



Annual Report 2012/2013



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Contents

	Page
Section 1 Introduction	2
Section 2 Key achievements of 2012/2013	5
Section 3 Future partnership working 2013.....	19
Section 4 Membership	22
Section 5 Financial snapshot	23
Section 6 Conclusion.....	25

1. Introduction



Welcome to Hertsmerem Together's Annual Report for 2012/2013. Hertsmerem Together is a well-supported and motivated partnership, and the past year has seen it make significant progress in further co-ordinating and improving the delivery of local services.

The past year has been one of change and challenge, with new organisations joining the partnership and the launch of our new strategy. The Community Strategy 2013-2016 sets out a clear commitment and vision for Hertsmerem based on what our communities have told us. By working together we can provide services which are joined up and shaped around our communities' needs and aspirations.

This report looks back at some of the key successes Hertsmerem Together has achieved over the past year. It also looks to the future and identifies how partnership activity will continue to improve services. We want to continue to make Hertsmerem a great place to visit, a great place for business and a place where people can live well and thrive.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Morris Bright', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

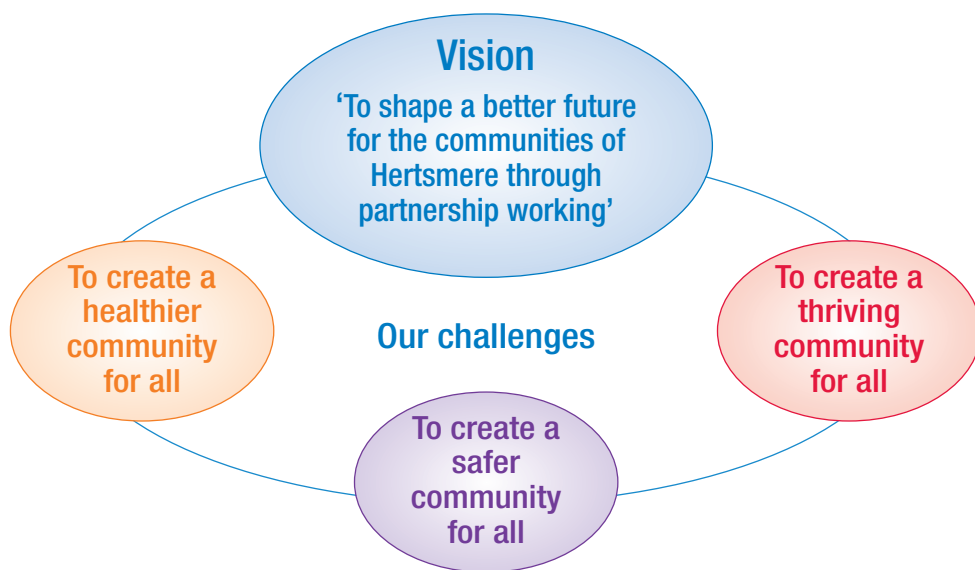
Councillor Morris Bright
Chairman, Hertsmerem Together

2. Key achievements of 2012/2013

Hertsmere Together has played a strategic role in co-ordinating partnership working and new initiatives in Hertsmere throughout 2012/2013. The following examples are just a snapshot of how the partnership is shaping a better future for the communities of Hertsmere.

The Community Strategy was launched in March 2013 to focus the partnership's work on three key areas; healthier, safer and thriving communities. The aim of the Community Strategy is to promote a shared vision and objectives and deliver a collective approach to service delivery. The key challenges facing Hertsmere are captured within these three areas.

Hertsmere Together's vision



We will work together with communities to identify solutions and initiatives to address local issues.

Healthier Communities

Health and wellbeing affects each and every one of us. The Health and Wellbeing Partnership, over the past year, has been working towards making health and wellbeing everyone's business, reducing health inequalities and tackling issues throughout people's lives.

What are our priorities?

- To promote healthy weight and increase physical activity
- To improve mental health and emotional wellbeing
- To create a healthy culture across all services, all communities and all workplaces

What did we do?

Health Inequalities Fund

In 2012/2013 NHS Hertfordshire awarded £10,000, for the fifth year running, to Hertsme Together for projects that contribute towards improving people's health and addressing health inequalities. The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) subsequently agreed to award £10,000 from the Performance Reward Grant as match funding. In 2012/2013 initiatives that have been funded include: No Smoking in Parks, Memory Support, Breast Feeding Champions and Timebank. This has been really successful in supporting local groups to work in partnership to address key challenges.



'Number 10' Health and Wellbeing Centre

The aim of 'Number 10' is to empower people with mental health or substance misuse issues, giving them the opportunity to develop their skills, build self-confidence and move forward into training, further education or paid employment. 'Number 10' opened in October 2012 and is run by Guideposts Trust

and Herts Mind Network. It currently provides services including Health4life, Yoga, Keep Calm Carry On, as well as counselling sessions, art and social groups.



Health4Life

Health4Life, a healthy living management programme, consisted of 10 sessions over 11 weeks. It aimed to introduce participants to a number of lifestyle management practices that will improve their overall health and wellbeing, for example: increased physical activity; healthy diet; stress management and smoking cessation.

The project was designed for people with mental health problems and was hosted at 'Number 10' in partnership with Hertsmere Leisure. Participants completed surveys at



the beginning of the course and at the end to measure improvements in health and wellbeing. Overall stress levels were reduced and energy levels increased for many as a result of taking part. In addition, the results showed that participant's attitude to physical health and the importance of healthy eating had improved.

Case study

'Daniel has shown great improvement throughout the Health4Life project both in physical health and emotional wellbeing. He has taken part in the majority of sessions and has found the gym the best form of exercise now he knows about it and has had an induction. He said "I wasn't too positive before the course started but I found classes helpful and free gym membership really motivated me. I am now feeling more positive since I started diet and exercise, I am not happy with my body at the moment but it's getting better and I am a lot more able than I thought I would be" Sian Rolls, Guideposts Trust

Five Ways to Wellbeing

Hertsmere was chosen as a pilot area to develop and promote the five ways to wellbeing. The five ways to wellbeing promotes tested proven and practical ways that people can take to improve their wellbeing. These include; Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give. Workshops were delivered to champion the five ways to wellbeing, as well as to inspire organisations and individuals to encourage others to improve their wellbeing.

Foodbanks

In May 2012 a feasibility study was commissioned by the LSP to analyse the need for a foodbank in Hertsmere. As a result a foodbank was established in Borehamwood by the Elstree and Borehamwood Christian Council (a group of 11 local churches) with support from The Trussell Trust. The LSP provided £3,500 to fund the project and

has more recently supported the development of a foodbank in Potters Bar. Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. Foodbanks provide support and a minimum of three days emergency food to people experiencing crisis.





Smoking cessation

Smoking remains a key issue in Hertsmere and, to tackle this, the Health and Wellbeing Group delivered a number of initiatives during 2012/2013. This included No Smoking in Parks Campaign, Brief Intervention Training for staff and promoting the Stoptober initiative.



Crash Bang

Road injuries and deaths remain high and are highlighted in the Health Profiles 2012. Therefore this hard-hitting project was delivered to young people who have been involved in car crime or are at risk of committing motoring offences. The aim of this intervention is to demonstrate to young people that the choices they make can have serious consequences.

The young people are shown the possible consequences of their actions, by playing the part of casualties involved in road traffic accidents or being cut free from a car by fire fighters. Some of the information given can be quite distressing as it contains images and narration from victims of actual collisions. Several agencies are involved in the project, including the fire, police and ambulance services. The reconstruction also serves as a training opportunity, as it gives fire fighters the chance to practice with live casualties, while working alongside the police and ambulance service.



Yoga in the Rose Garden

The main aim of these sessions was to get more people in the local community to take part in yoga on a regular basis and bring more people into Bushey Rose Garden. Attendees of these sessions were aged from 18 years through to 64 years old and had a very wide range of ethnic

backgrounds. As there were a group of people who attended on a weekly basis the class was able to progress and attendees were able to develop their yoga skills, core body strength, balance, breathing and flexibility techniques. Yoga in the park increased the participant's amount of physical activity and due to

the inclusive nature of yoga it meant that people of any fitness level were welcome.



The Community Chest

Community Action Hertsmere (CAH) managed a local Community Chest on behalf of the LSP. It provides a small grants scheme available to community and voluntary organisations in Hertsmere for small purchases or activities. A panel of voluntary sector organisations including the Forum of Faiths, Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and Community Action Hertsmere (CAH) consider applications on a rolling basis. So far they have provided support to organisations such as Herts Inclusive Theatre, Hertsmere Play Association and Potters Bar Carnival.

Safer Communities

The Community Safety Partnership over the last year has been working toward creating a safer environment for Hertsmere residents, businesses and visitors. By working in partnership with our local communities to identify local solutions to address local issues we can continue to make Hertsmere a safer place.

What are our priorities?

- To create safer environments by tackling crime (particularly house burglary and vehicle crime), anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related disorder
- To improve lives by reducing harm caused to communities by drugs
- To reduce offending and manage offender behaviour
- To build community confidence and increase feelings of safety

What did we do?

Crime prevention

Shopkeepers in Borehamwood have received advice on how to discourage thieves and keep their businesses safe. Shop Watch links shop staff and police via radio, enabling information on suspicious behaviour to be relayed instantly among members. In addition over the Christmas period, shoppers across the borough were able to pick up crime prevention and safety advice. A number of partners provided fire safety advice, distributed



purse dipping bells, light timers and information on keeping property safe by disposing of rubbish safely. They also raised awareness about the dangers of drink driving during the festive period.

Updates on partnership activities are presented to the quarterly public Community Safety Partnership (CSP) meetings which were held in Potters Bar, Radlett and Shenley, Borehamwood and Elstree and Bushey. These meetings also provide an opportunity for local residents to raise any concerns about crime or anti-social behaviour and ask questions about local community safety issues.

Dog Watch

Dog Watch was launched in August 2012. This initiative encourages members to report any suspicious activity they see or hear while walking their dog by calling the police non-emergency number, 101. Members are given crime prevention advice and receive regular updates through the police's Online Watch Link (OWL) about how their information helps improve the area where they live.



Dog Watch is one of many watch schemes run by Hertsmere Community Safety Partnership – other schemes include Pub Watch, Shop Watch, Allotment Watch, Horse Watch and Neighbourhood Watch.



Virtual Sunflower

In partnership with St Albans and Hertsmere's Women's Refuge, Independent Domestic Violence Advisers, Hertfordshire Police, Community Action Hertsmere and the CSP the Virtual Sunflower was officially launched in February 2013. The service offers advice, information and support for anyone affected by domestic abuse in Hertsmere. It is run by volunteers and trained professionals at the local community shop

who help victims take the first step towards a life free from violence and abuse. The Virtual Sunflower drop-in service is for anyone who is suffering from domestic abuse or is concerned about a family member.

Safer Streets

The multi-agency Safer Streets project, funded by the LSP, has been running since 2011. The scheme was devised by the CSP to improve community safety and people's quality of life. It involves a team of officers from the organisations involved visiting vulnerable households to talk about how local services can help them. Services that are offered include:



- free crime prevention advice
- free smoke detectors - plus free fitting
- free first aid courses
- help on leading a healthier lifestyle
- support for quitting smoking
- information on how to be more involved in the local community.

Throughout the year, 2,506 doors were knocked on and 1,557 questionnaires completed with the following referrals made:

	No. of houses	No. of replies	Success in %	Police	Fire	CAH	NHW	Red Cross
No. of visits	2,506	1,557	62%	21%	16%	13%	29%	21%
No. of referrals	-	-	-	333	245	204	455	320

In August, the Safer Streets team also accompanied Hertfordshire Community Meals during their meals on wheels rounds across the borough to connect with vulnerable adults. Each resident was given a Safer Streets 'How local services can help you' information folder as well as having equipment checked / installed if it was required.

Case study

*It was an excellent initiative from Hertsmer CSP to provide these free training sessions on first aid as part of the Safer Streets project. The instructor from the Red Cross was experienced and communicative making it a valuable two hours learning how to save a life and not walk past. Highly recommended that everyone should attend – you never know when you will have the opportunity to save a life – could be someone very close to you that needs you to help. **Jeff, Local Resident, Age 59***



Thriving Communities

Over the past year we have been more innovative in our approach to working with the community to increase volunteering, provide advice and guidance and ensure people have a good living environment.

What are our priorities?

- To provide accessible opportunities to skills development and financial advice.
- To increase community involvement and cohesion so people feel empowered and that they belong.
- To enable people to take part in decision making processes, increasing pride in communities and assisting ideas to thrive.
- To support the development of volunteering, social enterprise and business opportunities.

What have we done?

Hertsmere Homes

Over the past year homeowners have been encouraged to lease their properties to the local authority as part of an innovative scheme aimed at easing the housing shortage in Hertsmere. Hertsmere Borough Council teamed up with Genesis to unveil Hertsmere Homes, a private sector leasing scheme which provides accommodation for families in need of housing.



Landlords can sign up to Hertsmere Homes for three to five years. Throughout that time, they will receive a guaranteed income based on the local housing allowance. As part of the service, the property is inspected by Genesis to ensure it meets Decent Homes standards, set by the Government, before tenants move in.

For local individuals or families who are struggling to find suitable accommodation, this scheme is a lifeline, and it means they have a greater chance of finding somewhere to live in the borough.

Inter - Faith Week

In November 2012 Inter-Faith Week took place nationally and Hertsmere's Forum of Faiths put on activities in the community including a community clean-up day and an event with schools.

The Forum of Faiths has also become a registered charity and meets regularly throughout the year to promote interfaith relations and tackle issues in the community.



Incubation Hub

'My Incubator' is based in Potters Bar and run by WENTA helping entrepreneurs set up and run successful businesses.

In 2012/2013 the incubator has delivered:

No of businesses started	60
New jobs created	64
No of one to one business advice meetings held with clients	119
No of training courses and events held	35
No of clients attending one or more workshops and events	178



Case study

After graduating from university in July 2012, Dolores and Marcella Mullen both struggled to find work. As both sisters are fully trained and registered osteopaths they considered going down the self-employment route and meeting with Wenta Business Advisor Jeremy Green confirmed they had all the tools they needed.



Over the following months they took advantage of the My Incubator facility, researching their market and preparing their business plan. The pair also attended advisory sessions, training workshops and events at the hub, leading to the launch of their business, 'Osteopathy 4 Synergy', in February 2013.

They said, "Wenta has been such a great support for us and our business. We couldn't have structured such a professional business plan without the dedication and help of our advisor. We have started to build a regular client list and business continues to grow on a weekly basis."

Prince's Trust

The Prince's Trust in partnership with Job Centre Plus, Care Agencies, Hertsmere Borough Council, NHS and Hertsmere Leisure have been working with young people aged 14 to 30 who are unemployed, (ex)offenders, those in or leaving care and those who have low educational



attainment. The work provides engaging activities that develops personal and work skills, assists in gaining access to work or training and funding to help achieve some

of these goals through the Business Start-up/Enterprise Programme and Development Awards. Two 'Get Into' programmes were also held, the first on health and wellbeing and the second on health and social care. This project has proved very successful for young people providing work experience, qualifications and interview experience.

So far:

- Ten young people have engaged through information sessions
- Fourteen completed the four day Explore Enterprise Course
- Three business loans
- One Will It Work Grant
- Eleven Development Awards given
- One young job ambassador has been appointed in Borehamwood.

Case study

'Jack is 24, he lives in Borehamwood in rented accommodation. He has been unemployed for over six months and claiming job seekers allowance and housing benefit. Jack didn't engage at school and left without any qualifications. He joined the Princes Trust Enterprise programme and attended our four day Explore Enterprise course in July 2012 to make a better future for himself and his daughter. He has now successfully completed our four day course and has been working through his business plan. His idea of running a floor fitting business is now a reality. He was awarded a development grant to buy tools and a vehicle. He has proved his dedication and commitment and demonstrated that he has the right attitude to succeed. One of the things that has struck me the most, is how thankful and grateful he is because someone believed in him.' **Matt McBryde, Prince's Trust**

Take Part

Hertsmere Together and Hertsmere Borough Council decided in summer 2011 to build on the positive experience of Take Part Cowley Hill (2009). Funding was

awarded to CAH to roll out the programme in Bushey and Potters Bar.

This project began in October 2011 and aimed to get people more involved in the community through confidence building, increased knowledge of services and skills building.

The experience over the past eighteen months illustrated a great willingness to engage on the part of residents, a desire to understand how public sector institutions operate and a capacity to work together for the benefit of their community with

appropriate support or confidence building. The Take Part project and a wide range of partners have been able to make contact with and develop trust in areas and with residents who may have felt isolated, disengaged or cynical. The challenge now is for all partners involved in this project (statutory, voluntary, businesses and CAH) to maintain and develop these links and if possible to continue the work in other areas of the borough.

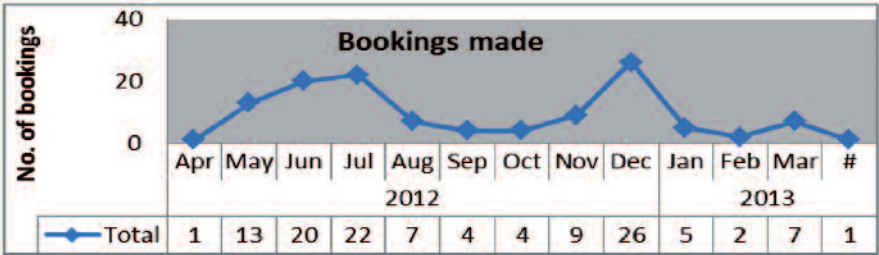


Timebank

Community Action Hertsmere, Hertfordshire County Council and Hertsmere Borough Council worked together to start a Hertsmere Timebank. Timebank is a way for people to share skills in the local community and make a difference, as well as getting to know people. Hertsmere Timebank initially promoted a number of events, coffee mornings, and workshops to develop a sense of group identity and trust between individuals.

Time Banking can engage some of the most vulnerable members of our society as “active citizens” creating better services and stronger communities. It draws people

in from all backgrounds: everyone can make a contribution and everyone's contribution is valued equally. The below graph shows the number of bookings that have been made locally, however the project has developed into a further 'take part' project by getting people involved in the community, in community events and volunteering together.



96 Shenley Road

96 Shenley Road is a modern community building for Borehamwood and Elstree. The centre includes a new state-of-the-art library and museum, youth connexions and community rooms, and a meeting space. Building work began in September 2012 and it is due to open in autumn 2013. 96 Shenley Road is a partnership project between Hertfordshire County Council, Hertsmere Borough Council, Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council and All Saints Church in Borehamwood.



3. Future Partnership Working

Hertsmere Together's vision is to:

“shape a better future for the communities of Hertsmere through robust partnership working.”

To achieve this vision the LSP set out its new plan for future service improvements in Hertsmere across three strategic objectives, detailed within its Community Strategy 2013-2016. These include: Healthier Communities, Safer Communities and Thriving Communities. The LSPs themed sub-partnerships (Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Partnership) will continue to put action plans together and develop innovative solutions to achieve the priorities.

We will continue to measure our performance and report back through these annual reports, which also provide an opportunity to showcase key successes and reflect on developments over the past year.

National context

Many organisations are taking big strides to achieve savings, taking up new opportunities and bringing new ideas into action. Partners still face a period of change and are working with communities and partners to re-design services and create new partnerships in order to shape the future of local services. This is being done in conjunction with a number of new pieces of legislation and national priorities including:

- The Localism Act, enacted in November 2012, providing for a General Power of Competence giving local authorities, the opportunity to be innovative and do things that are unlike anything a public body has done before. The Act also reforms the planning system, abolishing regional strategies and providing for neighbourhood plans.



- The Health and Social Care Act 2012 is modernising the NHS, giving local authorities a new role in joining up local services and putting clinicians at the centre of commissioning.
- Police Commissioners were elected across the country in November 2012 aiming to make policing more visible, responsive and accountable. This is encouraging new ways of partnership working to ensure good policy and safer communities.
- The Welfare Reform Act 2012 provides for the introduction of a Universal Credit to replace a range of existing means-tested benefits and tax credits for people of working age, as well as other changes to the benefits system which began in April 2013.
- The government's troubled families agenda will also continue to play a key role in shaping work locally to create thriving communities and tackle inter-generational problems.

Hertfordshire context

Partnership working has continued to move forward in Hertfordshire, driven through the Local Enterprise Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board.

Health and Wellbeing Board

Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB)

have been meeting since July 2011 in shadow form until the official transfer of public health functions in April 2013. Many Hertfordshire residents enjoy good health and wellbeing and we perform well compared to other areas, although there are significant areas of inequalities. We have a responsibility to ensure good health and wellbeing is promoted to our families, our workplaces and communities. Hertfordshire's Health and Wellbeing Strategy was developed over the past year, in conjunction with district partners and communities, and formally launched in February 2013. The LSP and the Hertsmer Health and Wellbeing partnership have committed to delivering this strategy in Hertsmer as well as focusing on issues important locally. A new Public Health Fund has also been provided locally which help support a number of initiatives and community organisations to deliver our aims over the next year.

Health and Wellbeing Board
Hertfordshire

Local Enterprise Partnership



The Local Enterprise Partnership is a business led organisation aiming to make Hertfordshire the ideal environment for businesses to flourish. It is responsible for growing the economy in Hertfordshire by removing barriers to growth and creating new jobs.

The LEP's four objectives are:

- To encourage enterprise and business growth and build on our innovation assets
- To maintain and improve the skills and employment prospects of residents
- To identify and prioritise the strategic infrastructure required for economic growth
- To secure greater investment from business and government through improved promotion and advocacy activity.

The Hertfordshire LEP received £16.2m in 2012 from the Growing Places Fund which is intended to kick-start the local economy by supporting infrastructure projects that need additional funding to get off the ground. In Hertsmer, Elstree Studios, owned by Hertsmer Borough Council was awarded £2m funding to support works on site which allow for new film and television production facilities.



Policy and Partnerships Network

This Officer Network's focus has changed over the last year and now has a wider remit considering Health and Wellbeing issues, emerging policy issues such as Localism, Economic Development and the Voluntary sector. It provides an avenue for sharing best practice and new ideas.

Local context

The LSP's local objectives provide a clear framework to prioritise and deliver service improvements. Over the next year the LSP will seek to deliver the objectives which have been formulated as a result of community need and national policy. 2013-2014 coincides with the launch of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Public Health Strategy as well as 2011 Census information and welfare reforms in April 2013, which provides direction and challenge for partnership working.

4. Membership

LSP members have the authority to speak on behalf of their individual organisation and to commit resources in principle to achieve the work set out in the Community Strategy.

The membership as agreed for 2013/14 is:

Name	Organisation	Representing
Cllr Morris Bright	Hertsmere Borough Council	Chairman of LSP
Dr Donald Graham	Hertsmere Borough Council	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Brenda Batten	Hertsmere Borough Council	Children and Young People/Health and Wellbeing
Cllr Seamus Quilty	Hertsmere Borough Council	Economic Development and Prosperity
Chris Pichon	WENTA	WENTA and Private Sector
Chis Wood	CAB	CAB and Voluntary Sector
Sue Pearlman	Community Action Hertsmere	CAH and Voluntary Sector/ Empowerment and Engagement
Carol Hall	Aldwyck Housing Association	Registered Social Landlords
Ian Pluck	Hertsmere Leisure	Hertsmere Leisure
Chief Inspector Dean Patient	Hertfordshire Constabulary	Community Safety Partnership/Constabulary
Cllr Teresa Heritage	Hertfordshire County Council	Hertfordshire County Council
Rev Richard Leslie	Forum of Faiths	Forum of Faiths (Chair)
Zoe Hancock	Oaklands College	Higher Education
Peter Wright	Public Health Hertfordshire County Council	Public Health (HCC)/Health and Wellbeing Group (Chair)
Dr Catherine Page	Hertsmere Commissioning Ltd	Hertsmere Commissioning Ltd
Earl Dutton	Hertfordshire County Council	Hertfordshire County Council
Tony Morrison	Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue	Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue
Susan Platten	Job Centre Plus	Job Centre Plus (DWP)

5. Financial Snapshot

From 2010 to 2013 £502,419 of the Performance Reward Grant has been allocated by the LSP to different partnership projects and so far £398,789.61 has been spent.

In 2012/2013 £10,000 was lodged within a "Community Chest" small grants scheme (up to £300) available to community and voluntary organisations in Hertsmere for small purchases or activities which contribute to meeting the key objectives of the LSP. For 2013/2014 £8,000 remains in the chest.

The Health and Wellbeing group in 2012/13 received £10,000 from NHS Hertfordshire to help reduce health inequalities for the fifth year running. In 2013/2014 a further £10,000 from Public Health, Hertfordshire County Council has been allocated to the LSP to achieve three key public health priorities.

The Community Safety partnership received £29,836 from the Safer Stronger Community Fund. For 2013/2014 the funding stream is delivered to the Police and Crime Commissioner for allocation across Hertfordshire. Hertsmere CSP has been allocated £27,898 for 2013/2014.

Performance Reward Grant			
	Total	Revenue	Capital
Year 1 received	£511,187.17	£263,190.30	£247,996.87
Year 2 received	£102,633.50	£71,843.50	£30,790.00
Year 3 received	-	-	-
Year 4 received	-	-	-
Money allocated	£502,419.00	£232,350.00	£215,569.00
Money spent 2010-2013	£398,789.61	-	-

Public Health Fund and PRG Match Fund	
Total 2011/12	£23,653
Money allocated 2011/12	£19,702
Money available 2012/13	£23,951
Money available 2013/14	£17,187

Community Safety Grant Allocation	
Financial Year	Total
2010/2011	£85,784
2011/2012	£58,976
2012/2013	£29,836
2013/2014	£27,898

6. Conclusion

During 2012/13 Hertsme Together continued to develop partnership working within the borough to further improve the delivery of services to residents. As this report has detailed, there are a large number of examples of successful partnership projects that have taken place under the auspices of the LSP, which have all contributed to the delivery of more efficient and effective public services within Hertsme.

Hertsme Together partners are committed to working in partnership to deliver the best quality and most efficient services to the residents of Hertsme and will continue to implement and develop its Community Strategy in the coming year and refresh the priorities accordingly.

We welcome feedback on all aspects of the work of Hertsme Together. If you have any comments or would like to discuss this document please contact Hertsme Borough Council by emailing partnership.support@hertsme.gov.uk telephone 020 8207 7801 or write to Civic Offices, Elstree Way, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, WD6 1WA.



