

THE **LSP** GUIDE

A handy guide
to getting
involved for
voluntary and
community
groups

by Rupa Sarkar
and Alison West



revised edition

Community Development Foundation

The Community Development Foundation (CDF) was set up in 1968. CDF's role is to help communities to achieve greater control over the conditions of their lives and the decisions that affect them.

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CDF is a leading authority on community development in the UK and Europe. It is a non-departmental public body supported principally by the Active Community Unit of the Home Office. CDF also receives substantial backing from local government, charitable trusts and the private sector.

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is a national voluntary sector organisation with 500 members. It is dedicated to supporting community and voluntary groups to be effectively involved in regeneration and renewal. Urban Forum does this by providing information, research and advice for community and voluntary groups, and an events programme helping local groups to network, share good practice and experiences, including LSP events. Urban Forum also communicates through its website and publications, including briefings on policy and practice issues, the 'Dearway' newsletter and an email service.

Urban Forum provides two-way communication between government and community and voluntary groups. In this way, it is helping make a real voluntary and community sector impact on neighbourhood renewal and Local Strategic Partnerships. The Active Community Unit at the Home Office is funding Urban Forum to continue this work.

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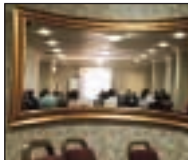
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1. Overview

This Guide is about ways for people, public authorities and businesses in England* to join forces to improve local life. This includes major public services like education, health, housing, police and rubbish collection. It also includes services provided by community and voluntary groups, and neighbourhood renewal schemes that make life better and/or more interesting in the locality. Are the services good? Are they what people need? Is there a vision for local improvements as a whole? The Government introduced **Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)** as a better system for planning all these.

The Government wants local people to have better services by getting more of a chance to say what they want, and to help deliver them.

This booklet tells you how to get involved, or just find out more. Local Strategic Partnerships exist in most local areas. Known generally as LSPs, they might have friendlier names like 'The Bloggstown Partnership'. This partnership brings plans for local agencies together and gets as much agreement as possible on the *grand plan*, which is called the community strategy. LSPs should include people representing public services, local businesses, community groups and residents. The LSP does two things – plans existing services better and sets out a vision for the future.

It is very important for local people – voluntary and community groups, and residents – to be involved in developing the community strategy, as well as other related strategies.

People in all areas depend upon local services. So the new system stresses that all neighbourhoods must benefit. Those living in poorer neighbourhoods, which may also have worse services, get extra help to improve them.

This has been underway for a while but it is still not easy. Making real and lasting improvements to local services will take years and requires a new way of working for many public sector agencies. Communities need help to get involved. Support is available. It is vital that community and voluntary groups are willing to help both their own members and other local people to get involved and to benefit.

Underneath all this is a simple idea – good services get even better if they are well co-ordinated. Life can be improved in all areas if local people's ideas are brought in to influence things. You can help with this process.

* In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland there are separate arrangements not covered by this guide.



2. What does an LSP do?

LSPs aim to improve the ways that services are planned. In some areas there were partnerships before LSPs. They were set up to organise and co-ordinate a number of services. These included regeneration partnerships, health partnerships, community safety coalitions and so on.

Some people complain that there are too many partnerships. LSPs try to make sure that the work of all partnerships is brought into one overall strategy and that their good work continues. The LSP may be based on one or more of the partnerships that were there before.

In many areas, local networks of community and voluntary groups existed before LSPs. A vital role in supporting and developing local community and voluntary groups is played by groups and networks such as development trusts, councils for voluntary service, rural community councils, social action centres and others. These groups (sometimes known as local umbrella bodies) are likely to be key players in forming the **community strategy** by feeding information to community and voluntary groups, encouraging them to get involved and representing their views. (Some useful addresses of the parent organisations for these support groups are given in Section 13, p.25.) Support groups are well aware that they don't know every relevant group in the area and don't necessarily have a mandate to speak for them and that effort is needed to reach smaller groups. That still leaves the problem of people not involved in any group at all!

There is help available to community and voluntary groups through regional networks. There are regional voluntary sector networks in all the English regions, including specialist networks of black and minority ethnic (BME) groups. These networks should be able to tell you which support groups from your local area are already involved in LSPs, and Community Strategies. Look at the lists in Section 12 (p.22) for the regional contact names for your area.

Local authorities often provide most or all of the administration for the LSP structure. This is partly because local authorities were given the initial responsibility to ensure that LSPs were set up, and because they tend to have the most suitable resources to do the job, such as meeting venues and workers to take notes, as well as photocopying facilities

so that paperwork can be given to LSP representatives. However, this is not always the case and does not have to be.

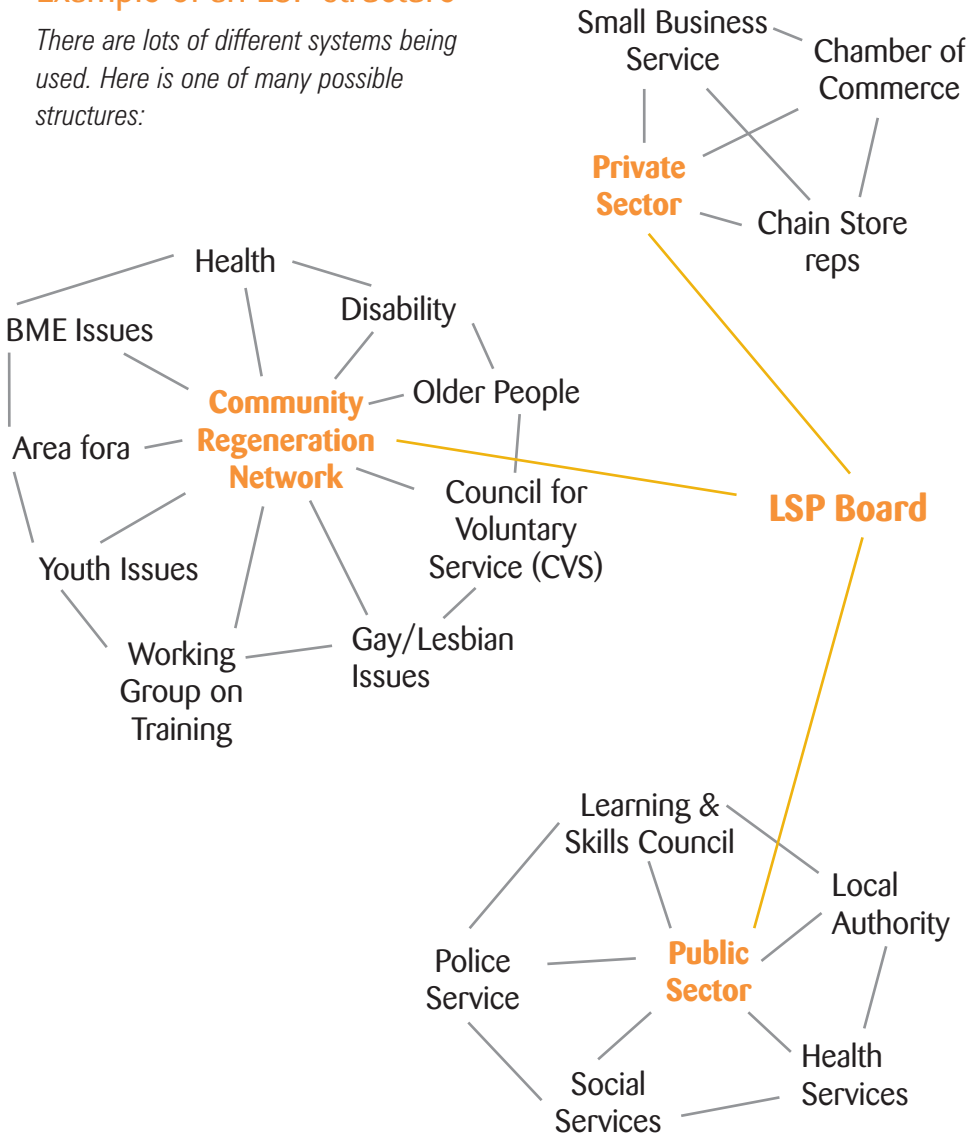
An LSP is often structured as a 'network of networks'. This may mean views and information being sent from a variety of groups to a smaller set of groups, and then possibly through to an even smaller set of groups, and so on until all the feedback reaches a central LSP group. Often, it isn't as neat as this. Some groups may not be connected to the process, but others may have very good access. However an LSP is set up, it isn't possible for everyone to be represented on the 'central' part of it. There would be too many people, it would be confusing and the LSP would not be able to do any work. Also, remember that not everybody wants to be involved in that, or any part of the LSP.

Groups are often focused on particular issues like disability, older people, or unemployment. They are often called theme groups. Groups are sometimes also focused on geographical areas like a few streets or part of a town. A lot of the decision making in some LSPs takes place at the theme or area group meetings, and not at a central LSP group. In this case, a central LSP group tries to act as a focal point so that everything makes sense, but doesn't make big decisions itself. However, in some LSPs a central group does make many of the big decisions.



Example of an LSP structure

There are lots of different systems being used. Here is one of many possible structures:



local strategic partnerships

The idea is to have a partnership and a plan which:

- builds on existing groups and helps to create new ones;
- involves residents in deciding the sort of community they want to live in;
- helps improve public services by better planning between public sector agencies;
- helps community and voluntary groups with their work, including delivering some of the agreed services;
- makes sure that all groups can have a say; and
- takes particular care to ensure that equalities law and guidance like the *Race Relations Amendment Act 2000*, the *Disability Discrimination Act 1995* and *Community Cohesion Guidance* are taken into account.

Local authority boundaries can be complex

Some areas have only one local authority, responsible for all council services. Other areas have a district council for some services and a county council for others, like education and social services. Rural areas and some urban areas also have a parish council. Districts have to talk to counties and to the town and parish councils in their area. Regional bodies may also be involved, and it is a complicated task. The LSP has to take account of local government boundaries, but the rules are flexible enough to allow some local authorities to join together in an LSP to provide better services.

3. What is a community strategy?

The document that gathers together good ideas for improved local areas and services is called the community strategy. By law, all local authorities in England must prepare a Community Strategy to promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area. This document:

- covers what sort of services, activities and support are needed;
- addresses deprivation and neighbourhood renewal – this may be through a local neighbourhood renewal strategy that is closely linked to the community strategy;
- explains what is already provided and looks at how well this meets local need;
- makes links between services e.g. sport often promotes better health;
- organises services better to avoid overlaps;
- promotes local people's involvement in planning services and improving the areas where they live;
- involves private companies and voluntary groups; and
- makes plans for the future.

Recognising services that groups provide

Voluntary and community groups should be drawn into the community strategy. Groups should make sure that their activities and services are known and taken account of by the LSP when it plans the overall co-ordination of services. An activity or service could be as simple as giving people opportunities to meet or socialise, not only things that might be thought of as more 'serious' like providing personal care or transport. So, any group that

provides anything for local people should make sure they have a say. For too long, the contribution of community and voluntary groups has been invisible and one thing the community strategy should show is just what a difference community groups make to local life.

Community strategies and LSPs are here for the long term

Although it is important not to miss out on the first stages, the fact that this is a long-term change in the way services and developments are planned with communities gives community and voluntary groups time to organise. For example, what forms of involvement are best, and how will they influence the LSP? The process of drawing together services and getting agreement on changes will be a slow one but it should improve and mature over the years. Community strategies and LSPs are here to stay and it is expected that community participation will increase over time, both in helping to draw up the strategy and in delivering the results.

It is vital that as many people as possible get involved. In future, funding decisions are likely to be affected by what is in the community strategy. There should be regular updates of the strategy, so it's never too late to get involved.

Don't forget the vision!

Looking ahead is one of the most important parts. What sort of place do we want to live in, and what services and future developments are needed? While keeping wishes realistic, the idea is to move forward over time to create better places for people to live in, with better value from all services. This is what is meant by well-being and this is what the community strategy aims to achieve.

4. What is a community or voluntary group?

Groups that deliver not-for-profit services and activities tend to be known as voluntary organisations or community groups. They are also independent of central and local government, although they may receive funding from them. Usually they have been set up by local individuals and/or groups that already existed to pursue community interests and provide services that were needed but not already available from other service providers such as local authorities or health services.

Community groups are more likely to have few or no paid staff and less than £10,000 per year, often much less. They usually cover smaller areas and are controlled by their members. Voluntary organisations are more likely to have paid staff, have more than £10,000 per year, cover wider areas, and are more likely to have formal service contracts. The work they do is usually hard and essential, and is often creative and exciting.

Increasingly, faith groups like church and mosque organisations are being identified separately from other community or voluntary groups. Sometimes, residents are also identified as separate from other groups.



5. Community networks

To help community and voluntary groups organise themselves to get involved with LSPs, community networks have been set up in most of the LSP areas. See [Special help for 88 areas of England](#) on page 11.

These structures work hard to be as inclusive as possible. This means trying to reach out to community and voluntary groups, and represent them at the LSP. Usually, the community and voluntary group representatives on the LSP are elected by and from the community network. Normally, these representatives must agree to represent the whole range of interests within the community network, and not just their own. For the community network, there is a wide range of duties involved in representing community and voluntary groups as well as possible. These duties include making special efforts to include Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups, disability groups, older and younger people's interests, gay and lesbian groups, as well as other community interests. Groups can vary a lot in terms of what they do and the areas they cover. Because it's usually large, a community network can be like a network of networks itself. No-one should be turned away.

Of course, the community network has to have good ways of communicating with its members. This is so that community network members can hear about what happens to their input at the LSP so that they can use the information to help with further input. More community networks are using websites and email to communicate with members. Postal mail, library and community centre notice boards are also used. Sometimes, community networks organise special events to allow members to get together, to encourage more groups to get involved, and to share information and feedback from the LSP.

Whilst the community network has a particular role, the whole LSP is responsible for ensuring that community and voluntary groups are properly represented and supported. All public sector agencies need to ensure that they build better and closer links to communities and those organisations and groups working for and with communities.

Be proactive. If your group isn't already involved and wants to be, contact your local community network. These details can change very quickly so the best way to find the latest is to call Urban Forum on 020 7253 4816 to get contact details for a particular area, or for directions on how to get details.

Protocols and local compacts

There are agreements between local authorities, other public sector bodies and the community and voluntary sectors about how they communicate with each other. They are usually known as local compacts. A local compact should include things like how much time will be allowed for community and voluntary groups to discuss things, details about which groups and individuals get what information, and how they will receive it.

It is now expected that each LSP should have a similar agreement between the community network and the rest of the LSP. This is often known as a protocol. The protocol agreements are expected to exist in the 88 areas (see list of the 88 areas on page 27) and are encouraged elsewhere.



6. Special help for 88 areas of England

In 88 areas of England, extra funds are available to help community and voluntary groups play a full part in the LSPs until at least 2006. Look at the list in Section 11 (p.27) to see if you are in one of these areas. If you are not, there is probably still an LSP in your area, but the short section that follows in italics does not apply.

In the 88 local authority areas in England that include the poorest areas, a special fund is available to support community and voluntary groups to get involved in LSPs, called the community empowerment fund (CEF). These 88 areas also have a small grants fund called the community chest for the more general activities of community groups. This is to make sure that the community sector is able to continue or start activities that are so vital to local life, and still participate in more long-term planning. Often, the local council for voluntary service (CVS) or similar organisation administers these funds, but plans for spending them are agreed between local groups. The money comes from a section of government called the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (NRU) at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). It goes through the regional Government Offices.

Because of the CEF, community networks in these 88 areas are often called community empowerment networks (CENs) so that we can tell the difference.

A more detailed booklet on the CEF is available from the Government's NRU by telephoning 020 7944 8383 or e-mail neighbourhoodrenewal@odpm.gsi.gov.uk

Another special fund for these areas is the community learning chest. It is similar to the community chest but is used only for training and other education-related activities.

Government is committed to merging CEF, the community chest and the community learning chest. Check Urban Forum's website regularly for updates at www.urbanforum.org.uk

The 88 areas also benefit from a special fund for local development called the neighbourhood renewal fund (NRF). This money is intended to help kick-start better delivery of services particularly in the most deprived areas. The fund is given to the local authority to administer. Decisions about spending this fund should be made by the LSP. The government document on Local Strategic Partnerships (details in section 14, p.27) explains how neighbourhood renewal plans work.

Neighbourhood Renewal Advisers (NRAs)

The NRU has recruited a number of independent experienced people who can offer time limited dedicated support to neighbourhood renewal partnerships, including LSPs in the 88 areas. Issues can include supporting partnership development and advising on strategies, actions and/or themed areas such as community cohesion, health or crime . NRAs provide a range of support of which mediation can be a part. They offer a range of knowledge, skills and experience in supporting renewal programmes and partnership development. Advisers report to neighbourhood renewal partnerships about their progress.

The possibility of bringing in a NRA has to be agreed between the partnership and the regional Government Office.



7. Accreditation of LSPs in the 88 areas

The LSPs in the 88 areas must be accredited by their regional Government Office in order to receive the NRF. This whole procedure is completed in February each year. Each of the 88 area LSPs must present an action plan on partnership development and neighbourhood renewal activities to present to their regional Government Office so that it can be assessed.

As part of accreditation, the regional Government Office uses the action plan to work out whether enough is being done to improve the progress of the LSP, and decide whether or not to accredit it. The process includes seeing whether the action plan says enough about the exact actions that the LSP will take to improve representation in decision making and to improve the delivery of services. The Government Office must look at the extent to which community and voluntary groups are involved as part of the assessment. Direct contact between the Government Office and at least some community and voluntary groups should be a part of this process.

Action plans are public documents.

Accreditation is not automatic.



8. The role of Government Offices in the Regions

There are nine Government Offices in England, one in each of the nine regions. They are like mini regional versions of the main departments of central government. They each have some responsibility for the regional work of several government departments, including the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM); Home Office (HO); Department of Trade and Industry (DTI); Department for Education and Skills (DfES); Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS); and Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Government Offices are funded by the NRU to provide support to LSPs inside the 88 areas. They offer limited support to LSPs outside the 88 areas, subject to their resources.

Contact details for all Government Offices are listed on page 25.

9. What does all this mean for local groups?

Your group may want to get involved in planning the community strategy. The long-term aim is to fully involve local people and for a neighbourhood focus to be an essential part of local plans. Other methods will be needed to involve groups not based in a neighbourhood. Most people will not get directly involved in a local authority-wide plan to organise all sorts of services. But they are more likely to be drawn in on the future of their own neighbourhood, or by a particular interest they might have such as art, sport, international or environmental issues, or a family need such as care support.

Community groups based in the neighbourhood, perhaps a tenants' or residents' group or a community centre, will have a key role to play. These groups may wish to develop more local involvement to influence the community strategy and the work of the LSP.

Make sure the LSP gets your views!

10. Support can be given to help groups get involved

At local level, larger voluntary and community groups may be able to offer support to smaller groups to get involved in LSPs and community strategies. This could be advice on funding, on getting more members in, on what constitution is best and so on. Advice is available from government on how local groups can organise to take part in LSPs and get involved in planning for local areas. If you don't know a local group that can help, contact one of the national organisations listed in Section 13 (p25) for advice.

Some areas are being offered extra support (see [Special help for 88 areas of England](#) on page 17). Community and voluntary groups in each area should be getting together to look at how to get involved in LSPs, community strategies and neighbourhood renewal. They may decide what training and development they need. Health, regeneration and housing officers may also need training – it is not only community and voluntary groups that have to adapt to new ways.

If you don't live in one of the 88 areas, don't despair. In most local authority areas local support and development groups are pulling networks together to get involved in LSPs, community strategies and neighbourhood renewal generally. Contact your local support network (or one of the regional voluntary sector networks listed at the end of this booklet if you don't know whom to approach) and seek their advice about sources of information and support.

Useful projects are underway and are being led by regional and national organisations. For example, Urban Forum has been funded by the Home Office Active Community Unit to support local community and voluntary groups across England to get involved in LSPs through sharing good ideas, events and through their information and advice service. At least two regions, The West Midlands and Yorkshire & the Humber, have regional community/voluntary sector LSP support workers. There is also a national organisation called the Quest Trust running a number of projects including telephone conferences on LSPs for tenants, residents and others. Contact details for all of these are at the end of this guide (p.29).

11. If you're not already involved where do you begin?

Please do get involved. This is a new way of planning and delivering local services and the new terms used may not be familiar.

Find out about your own Local Strategic Partnership

It is important that the LSP knows that groups like yours exist and that you want to be involved or informed. You may be referred to a community network or community empowerment network contact. You may want to get in touch with them directly. Contact details for those in the 88 and non-88 areas are available by calling Urban Forum on 020 7253 4816.

Attend community and voluntary network support events

They could be community network events. Other local community and voluntary sector support and development groups are likely to be organising meetings and consultation events. Contact the event organisers and let them know you want to be informed or involved, or see section 12 (p22) for the regional community and voluntary sector organisation that covers your area. They are likely to know which groups from your area are already involved in the LSP and the community strategy.

Use local democracy – contact your councillor

Your local councillor is also likely to be a useful source of information and support. Local councillors will be involved in many aspects of your local community strategy and part of their role is to ensure that community and voluntary groups in their ward are fully aware and involved. A few councillors are members of LSPs but many more are involved in plans for their wards, perhaps through a related regeneration partnership or project. Your library will be able to tell you the name of your councillor if you don't already know it, or phone the council offices. Local authorities want to involve as many local groups as possible and they have received advice on doing so from the Local Government Association, their own support organisation.

You may want to talk in your own organisation about how much you want to get involved. Obviously getting involved can take up valuable time and the main activities of your group have to be kept going too. Community strategies and LSPs cover a lot of services and areas of activity, including neighbourhood renewal. You may wish to select which aspects of local life to try to influence the most. You may also save time and money by working with other groups interested in the same type of activity as yours.

How do you know a good Local Strategic Partnership from a poor one?

We have drawn up a checklist that you can apply to the LSP in your area. It could help you check how well the LSP is involving community and voluntary groups and the wider community. More importantly perhaps, it should give you ideas for getting more involvement from now on.

The keys to successful community involvement in LSPs are – first, how much commitment there is from the bigger partners. Secondly, the level of resources which are put in to make it work, and thirdly, how well the interests and concerns of local communities are addressed. It is the responsibility of the whole LSP to address these issues.

However, participants from local communities have a particularly important role here. We will call these people community participants rather than community representatives since it will not always be clear that they have a mandate to speak for the community as a whole.

Note that although these questions relate to community involvement, several of them could easily be asked in relation to the other partners.

Checklist

LOOK AT

1. Participative structure

2. Commitment

3. Training

4. Community involvement plan

QUESTION

Do the community participants have a well supported structure which they can relate to? In the 88 areas, is the CEF being used to support a participative network of groups interested in the LSP?

Is the LSP committed to community involvement, partnership working and collective decision making?

Is there a training programme for community participants to assist them in carrying out their function? This could be supported by local colleges, voluntary groups and in the 88 areas financial support might come from the CEF, Community Chest, or Community Learning Chest.

Has the LSP drawn up a plan for how it will involve the community? In the 88 most deprived areas, the NRF could support the plan and local networks could consider using some of the CEF funding to help them.

THINKING

It would be fairly easy to invite a small number of community and voluntary organisations to the table with no system for them relating back to a much wider group of organisations or the wider community. Is there evidence that a structure, well supported with staff time and finance, is in existence or is being worked on?

The Government has said that LSPs can be set up in all areas. Some areas have embraced this happily, others may have done so just because they had to. Is there evidence that partners are bringing ideas to the table before decisions have been made rather than after?

Many people active in community and voluntary organisations are well experienced in participating on or representing community interests on partnerships.

There are many more who do not have this experience and may need training on a range of things like acting as a representative or about the specific issues which the LSP is considering.

To ensure sufficient resources are made available and that involvement targets are set and met. LSP partners sign up to a community involvement plan. It should cover ensuring good quality of involvement, identifying training and support needs, and explain how it will be paid for. If no plan exists, seek evidence of good quality community involvement, including whether time and money is being committed to it.



Checklist

LOOK AT

5. Community development support

6. Resources

7. Different interests

8. Efficiency

9. Timescale

local strategic partnerships

QUESTION

THINKING

In order to be properly involved, community and voluntary organisations and the communities they serve need to have people with enough skills, confidence and time to do it! Has the LSP identified community development support and ensured that it is available to make the partnership work?

The Government guidance is quite clear that the planning which LSPs are expected to carry out can't be done without long-term community development support.

a) Is staff support available to community participants to help them fulfil their role?

No participants can do their job adequately without the proper support. Community participants are expected to reflect a wide range of interests and so need good support to enable them to do this.

b) Are opportunities available for community participants to meet together outside of the formal LSP meetings? Is CEF being used to support community participants on the LSP?

Community participants may need to meet together to consider the material being presented, share issues of common concern and ensure that community interests are being taken on board. Is money and staff time being committed to ensure that this can happen?

Is there good participation of deprived neighbourhood groups and communities of interest on the LSP? What about disabled people, people from black and ethnic minorities, young people etc?

The number of LSP members will be limited but have adequate attempts been made to ensure that a good cross-section of community interests is at the table? If it is just larger groups at the table do they have sufficient support from the LSP to bring a wider set of interests forward?

Have as many other partnerships as possible been brought into the work of the LSP?

There are already lots of partnerships in place in some areas and community participants can easily become over-stretched. Are attempts being made by the partners to ensure that this doesn't happen? Have they looked at what other community involvement structures exist in relation to their services and tried to make sure that effort isn't being duplicated?

Has the LSP been given enough time to develop properly?

LSPs need time to develop. In some areas, there may be a tendency to rush things in order to receive government grants such as neighbourhood renewal fund. Does the LSP have a way of reviewing its membership and direction, especially in relation to community involvement?

12. Regional Networks

You may wish to contact networks of local community and voluntary groups working at regional level. They can tell you more about what is going on. Regional community and voluntary sector networks will be able to put you in touch with groups in your local area that are involved or know more about LSPs, community strategies and neighbourhood renewal.

Regional Voluntary Sector Networks (RVSNS)

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Tel 01223 893 443
Fax 01223 894 172
office@cover-east.org

North East

Ray Cowell
Voluntary Organisations Network North
East (VONNE)
9th Floor
Cale Cross
156 Pilgrim Street
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6SU
Tel 0191 233 2000
Fax 0191 222 1998
vonne@vonne.co.uk

North West

Mary Nicholson
Director
Voluntary Sector North West (VSNW)
St. Thomas Centre
Ardwick Green North
Manchester M12 6FZ
Tel 0161 276 9300
Fax 0161 276 9301
vsnw@vsnw.org.uk

Yorkshire & the Humber

Alison Crouch
Neighbourhood Renewal and LSP
Development Co-ordinator
Yorkshire & Humber Regional Forum
2nd Floor
Goodbard House
15 Infirmary Street
Leeds LS1 2JS
Tel 0113 200 1381
Fax 0113 243 5446
alison.crouch@yhregforum.org.uk

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Regional Voluntary Sector Networks

If you are interested in issues facing black and minority ethnic (BME) communities, you can contact one of the following regional BME networks, made up of local groups. They can tell you more about BME involvement in LSPs and neighbourhood renewal and put you in touch with BME groups in your local area.

London

Rafiu Williams
Project Officer
Minority Ethnic Network (MiNet)
c/o Race On The Agenda (ROTA)
Bow Road Business Centre
153–159 Bow Road
London E3 2SE
Tel 020 8983 7144
rafiu.minet@rota.org.uk

South West

Black South West Network (BSWN)
5 Russell Town Avenue
Redfield
Bristol BS5 9LT
Tel 0117 939 6648
Fax 0117 939 6648

South East

Maurice Blades
Director
South East Racial Equality Network (SEREN)
The Foyer
52 Stoke Road
Slough
Berkshire SL2 5AW
Tel 01753 691 761
Fax 01753 694 768
seren.bme@btconnect.com

East Midlands

Naeem Sheikh
Chief Executive
Voice East Midlands
66 Carlton Road
Nottingham NG3 2AP
Tel 0115 950 8820
Fax 0115 950 9232
admin@voice-em.org.uk

West Midlands

Owen McFarlane
Regional Co-ordinator
EMBRACE (Ethnic Minority and Black Regional
Action Community Empowerment)
Aspect Court
4 Temple Row
Birmingham B2 5HG
Tel 0121 609 4110
Fax 0121 609 4111
info@embrace.org.uk

East

Ila Chandavarkar
Regional Co-ordinator
East of England Black and Minority Ethnic
Network (MENTER)

62-64 Victoria Road
Cambridge CB4 3DU
Tel 01223 355 034
Fax 01223 359 047
ila@menter.org.uk
www.menter.org.uk

North East

Beverley Prevatt Goldstein
BECON (Black and Minority Ethnic
Communities Organisations Network)
8 Jesmond Road West
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4PQ
Tel 0191 245 3850
Fax 0191 245 3851
beverley@becon.uk.com

North West

Maneer Afsar
North West Network
Room 2715
Sunley Tower
Piccadilly Plaza
Manchester M1 4BD
Tel 0161 236 6493
Fax 0161 228 6137
maneer@nwnetwork.org.uk

Yorkshire & the Humber

Tessa Archibald
Regional Development Worker
BME Regional Network
Quest House
243 Manningham Lane
Bradford BD8 7ER
Tel 01274 482 323
Fax 01274 482 422
bme.network@ukonline.co.uk

13. Government Offices in the Regions

These offices cover a wide range of government services and funds over each region. They are in contact with local authorities and other members of LSPs, over community strategies, neighbourhood renewal and the planning and effectiveness of local services. In the 88 most deprived areas, Government Offices will see the plans of each LSP and approve them before releasing extra money for neighbourhood renewal. The people listed below are lead contacts on neighbourhood renewal for community and voluntary groups.

Government Office for the East of England

Sue Lowe
Heron House
49/53 Goldington Road
Bedford MK40 3LL
Tel 01223 372599
slowe.goeast@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk



**Government Office for East
Midlands**

Jill Pateman
The Belgrave Centre
Stanley Place
Talbot Street
Nottingham NG1 5GG
Tel 0115 971 2533
jpateman.goem@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk

Government Office for London

Heather White
6th Floor
Riverwalk House
157–161 Millbank
London SW1P 4RR
Tel 020 7217 3049
hwhite.gol@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk

Government Office for the North East

Tony Stephenson or Peter Henley
Wellbar House
Gallowgate
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE1 4TD
Tel 0191 202 3570
tstephenson.gone@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk
phanley.gone@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk

Government Office for the North West

Julie Dawber
Cunard Building
Pier Head
Water Street

Liverpool L3 1QB
Tel 0151 224 6336
jdawber.gown@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk

Government Office for the South East

Angela Hammond
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
Surrey GU1 4GA
Tel 01483 882346
ahammond.gose@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk

Government Office for the South West

Fiona Stone
Community Cohesion & Equality Team
2 Rivergate
Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6ED
Tel 0117 900 1700

**Government Office for the West
Midlands**

Andrea Whitworth
77 Paradise Circus
Queensway
Birmingham BT1 2DT
Tel 0121 212 5248
awhitworth.gowm@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk

**Government Office for Yorkshire and the
Humber**

Janet Munn
City House
New Station Street
Leeds LS1 4US
Tel 0113 283 6672
jmunnn.goyh@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk

14. List of 88 most deprived local authority areas in England

These areas are eligible for additional Government funding for neighbourhood renewal. The 88 most deprived areas in England will receive additional help as part of the government's Neighbourhood Renewal programme. These 88 areas are listed by their Government Office (GO) region.

GO Eastern

Great Yarmouth
Luton

GO East Midlands

Ashfield
Bolsover
Derby
Leicester
Lincoln
Mansfield
Nottingham

GO London

Barking & Dagenham
Brent
Camden

Croydon
Ealing
Enfield
Greenwich
Hackney
Hammersmith & Fulham
Haringey
Islington
Kensington & Chelsea
Lambeth
Lewisham
Newham
Southwark
Tower Hamlets
Waltham Forest
Wandsworth
Westminster

GO North East

Derwentside
Easington
Gateshead
Hartlepool
Middlesbrough
Newcastle upon Tyne
North Tyneside
Redcar and Cleveland
Sedgefield
South Tyneside
Stockton-on-Tees
Sunderland
Wansbeck
Wear Valley



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GO North West

Allerdale
Barrow-in-Furness
Blackburn with Darwen
Blackpool
Bolton
Burnley
Halton
Hyndburn
Knowsley
Liverpool
Manchester
Oldham
Pendle
Preston
Rochdale
Salford
Sefton
St Helens
Tameside
Wigan
Wirral

GO South East

Brighton & Hove
Hastings
Portsmouth
Southampton

GO South West

Bristol
Kerrier
Penwith
Plymouth

GO West Midlands

Birmingham
Coventry
Dudley
Sandwell
Stoke-on-Trent
Walsall
Wolverhampton

GO Yorkshire & the Humber

Barnsley
Bradford
Doncaster
Kingston upon Hull
Kirklees
Leeds
Rotherham
Sheffield
Wakefield

15. National organisations whose members are working to support groups locally

Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)

Somerford Court
Somerford Road
Cirencester GL7 1TW
Tel 01285 653 477
acre@acre.org.uk

Black Training and Enterprise Group (BTEG)

Regents Wharf
8 All Saints Street
London N1 9RL
Tel 020 7520 2434
info@bteg.co.uk

British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres (BASSAC)

1st Floor
Winchester House
11 Cranmer Road
London SW9 6EJ
Tel 0207 735 1075
info@bassac.org.uk

Community Development Foundation (CDF)

60 Highbury Grove
London N5 2AG
Tel 0207 226 5375
admin@cdf.org.uk

Community Foundations Network

Arena House
66–68 Pentonville Road
London N1 9HS
Tel 0207 713 9326
network@communityfoundations.org.uk

Community Matters

12–20 Baron Street
London N1 9LL
Tel 0207 837 7887
communitymatters@communitymatters.org.uk

Development Trusts Association (DTA)

1st Floor
9 Red Lion Court
London EC4A 3EF
Tel 0845 458 8336
info@dtg.org.uk

Federation for Community Development Learning (FCDL)

4th Floor
Furnival House
48 Furnival Gate
Sheffield S1 4QP
Tel 0114 273 9391
info@fcdl.org.uk



National Association of Councils for Voluntary Service (NACVS)

177 Arundel St
Sheffield S1 2NU
Tel 0114 278 6636
nacvs@nacvs.org.uk

National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)

Regent's Wharf
8 All Saints Street
London N1 9RL
Tel 020 7713 6161
ncvo@ncvo-vol.org.uk

The Quest Trust

1 Belmont
Lansdown Road
Bath BA1 5DZ
Tel 01225 466222
enquiries@quest-net.org

Standing Conference on Community Development (SCCD)

4th Floor
Furnival House
Furnival Gate,
Sheffield S1 4QP
Tel 0114 270 1718
info@sccd.org.uk

Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS)

5th Floor
Trafford House
Chester Road
Manchester M32 0RS
Tel 0161 868 3500
info@tpas.org.uk

Urban Forum

70 Cowcross Street
London EC1M 6EJ
Tel 020 7253 4816
info@urbanforum.org.uk



Further Reading

The key booklets are the guidance notes from central government setting out the way community strategies and Local Strategic Partnerships should be organised. If you are interested in getting involved these are worth reading first.

From ODPM (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister)

Local Strategic Partnerships: Government Guidance March 2001 Copies available from ODPM, quoting product code 01LG9011 PO Box 236, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7NB Tel: 0870 1226 236 Fax: 0870 1226 237 Textphone: 0870 1207 405 Email: dtlr@twoten.press.net

Preparing Community Strategies: Government guidance to local authorities

December 2000 Copies available from Wetherby as above

Community Empowerment Fund – Preliminary Guidance for Government Offices in the Regions and Community and Voluntary Sector Organisations (Summary also available)

June 2001 Copies of Guidance and Summary available from the NRU at ODPM

Tel: 08450 828383

Email: neighbourhoodrenewal@odpm.gsi.gov.uk or visit www.neighbourhood.gov.uk and follow the Find/Order link

Supplementary Guidance for Community Empowerment Fund March 2003 Copies available from the NRU as above.

From the Social Exclusion Unit (within the ODPM)

A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal: National Strategy Action Plan

Available free by calling the neighbourhood Renewal Unit on 020 7944 5550 or by visiting www.socialexclusionunit.gov.uk/published.htm#pub_reports

From the Home Office Active Community Unit (ACU)

Compact Code of Good Practice on Community Groups

Published in July 2003 Copies available from ACU Tel 020 7035 5329 or Email public_enquiry.acu@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or visit www.homeoffice.gov.uk/acu (*This website is being redeveloped at time of going to press and will relaunch to full function soon*) or from Compact Secretariat, NCVO, Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints St., London N1 9RL

Strengthening Communities: towards an integrated approach to supporting community capacity building Report of the Community Capacity Building Review. Published in September 2003. Copies available from ACU as above.



From the Community Development Foundation

The New Community Strategies: How To Involve Local People

Launched at the same time as the government's guidance on community strategies in 2000. It gives advice on how communities should be involved. Download it from the CDF website on www.cdf.org.uk or order by post from CDF, 60 Highbury Grove, London N5 2AG (cost £5.50 incl p&rp). CDF also produce a variety of other publications which are relevant: send for a Publications Catalogue or see the publications section on www.cdf.org.uk

From Urban Forum

Urban Forum provides briefings on many aspects of LSPs, Community Strategies and neighbourhood renewal, available free at Urban Forum Online at www.urbanforum.org.uk or by post from Urban Forum, 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ. Urban Forum organises regular events for community and voluntary groups interested in regeneration and neighbourhood renewal, including LSPs and Community Strategies.

Urban Forum and the Community Development Foundation have carried out research into community and voluntary sector involvement in LSPs in the most deprived 88 areas. News on this and from three national LSP conferences for local community and voluntary groups held in June 2001, July 2002 and July 2003 are available on the Urban Forum website.

From the Local Government Association

The LGA have a number of useful publications many of which can be downloaded from the web site at www.lga.gov.uk. Click on 'our work' followed by 'better local government' to find the LSP publications as well as material on the compact and community leadership or call the LGA information centre on 020 7664 3131.

Learning from Local Strategic Partnerships:

LGA Advice note for working with the community and voluntary sector

March 2002
With members of its Community Development Forum, LGA has produced this short advice note for local authorities, on working with the community and voluntary sectors in LSPs. You should read this if you are involved in local discussions on forming a partnership.

Learning from LSPs – LGA Advice Note on Scrutiny and Accountability

September 2002

THE LSP GUIDE

revised edition

Rupa Sarkar and Alison West

This booklet is designed for community and voluntary groups. It explains the new system for agreeing how an area should be improved and for planning local services and looks at how community and voluntary groups can get involved.

ISBN 1 901974 50 2

**Are you active in a local community
or voluntary group?**

**Would you be willing to talk to others about
how to improve your area?**

**Have you a keen interest in a sport, or hobby
or support group?**

**Do you feel you could say how services could be
improved in your area?**

**If the answer to any of these questions is yes
– then this booklet is for you**

