



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AWARDS

Souvenir supplement
February 2009

HEALTH SERVICE JOURNAL hsj.co.uk
HSJ

LGC
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHRONICLE

In association with


defra
Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs



Lord Hunt
Minister for sustainable development and energy innovation and deputy leader of the House of Lords



Act on CO₂ is a cross government initiative that aims to help people save money, save energy and reduce their CO₂ emissions

Your work is offering people real help in difficult times

I am delighted that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is again involved in the *LGC* and *HSJ* Sustainable Communities Awards. I would like to congratulate all the winners of the awards and thank all those who entered.

Creating places where people want to live and work, now and in the future, and which integrate environmental needs and opportunities is a crucial part of the government's approach to sustainable development. These awards help contribute towards this by identifying a wealth of good practice to enable improvements to service delivery.

This year's Sustainable Communities Awards demonstrate effectiveness in addressing some of the challenges that communities will increasingly face this coming year: providing real help for people in difficult times; building strong, resilient communities; planning for the long term; and working with individuals and communities to ensure they are best positioned to take advantage when the upturn comes.

I encourage all those involved in creating sustainable communities to learn more about the work of this year's winners to gain from the experience of these leading local organisations and partnerships.



Richard Vize
Editor, HSJ



Karen Day
Editor, LGC

Local connections that light up lives

Up and down the country there are inspirational examples of people coming together to build stronger and more vibrant communities. These partnerships between councils, health services and voluntary and community groups have overcome some of the most difficult challenges facing communities to help bring about real and sustained change.

This supplement highlights just a selection of those stories. The organisations and projects in the following pages are those that – through intelligent partnerships and innovation – have reached out to the most isolated and disadvantaged groups, that have brought people across the community together to help improve their environment and that are tackling social inequality. These are the winners of the 2009 Sustainable Communities Awards.

These winners show how sustained action and local leadership can improve communities' economic and social wellbeing as well as bring groups together to live more cohesively.

LGC and *HSJ* are, as always, hugely indebted to our sponsors, who help to make the awards possible, and to the judges, who give us their invaluable time and expertise.

Congratulations to all those who won or were shortlisted this year. We hope this supplement helps to spread some of their stories and their innovations and will inspire you to enter the 2010 awards.



Highly Commended

Isle of Wight Council

A centralised biomass plant that provides heating and hot water is just one notable feature of the Pan Urban Extension, which will create an integrated community of 1,009 homes near the Pan area of Newport on the Isle of Wight. The project, a council partnership with Spectrum Housing Group, puts sustainability at its heart, with every house built to a standard that exceeds level 4 of the government's code for sustainable homes. The buildings will also meet the Lifetime Homes and Building for Life gold standards for well designed homes.

A range of sustainable measures and design features is being put in place to deliver a low carbon footprint. As well as minimising environmental impact, the biomass plant (which uses plant and animal matter to generate energy) will support the local rural economy.

Finalists

South Essex Partnership Foundation trust

The detailed design of the 111-bed Rochford Hospital aims to deliver energy efficiency at the lower end of the NHS's target range. The development of the hospital has been a key part of the South Essex trust's plans to modernise mental health services in south east Essex. The project – which consists of 40 per cent new building and 60 per cent major refurbishment – includes energy saving measures that maximise natural ventilation and daylight throughout, as well as the use of proximity/time-control tap sensors, toilet flushing and shower units.

Building Sustainable Communities



Luminus Group

A site previously seen as a “no-go” area, blighted by antisocial behaviour and occupied by run-down garages, has been transformed by housing provider Luminus.

The idea for the California Road development in Huntingdon originated from a planning exercise with the Oxmoor Opportunities Partnership, which co-ordinates regeneration work in the deprived Oxmoor area of the town and aims to create “a safe, vibrant community with opportunities for educational attainment, good health and work for all”. The California Road homes have helped regeneration by improving the look of the area and designed out antisocial behaviour.

The timber-framed homes were built using modern methods. They have achieved the “very good” Ecohomes standard, set by the independent BRE building research and education group – which reflects how environmentally friendly buildings are, looking at factors such as water usage, opportunities to recycle and changes in working practices to limit pollution. The units are also well insulated and highly fuel-efficient.

Award judges

Nigel Appleton
Principal, Contact
Consulting



Stephen Barnes
Chief executive,
Pendle BC



Sarah Webb
Chief executive,
Chartered
Institute of
Housing





Community Cohesion

Highly Commended

Park Royal Centre for Mental Health

The Faith Links project at the Park Royal mental health centre, part of Central and North West London foundation trust, is involving users from different faith groups in project design and implementation. The project also liaises extensively with faith leaders. Its goal is a therapy approach – with input from users – that builds bridges with disadvantaged groups, aids the understanding and treatment of mental illness and reduces health inequalities.

Saucepans North/Central

Encouraging young people in Southampton to make a contribution to the community through the use of art is a key aspect of Project Honour, run by the multi-agency Saucepans North/Central team.

The project aims to improve the mental health of young people who are at risk of offending or exclusion, disadvantaged, have mental health concerns or who are not in education to training. The team is also working to provide safety after school and boost economic wellbeing across the city.

Finalists

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Bilingual advocates from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service have been working with black and minority ethnic communities to help them access services. A refugee and asylum-seeker advocate works with newer members of the community to promote fire safety and social inclusion.

The team's work aids public service providers and helps to break down barriers between different ethnic groups in the Liverpool area. People reached by the service are better informed about their home city and less isolated.

Sefton MBC, Sefton Equalities Partnership

Sefton Equalities Partnership in Merseyside works with disadvantaged communities and hosts several networks for under-represented groups. Recently it has responded to challenges to cohesion following an influx of international workers to Southport. There has also been specific work with gypsy and traveller communities.

Somerset CC

Somerset provides accommodation for gypsies at eight sites, managed by council staff who are themselves from the travelling community. The council's gypsy and traveller service brings together settled communities and gypsy families who live in, and visit, Somerset. Joint working with local communities is helping to tackle inequalities and improve the image of the sites.



Luton teaching PCT

For several years Luton has been looking for ways to resolve worrying community tensions, as well as major social and health deprivation. Now members of Luton's different ethnic and faith populations have come together in a partnership to develop the 14,000-patient Kingsway health centre. In a predominantly Muslim area of town, the building benefits all local residents.

The Kingsway site, which used to be a Methodist church, required extensive modernisation. The local area, Bury Park, was also short of health facilities and its local population has Luton's lowest life expectancy.

The primary care trust, Methodist church and local authority redeveloped the site as a community facility that still offers a place of worship but also houses desperately needed local health facilities and a community cafe.

Kingsway is a real example of different communities working together to access healthcare and learn about each other's cultures.

Award judges

Lucille Thirlby
National officer for
local government,
Unison



Joanne Roney
Chief executive,
Wakefield MDC



Doreen Lawrence
Stephen
Lawrence
Charitable Trust



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Highly Commended

Reigate and Banstead BC

Reigate and Banstead has had remarkable success in winning funding for community projects that have emerged from its local community action plans. This process has secured an extra £320,000 from public and private sector partners for the projects.

Councillors, supported by community liaison officers, engage with local communities to draw up the plans, which are then used to guide work and policy implementation across the borough. In the past year more than 10,000 local people have been directly involved in council activities, mainly through drawing up action plans for their areas.

Finalist

London Borough of Islington

Created by locals, King Henry's Walk Garden is a testament to the power of community involvement. When a small area of underused land was earmarked for improvement, Islington Council's officers decided to hold public meetings and visit local schools to canvass opinion about what should be done with it. A partnership between the council and the voluntary group Friends of King Henry's Walk was also set up to gather ideas and feedback.

The resulting community organic garden – now run by the Friends of King Henry's Walk – offers learning opportunities for local people, a green space open to the public twice a week, and growing plots for local gardeners. The volunteers help to manage the communal areas, including a new community building in the garden.

Wigan Council

One Voice Residents' Association is a community group set up by people living in Scholes, a deprived area of Wigan, in partnership with the council. The association's goal is to improve and brighten its own community fostering "a host of activities and projects that keep a strong sense of community spirit and identity alive in an area battling the stigma of high deprivation and crime". Its work has now spread across the borough.

Community Project



Isle of Wight Council

The council hopes that the Pan Urban Extension housing project will be a catalyst for broader regeneration and for community development on the Isle of Wight. Its aim is to create an integrated community of 1,009 homes that will set high standards for good design and sustainability.

The project, a partnership with Spectrum Housing Group, is located on a 21-hectare site south east of Newport, bordering the Pan estate. This is a low density residential area partly in private ownership and part held by Medina Housing Association.

The key challenge will be to deliver the new housing in a way that integrates its residents with existing communities. Two linked initiatives have emerged to move the project forward: the Pan Urban Extension project and the Pan Neighbourhood partnership.

Award judges

Tony Hawkhead
Chief executive,
Ground Work



Roberto Tambini
Chief executive,
Spelthorne
Council



Maria Adebawale
Director,
Capacity Global



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Highly Commended

Sandwell MBC

"Gaming the Tibby" is an interactive, 3D computer simulation of the heart of the Tibbington estate in a deprived part of Sandwell in the West Midlands. This computer gaming-style technology is being used to reach previously disengaged young people and involve them in their area's regeneration.

The simulation allows youngsters to plan their own changes to the estate, which feed into regeneration planning. It is hoped the project, currently a small-scale pilot, will demonstrate the potential of gaming technology as an engagement tool. Local people, many of whom were not in education, employment or training, were trained to deliver the project.

Finalists

North East Derbyshire DC

The Local Democracy Week project aimed to encourage young people to get involved in the work of North East Derbyshire council. Involving citizens in the democratic process and developing services is a priority for the council, and engaging young people in the political process is seen as vital to this aim.

An ongoing programme of youth engagement and consultation has also been put in place and it is hoped the initiatives launched as part of Local Democracy Week may even encourage some youngsters to stand for election in the future.

Saucepans North/Central

Encouraging young people in Southampton to make a positive contribution to the community through the use of art is a key aspect of Project Honour, run by the multi-agency Saucepans North/Central team. The project aims to improve the mental health of young people who are at risk of offending or exclusion, disadvantaged, have mental health concerns or are not in education to training.

In partnership with statutory and voluntary agencies the team is also working to provide safety after school and boost economic wellbeing.

Tipton Litter Watch

The Tipton Litter Watch charity aims to improve the local environment through practical regeneration and education for young people in Sandwell. It works closely with the community, organising projects to help restore environmental pride, increase public awareness and develop community cohesion.

Working alongside Sandwell MBC, businesses and the voluntary sector, projects have included picking up litter sessions, community awareness workshops and business campaigns. Tipton Litter Watch also runs the environmental programme "Think Before You Throw" in Sandwell schools.

Community Youth Initiative



Corby Learning Partnership/ Corby BC

The Corby Forest School Project offers children the chance to learn and develop their confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in local woodland. Every school in Corby has received funding to train one person to become a qualified forest school leader.

The project is part of Corby's efforts to address its history of deprivation, poor health, poor diet, lack of physical activity and substance misuse. It hopes to encourage Corby's young people to respect themselves, have aspirations matching those of their community, and recognise the importance of a sustainable environment that is everybody's responsibility.

Research shows that Forest School raises attendance levels, aspirations and self-esteem – all key factors that determine a child's capacity to learn and achieve. The project also addresses many elements of the local area agreement, the *Every Child Matters* agenda and national framework for sustainable schools.

Award judges

Paul Bowers
Interim chief executive,
Youth Justice Board



Tony Breslin
Chief executive,
Citizenship Foundation



Andrew Donaldson
Assistant director, policy improvement and area working,
Bolton MBC



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The National Youth Agency
Getting it right for young people



Highly Commended

Harlow Gateway Partnership

The Harlow Gateway project will provide new homes, a leisure centre, football stadium and sports facilities. Partners include Harlow Council, Harlow and District Sports Trust, the East of England Development Agency and the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Physical regeneration, new infrastructure and social, community, lifestyle and educational benefits are all part of the legacy. The planned sports and leisure centre has already been earmarked as a potential training facility in the run-up to the 2012 Olympics.

Creating a lasting legacy



Medway Council

Sir Steve Redgrave, Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson and Steve Cram launched Medway's 2012 campaign on 23 January 2007, exactly 2,012 days before the London Olympic games.

Campaign initiatives are integrated into more than 20 strategies to bring lasting benefits in areas including sport, health, education and business as part of the ongoing social and physical regeneration of Medway.

The campaign has two objectives: to benefit every resident of Medway and use 2012 to help establish Medway as a city of learning, culture, tourism and enterprise. Key legacy projects include Medway Park, an £11m regional centre of sporting excellence with a new 12-court sports hall, centre for sports therapy and sports science, and a gymnastics centre. The new Medway Sporting Academy will also be set up to work with schools, clubs and national organisations to develop the area's young sportsmen and women.

Award judges

Graham Kean
Head of public sector, EC Harris Built Asset Consultancy



Ian Clement
Deputy mayor of London



Sir Bob Kerslake
Chief executive, Homes and Communities Agency



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EC HARRIS
BUILT ASSET
CONSULTANCY



Highly Commended

City of Edinburgh Council

Craigmillar is one of the most deprived wards in Scotland and previous attempts to regenerate have had little impact. A joint venture company set up to deliver long term regeneration has laid out its vision in a £200m plan.

After extensive consultation, the council approved an ambitious plan that includes 300 acres of new housing, an improved town centre, community schools, public facilities, economic development areas, a new road to the infirmary, public open spaces and a river restoration project.

Finalists

Isle of Wight Council

The council hopes the Pan Urban Extension housing project will be a catalyst for broader regeneration on the Isle of Wight. Its aim is to create an integrated community of 1,009 homes that sets high standards for sustainability and good design.

The project will develop a site south east of Newport, bordering the Pan estate. This is a low density residential area partly in private ownership and part held by Medina Housing Association.

Reigate and Banstead BC

Despite relatively high levels of overall prosperity, Reigate and Banstead has pockets of significant deprivation in Merstham and Preston. Redhill, the borough's largest town, underperforms given its role as an important regional centre and transport hub. In Horley, social and community infrastructure needs have outpaced supply.

A range of regeneration projects is tackling these issues, providing new community facilities that address health, deprivation and skills while improving quality of life for local people.

Regeneration



Wigan Council

Approximately £1bn of mainstream service improvements and major schemes are under way as part of Wigan's largest ever programme of long term capital investment. The vision for this investment has been developed over the past eight years and delivers improvements in lifestyle, health and aspirations.

Developments include the £83m Leigh Sports Village, which is one of the biggest ever investments in public sports, recreational and educational facilities in the region. The sports village will include a 10,000 seat stadium, swimming pool, and an indoor sports centre. A regional park on the doorstep of half of Wigan's 300,000 residents has been established, allowing them to make the most of the borough's green space for active living and recreation.

These partnership led initiatives aim to enhance the life chances of local people, improving access to sports, leisure, learning and the environment.

Award judges

Richard Jones

Head of regeneration, EC Harris Built Asset Consultancy



Joe Montgomery

Director of regions and communities, Department of Communities and Local Government



Terry Fuller

Head of major projects, Taylor Wimpey



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BUILT ASSET
CONSULTANCY



Healthy Communities

Highly Commended

NHS East Lancashire

The East Lancashire Healthy Lifestyle Team has been promoting behaviour change and activities including exercise and healthy cooking and eating.

Its work includes encouraging cycling using bikes provided by local government. As many as 120 volunteers have been trained to lead walking and cycling sessions. Meanwhile, requests for the team's culinary skills classes – where participants try new food and find out how to move to a healthier diet – now come in every week.

Finalists

ChAMPS public health network

Snack Right's goal is to "nudge" families towards healthier eating with an achievable aim: replace at least one unhealthy snack a day in your child's diet with a healthy one.

The project – a partnership of health, local authority, communications and third sector professionals – is targeted at parents and carers of pre-school children in deprived parts of Cheshire and Merseyside. A network of 150 "ambassadors" – recruited from health and community workers – organise local events to promote the project.

Lambeth PCT

Concern about HIV and sexually transmitted infections in south London's African communities has led to the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham African Muslim communities campaign against HIV – funded by local primary care trusts. The project is a partnership between African community based organisations and local mosques with African congregations. It aims to raise awareness of HIV and sexual health issues, direct people to services and support community members with HIV who may face discrimination.

Peterborough PCT

The Healthy Weight Peterborough in the Workplace project aims to help employers promote a healthy lifestyle. It is helping workers to change their diet and activities. Smaller workplaces are getting involved: the smallest employer with a workplace health policy is a local hairdresser that has just 12 staff.

Staffordshire CC

The opening of a community health and wellbeing centre in a deprived area is among initiatives that have followed the merger of Staffordshire council's social care, health and community services. Other initiatives – such as wellbeing programmes for older people and a project to cut alcohol consumption among young people – demonstrate how the merger has helped the authority and its partners to improve health strategy and delivery.



Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT

Cornwall's Health Trainer service supports lifestyle changes and tackles health inequalities in a county that faces widespread deprivation and health poverty.

Overseen by the Healthy Neighbourhoods Partnership – a collaboration of public and voluntary organisations – the project's community health development workers work with local partners such as housing associations and GPs to identify people for the health trainers to work with, although more and more clients are now referring themselves.

The trainers direct their clients to flexible, tailored specialist support, either given in groups or one-to-one. More than 230 clients have been helped so far, of which 45 per cent have been referred to other agencies, including the Citizens Advice Bureau, Link into Learning (basic skills classes) and Young People and Family Services. More than 30 have gained employment.

Award judges

Susan Biddle

Joint head of programmes for health, IDeA



Sue Johnson

Joint head of programmes for health, IDeA



Tim Pilsbury

Chief executive, Fenland DC



Angela Mawle

Chief executive, UK Public Health Association



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Highly Commended

East Riding of Yorkshire Council

The "community challenge" idea developed by Safe Communities East Riding involves first co-ordinating all street cleaning, and servicing of street furniture and roads so that they happen on the same day and time in each of a number of locations across a town.

The challenge to the community in each area is then to join Safe Communities in cleaning graffiti, painting, picking up litter and tidying up private property. The activity is led by neighbourhood action teams and aims to help communities realise what they can achieve when tackling environmental crime together.

Tipton Litter Watch

The Tipton Litter Watch charity aims to improve the local environment through practical regeneration and educational activities for young people in Sandwell in the West Midlands. It works closely with the community, organising projects to help restore environmental pride, increase public awareness and develop community cohesion.

Working alongside Sandwell MBC, businesses and the voluntary sector, projects have included picking up litter sessions, community awareness workshops, business campaigns and regeneration projects. Tipton Litter Watch also runs the environmental programme "Think Before You Throw" throughout Sandwell's schools.

Improving the Local Environment



Pendle Leisure Trust

Pendle Leisure Trust's Grow and Sow project is transforming an area of neglected land in Nelson, Lancashire. The project encourages local children, families, groups and organisations to learn how to grow their own fruit and vegetables, and to appreciate – in a predominantly urban setting – their area's diverse flora and fauna.

With partnership funding from East Lancashire primary care trust and Canal Corridor, a Lancaster regeneration scheme, work began early in 2008. It includes establishing wildflower areas, growing areas for fruit and vegetables, wildlife habitats and recycling areas. The Pendle Environmental Action Group has supported the installation of a teaching/activity building and organic toilets that incorporate a "grey water" system linked to the site's pond.

Veolia Environmental Trust and Big Lottery funding supports the project co-ordinator and several part time staff. The project has helped to develop confidence, community cohesion and team building, and promoted the importance of healthy lifestyles.

Award judges

Ruth Growney

Policy
co-ordinator,
Crawley BC



Simon Chapman

Operations
director, Encams
(Environmental
Campaigns)



Andy Johnston

Head of the
centre for local
sustainability,
Local Government
Information Unit





Partnership Award for Sustainable Communities

Highly Commended

Sunderland City Council

Work to create a new image for Sunderland has resulted in the vision Creating a better future for everyone in Sunderland. It is based on people's perceptions of the city and those features that make Sunderland unique – its friendliness, its coastal environment and its quality of life.

The Sunderland strategy translates this vision into five simple aims for a sustainable community: to achieve a prosperous city, a safe city, a healthy city, a learning city, and an attractive, inclusive city.

Finalists

London Borough of Waltham Forest

Since 2002, when Waltham Forest was judged a "poor" authority, efforts have been focused on achieving service improvements. Changes have been dramatic and include developing a bold and ambitious sustainable community strategy, which sets out how the council intends to make sure Waltham Forest shares fully in London's prosperity.

Waltham Forest's local strategic partnership has a strong reputation both regionally and nationally for work on community cohesion and has been shortlisted for "beacon" status.



London Borough of Bexley

Leading stakeholders in the partnership for Bexley – the borough's local strategic partnership – have worked with the community and wider partners to develop a shared vision of sustainable communities. A sustainable community strategy for Bexley, 2008-18, has been produced with input from 3,000 local people and 150 partners. Multi-agency solutions that cut across traditional services are co-ordinated by a partnership management structure.

By meeting local priorities, reviewing public satisfaction with outcomes and ensuring that plans reflect the needs and wishes of local people, the partnership for Bexley has boosted community cohesion and social inclusion. It has sought to build the skills, knowledge and capacity of partners who share responsibility for maintaining communities, while enabling locals to integrate sustainability into daily life.

Award judges

Roland Moore

Policy adviser,
Department for
Environment, Food
and Rural Affairs



David Woodhead

Head of healthy
communities,
Hackney Council
and City and
Hackney PCT



Andrew Campbell

Director – local
government policy,
Department of
Communities and
Local Government





Safer Communities

Highly Commended

London Borough of Haringey

The Haringey Enforcement Service created a new heavy enforcement team to tackle "problem social clubs". The team has been working closely with partner organisations to remove crime associated with these premises.

The involvement of local businesses and residents at all stages has been vital and, following a series of joint operations, the clubs are now either closed or compliant. Crime and antisocial behaviour has significantly reduced in the Green Lanes area.

Finalists

Birmingham City Council

Every weekend in the centre of Birmingham illegal street car racing was attracting more than 300 vehicles and onlookers. This was resulting in heavy demands on police time and many complaints.

A multi-agency taskforce installed speed cameras and traffic calming. It also implemented a section 30 dispersal order, helped secure the arrests of a number of the organisers and secured wide press coverage. As a result this illegal street racing has completely stopped.

Bournemouth BC

In the summer of 2007 there were several widely publicised violent incidents involving young people in Bournemouth, which had a negative impact on residents and tourism.

The Friday Night Beach Project saw a multidisciplinary team offering sports and social activities and a barbeque on the beach. Young people were also able to access advice and support. An average of 100 young people attended each event, and there were no incidences of conflict between young people or with staff.

London Borough of Havering

Romford town centre has been in the spotlight, with press reports describing it as rowdy and dangerous; nearby residents were alarmed by the sheer number of young people in Romford at night time. A partnership approach has helped to cut crime and violent crime and create an accessible and diverse town centre that attracts all sections of the community.

Saucepans North/Central

Encouraging Southampton youngsters to contribute to the community through art is a key part of Project Honour, run by the multi-agency Saucepans North/Central team. The project aims to improve the mental health of young people who are at risk of offending or exclusion, disadvantaged, have mental health concerns, or are not in education or training.



Rochdale MBC

The Retail Violence Initiative has supported businesses affected by violent crime across Greater Manchester. Previously, firms would be visited by the police and crime reduction advisers but would not necessarily act on any advice given – and local authorities were generally not being made aware of the crimes companies had suffered.

A pilot scheme to improve standards of security and safety in "at risk" businesses and to raise awareness of workplace violence proved successful. Following this, a series of seminars brought together a number of stakeholders including Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside local authorities and Greater Manchester police to look at building on its success.

The result was a security and awareness-raising initiative that has been rolled out across Greater Manchester and is included in the Greater Manchester business plan 2008-09 and the Greater Manchester police business plan. To date more than 150 visits have been carried out. Premises visited had either already suffered armed robberies, or were selected for proactive visits because they were in a high risk group.

Award judges

Ami Beeton
Corporate policy officer, Lacors



Gerry Kasprzak
Local authority unit, Health and Safety Executive



Gareth Broughton
Principal inspector, Local authorities/HSE partnership



Ruby Dixon
Head of programmes, beacons and services, IDeA



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Highly Commended

Dyson

The Dyson Airblade hand dryer creates a high speed sheet of unheated air by forcing it through a slit the width of an eyelash. This sheet of air scrapes the water from hands in just 10 seconds.

With improved energy efficiency and hygiene and a reduced carbon footprint it costs less to run than warm air hand dryers or paper towels. The Royal Marsden and Great Western hospitals are two of the organisations that have installed the Dyson Airblade to reduce their carbon footprint.

Finalists

BikeRight!

Cycle training provider BikeRight! has helped Manchester primary care trust and Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospital trust to encourage cycling.

Working closely with local people, statutory and voluntary agencies, BikeRight! is encouraging diverse communities to adopt sustainable transport. It also supports measures to tackle congestion and promote the health and safety of communities. BikeRight! has achieved a gold award in Manchester City Council's Environmental Business Pledge scheme for reducing its carbon footprint.

Cooneen Textiles

Disposable nappies create huge amounts of waste in maternity units. The Stork-Eco nappy is a reusable cloth nappy suitable for a baby in its first few days of life. It was developed primarily to reduce the carbon footprint of the NHS in maternity services.

The Stork-Eco reduces disposable nappy waste by 99.9 per cent and overall waste in maternity services by 83 per cent. It has a guaranteed product life of three years.

Suppliers Delivering Sustainability



St Andrew's Healthcare

The Sustainable Food at St Andrew's project seeks to make independent mental healthcare provider St Andrew's a national leader in supplying locally sourced, organic food for patients and staff. The initiative also aims to ensure food is cooked close to patients and with their involvement, and looks to involve staff and patients in creating greater understanding of the health benefits of good food.

The wider benefits of the project will include reducing food miles and carbon emissions, better animal welfare and local environmental stewardship, support for local agriculture and the local economy, improving the physical and psychological wellbeing of patients and staff, and the promotion of healthy eating and enjoying food.

As part of the project, St Andrew's will appoint an executive chef, hold food tasting events for patients, involve patients in choosing foods and adopt an animal welfare standard for all meat, fish and dairy products.

Award judges

David Wathey

Head – sustainable development, NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency



David Pencheon

Director, NHS Sustainable Development Unit



Mike Murray

Head of manufacturing, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry



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Sustainable Procurement

Highly Commended

Rotherham MBC

Rotherham's corporate procurement strategy sets out how its aims of value for money and sustainable procurement can work together. It has been revised to reflect the *Procuring the Future* action plan and the council's corporate commissioning framework.

The council's procurement policies and procedures enable it to deliver environmental, social and economic sustainability. Effective sustainable procurement aims to deliver best value for money while serving the needs of the local community.

Finalists

London Fire Brigade

The recent relocation of the London Fire Brigade to a new headquarters in Southwark resulted in some 6,000 items of furniture, weighing approximately 250 tonnes, requiring disposal – yet just 1 per cent of this went to landfill.

The Sustainable Furniture Disposal Project managed the ethical disposal of these items, achieving 83 per cent reuse of furniture. The items generated by the project also helped to secure the long term future of a furniture refurbishing social enterprise and the vulnerable people it trains. The initiative follows London Fire Brigade work to integrate sustainability into its procurement since 2001.

Wakefield Council

Wakefield has driven sustainable procurement throughout the organisation. The council is seeing real benefits from a holistic approach to sustainable procurement that addresses social and economic as well as environmental issues.

Local and regional spending has increased and is having a positive impact on jobs and wellbeing. Wakefield has a strong engagement programme with local suppliers and their tenders and contracts now commonly include environmental and social factors. Council buyers are also adopting whole-life costing principles in evaluating tenders.

Wakefield Council (transport service)

Wakefield Council's transport service is championing socially responsible and sustainable procurement in buying vehicles. The new approach not only meets government and European guidelines but also provides significant economic and environmental benefits to the people of Wakefield.

The new contract award process applied to the procurement of 20 new refuse collection vehicles kept the focus on economic, social and environmental factors and resulted in whole-life environmental savings of more than 130 tonnes of CO2.



St Andrew's Healthcare

Locally sourced, organic food for patients and staff will be at the heart of the Sustainable Food at St Andrew's project. The initiative at independent mental healthcare provider St Andrew's also aims to ensure food is prepared and cooked close to patients, and with their involvement. As part of the project, St Andrew's will involve patients in choosing foods and adopt an animal welfare standard for all meat, fish and dairy products.

Benefits of the project include reducing food miles and carbon emissions, better animal welfare and local environmental stewardship, support for local agriculture and the local economy, improving the physical and psychological wellbeing of patients and staff, and promoting healthy eating.

Award judges

Phil Hawkey
Marketing
director, OGC
Buying Solutions



Roy Ayliffe
Director of
knowledge and
representation,
Chartered
Institute of
Purchasing and
Supply



Adam Read
Director of
professional
practice,
AEA consultancy



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Finalists

Buckinghamshire CC

As part of its Cycle Demonstration Town status, Buckinghamshire council was asked to triple the amount of cycling in Aylesbury by the end of 2008. Through marketing, wider promotion and infrastructure development, the Cycle Aylesbury project achieved that target a year ahead of schedule.

Between 2005 and 2007 cycling went up from 0.7 to 3.1 per cent of journeys to work. It also increased from 3 to 10.9 per cent of journeys to the train station and from 1.7 to 4.9 per cent of journeys to school.

Cambridge University Hospitals foundation trust

The Cambridge hospitals trust launched the Think Green campaign to develop its corporate citizenship goals, to be a greener hospital and to reduce its carbon footprint.

A key part of this initiative is the Access to Addenbrooke's travel plan, which aims to reduce traffic emissions, increase travel choices available to staff, patients and visitors, and reduce traffic congestion in and around the hospital campus. The trust works closely with local councils and authorities to develop travel initiatives that meet the needs of local communities.

London Borough of Sutton

The Smarter Travel Sutton project aims to reduce traffic congestion by encouraging residents, schoolchildren and employees to swap car trips for walking, cycling, car sharing or public transport.

The three-year project, funded by Transport for London and delivered in partnership with Sutton council, addresses a range of issues that include climate change, traffic congestion, rising fuel costs and physical inactivity.

Independent evaluation of residents' travel habits is already showing a drop in car trips.

Newcastle City Council

Newcastle City Council has forged a partnership with Living Streets – a charity that campaigns to create better streets and public spaces for people on foot.

Newcastle is investing over £250m during 2008-09 in regeneration projects. Living Streets informs policies and shapes the urban design process. The regeneration plans now place greater emphasis on "walkability", improving peoples' health and social interaction, and getting communities involved in improving their neighbourhoods.

Sustainable Transport



Merseyside Transport Partnership

Merseyside's Let's Get Moving project, funded by the EU, aims to remove transport as a barrier to employment or learning for the area's most disadvantaged communities.

Key features of the project include: WorkWise travel cards, providing tickets on public transport for up to a month; Scooter Commuter, a six-month scooter hire scheme complete with insurance, training and protective equipment; and WorkWise Wheels, a bicycle hire scheme.

The project started in January 2007 and has helped more than 15,000 people get back into work and education. The success of the project has been recognised through the award of beacon status for improving accessibility. Equal opportunities and social exclusion targets have been set to engage hard-to-reach groups and 80 per cent of the project's clients have remained in employment, education or training.

Award judges

Stephen Joseph
Executive director,
Campaign for
Better Transport



Roger Ellis
Chief executive,
Rochdale BC



Alan McCarthy
Chief executive,
Brighton and
Hove City Council



Sponsored by





Highly Commended

Manchester City Council

This summer, Manchester launched its own version of the Stern report into the economics of climate change. This “Mini-Stern”, which looks at climate change in the context of Greater Manchester’s economy, is the focus for a number of cross-party groups working to make an impact at a city and regional level.

A 10-point action plan developed alongside the study includes a proposal to establish a climate change agency to provide expertise in delivering carbon reduction and developing economic opportunities.

Finalists

Cornwall CC

Cornwall council’s climate change strategy considers its own emissions and those of its services. Climate change has been integrated into economic development strategy, procurement and planning. The council has also commissioned the local energy partnership to develop a county climate change strategy. It is supporting and leading the development of this, working closely with business, police, the NHS, and other agencies.

Essex CC

Essex council has become a leader in carbon reduction approaches, practical tools and systems.

Its approach – which establishes local performance frameworks to help progress – has been piloted within the council. In 2007-08 Essex saved £900,000 in business mileage payments and a 60 per cent improvement in switching off electrical equipment out of office hours. Community partners have now agreed to use its approach.

London Borough of Croydon

In 2005, Croydon – London’s most populated borough – produced 1,889,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide mainly from the residential and business sectors. This dropped to 1,820,000 tonnes in 2006. Initiatives established by the council include an internal carbon management programme and a partnership working with businesses, schools and community groups to reduce Croydon’s carbon footprint.

West Sussex CC

West Sussex council and the Greening environmental campaign group have been working to encourage sustainable behaviour in the home, increase community cohesion and develop a better understanding of the global problem of climate change.

The council and district councils have funded climate change work in 35 parishes and town councils, ensuring engagement at all levels.

Tackling Climate Change



Sunderland City Council

Having established carbon reduction targets and strategies in its sustainable community strategy, Sunderland is preparing to renew its commitment to tackling climate change by signing the “Eurocities” declaration on climate change.

Key features of Sunderland’s approach include: a carbon plan that cut council emissions by 1.6 per cent in its first year, and committed over £1.6m to fund carbon-saving measures; a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs-funded balloon campaign that helped the community “see” its carbon emissions; and an action plan, supported by partners in the city, to cut emissions by 26 per cent by 2022. The council is also considering the wider carbon footprint from the consumption of goods by the council, its partners and the city as a whole and beginning to understand and tackle risks from climate and weather change.

Sunderland was also one of the first cities in the UK to work out its ecological footprint, as a partner in conservation charity WWF-UK’s ecological budget project.

Award judges

Warren Hatter
Ripple PRD
consultancy



Jo Milling
Team leader
– community
planning and
consultation,
Mendip DC



Ged Curran
Chief executive,
London Borough
of Merton





Highly Commended

Gateshead Council

Gateshead Council's economic development service was developed in a partnership between the council and Jobcentre Plus to help economically inactive sick and disabled people to get a job.

The project provides a tailored and flexible service to clients, including offering them travel and training grants. Following its success it has been extended until March 2009 and given two further targets for hard-to-reach groups.

Somerset Partnership

The employment support service offers a bridge between mental health service users in Somerset who would like paid work, local employers and agencies such as Jobcentre Plus. The service is funded by the NHS and social services in Somerset. The service works through individual placements and support. Its principles include a focus on competitive employment; active job search; integration with mental healthcare; responsiveness to user preferences; continuous, comprehensive assessment; and no time limit on support.

Finalists

Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health trust

The Bristol Active Life Project aims to promote the physical and mental health of those with severe and enduring mental illness through sport and exercise, offering the use of community facilities at subsidised rates. The project was initiated by an NHS physiotherapist and developed with partners including Bristol City Council, the Football Foundation, Bristol University, service users and voluntary sector mental health agencies.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Fire deaths and injuries are strongly linked to deprivation and health inequalities – and this prompted the Merseyside service's partnership with the health sector. Since 1999 it has carried out more than 460,000 home fire safety checks. Bilingual advocates also promote safety among the region's diverse communities.

NHS Berkshire West

In response to the *Valuing People* white paper, NHS Berkshire West employed a primary healthcare liaison nurse to facilitate access to care for people with learning disabilities. The nurse identified several factors responsible for poor health and uptake of services for this group. Based on these, a pilot project was developed for GP practices in one area. Annual audits showed how people with learning disabilities had health needs that had not previously been detected.

Tackling Health Inequalities



Bradford and Airedale teaching PCT

The Health on the Streets project is funded by five GP practices in an area of health inequalities and social deprivation. It was set up to empower people to take more control of their own health, make health services more accessible and encourage local people to make appropriate use of existing services.

The project works with people of all ages, to develop services based on consultation and involvement with the community. The multidisciplinary team has developed several multi-agency partnerships to increase its reach and effectiveness. These partnerships benefit residents and help the partners achieve their own targets. They also provide another way to assess the impact of the project.

Bradford and Airedale primary care trust recognises the project's success in working with traditionally hard-to-reach groups and is looking to roll out the Health on the Streets model to other communities.

Award judges

Robina Shah
Chair, Stockport
foundation trust



Chris Bentley
Delivery manager,
health inequalities
support team,
Department of
Health



