



Gateshead Strategic Partnership Steering Group

Tuesday, 10 September 2013

To be held in the Whickham Room, Civic Centre

2.00pm

1. Apologies

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Steering Group held on 21 May 2013

3. Matters Arising

2.05pm

**4. Partnership Boards – updates
Partner Updates – Current Issues**

Strategic Planning

2.15pm

5. The Gateshead Compact (Lindsay Murray)

2.35pm

6. Apprenticeship Plan 2013-16 (Ian Young)

Discussion

3.00pm

**7. Gateshead Strategic Partnership Steering Group:
Future meetings (Sheila Johnston)**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 26 November 2013 at 2:00pm



Gateshead Strategic Partnership Steering Group

21 May 2013

Minutes

Present:

Cllr Mick Henry	Gateshead Council
Tim Smith	Northumbria Police
Joan Moon	Gateshead Community Network
Cllr Martin Gannon	Gateshead Council
Richard Thorold	Gateshead College
Chris Barker	Older People's Assembly
Carole Wood	Public Health - Gateshead Council
Mark Gerrard	Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service
Ian Atkinson	Involvement Forum
Bahal Singh Dhindsa	Diversity Forum
Suzanne Robson (Newcastle University)	Economy Environment & Culture Board
Martyn Strike (Northumbria Probation Service)	Community Safety Board
Jane Mulholland (Clinical Commissioning Group)	Health and Wellbeing Board

In Attendance:

Sheila Johnston	Gateshead Council
Charlotte Wainwright	Gateshead Council
Gayle Groombridge	Gateshead Council
Michael Gibson	Gateshead Access Panel
Philip Brooks	Gateshead Access Panel

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Jane Robinson, Bernard Garner, Neil Adamson, Yvonne Ormston, Margaret Whellans, Esther Ward, Gev Pringle, Hugh Kelly and Ian Young.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Housing Strategy and other information has been e-mailed to the Partners between meetings.

4. PARTNER UPDATES

- **Health and Wellbeing Board**

The first strategic meeting of this board was held in May. A strategic commissioning group will sit underneath that group once agreed by the board.

It is proposed to have a workshop in July with partners to focus on a small refresh of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Assurance was given that the local engagement boards will still be required and invited to the workshop. It was noted that there is a commitment to rationalise the number of meetings partners have to attend.

- **Community Safety Board**

It was highlighted that there are implications resulting from the publication of the *“Transforming Rehabilitation – A revolution in the way we manager offenders”* consultation paper in January 2013.

The majority of community based offender services presently delivered by Probation Trusts will be subject to competition. Providers will be commissioned to deliver community orders and licence requirements and will be incentivised to reduce reoffending under a payment by results model.

The Government propose that offenders who serve custodial sentences of less than twelve months will receive targeted rehabilitative intervention on release delivered by providers from the voluntary and community sector. The extra work means an increase in caseload and these are offenders with the highest rates of reoffending.

Public Sector Probation will retain responsibility for public protection. They will continue to undertake risk assessments of the serious harm posed by each offender and advise the Courts and Parole Board. Working in partnership, Probation will continue to manage directly those offenders which pose the highest risk of serious harm to the public. This group will include Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) cases.

The Government proposes to commission delivery of competed services over geographical areas through a national commissioning function to “avoid undue complexity and duplication”.

The Probation Trust have significant doubts that the scale of change proposed can be achieved in the stated timescales.

- **Gateshead Community Network**

One of the GCT targets is to establish a network for smaller voluntary organisations. There is an event in early July, similar to one held 3 years ago, to get these organisations involved.

- **Gateshead Access Panel**

The issue around transport arrangements for disabled volunteers was raised. In the past the Gateshead Access Panel has been supported and helped by Nexus. Funding issues are resulting in the removal of the Care Bus. Work is ongoing to try and find solutions such as community transport.

It was suggested that it may be helpful to contact Berwick as they had faced a similar issue which had resulted in a wider solution that includes hospitals.

A wider point was added that transport for all volunteers needs to be considered so that they are reimbursed.

- **Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service**

Awareness was raised of an incident in April 2013 which highlighted a potentially serious situation. When works were being undertaken by Network Rail at the road crossing on Newburn Bridge Road this prevented a fire appliance attending a fire in the Stella area. The only other access to this area is via the Newburn Bridge which carries a weight restriction however the crews were able to attend on foot this time and extinguish the fire.

- **Gateshead Council**

The new health centre opened last month and this week sees the opening of Trinity Square and there will be a range of family friendly events covering the opening day and the Bank Holiday weekend to celebrate this. As well as access to a new public square, one of the largest Tesco stores in the region will be opening with restaurant, Food to Go section, clothing, health and beauty department, computer and phone department, photo lab, Timpsons, dry cleaners, pharmacy and opticians. Opening shortly will be Costa Coffee, Greggs, CEX, Sports Direct and Phones 4U.

An idea was raised to hold an event along the lines of freshers week in 2014 when the students arrive to show what Gateshead has to offer.

5. FUTURE GSP STEERING GROUP MEETINGS

This item had been deferred from the last meeting.

Since the last meeting, discussions that had taken place with individual partners to get initial thoughts on the issues raised in the last report which had been well received and partners had agreed that some change is needed.

It was explained that the reason for the initial paper was that nearly 3 years have passed since the review of the Gateshead Strategic Partnership began:

- The review took place before the cuts had taken effect - Partners and the Council are now 'smaller' than in 2010/2011
- The review agreed future approaches to partnership working and terms of reference for the Steering Group as well as the Theme Partnership Boards.
- It was agreed that working arrangements would be reviewed March 2013.

The Steering Group began by firstly challenging whether the GSP was still needed and if so, what the purpose of the Steering Group is. It was proposed that the Steering Group has overall responsibility for the delivery of Vision 2030, based around the six Big Ideas despite it being ambitious in these challenging times. A discussion ensued around the links between responsibility and accountability and where this lies within the partnership. The Steering Group concluded that Vision 2030 is a GSP document and should sit collectively with the Steering Group to pool skills and resources.

Discussions regarding the content of the Steering Group meetings revealed that partners want the meetings to move from information sharing meetings to ones that address issues and generate more debate to give a holistic approach, collectively add value, drive improvement and challenge. It was also highlighted that the meetings are to be more pro-active in monitoring the delivery of Vision 2030 and potentially include external speakers like the Partnership Boards do.

The partnership boards were highly thought of and in most cases the partners felt they got more from and contributed to these meetings than the steering group. There was agreement that closer links need to be made with the Themed Partnership Boards so that these become the cornerstones of the GSP. It was also raised that there should be closer links to the Area Conferences.

It was agreed to reduce the frequency of future meetings to quarterly and that the agenda would be managed accordingly to ensure strategic issues, including areas of under-performance, were discussed.

On the whole it was agreed that the Steering Group membership comprised of the relevant people with the possible exception of the private sector. A membership list will be circulated so that this can be considered outside of the meeting.

To prevent the momentum and continuity being lost, supporting mechanisms will be used to share information in between meetings.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Steering Group agreed that there is still a need for the GSP especially in this time of reduced resource and that the purpose of the group is to ensure the delivery of Vision 2030.
 - (ii) That the Steering Group agreed that future meetings will take place quarterly and that they are to be of a strategic nature linking more with the Partnership Boards to hold them accountable and the Area Conferences.

6. VISION 2030 – 2013 refresh

This item had been deferred from the last meeting.

A progress update on the 6 big ideas had been presented to the Steering Group at the last meeting which also highlighted the proposed changes to refresh Vision 2030.

Through workshop activities, the Steering Group for each big idea challenged the proposed changes to the priorities and the pathway milestones. The second task involved partners sharing their ideas about what should be included to show the progress and success made over the last 6 years of delivering Vision 2030.

The Steering Group were asked how they can help with the consultation of the refreshed Vision 2030 and were asked to share any existing events and

mechanisms that can inform the programme for consultation and partner involvement.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Steering Group challenges the proposed changes for incorporation into the Vision 2030 refresh.
 - (ii) That the Steering Group share any events and mechanisms they know of that this can join with .

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at 2.00pm on Tuesday 11 September 2013, in the Whickham Room, Gateshead Civic Centre.



Gateshead Strategic Partnership Steering Group

Tuesday, 10th September 2013

Gateshead Compact with Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)

Purpose of report

1. To consult on a revised third Gateshead Compact which outlines how all the partners in the Gateshead Strategic Partnership will work together to ensure a productive and successful relationship with the voluntary and community sector (VCS). The report highlights the changes when comparing the previous compact to the proposed version and recommends a consultation process including the themed partnerships.

Vision 2030 context

2. The Gateshead Compact helps to deliver the outcomes identified in the 'Gateshead Volunteers' big idea. This sets out objectives to support a thriving VCS and promotes vibrant, sustainable communities through a culture of supporting community and voluntary sector organisations in the delivery of local services. There is also the commitment to volunteering and to engage, involve and develop communities.
3. The Health and Wellbeing Board's Forward Plan 2013-14 aims to eradicate health inequalities by working well together to improve the health of Gateshead.

Background

4. This is the third version of the Gateshead Compact and is attached as an appendix to this report. The first compact was published in 2002 and was revised in 2010. The second Compact was the winner of the Local Compact Award in the Annual National Compact Awards for 2011. It was recognised as demonstrating the ongoing or long term impact that positive partnership working can have in a local community.
5. The Compact is an agreement between the Council and the VCS to work together to agreed standards and shared objectives. It formalises a set of shared priorities which recognise the value and role of the VCS and includes a series of actions to deliver the priorities.
6. The Gateshead Council Volunteers Plan sets out the principles and will support the development of an infrastructure that will significantly accelerate and develop volunteering across Gateshead.

Role of the Compact

7. The role of the compact is to:
- Maintain the strong relationship between the VCS, the Council and other key partners
 - Ensure a sustainable and modernised VCS
 - Improve communication and joint working between the VCS, the Council and key partners
 - Improve services for Gateshead and outcomes for local people
 - Deliver Vision 2030 and the Council Plan

What has changed?

8. Whilst the two previous Compacts were useful starting points for understanding how organisations work together, things have moved on significantly since their publication. It is recognised that there is strength in joint activity between the public and voluntary and community sectors across Gateshead. In view of the challenging financial environment there is a need to accelerate working together in co productive ways to find collective solutions.
9. Therefore the third compact includes the following changes:
- (i) Recognition of the major changes regarding the financial context for the Council and the VCS
 - (ii) A re-focussing and prioritising of shared commitments including maintaining a strong and sustainable VCS, long term planning and transparency in commissioning, accelerated commitment to volunteering, and community development through Gateshead Communities Together.
 - (iii) A previous priority/shared commitment was to promote equality and tackle disadvantage but this has become an over arching principle and has been replaced by the strong, sustainable sector priority
 - (iv) An addition to the principles regarding a sustainable and modernised VCS.

Proposal

10. The policy context and value attached to the role of the VCS has changed significantly since the first and second Compacts were produced. This new proposed Compact reflects these changes. It outlines the vision and key principles underpinning a Compact, and the role of organisations in delivery.
11. The revised Compact for 2013-17 identifies the following four action areas as the key priorities for the Compact:
- i) Strong, Sustainable Voluntary and Community Sector**
A shared commitment to ensure a strong, healthy VCS by building capacity through a new approach to social investment and by identifying the Council's priorities for commissioning a Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) in Gateshead, defining the core functions and how to resource it effectively; explore new models of funding to support VCS financial sustainability and strengthen the sectors ability to successfully tender.

ii) Long term planning and transparency in commissioning

A shared commitment to working together to continuously improve how the commissioning and procurement process works, and, improved contract management leading to a stronger VCS.

iii) Valuing and enabling volunteering

A shared commitment to valuing the role of volunteers; removing barriers to volunteering; supporting the take up of opportunities; and, ensuring an effective infrastructure is in place to support volunteering; Implementing the Gateshead Council Volunteering Plan and working in partnership to encourage volunteering.

iv) Gateshead Communities Together

A shared commitment to working together to provide transparency and objectivity in terms of the Council's commissioning and procurement and improved contract management leading to a stronger VCS.

Recommendations

12. The Gateshead Strategic Partnership Steering Group is asked to:
- (i) Comment and note the new priorities and approach for the Gateshead Compact 2013 - 2017
 - (ii) Agree that the revised Gateshead Compact will help to deliver the Gateshead Volunteers big idea outcomes
 - (iii) Agree to further consultation with the Themed Partnership Boards

Contact: Lindsay Murray, Gateshead Council Tel: 433 2794

Gateshead Strategic Partnership and Gateshead Council

The Gateshead Compact 2013 - 17

Valuing and supporting the voluntary and community sector in Gateshead

Our shared priorities

Draft for consultation

Version 6 (5-9-13)

Delivering Vision 2030

The Gateshead Compact 2013- 17

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Foreword

Welcome to the third Gateshead Compact, outlining how all the partners in the Gateshead Strategic Partnership will work together to ensure a productive and successful relationship with the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in Gateshead.

Gateshead has always had an active voluntary and community sector, with groups and organisations of all sizes making an invaluable contribution to the borough's many and diverse communities. Our sustainable community strategy, Vision 2030, is one of the few strategies in the country to place such an emphasis on the sector, and the role of volunteering, in helping to achieve our long term ambition for Gateshead.

The role of the sector continues to change, with an increasing emphasis on service delivery, and ever greater dependence on partnership and close working between public, private and the VCS. The major difference since the second compact was developed in 2010 is the financial context with reduced funding for both local authorities and the VCS.

In recognition of these changes it is more important than ever that we work together with the same trust, respect, consensus and creativity that we have always shown in Gateshead.

The role of the Compact is to:

- Maintain the strong relationship between the VCS, the Council and other key partners
- Ensure a sustainable and modernised VCS
- Improve communication and joint working between the VCS, the Council and key partners
- Improve services for Gateshead and outcomes for local people
- Deliver Vision 2030 and the Council Plan

This new Compact aims to reflect these changes – setting out a new basis for partnership over the next three years.

We look forward to working with you all on the implementation of this Compact.

Cllr Mick Henry
Chair, Gateshead Strategic Partnership

Kate Mukungu
Chair, Gateshead Voluntary Organisations
Council

Why do we need a Compact?

What is a Compact?

A Compact is an agreement between public sector agencies and the voluntary and community sector (VCS) to work together to agreed standards and shared objectives. It formalises a set of shared commitments and priorities which recognise the value and role of the voluntary and community sector, and outlines an agenda for action to make these commitments a reality.

Following the principles of the first national Compact in 1998, local Compacts have typically sought to outline a series of protocols and undertakings and ways of working which manage the relationship between public sector bodies and the VCS. Such Compacts have been entirely voluntary and designed to demonstrate a shared commitment to joint working, and a process by which any issues can be raised and resolved.

The national Compact was revised and relaunched in 2009.

The Gateshead Compact – Historical Context and Changes

Gateshead's first Compact was published in 2002. It set out a range of undertakings expected from each sector and provided a mechanism for closer working between the public sector and the community and voluntary sector. The original Compact also provided a number of Codes of Practice necessary to support this complex working relationship.

This first Compact developed as a series of agreements between individual statutory organisations and the VCS, and was not envisaged as a Gateshead wide, partnership based approach.

The second Compact was published in 2010. It differed from the original compact in that:

- a. It applied to all members of the Gateshead Strategic Partnership, and was based on a series of objectives which are shared by all partners;
- b. It focused on four key shared commitments and a proactive approach to the delivery of these commitments, and therefore moved away from the 'codes of practice' approach of the previous Compact;
- c. It was based around partnership working to deliver Vision 2030.

The second Compact was the winner of the Local Compact Award in the Annual National Compact Awards for 2011. It was recognised as demonstrating the ongoing or long term impact that positive partnership working can have in a local community.

The third compact includes the following changes:

- a. Recognition of the major changes regarding the financial context for the Council and the VCS
- b. A re-focussing and prioritising of shared commitments covering maintaining a strong VCS, long term planning and transparency in commissioning, volunteering, and Gateshead Communities Together
- c. Addition to the principles regarding a sustainable and modernised VCS.

The Need for a New Compact – Financial and Policy Context

Whilst the original Compact was a useful starting point for understanding how organisations work together, things have moved on significantly since its adoption. It is recognised that there is strength in joint activity between the public and voluntary and community sectors across Gateshead. In view of the challenging financial environment there is a need to accelerate working together in co-productive ways to find collective solutions.

In 2007, the GSP launched its Sustainable Community Strategy, Vision 2030, which set out Six Big Ideas to improve Gateshead. The 'Gateshead Volunteers' Big Idea sets out objectives to support a thriving VCS and promotes vibrant, sustainable communities through a culture of supporting community and voluntary sector organisations in the delivery of local services

The Health and Wellbeing Board's Forward Plan 2013-14 aims to eradicate health inequalities by working together to improve the health of Gateshead people.

The Council Plan 2012-17 seeks to achieve a strong, thriving Community and Voluntary Sector with Gateshead as the volunteering capital of England and enhanced community cohesion.

The Council is operating in a challenging national policy context. The Government's Spending Reviews have reduced the resources available to local government and the Council faces exceptionally challenging financial circumstances. The Council has to bridge a funding gap of £32 million over the years 2013-2015. The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy is based upon an approach of:

- Managing demand
- Economic Growth
- Efficiencies
- Volunteering

The Gateshead Council Volunteers Plan sets the principles and will support the development of an infrastructure through which the Council will significantly accelerate and develop volunteering across Gateshead in the Council Plan period,

2012-17.

The Council aims to ensure a strong, healthy VCS by building capacity through:

- A modern competitive VCS
- A new approach to social investment
- Identifying the Council's priorities for commissioning a Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) in Gateshead, defining the core functions and how to resource it effectively
- Ensuring that the principles of social value are considered when commissioning services

The policy context and value attached to the role of the VCS has therefore changed significantly since the first and second Compacts were produced.

This new Compact reflects these changes. It outlines the vision and key principles underpinning a Compact, and the role of organisations in delivery.

DRAFT

The Gateshead Compact – Purpose, Vision and Principles

Purpose of the Compact

The Gateshead Strategic Partnership (GSP) is committed through its Community Strategy, Vision 2030, to support, promote, and work in partnership with the VCS to maintain the long-term health of the sector.

The function of this Compact is to set out the shared principles and actions which members of the GSP will take to create a thriving voluntary and community sector in Gateshead.

It applies to all members of the GSP, and is based on a series of objectives which are shared by all partners. It is focused on four key shared priorities and a proactive approach to the delivery of these commitments. It is based around partnership working to deliver Vision 2030 and the Council Plan.

What are we trying to achieve?

Our objectives are to achieve the outcomes identified in Vision 2030 under the Gateshead Volunteers Big Idea:

- To ensure that the values of the sector thrive in Gateshead
- Strong VCS organisations delivering services in vibrant, sustainable communities
- A commitment to volunteering
- A commitment to engage, involve and develop communities

The VCS in Gateshead is extremely diverse, and is made up of a wide range of organisations in terms of size, structures and function.

National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises

The national survey of charities and social enterprises was conducted by Ipsos MORI, on behalf of the Office for Civil Society, amongst charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations across all upper tier local authorities in England from September to December 2010. The findings can be compared to the first survey conducted from September to December 2008.

The total population of third sector organisations in Gateshead surveyed was 417 with 149 responding, compared to a population of 472 with 199 responding in 2008. This reduction in the number of third sector organisations could be a consequence of the economy.

Overall the findings of the national survey for Gateshead are very positive with an improvement since 2008 on all 6 key questions, and a higher Gateshead average compared to the national results. In particular the high level of satisfaction with the ability to influence local decisions that are relevant to the sector. Of concern is the reported decrease in the size of the sector in Gateshead by 12% since 2008. This will be monitored closely and support continued to be offered to third sector organisations.

Shared Principles

The following shared principles underpin the Compact:

1. **The role of the VCS in delivering Vision 2030:** All partners recognise that a strong, active and healthy VCS is a vital component in building strong communities and enabling people to reach their potential. The particular role of the VCS is in:
 - a. Empowering individuals and groups, particularly those at risk of exclusion.
 - b. Strengthening communities, drawing together people from different sections of society, and helping to deliver objectives on community cohesion and resilience
 - c. Encouraging and promoting volunteering and capacity building to improve sustainability and promote an active and healthy Gateshead.
 - d. Transforming public services, through delivery, design, innovation and campaigning.
2. **Partnership:** Partnership between all GSP partners and the VCS is essential in achieving our shared objectives. Trust, respect and honesty are key ingredients for successful partnership working;
3. **Independence:** Voluntary and community sector organisations remain entitled to campaign, within the law, to advance their aims, to manage their own affairs and to highlight issues which are important to them;
4. **Sustainability:** A sustainable and modernised sector explores different ways of working, collaborates to compete, employs different operating models, and is willing to be social investment pioneers in testing new ways of working.
5. **Accountability:** The GSP and the VCS are answerable to different people in different ways including the Health and Wellbeing Board, but the need to act with objectivity, transparency, accountability and integrity is common to all;
6. **Equality:** The GSP and the voluntary and community sector working together will promote equality for all people, and tackle discrimination on the basis of race, age, disability, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, religion or belief.

Implementing the Compact – our shared priorities

We have identified the following four action areas as the key commitments for the Compact:

1. Strong, Sustainable Voluntary and Community Sector

A shared commitment to ensure a strong, healthy VCS by building capacity through a new approach to social investment and by identifying the Council's priorities for commissioning a Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) in Gateshead, defining the core functions and how to resource it effectively; explore new models of funding to support VCS financial sustainability and strengthen the sector's ability to successfully tender.

2. Long term planning and transparency in commissioning

A shared commitment to working together to provide transparency and objectivity in terms of the Council's commissioning and procurement and improved contract management leading to a stronger VCS.

3. Valuing and enabling volunteering

A shared commitment to valuing the role of volunteers; removing barriers to volunteering; supporting the take up of opportunities; and, ensuring an effective infrastructure is in place to support volunteering; Implementing the Gateshead Council Volunteering Plan and working in partnership to encourage volunteering.

4. Gateshead Communities Together

A shared commitment to the value of community development, the role of agencies in engaging people in decisions that affect them and co production and delivery of services.

The following pages outline our shared commitments in more detail. These will be developed into action plans to deliver the Compact.

A shared commitment to... A strong, Sustainable Voluntary and Community Sector

What do we mean?

A shared commitment to ensure a strong, healthy VCS by building capacity through a new approach to social investment and by identifying the Council's priorities for commissioning a Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) in Gateshead, defining the core functions and how to resource it effectively;

What do we want to achieve?

Promoting Equality and Tackling Disadvantage

Central to the ambitions for Gateshead in Vision 2030 is that all residents in Gateshead have the opportunities and support they need to fulfil their potential, and inequalities are addressed to narrow the gap in outcomes. Statutory organisations, working with the VCS, have a vital role to play in achieving these objectives, and both are in many cases better placed to respond to these challenges in communities. The Compact seeks to embed a culture of partnership working and shared commitments to promoting equalities and tackling disadvantage which addresses the requirements of equalities legislation and supports achievement of the Council's Equality Objectives.

The Gateshead Offer

The Council has been working closely with Gateshead Voluntary Organisations Council (GVOC) to provide support to the VCS. In 2011 the Council and GVOC jointly launched 'The Gateshead Offer'. The offer is integral to the Gateshead Fund (Capacity Building Fund) and is underpinned by a virtual capacity building team from across the Council and officers from GVOC. Expertise and support has been combined under The Gateshead Offer.

During 2013 the Offer has been reviewed and updated to consolidate, increase and improve support to the VCS in order to address the significant increase in demand and change in the type of support required.

A new approach to the Gateshead Offer was developed because:

- There has been a significant increase in demand for capacity building from the voluntary and community sector.
- The type of support has changed e.g. an increase in the need for business planning, income generation, building management
- The need to consolidate and strengthen capacity building support within the Council and GVOC to ensure it is properly resourced.

The revised Gateshead Offer addresses the new priorities and approach and provides:

- A clearer package of support
- A named officer across the virtual capacity building team as a first point of contact

- An online resource of 'ready made' products such as model constitutions, business plan template and cash flow spreadsheets

The Council's role as commissioner

The Council is a major commissioner of services in the Gateshead economy including those provided by the VCS. The process of commissioning is wider than buying or procuring services. It includes needs analysis, assessment of delivery options, specifying and monitoring delivery. It also includes influencing and shaping the market through publication of commissioning intentions and using co production with existing and potential providers to ensure new services are aligned to the Council's priorities and the most efficient use of resources. The process of commissioning is described in more detail in the next chapter – "A shared commitment to long term planning and transparency in commissioning."

Social Value

The Public Services (Social Value Act) 2012 became operational on 31 January 2013. The Council is required to consider social value in service contracts above a prescribed financial threshold. The Act requires authorities at the pre-procurement stage to consider not only how to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area served by them through the procurement, but also how to undertake the process of procurement with a view to securing that improvement and measuring it during the life of the contract.

The inclusion of social value criteria within commissioning activity undertaken by Gateshead Council is not new, and many previous arrangements have included requirements for organisations to evidence social values, or to build social or community benefits in to forthcoming contracts.

There are three main areas which are considered, and, if appropriate consulted upon, during the commissioning stage and subsequent procurement activity within Gateshead:

- **Economic**
 - Generation of savings
 - Sustainable economic growth and well being
 - Recruitment and retention initiatives
 - Increase in skills and training
- **Environment:**
 - Controlled or reduction in consumption
 - Carbon reduction
 - Environmental sustainability
 - Biodiversity
- **Social:**
 - Equality and diversity
 - Social inclusion

- Fair and Ethical Trade
- Apprenticeships
- Improving health and well-being
- Volunteering

Social Investment

A strong, healthy VCS will be achieved by building capacity through a new approach to social investment. This will include exploring new models of funding to support VCS financial sustainability and building on the Commissioning Exchange Consortium model.

Our action Plan

We will:

- Identify through a review, the Council's priorities for commissioning a Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) in Gateshead, defining the core functions and how to resource it effectively;
- Improve how we measure the impact of social value
- Develop a new approach to social investment
- explore new models of funding to support VCS's financial sustainability and strengthen the sector's ability to successfully tender

A shared commitment to.....

Long-term planning and transparency in commissioning

What do we mean?

Commissioning

Commissioning is the process of specifying, securing and monitoring services to meet needs. It describes a cycle of events which involves needs analysis; assessment of delivery options; delivering a solution and the monitoring and review of progress.

VCS organisations can play a vital role at all stages of the commissioning process leading to better outcomes and value for money. VCS organisations are also increasingly playing a key role in the delivery of services, particularly at a time of change for public sector organisations.

Procurement

Procurement is that part of the commissioning cycle which deals with the process of obtaining services from external organisations.

Council's Commissioning Framework

The Council produced its Commissioning Framework in 2011 as part of its Fit for Future Programme. It outlines its strategic approach to the design and delivery of its services. The framework states there is a need to ensure that public authorities are getting value for money and that the Council, and its partners, are focusing on the right things, and are aligning resources to meet priorities.

The framework also sets out how the Council will undertake commissioning to deliver its Corporate Commissioning Strategy adopted in December 2010 and to support the Gateshead Compact and the commitments on commissioning it contains.

Strategic Needs Assessment

The strategic needs assessment (SNA) is one source of information for the needs analysis step of the above framework. The SNA summarises a range of information about Gateshead into a source the Council and the GSP should consider in planning how to meet need. It has been designed to provide a widely accessible summary of the key information about Gateshead which impacts on the planning and delivery of public services. It provides a high level needs assessment to support the more detailed assessments needed to underpin the commissioning of services.

Commissioning Intentions

The Council and its key strategic partners such as the Clinical Commissioning Group produce annual commissioning intentions. These set out the organisations' commissioning plans over a defined period based upon analysis of need, available resources, the requirement for new models of service, future development of the market and opportunities for providers including VCS providers. Commissioning intentions can

also indicate where joint or integrated commissioning opportunities are planned across Council services and between public sector organisations.

What do we want to achieve?

- To transform the nature of the funding relationships in Gateshead by providing opportunities for the VCS to become involved in the commissioning process to help co-produce new service models. A recent example is Healthwatch Gateshead.
- To increase the potential for the VCS to deliver more services including the promotion of greater collaboration and networks across the sector
- To simplify and streamline existing payment, monitoring and audit procedures to enable both commissioners and providers to focus on outcomes, not process

Our action plan

We will:

- Clarify and streamline commissioning procedures where appropriate
- Involve VCS organisations in co-production of new models of service delivery
- Provide support through the revised Gateshead Offer and improve the skills of the VCS to engage with the commissioning process and to tender successfully for contracts
- Focus on outcomes and the delivery of Vision 2030
- Maximise leverage of other resources from other funders

A shared commitment to... Recognising, valuing and supporting volunteering

What do we mean?

Volunteering is an important indicator of capacity and strength in communities. It is the commitment of time and energy for the benefit of communities. It is undertaken freely and by choice, without concern for financial gain. In practical terms, volunteering is an activity that involves spending time, unpaid, doing something that aims to benefit the environment or someone (individuals, groups) other than, or in addition to close relatives.

What do we want to achieve?

The value of volunteering is recognised in Vision 2030 as a vital element in realising the ambitions of the Gateshead Strategic Partnership.

Gateshead Council approved its new Volunteers Plan in February 2013.

The aims in the Volunteers Plan 2013-17 are to:

- Enable everyone to make a recognised contribution to their community and become the volunteering capital of England
- Deliver economic growth and wellbeing
- Add value to local service provision, enabling neighbourhoods to have services that would not otherwise be provided and enhancing core public services
- Increase formal volunteering from 18% to 25% by 2017) Overall 20,000
- Increase informal volunteering from 34% to 40% by 2017) new volunteers

We want to transform volunteering in Gateshead and establish Gateshead as the volunteering capital of England. Our key priorities are to:

- Increase the supply of volunteers by encouraging more people to volunteer and promoting and celebrating volunteering across Gateshead;
- Increase the quality, choice and range of volunteering opportunities available;
- Provide the right framework for managing, promoting and developing volunteering

Our action plan

We will:

1. Work together to market volunteering opportunities, celebrate volunteers and promote volunteering in all Gateshead's communities.
2. Ensure that effective infrastructure is in place to support people who want to volunteer, and organisations in need of volunteers;
3. Tackle and remove any remaining barriers to volunteering including impact on benefits, perceptions and available support;
4. Continuously improve the quality of volunteering opportunities by focusing on quality standards, training, and promotion of good practice;

5. Increase the supply of volunteers by supporting the development of employee volunteering schemes in all statutory agencies
6. Continue to promote volunteering through an annual Gateshead Volunteers Month
7. Campaign nationally for a Volunteers Month to be held in other areas in the UK as part of the 30th anniversary of Volunteers Week in 2014 strengthening Gateshead's ambition to be recognised as the volunteering capital of England.

The implementation of these commitments will be delivered and monitored through the Gateshead Volunteers Steering Group led by Gateshead Council and Gateshead Voluntary Organisations Council.

Gateshead Volunteers Month

The Council and key partners organised a number of events during June as part of our month long festival celebrating volunteers. During the month 34,780 hours of volunteering were recorded averaging 8695 per week by 4242 volunteers. Using Volunteering England's approach to calculating the economic value of volunteering, this equates to £483,442

Over 40 events took place across Gateshead during the month and 10,000 people attended. Approximately 400 organisations took part. £7000 from the Council's Capacity Building Funding was allocated for Volunteers Month. 26 organisations received funding to take part and amounts were between £120 to £300 for publicity, promotion and volunteer expenses. Over 387 new volunteers recruited within Gateshead helping to achieve the Council's 20,000 target by 2017.

The Volunteers Live event on Saturday 8 June in Saltwell Park was very successful with hundreds of Gateshead residents attending. 21 organisations had information stands about volunteering opportunities including the Council.

In the Civic Centre Atrium during national volunteers week (3/6 to 7/6) 15 voluntary organisations had stands to promote volunteering opportunities. Organisations included the Older Peoples Assembly, Arthritis Care, Countryside Rangers and Way Out in Gateshead.

In addition, the Council and other organisations (including Police, Gateshead Advice Centre, Arthritis Support Group, Sight Service, Gateshead Access Panel and Gateshead Voluntary Organisations Council's volunteering centre) have had a 'shop front' / stand in the atrium outside Gateshead Tesco Store in the new town centre for the full month of June to promote volunteering and to recruit volunteers.

Hundreds of people received information on volunteering opportunities and over 150 new volunteers have registered for volunteering opportunities in Gateshead.

The potential for celebrating volunteers month every year in Gateshead will be explored. Other areas across England have also expressed an interest in celebrating a month volunteering during June and Gateshead could promote this next year as part of the 30th anniversary of National Volunteers Week.

A shared commitment to.... Gateshead Communities Together

What do we mean?

Community development and joint working is a two way process between local communities and organisations that provide services within communities. It is focused on addressing local needs, as articulated by local communities, and works to give local people a stronger voice in decisions that affect them, and the ability to identify their own solutions to problems. Communities are strengthened through working together particularly in the context of financial constraints and the need to mitigate the impact of budget decisions.

Gateshead has adopted the term 'community development' as its overall approach to:

- Engaging and empowering communities and individuals to be involved in decisions that affect their lives;
- Developing and strengthening communities

The 'Gateshead Communities Together' Strategy (2012) '*Nothing about the community, without the Community*' merges Gateshead's Community Development Strategy and Community Cohesion Strategy into one over-arching strategy. It brings together the cross cutting themes and sets out a new approach to managing these agendas more efficiently and effectively.

The 'Gateshead Communities Together' strategy seeks to set out, for everyone engaged in activities that impact on communities, the processes, methodologies and resources that will support this work. It aims to empower people at all levels to enable them to influence decisions, by giving them the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution in the development, design, planning and delivery of services they receive and the physical environment they live and work in.

The strategy has been developed by the GSP and sets out how partners will work together in a co-ordinated and effective way to ensure that:

- Communities of Gateshead are living cohesively alongside each other
- Everyone feels valued
- Difference is appreciated and understood
- People share a sense of belonging
- Communities are engaged and empowered to be involved in decisions that affect their lives.

The Strategy outlines the following vision for community development:

"Local people are able to challenge, influence and shape decisions that affect their lives and contribute to active and sustainable communities"

Local people have told us that all partners should:-

- Create more opportunities for local people to become more active within their communities

- Improve the way we engage with hard to reach communities
- Effectively engage with young people, developing their confidence, knowledge and skills to become involved in decision making processes
- Promote positive integration of diverse community groups in Gateshead
- Continue to address prejudice, negative stereotypes and myths about minority community groups living in Gateshead

Therefore our five priority areas for this strategy are:-

- Community engagement & participation
- Community capacity building
- Information & communication
- Involving children, young people & schools
- Supporting positive community relationships

These five priorities will underpin our vision and we will focus our work, looking at new and innovative ways to promote community development and cohesion within Gateshead communities and neighbourhoods, building on established good practice and embedding a well-coordinated and effective community development framework in Gateshead.

What do we want to achieve?

The commitments in this Compact will support the delivery of the Gateshead Community Development Strategy, and reinforce the way in which all organisations within the Gateshead Strategic Partnership implement their duty to involve and consult Gateshead residents on issues that affect them.

Our action plan

We will:

1. Jointly implement the community development strategy, taking responsibility for our actions and being accountable for progress;
2. Ensure two-way dialogue between organisations and communities both at an early stage in the development of new policies or initiatives and in the delivery of strategies and action plans;
3. Improve the way we inform, consult and engage local people to raise the quality of involvement and support community development
4. Drive up the standards and quality of our community development work across all organisations through quality training and development and a Gateshead standard;
5. Develop and implement new ways to support community engagement in local communities; implement the Council's Corporate Asset Transfer Policy to enable local management and ownership of assets; develop neighbourhood agreements; develop further Our Gateshead Website which has 900 users and is an effective tool in developing community capacity.

The implementation of these commitments will be managed through the Gateshead Communities Together Working Group.

Delivering the Compact

Successful implementation of the Compact will rely on two main mechanisms:

1. A monitoring, review and reporting structure
2. An ongoing commitment to working together closely, changing cultures and working differently

Accountability and Monitoring Framework

- The implementation of the Compact will be overseen by the Council's Volunteering and Voluntary Sector Steering Group and GVOC's Chief Executives' Officer Group.
- The action plans attached to each shared commitment will provide the basis for monitoring and evaluation, with named lead officers, contacts and timescales
- Progress will be reported to the GSP on a six monthly basis
- An annual review and refresh will be undertaken in March of each year to assess outcomes, and working practices and reported to Cabinet and the GSP.

Process of implementation - resolution of disagreements

It is recognised that from time to time disagreements will arise between **Compact** members.

If an issue arises in the Council the following procedure will be followed:

- Council will raise directly with the VCS organisation informally
- If the issue cannot be resolved the matter will be formally raised at GVOC Management Committee (under delegation to resolve disputes by GVOC Chief Officers)

If an issue arises in the VCS the following procedure will be followed:

- VCS organisation will raise directly with the Council informally
- If the issue cannot be resolved the matter will be formally raised with the relevant Council Cabinet Portfolio member

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Steering Group on the revised Gateshead Apprenticeship Plan 2013-16.

Vision 2030 context

2. The Apprenticeship Plan helps to achieve the aspirations outlined in the Creative Gateshead big idea:
 - Population of high achievers, driven by aspiration and creativity
 - Well educated community which utilises lifelong learning for both work and leisure
3. It also contributes to a milestone within the Sustainable Gateshead pathway; Gateshead working age population will be above the national average for literacy, numeracy and full level 2 qualifications (by 2030).

Background

4. In January 2011, the GSP Steering Group approved an Apprenticeship Plan for Gateshead 2011-14 (see Appendix 1). The Plan set out our borough-wide commitment to increase Apprenticeships available in Gateshead, utilising a partnership approach to delivery over the three following years.
5. The main aims of the Plan were to:
 - Increase the number of Apprenticeships available in Gateshead
 - Increase the number of Gateshead residents accessing Apprenticeships
6. It was based around three main priorities, which are to:
 - Engage with more employers to enable an employer and private sector led approach to Apprenticeships
 - Define and promote the single 'Gateshead Apprenticeship Offer'
 - Support local people to access Apprenticeship opportunities
7. The Plan also established a number of principles that are embedded into the successful delivery of the aims and priorities:
 - Working in partnership
 - Equality of opportunity
 - Delivering high-quality provision
 - Actively seek and maximise funding opportunities
 - Developing innovative training for new opportunities in growth areas

8. The Gateshead Apprenticeship Partnership was established to oversee delivery of the key actions in the Plan. This group comprises the Gateshead Collective (a group of nine local work-based training providers including Gateshead College), National Apprenticeship Service (NAS), and Gateshead Council.
9. To date, the Gateshead Apprenticeship Partnership has successfully progressed a number of key areas identified in the 2011-14 Plan, including:
 - a. The development and delivery of the Gateshead Apprenticeship Offer
 - b. An increase in the number of Gateshead employers supporting Apprenticeships
 - c. Targeted work in local secondary schools to raise the profile of Apprenticeships amongst young people and teachers, supporting young people into accessing local opportunities
 - d. Exceeded local targets

Revised Plan for 2013 – 2016

10. Further to the progress paper submitted to the GSP Steering Group in March, the Gateshead Apprenticeship Partnership proposed that several areas identified in the 2011-14 Apprenticeship Plan should be reconsidered due to changes both nationally and locally. Appendix 2 presents a revised Plan for 2013 – 2016, which has been developed with partners to reflect new priorities, objectives, and targets in light of such policy changes and local challenges.
11. The revised Apprenticeship Plan for Gateshead has extended its objectives to 2016 and performance will continue to be reviewed regularly by the Gateshead Apprenticeship Partnership.

Next Steps

12. The Gateshead Apprenticeship Partnership will continue to oversee and monitor delivery against the priorities and objectives set out in the Apprenticeship Plan.
13. The Partnership will continue to update the GSP Steering Group on progress at agreed intervals.

Recommendation

14. Members of the GSP Steering Group are asked to:
 - (i) Endorse the revised Gateshead Apprenticeship Plan (Appendix 2) including the new priorities, objectives, and targets identified for delivery 2013 – 2016
 - (ii) Agree that these priorities are reflected in the relevant big idea pathways of the 'refreshed' Vision 2030.

DELIVERING VISION 2030

This Plan will enable the delivery of Vision 2030 by focusing on the development of the economy and local skills base.

It will ensure that Gateshead is able to achieve its ambition to become the best place for people to live and work, and for employers to invest.

The Apprenticeship Plan for Gateshead also sets out a collective approach to deliver the Council's Corporate Plan, by focusing on the economy to ensure all residents realise their full potential.

To enable delivery of these strategic priorities, we want to:

- Increase the number of apprenticeships available in Gateshead
- Increase the number of Gateshead residents accessing apprenticeships

In order to:

- Increase skills levels, particularly higher level skills
- Secure investment and growth in sustainable, high value jobs in key sectors
- Increase economic activity and reduce worklessness
- Attract quality employers, providing employment opportunities
- Increase lifelong learning opportunities

WHY INCREASE APPRENTICESHIPS?

- There are more than 190 Apprenticeship Frameworks which means that they can be used by most employment sectors
- Apprenticeships offer employees an opportunity to earn while they learn
- Because Apprenticeships provide both knowledge and skills accreditation, they offer a strong platform for progression both at work and into further and higher education
- The Government recognises the value of apprenticeships and is investing £150million of additional funding to provide 50,000 extra apprenticeships
- Currently, the demand for apprenticeships far exceeds the availability of apprenticeship places with employers
- Apprenticeships are good for business and enable intelligent succession planning. Jackie Lowe from Komatsu UK said: "We have had some fantastic results with apprenticeships. We have re-enforced our highly skilled production operators, and some apprentices have advanced to become engineers or are in a supervisory role"
- There are recognised benefits for both employers and learners. Colin Myers, from Studsvik UK Ltd said "Taking on board apprentices will hopefully enable Studsvik to retain staff and increase the shortfall in qualified personnel by providing high quality apprenticeships that also put learners in good stead for their future. The benefits to Studsvik are not just financial but to the morale of its staff in knowing they have the security and backing of our company".

TO ACHIEVE VISION 2030 BY INCREASING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND IMPROVING SKILLS, OUR PRIORITIES ARE:

1. Engage with more employers to enable an employer and private sector led approach to apprenticeships
2. Define and promote the single 'Gateshead Apprenticeship Offer'
3. Support local people to access apprenticeship opportunities

PRINCIPLES

- Working in partnership
- Equality of Opportunity
- Delivering High Quality Provision
- Actively seek and maximise funding opportunities
- Developing innovative training for new opportunities in growth areas

TO ACHIEVE OUR PRIORITIES, WE WILL:

Engage Employers

1. Define and promote a single "Gateshead Apprenticeship Offer" by April 2011
2. By 2014, increase the number of apprenticeships (aged 16+) in Gateshead by 600
3. Increase the number of 16-18 year old apprenticeships offered by Gateshead employers by 10% in 2011/12, 15% in 2012/2013, and 20% in 2013/14, and grow adult traineeships in line with employer demand
4. Ensure care leavers in Gateshead are offered apprenticeship opportunities (12 per year)
5. Increase the numbers of young apprenticeships (aged 14-16) in growth sectors (as defined in the 1Plan) to 260 per year (in addition to the 600 for those aged 16+)
6. Increase progressions from Young Apprenticeships to Apprenticeships/Advanced Apprenticeships by 10%

Support Young People and Adults

7. Make sure that apprenticeships are part of a coherent education and training offer in Gateshead, working with schools to ensure that all young people at Key Stage 4 receives the information they need to decide whether an apprenticeship would be right for them
8. Equip all professionals providing Careers Education, and Information, Advice and Guidance with the skills and knowledge they need to give appropriate support to young people and adults in Gateshead
9. Ensure young people and adults (particularly vulnerable groups) are suitably prepared to access available apprenticeship places.

FOCUS

Policy and funding implications will influence our approach to developing tailored solutions to meet the needs and requirements of all age groups:

- 16-18 year olds
- 19-24 year olds
- Age 25+

The focus of our approach will also be on the growth of priority sectors, (as defined in the 1Plan) for the Gateshead and Newcastle economy:

- Science
- Knowledge Based Industries
- Business and Professional services
- Low Carbon Economy
- Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing
- Digital and creative Industries
- Retail and Tourism (including service sector)

We will:	Timescales	Responsible for delivery and resources
1. Define and promote a single “ Gateshead Apprenticeship Offer ” by April 2011	2011	Gateshead Collective, Gateshead Council, NAS, NEAC
2. By 2014, increase the number of apprenticeships (aged 16+) in Gateshead by 600	2014	Gateshead Collective, Gateshead Council, NEAC, NAS
3. Increase the number of 16-18 year old apprenticeships offered by Gateshead employers by 10% in 2011/12, 15% in 2012/13, and 20% in 2013/14, and grow adult traineeships in line with employer demand	2014	Gateshead Council, Gateshead Collective, NAS, NEAC
4. Ensure care leavers in Gateshead are offered apprenticeship opportunities (12 per year)	2012	Gateshead Council, NAS, NEAC
5. Increase the numbers of young apprenticeships (aged 14-16) in growth sectors (as defined in the 1Plan) to 260 per year (in addition to the 600 for those aged 16+)	2014	Gateshead Council, Gateshead Collective, NEAC
6. Increase progressions from Young Apprenticeships to Apprenticeships/ Advanced Apprenticeships by 10%	2014	Employer Forums and Organisations, Schools, Gateshead Collective, Gateshead Council, NEAC
7. Make sure that apprenticeships are part of a coherent education and training offer in Gateshead, working with schools to ensure that all young people at Key Stage 4 receives the information they need to decide whether an apprenticeship would be right for them	2011	Education Improvement Partnership, Schools and IAG providers, Gateshead Council, NAS, Gateshead Collective, NEAC
8. Equip all professionals providing Careers Education, and Information, Advice and Guidance with the skills and knowledge they need to give appropriate support to young people and adults in Gateshead	2012	Education Improvement Partnership, Schools and IAG providers, Careers Services, Gateshead Council, NAS, Gateshead Collective, NEAC
9. Ensure young people and adults (particularly vulnerable groups) are suitably prepared to access available apprenticeship places	2014	IAG providers, Gateshead Council, NAS, Gateshead Collective, NEAC

PARTNERSHIPS

This Plan sets out the shared aims, priorities and targets that partners in Gateshead have committed to achieve by working together across the borough.

The Implementation Plan will be **monitored** by a working group comprised of key partners, which reports 6 monthly to:

- Gateshead Strategic Partnership Steering Group
- Corporate Vitality Overview and Scrutiny

The following will be responsible for delivery:

- Gateshead Strategic Partnership
- Children’s Trust
- Education Improvement Partnership
- Gateshead Council
- Gateshead College
- National Apprenticeship Service
- North East Apprenticeship Company
- Gateshead Collective
- Schools
- IAG Providers (including Careers Service, Connexions and Next Steps)

WHAT ARE PARTNERS’ ROLES?

Strategic

The Local Authority has four roles in relation to apprenticeships. It has a strategic leadership and commissioning role to guide and influence the approach to increasing apprenticeship provision across the borough, combined with a responsibility as a corporate parent for care leavers, whilst also being a major employer and training provider of apprenticeship programmes.

National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) is a delivery body designed to increase the number of apprenticeship opportunities and provide a dedicated and responsive service for employers and learners. This will involve: Promoting apprenticeships to employers and learners (particularly 16-18), co-ordinating funding for apprenticeship places, supporting employer intermediary organisations, such as Business Link, to promote apprenticeships to employers; Working with the Department for Education to establish apprenticeships alongside other 14-19 options, and maintaining the National Online Vacancies System.

The Local Authority and NAS will work together to develop a shared approach in response to the Statutory Guidance published by the Young People’s Learning Agency in December 2010 relating to Funding Arrangements for 16-19 Education and Training.

Delivery – Employer and Learner Engagement

North East Apprenticeship Company (NEAC) was launched in February 2010 as a pilot approach to grow apprenticeships in the North East by employing apprentices, contracting them out with host employers, and sourcing high quality training from partner providers. NEAC aims to increase apprentices in the North East by 1360 by 2013.

Gateshead Collective is a partnership of 8 work-based learning providers. It links with employers, employees and young people to understand training needs and provide skills, qualifications and training solutions to develop a talented workforce for Tyne and Wear businesses.

Gateshead College is a Grade 1 provider of apprenticeship and advanced apprenticeship training programmes for learners of all ages covering a range of programmes including plumbing, construction, administration, hairdressing, motor vehicle, electrical, engineering, supply chain management, manufacturing. The College deliver to in excess of 1,000 learners.

IAG Providers engage with potential learners to ensure they are aware of the full range of progression options that are available. Both ‘Connexions’ and ‘Next Steps’ deliver a universal and impartial service.

Schools promote apprenticeships as part of careers education programmes, and with partners deliver Young Apprenticeships.

DELIVERING VISION 2030

The Apprenticeship Plan for Gateshead 2013-2016 enables the delivery of Vision 2030 by focusing on the development of learning opportunities by increasing Apprenticeships as a progression route to learning and employment.

It will enable Gateshead to achieve its ambition to become the best place for people to live and work, and for employers to invest. It also sets out a partnership approach to support the delivery of the Council Plan 2012-2017 ambition to achieve sustainable economic growth and wellbeing.

To enable delivery of these strategic priorities, the Apprenticeship Plan aims to:

- Increase the number of Apprenticeships available in Gateshead
- Increase the number of Gateshead residents accessing Apprenticeships

In order to:

- Increase skills levels, particularly higher level skills
- Secure investment and growth in sustainable, high-value Apprenticeships in key sectors
- Increase economic activity and reduce levels of NEET and unemployment, particularly amongst young people
- Support the ambition of achieving full participation in education or training of 16-18 year olds in Gateshead
- Attract quality local employers, providing more Apprenticeship opportunities
- Increase lifelong learning opportunities

WHY APPRENTICESHIPS?

- There are more than 200 Apprenticeship Frameworks available nationally, covering most employment sectors
- Apprenticeships increase a business' workforce in a cost effective way by increasing productivity, competitiveness and ability to innovate
- Apprenticeships offer employees an opportunity to earn while they learn
- Apprenticeships develop a loyal, committed and skilled workforce
- Apprenticeships provide both knowledge and skills accreditation, they offer a strong platform for progression both at work and into further and higher education
- Apprenticeships undertake flexible training to meet business needs, with costs fully or partly subsidised
- Apprenticeships improve customer services results
- Apprenticeships provide a financial return on investment
- Currently, the demand for Apprenticeships far exceeds the availability of Apprenticeship places with employers

TO ACHIEVE VISION 2030 BY INCREASING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND APPRENTICESHIPS, OUR PRIORITIES ARE:

5. Engage with more local employers to enable an employer and private sector led approach to Apprenticeships
6. Support local people to access Apprenticeship opportunities
7. Strengthen and continue to promote the 'Gateshead Apprenticeship Offer'

PRINCIPLES

- Working in partnership
- Equality of opportunity
- Delivering high quality provision
- Actively seek and maximise funding opportunities
- Developing innovative training for new opportunities in growth areas

FOCUS

Policy and funding implications will influence our approach to developing tailored solutions to meet the needs of all age groups, with a particular emphasis on meeting the needs of **16-24 year olds**.

TO ACHIEVE OUR PRIORITIES, WE WILL:

1. Strengthen and continue to promote the **Gateshead Apprenticeship Offer** increasing the number of Gateshead employers who support Gateshead Apprenticeships by at least 30 each year
2. By 2016 increase the **number of Apprenticeship starts aged 16-24** by 130 (10%) to 1,430 from a baseline of 1,300 in 12/13 with a particular focus on Gateshead young people who are vulnerable (16-24), NEET (16-18), and unemployed (19-24)
3. Increase the **proportion of 16-18 year olds** participating in Apprenticeships to 17% by 2014; 17.5% by 2015, and 18% by 2016
4. Increase the proportion of the programme that is at an **Advanced and/or Higher level**, with at least 40% of Gateshead delivery being at Advanced Level or Higher by the end of 2016
5. Develop and promote **Gateshead Traineeships** as high quality vocational programmes for Gateshead 16-24 year olds by 2014
6. Ensure Apprenticeships are actively promoted in all Gateshead schools as part of a **high quality and impartial IAG offer**, and ensure that all young people in Gateshead schools who wish to access Apprenticeships are given timely information on vacancies and appropriate support to access those opportunities
7. Align targeted activity to **sector priorities** identified in the North East Local Enterprise Partnership skills plan; NewcastleGateshead 1Plan; Gateshead economic assessment; and National Apprenticeship Service business plan

The approach will also focus on the growth of **priority sectors**, as identified in the North East LEP Skills Plan; NewcastleGateshead1Plan, National Apprenticeship Service business plan; and specifically, the Gateshead economic assessment, namely:

- Science
- Knowledge Based Industries
- Business and Professional Services
- Low Carbon Economy
- Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing
- Digital and Creative Industries
- Retail and Tourism (including Service Sector)

We will:	Timescales	Responsibility for delivery and resources
1. Strengthen and continue to promote the Gateshead Apprenticeship Offer increasing the number of Gateshead employers who support Gateshead Apprenticeships by at least 30 each year	2016	The Gateshead Collective, Gateshead Council, National Apprenticeship Service
2. By 2016 increase the number of Apprenticeship starts aged 16-24 by 130 (10%) to 1,430 from a baseline of 1,300 in 12/13 with a particular focus on Gateshead young people who are vulnerable (16-24), NEET (16-18), and unemployed (19-24)	2016	The Gateshead Collective, Gateshead Council, National Apprenticeship Service
3. Increase the proportion of 16-18 year olds participating in Apprenticeships to 17% by 2014; 17.5% by 2015, and 18% by 2016	2016	The Gateshead Collective, Gateshead Council, National Apprenticeship Service
4. Increasing the proportion of the programme that is at an Advanced and/or Higher level , with at least 40% of Gateshead delivery being at Advanced Level or Higher by the end of 2016	2016	The Gateshead Collective, Gateshead Council, National Apprenticeship Service
5. Develop and promote Gateshead Traineeships as high quality vocational programmes for Gateshead 16-24 year olds by 2014	2014	Gateshead Council, The Gateshead Collective
6. Ensure Apprenticeships are actively promoted in all Gateshead schools as part of a high quality and impartial IAG offer , and ensure that all young people in Gateshead schools who wish to access Apprenticeships are given timely information on vacancies and appropriate support to access those opportunities	2016	Education Improvement Partnership, Gateshead Schools, The Gateshead Collective, Gateshead Council, National Apprenticeship Service
7. Align targeted activity to sector priorities identified in the North East LEP skills plan, 1Plan economic assessment, and National Apprenticeship Service business plan	2016	The Gateshead Collective, Gateshead Council, National Apprenticeship Service

PARTNERSHIPS

The Apprenticeship Plan for Gateshead 2013-2016 sets out the shared aims, priorities and targets that partners in Gateshead are committed to achieving by working together across the borough.

It will be delivered by the Gateshead Apprenticeship Partnership, working closely with:

- Gateshead Council
- The Gateshead Collective
- National Apprenticeship Service
- Economy, Environment and Culture Board
- Children's Trust Board
- Education Improvement Partnership
- Schools
- Employer engagement forum
- North East Local Enterprise Partnership

Progress will be monitored on a six-monthly basis by:

- Gateshead Strategic Partnership Steering Group
- Gateshead Council Strategy Group

WHAT ARE PARTNERS' ROLES?

Strategic

Gateshead Council has strong employer and partnership links, and provides a pivotal role in bringing partners together and facilitating focused delivery around shared objectives. It has a number of roles in relation to Apprenticeships, including a strategic leadership and commissioning role to guide and influence the approach to increasing Apprenticeship provision across the borough. It also has a statutory responsibility to ensure full participation of 16-18 year olds under the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) agenda, and a responsibility for meeting the needs of vulnerable groups (including a role as corporate parent for Looked After Children).

National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) is a delivery body designed to increase the number of Apprenticeship opportunities, and provide a dedicated and responsive service for employers and learners. This involves: promoting Apprenticeships to employers and learners (particularly 16-18 year olds); co-ordinating funding for Apprenticeship places; supporting employer intermediary organisations to promote Apprenticeships to employers; working with the Department for Education to establish Apprenticeships alongside other 14-19 year old options; and maintaining the National Online Vacancies System. The Council and NAS have worked closely together in recent years to develop a shared vision and commitment in response to increasing the number of apprentices in Gateshead.

High Quality Delivery – Employer and Learner Engagement

The Gateshead Collective is a partnership of 9 work-based learning providers. It links with employers, employees, and young people to understand training needs and provide skills, qualifications and training solutions to support the development of a talented workforce for Tyne and Wear businesses.

Gateshead Council also provides a delivery role and the **Learning and Schools Service** is a training provider of Apprenticeship programmes. The **Connexions Service** engage with potential learners to ensure that they are aware of the full range of progression options available. They deliver an impartial service to all vulnerable young people in Gateshead schools and also provide a bespoke service to selected groups of young people on a buy-back model from schools. The **Environment, Economic Development and Regeneration Service** has responsibility for economic growth, developing local businesses and maximising employment and training opportunities for local residents.

Schools have a statutory responsibility to provide impartial advice and guidance to all young people from year 8 to year 13, which includes a duty to promote Apprenticeships as a high quality and valued progression route.



Gateshead Strategic Partnership Steering Group

Tuesday, 10th September 2013

Gateshead Strategic Partnership Steering Group: Future meetings

Purpose of the report

1. To inform the Steering Group of the progress made since the last meeting regarding the changes agreed and to discuss further improvements/changes.

Vision 2030 Context

2. It was agreed that there was still a need for the GSP and that partnership working is ever more important. The purpose of the GSP Steering Group is to have overall responsibility for the delivery of Vision 2030, based around the six Big Ideas.

Background

3. At the last GSP Steering Group meeting (21 May 2013), a number of changes were agreed for future meetings to ensure that it meets its terms of reference and fulfils its role (agreed 18 October 2011).

Progress on changes

4. An additional section has been included in reports to demonstrate the link to the delivery of Vision 2030. Specifically, how delivery is being supported for each big idea, outcomes and milestones.
5. The frequency of the GSP Steering Group meetings have changed to quarterly starting at 2:00pm for a maximum of 2 hours. An email has been circulated with future dates:
 - i. Tuesday 26 November 2013
 - ii. Tuesday 25 February 2014
 - iii. Wednesday 21 May 2014
6. A list of the Steering Group membership was circulated for comment. A few updates were received and enquiries for possible private sector representatives are being made.
7. Since the last meeting, discussions have been taking place with co-ordinators of the Partnership Boards to establish closer links and a clear line of accountability from to the Steering Group.

Working with partnership boards

8. Discussions with the co-ordinators have been positive regarding strengthening the links between the partnership Boards and the Steering Group. There was agreement to aligning work programmes across all of the GSP to inform the Steering Group's more strategic reports/discussions. This may also help with the rationalising of the sub groups.
9. However, the discussions also highlighted a lack of awareness, training and guidance in the following areas:
 - Some co-ordinators are unsure of the relationship and interaction with the GSP Steering Group and to Vision 2030.
 - Partnership Boards having their own work programmes and not feeling responsible for delivering the milestones of Vision 2030.
 - The role of the Partnership Board rep on the Steering Group needs to be strengthened in some areas.

Discussion

10. There are still some outstanding issues raised at the last meeting that need to be addressed along with agreeing the best way to address the lack of awareness, training and guidance mentioned above.
11. Some ideas to start the debate:
 - Present a report to the partnership boards
 - Explain the changes to the Steering Group
 - Reiterate the governance arrangements and what is expected of them in the various roles
 - Workshop at the November meeting and invite the Partnership Board members
 - Align the aims and objectives of the partnership boards with those of the steering group through their engagement of the Vision 2030 refresh.
 - Assign relevant pathways/milestones to each Partnership Board (accountability)
 - Agree future success and performance reporting
 - Update and amalgamate the GSP Member's Handbook with the 'Everything you wanted to know about Gateshead Strategic Partnership then distribute to all members of the GSP.

Implication of changes

12. As a result of the changes highlighted in this report the Vision 2030 refresh will not be complete during 2013 and a revised timetable needs to be developed with the Partnership Boards.

Recommendations

13. Members of the Steering Group are asked to:
 - Highlight any further awareness or training issues that have not already been mentioned
 - Agree to delaying the refresh of Vision 2030 to improve buy-in and ownership/responsibility of the Partnership Boards.