

You told us that you wanted good hospitals and health care.

We will measure our success in work in this area against the following Quality of Life Indicators;

- Death rates from cancers and circulatory disease for people aged under 75 and suicides and injuries for all ages – QL10
- Conception rates among girls aged under 18 – QL12
- Number of unfit homes – QL14
- Number of childcare places for children aged under 5, not in early years education – QL20
- *Number of people who feel that their area is one where people from different backgrounds and communities can live together harmoniously – QL25*

PRIORITY FIVE The County's Future

The best start in life

Vision

We'll build on current services (voluntary and statutory) to provide better opportunities for all young people. We will involve them in planning, funding and building facilities. All services and facilities for young people must reach the new minimum standards for youth access. We and our partners will promote the welfare of vulnerable children and those in need and ensure that measures are in place to safeguard them from harm.

Background

Facilities for young people were a high priority for local people, according to our MORI survey. It also told us that young people were less satisfied with life in the county than others.

29% of the county's population is under 25 years of age. Although **unemployment** has fallen in recent years, in 2002 over 2,800 young people were without a job.

The main barrier facing **unemployed young people** in north Nottinghamshire is a lack of good transport links - this is worse in rural areas.

3.5% of the school population is from ethnic minorities (3,800 pupils). We know that black and minority ethnic pupils, young people with disabilities and travellers are often more isolated and needy and require enhanced or different services.

Several parts of the county have high rates of child poverty. This and related issues are being addressed through Sure Start and Children's Centres as well as through the Children's Fund initiatives.

Teenage pregnancy rates in several parts of Nottinghamshire are among the highest in the East Midlands. The county has the 14th highest teenage conception rates for under 18s in the UK.

The government's *Transforming Youth Work* gives new guidance for youth services, the voluntary sector, and the Connexions service on how to work **co-operatively** to develop services for young people.

The paper sets minimum standards for **access to services for young people** and stresses the need to enhance opportunities as well as address need.

Priorities for attention include several highlighted earlier in this strategy: crime reduction and nuisance, drug prevention and raising achievement.

We also need to **involve young people** in local decision-making, **active citizenship** and the design and delivery of services, helping us build community cohesion and cultural diversity.

Locally, services for young people are delivered by the Learning and Skills Council, the youth service, youth offending teams, the Nottinghamshire Education Business Alliance, Education and Social Services departments, Jobcentre Plus and the health service, most of which work collaboratively with Connexions.

Great strides have been made in **engaging young people**. There are 24 Youth Forums, 20 Schools councils, 4 UK Youth MPs (a county parliament is planned within the next year), and focus groups that examine service delivery and citizenship. Connexions has commissioned special research into how its own services should be offered and has appointed engagement workers.

The North Nottinghamshire Youth Disaffection Partnership has been working in wards across the north of the county for several years and the Nottinghamshire Youth Organisations Network is the main route through which **voluntary and community organisations** become involved in youth work.

Measuring success

You told us you wanted to see better facilities for young people.

We will measure progress in work in this area by the following Quality of Life Indicators;

- Number of under 16 year olds living in low income households – QL8.
- *Facilities for young people – QL21*

Practical Action

Public Service Agreement

Local partners – (all district and borough councils, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, Nottinghamshire Police, Nottinghamshire County Council and others), have developed an agreed package of measures, negotiated with Government between October and December 2002, which will result in over £4 million being made available for specific service improvements from April 2003.

Many of the areas agreed as priorities under this Public Service Agreement mirror those explained earlier in this community strategy.

Targets specified include:

- on education and employment
 - improvements at Key Stages 2 and 4,
 - to improve the capacity of public sector agencies to recruit disabled people and long term unemployed people under the New Deal
 - to improve the take up of ICT in libraries.
- on health,
 - enhancing the quality of life and independence of adults with disabilities
- on sustainability,
 - reduction and recycling of household waste
 - reducing CO² emissions from partners' buildings
- on safety,
 - reducing burglaries and re-offending rates by young people
 - reducing the number of deaths and injuries caused by fire
 - reducing the number of road accidents.

Many of the above targets align with the priorities discussed elsewhere in this strategy as well as with those set by Government. The PSA is a good example of partnership discussions translating into joint work and extra resources to bring shared service improvement and meet local needs.

E-Government

The Nottinghamshire e-Government Group, comprising all nine local authorities in the county including the City and County Councils, has successfully bid for partnership funding from Government.

This allows the development of a Nottinghamshire portal to build integrated access to information and services. The portal will link to Government bodies and other public sector providers and will be designed to deliver seamless electronic services for customers and businesses across Nottinghamshire.

Other areas falling within the broad e-government agenda and where work is underway include;

- the improvement of library services including the roll out of NEWLiNC (The People's Network) for all library services in both City and County.
- the Nottingham TravelWise Centre which acts as a portal to services including bus and rail timetables (real time and static information), an interactive journey planner, information for disabled travellers, roadworks information and so on. The Traveline Call Centre is supported by councils and bus operators.
- a number of infrastructure projects are also being developed. These include work under the *National Grid for Learning* aiming at increasing access to ICT by pupils and teachers and the *Anytime, Anywhere Learning project*, which provides laptops for pupils and parents in disadvantaged communities and which helps bridge the 'digital divide' in several parts of the county.

Information Sharing

Feedback from partners and from the March Partnership Conference indicated that many organisations saw a need for greater co-operation in information collection, sharing and dissemination. Many organisations are being driven by a focus on evidence-based service delivery and where delivery through partnerships becomes the norm, sharing data becomes even more important.

Already, several bi-lateral initiatives involving work in particular sectors are under development; these include JUPITER, applied particularly in the crime and disorder field and the UK FOCUS project being developed by Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service. Both of these aim at sharing and overlaying data to allow more exact mapping of areas of need. Such initiatives are particularly valuable in neighbourhood renewal areas where the need to track the effect of intervention and progress on baselines is important.

In addition, the scoping exercise currently being for the Nottinghamshire Information Management System may offer an integrated approach to information and data sharing for many agencies.

A Foundation Community Strategy for Nottinghamshire

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