
Rochford Local Strategic Partnership

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update of the Rochford Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the partnership work that it is engaged in. Rochford LSP works in partnership to deliver improved services in the local area. Each partner organisation has responsibilities to the partnership and plays a crucial role in delivering improved outcomes.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Rochford Local Strategic Partnership is a non-statutory multi-agency partnership which brings together, at a local level, the different parts of the private, public, community and voluntary sectors. The duty of the LSP is to prepare and implement a single co-ordinated framework of its long term vision for the District, as set out in the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). Its vision is: "Working in partnership to make our District a place which provides opportunities for the best possible quality of life for all who live, work and visit here". This vision is the same as that of the District Council.
- 2.2 During the period of the Rochford District SCS development, the Essex Strategy and the Essex Local Area Agreement (LAA) have emerged, which agree with Government the priorities for Essex over the next three years. The LSP has had the opportunity to input into the Essex LAA and the Local Development Framework for the District. The objective of the SCS and for the LSP is to improve the economic, social and environmental well being of the local area.
- 2.3 The LSP operates at a strategic level but remains close enough to local people to allow them to be involved in decisions that affect their communities. Councils have worked together with other local partner bodies for decades. The term 'local strategic partnership' dates from the Local Government Act 2000. Local councils were then encouraged to draw up community strategies through LSP's. The importance of LSP's has increased significantly since the introduction of local area agreements (LAAs) in 2004, and the subsequent Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' in 2006. This was reiterated in the July 2008 guidance from the Communities and Local Government, which defined responsibilities of the LSP in clear terms. These reflect the strengthened community leadership role that these partnerships are now expected to undertake. In these roles, the Council takes a lead role as the democratically elected body for the area.

3 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING

- 3.1 The LSP is currently made up of an Executive Board and five partnerships that support the delivery of the identified priorities in the SCS. The Executive Board is chaired by the Leader of the Council, with the Chief Executive as deputy, and has representatives from Rochford District Council, the County Council, Essex Police, National Health Service South East Essex, the voluntary and community sector, the local business community and each of the Chairs of the five Thematic Partnerships. A structure chart and a brief summary of the remits of each of the thematic partnerships is attached (Appendix 1).
- 3.2 The SCS process has provided the LSP with the knowledge and understanding of the issues that have been identified in our District as the priorities for consideration and action. Currently the SCS is being reviewed, and consideration of an updated SCS will be made at the LSP Executive meeting on 7 June 2010. However, evidence from work completed so far indicates that the priorities previously identified will remain. Underpinning all of these priorities will be the issues of the safeguarding of vulnerable people and health inequalities. Therefore, the LSP will concentrate on the following seven key areas over the next two years:-
- **Supporting the Ageing Population**
 - **Fostering Greater Community Cohesion**
 - **Strengthening the Third Sector**
 - **Increasing Accessibility to Services**
 - **Keeping Rochford Safe**
 - **Encouraging Economic Development**
 - **Promoting a Greener District**

An action plan will be developed once the changes to the SCS have been endorsed. The action plan will be developed to monitor performance and activity relating to the identified priorities, which are aimed at securing real improvements in the overall health and well being and quality of life across the District. In order to achieve this, the LSP is committed to improving partnership working; it is also committed to transparency and accountability. The LSP has reviewed and supported partnership re-structure, to improve their governance, using national best practice as a benchmark.

- 3.3 The LSP receives no statutory funding; however in 2009 it was fortunate in receiving two funding streams to enable it to support local projects. It was awarded a proportion of the County-wide Performance Reward Grant monies, reflecting the performance of Essex against LAA 1 targets. All Performance Reward Grant funded projects have completed end of year reporting templates (See Appendix 2). Due to stringent monitoring any projects that were unable to deliver projects had their funding withdrawn; this funding was then allocated to other projects addressing the same indicators.
- 3.4 The LSP Executive is currently supporting a 'Total Place' pilot project being conducted jointly by Castlepoint and Rochford LSP's. Officers from Castlepoint Borough Council, Rochford District Council, Essex County Council and South East Essex Primary Care Trust have worked collaboratively on the Total Place pilot. The project sought the development of a more robust and outcome focused approach to collaborative working, to meet future financial challenges all partners face and to ensure that quality and levels of service delivery are maintained as a minimum outcome. (Total Place Report see Appendix 3 which is to follow.)
- 3.5 The Community Involvement Group (CIG) has committed to hosting five 'Information Days' across the District, 2010-2011, these events are being funded via the Rochford LSP. Using a profile of the District the CIG is focusing on providing information about services available to local communities.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is vital to the Council that it has a functioning LSP. The effectiveness of the partnership is a key reputational risk to the Council and the operation of the LSP and the partnerships around it are of growing importance in the various inspection and assessment processes to which the Council and its main public sectors partners are subjected. In addition, it is important that the Council takes a lead role in this partnership; the 2007 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act strengthened the role of councils in scrutinising the activities of local partners alongside the Council.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The LSP oversees the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The LSP through the SCS has identified 'Promoting a Greener District' as one of its seven priorities.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 At the moment the LSP receives direct government funding from Essex County Council to fund the two dedicated LSP officers.
- 7.2 In addition, a range of staff from across the Authority will be regularly or periodically involved in the work of the LSP or its sub-groups.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 July 2008 guidance from the Communities and Local Government defined responsibilities of the LSP in clear terms. These reflect the strengthened community leadership role that these partnerships are now expected to undertake. In these roles, the Council takes a lead role as the democratically elected body for the area.
- 8.2 Government increasingly sees LSP's as the fora for collectively reviewing and steering public resources in local areas. This is reinforced by Government guidance.

9 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Part of the work for the LSP over the next year will be to review the linkages between the Parish Councils and the LSP and the other partnerships linked to the LSP. The Community Involvement Group is identifying ways of working together to ensure effective implementation and develop and maintain a coordinated approach to consulting and engaging the local community; the Parish Councils are actively engaged members of this group.

10 RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** to note the contents of the report.

Richard Whetton

Corporate Policy & Partnership Manager

Background Papers:-

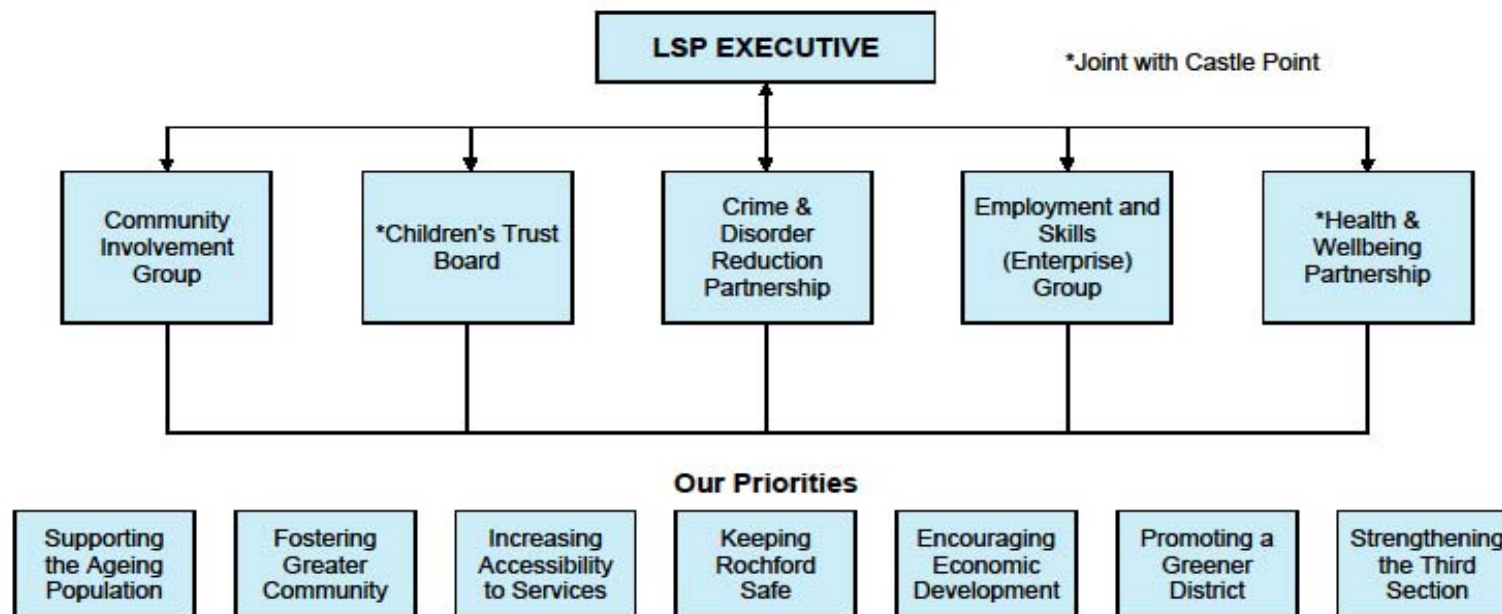
None

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If you would like this report in large print, braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.



Children's Trust Board

The Castle Point and Rochford Children's Trust Board brings together partners at a strategic level in a local area, underpinned by the Children Act 2004 duty to cooperate (as amended by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill 2009) to determine needs and identify priorities and plans to secure better outcomes for children and young people in that area. The local boards will become a central focus for localities, engaging a range of partners and services.

Community Safety Partnership

Through the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), we will work with service providers and the Community to create a safe environment for all those living in, working in or visiting Rochford District

Employment and Skills Group

To support the work of the Local Strategic Partnership through focusing on economic development issues and matters of importance to the local business community, particularly in relation to planning, infrastructure, employment and skills and funding issues.

Health and Wellbeing Partnership

The main aim of the partnership is to provide a co-ordinated approach to improving the health and quality of life of the people in Rochford and Castle Point and to reduce inequalities in health. Also to deliver the actions and targets relating to healthy communities set out in the Sustainable Communities Strategy and Essex Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Community Involvement Group (CIG)

Identify ways of working together to ensure effective implementation and develop and maintain a coordinated approach to consulting and engaging the local community



Rochford LSP Funded Project Progress Report	
Organisation	Sanctuary Scheme - ROC 1
Reporting Date	31 March 2010
Project Objective	Installing Sanctuary Scheme in High Risk Domestic Violence Victims in the Rochford District
Period Covered	Jan - Mar 2010
Project Status* and comments on progress	Green: No expenditure on schemes in this quarter. Some works have been completed for a victim but is in dispute as works actioned before quote approved. Further Sanctuary Scheme planned - quote pending.
Progress in last period	4 High Risk Victims were offered the Sanctuary Scheme but declined. Meeting scheduled for Thursday 22 April with Pinner Contractor re concerns over problems with invoices, works being undertaken without authorisation from RDC and to sign off RDC and Pinner protocol.
Future Work	Continued installation of Sanctuary Schemes for High Risk Victims throughout 2010/2011.

*Status

- **Red:** project experiencing or very likely to hit significant problems – urgent action required
- **Amber:** project has potential for significant problems – action required
- **Green:** project on target and no significant problems anticipated

Rochford LSP Funded Project Progress Report	
Organisation	STAR Partnership – ROC3
Reporting Date	31 March 2010
Project Objective	To recruit a Star Partnership co-ordinator for a 2 year fixed term. The project aims to bring together a wide range of statutory, community and voluntary organisations to improve the health and wellbeing of the residents in the district of Rochford.
Period Covered	January – March 2010
Project Status* and comments on progress	Amber: Star co-ordinator appointed early 2010 subsequently resigned. Star Board in process of re-recruiting, June 2010. Post will now be part time post, allowing for percentage of funding to be spent on local projects supporting Star remit.
Progress in last period	Board have worked with consultant on action plan of delivery for co-ordinator.
Future Work	Steps being taken to advertise, interview and appoint a new co-ordinator in conjunction with South East Essex PCT.

*Status

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Rochford LSP Funded Project Progress Report	
Organisation	SEE PCT – ROC 4 (Careline)
Reporting Date	31 March 2010
Project Objective	To upgrade an existing monitoring only provision to include an emergency response for Careline installations. Careline is a community alarm provision which can be activated by the user by the simple press of a button on a pendant to contact a 24 hour call centre or it can be activated automatically by remote monitors in response to defined situations.
Period Covered	January – March 2010
Project Status* and comments on progress	Red: No progress has been made on this project to date and no funds have been released. Both PCT and RDC have met with lead officer for County regards this project. If requests for information are not met by 31.5.10 the funding will be re-allocated via the LSP Executive Board.
Progress in last period	No progress has been made on this project to date and no funds have been released.
Future Work	South East Essex PCT has been requested to provide a time scale for delivery over the next year and a key contact who will be reporting on this project going forward. This is awaited and once it is received it is expected that the project will get under way. If no acceptable response is received consideration will need to be given by the Executive to the future of the funding.

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Rochford LSP Funded Project Progress Report	
Organisation	RRAVS - ROC 6
Reporting Date	31 March 2010
Project Objective	ROC6 - Volunteering
Period Covered	1 January 2010 -31 March 2010
Project Status* and comments on progress	<p>Amber – improvements with SLA agreed with Rochford District Council and Rochford Local Strategic Partnership.</p> <p>Core funding agreed by all statutory organisations except SEENHS (this is going to the relevant management board in April 2010). Final confirmation to be received for the short fall funding from Rochford LSP via Essex Partnership.</p>
Progress in last period	<p>As reported at the end of Quarter 3 the staff changes have now begun to reap rewards.</p> <p>In the period January 2010 – 31 March 2010 over 100 enquiries were handled with 30 potential volunteers placed with organisations.</p> <p>RRAVS has also brought the Volunteer Centre into the main CVS has provided greater access to the service and attracts members of the public as RRAVS now has a shop front on the main thoroughfare.</p> <p>New volunteers have been recruited to RRAVS in this period to support the administration of the organisation. Promotion encourages potential volunteers to consider volunteering as a path to employment, one volunteer recruited directly to RRAVS secured employment and directly related this to the confidence the volunteering opportunity had provided.</p> <p>Volunteer enquiries in the first three months of 2010 exceed 100, with 30 placed.</p> <p>Support is provided for both the Essex County Council and Rochford District Council Employee volunteer schemes.</p> <p>The RRAVS Volunteer Centre is working with the 12 other Volunteers Centres across Essex to secure the Quality Accreditation for Volunteer Centres Essex. This accreditation will provide the base for greater collaboration and bidding for area and regional monies.</p>

	<p><i>Outreach sessions are taking place across the district a timetable is included with this report as Appendix 1. These visits are shared by the Funding Officer and Volunteer Coordinator providing information about both services. These will be shared with the council based coordinators of the staff schemes.</i></p> <p>RRAVS is the lead body for delivery of the Neighbourhood Learning Fund via the Star Partnership. The benefits of volunteering will be promoted at sessions held – the project targets long term unemployed and the economically inactive.</p> <p>Continued involvement in the STAR Partnership Steering group to support the future development of the project and to develop a viable sustainable path.</p> <p>Strengthening Third Sector Sub Group – low attendance to initial meetings, format to be changed for future meetings with a themed speaker. The April meeting focus will be training.</p> <p>The Funding Officer has secured £156,175 in grants to the district for 2009/10. This money is spent and provides services directly to the local community. In terms for value for money the officer costs are less than £9,000 per year. Although not providing volunteers directly, the role often identifies gaps for organisations and enables groups to become stronger.</p> <p>RRAVS held a Community Forum Breakfast on 29 March in Rochford. This was the first time a forum had been held as a breakfast event. The event was well attended and received, with three organisation providing presentations. Feedback provided at Appendix 2.</p>
Future Work	<p>Open office event April 2010 – invitation to members and the public to come and meet staff and learn about the work of RRAVS</p> <p>Community Forums and Funding Fair planned for June 2010 to promote the voluntary and community organisations to the services RRAVS can provide, Some of this work will may be delivered in partnership with other CVS organisations. Final dates to be confirmed.</p> <p>More forum events planned to take place in July and the autumn. Greater engagement of local groups in the delivery of the forum events.</p> <p>Promotion of Volunteers week to take place last week May in Rayleigh market.</p> <p>Completion of delivery plan for 2010/11 once all core function funding secured.</p> <p>Working with LSP partners to identify service delivery gaps via attendance to LSP Executive and sub groups.</p> <p>Continue development of the Strengthening the Third Sector sub group.</p> <p>Review of current project activity to identify funding streams available for work.</p> <p>Continued engagement in county wide structures such as Essex Association of Council for Voluntary Service and Essex Association Modernising Volunteer Centres Strategy group</p>

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APPENDIX A

RRAVS Outreach Library Visits

RRAVS now makes a monthly visit to all the libraries within the Rochford District. We are there to discuss what we do including funding and volunteering. This helps our member groups, as they do not have to travel to Rayleigh each time. Please note the dates below -:

Rochford Library – 10th May, 7th June, 5th July and 2nd Aug

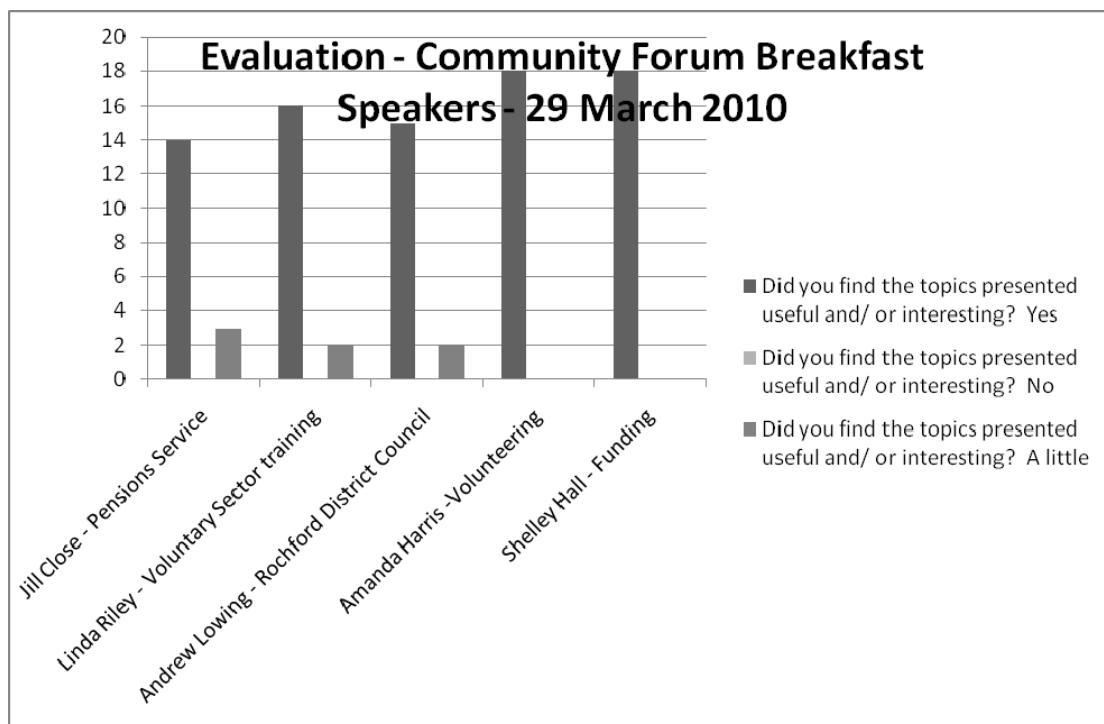
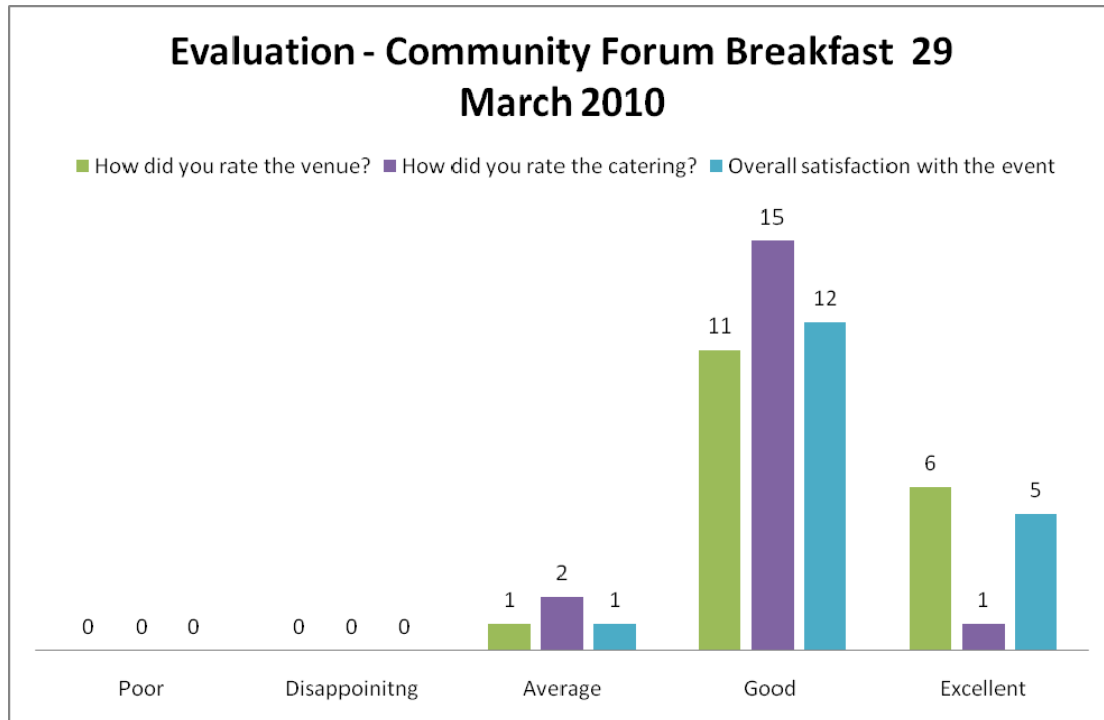
Rayleigh Library – 17th May, 14th June, 12th July and 9th Aug

Hullbridge Library – 6th May, 3rd June, 1st & 29th July

Hockley Library – 20th May, 17th June, 15th July and 12th Aug

Great Wakering Library – 26th April, 24th May, 21st June, 19th July and 16th Aug

APPENDIX 2



Rochford LSP Funded Project Progress Report	
Organisation	Blues BodyCare – ROC7
Reporting Date	31 March 2010
Project Objective	Increased sessions of Blues Body Care/Fit for Life to cover the whole District including the more rural areas.
Period Covered	1 January – 31 st March 2010
Project Status* and comments on progress	<p>Green</p> <p>Taster sessions held in Canewdon.</p> <p>Hockley session planned.</p> <p>Hullbridge and Great Wakering sessions well established with excellent numbers</p>
Progress in last period	<p>Taster sessions delivered in Canewdon met with limited success. Currently discussing with Southend United Community & Educational Trust the best approach to move provision in this area forward.</p> <p>New session planned for Hockley for June 2010. Sessions to run at the Old Fire Station for an initial 5 week period with a view to extending this to 10 and making a stand alone session as in Hullbridge and Great Wakering.</p> <p>Hullbridge and Great Wakering sessions continue to run with excellent numbers.</p>
Future Work	Identify other areas in the District and partners to work with where sessions can be delivered

*Status

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Rochford LSP Funded Project Progress Report	
Organisation	Domestic Abuse Officer – ROC 8
Reporting Date	31 March 2010
Project Objective	Green: Employ a Domestic Abuse Reduction Officer at RDC to support victims and work with perpetrators
Period Covered	Jan - Mar 2010
Project Status* and comments on progress	Officer start date 18.5.10
Progress in last period	Person appointed.
Future Work	Action plan already produced.

*Status

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- **Amber:** project has potential for significant problems – action required
- **Green:** project on target and no significant problems anticipated

Rochford LSP Funded Project Progress Report	
Organisation	Neighbourhood Watch – ROC 9
Reporting Date	31 March 2010
Project Objective	Increase the number of active Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators across the District
Period Covered	Jan - Mar 2010
Project Status* and comments on progress	Amber: Change of Chair from 01 April. Already seen some progress with an action plan including an action to increase numbers by 20%. Currently numbers stand at 18.
Progress in last period	Improvement in meeting and event attendance since change of Chair. Attended the Information Day at Hullbridge, two cycle tagging events have taken place across the District with future events planned along with future attendance at the Information Days
Future Work	Action plan produced - more cycle tagging events and training of co-ordinators around tagging, attendance at Information Days, development of website and recruit a lead co-ordinator for each area within the District.

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Rochford LSP Funded Project Progress Report	
Organisation	Internet Safety – ROC 10
Reporting Date	31 March 2010
Project Objective	To deliver a play on internet safety to primary schools in Rochford
Period Covered	January – March 2010
Project Status* and comments on progress	Project delivered and finished.
Progress in last period	Project completed
Future Work	Repeat project in 2011

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