

Voluntary and Community Sector Representative sought for new Central Bedfordshire Local Strategic Partnership

We are seeking expressions of interest from those active (in a paid or voluntary role) within the voluntary and community sector who would like to make an effective contribution to the new Central Bedfordshire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) on behalf of the sector.

Role:

Voluntary and Community Sector Representative (Central Bedfordshire Local Strategic Partnership)

Role Purpose:

Acting individually and collectively with other LSP members, to contribute a voluntary and community perspective to discussions concerning the strategic direction of the Partnership and the effective delivery of local services.

The LSP acts as a means of providing 'joined up thinking' and partnership working between local government, public sector agencies (health, education, police and fire services), local businesses and the voluntary and community sector.

The LSP Board is the strategic decision making body responsible for creating a shared vision, leadership and strategy for the area through the Sustainable Community Strategy. It is responsible for ensuring that each partner makes an effective contribution to the delivery of that strategy through the Local Area Agreement and Local Development Framework.

The objectives of the Central Bedfordshire Local Strategic Partnership are to:

- identify what is needed locally, now and in the future, through community consultation and involvement;
- develop and implement a Central Bedfordshire Sustainable Community Strategy, to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being for all in the area;
- bring together and improve the planning and co-ordination of existing and future activities and services of all sectors that operate in Central Bedfordshire;
- address cross-cutting themes of community engagement, sustainable development, diversity and partnership effectiveness;
- performance monitor the delivery of the Local Area Agreement.

Main Responsibilities:

- Preparing for, attending and contributing to LSP Board meetings and other LSP meetings the representative is invited to attend.
- Representing and promoting the voluntary and community sector at LSP Board meetings and any other public meetings, conferences and fora attended as an LSP Representative.

- Contributing to the overall direction and development of the Partnership through clear strategic planning, in accordance with the LSP's Terms of Reference.
- Using own contacts to promote and publicise the Partnership, develop links with individuals and organisations, and encourage support for the work of the LSP.
- Preparing written articles on the work of the Partnership for publication in local voluntary and community sector newsletters as a mechanism for reporting back to, and gathering views from, the sector.
- Contributing to the development of an emerging Third Sector Assembly and through this to gather, represent and feedback views to those they represent.
- Informing own effectiveness as a representative through reading, networking, training and an understanding of the issues affecting the work of the LSP.

Person Specification

Subject to decisions yet to be confirmed by the Central Bedfordshire Shadow Executive, the initial term of office will be for at least eighteen months (November 2008 until May 2010). Thereafter, renewable in accordance with arrangements put in place for the election of representatives as part of the emerging Third Sector Assembly.

The person fulfilling this role is expected to:

- have a commitment to partnership working and an understanding of community involvement processes;
- be involved in strategic issues and developments in, be able to contribute to decisions on behalf of, the voluntary and community sector in Central Bedfordshire;
- regularly attend LSP Board Meetings, usually held every three months during the day at either Chicksands or Dunstable;
- have experience of representing the voluntary and community sector and/or local communities in public meetings and partnership settings;
- have experience of contributing to discussions and debates on, and knowledge of, a range of environmental, economic and social issues relevant to local communities and the voluntary and community sector;
- be involved in a local 'frontline' voluntary, community or other third sector organisation based in Central Bedfordshire and have a proven involvement with the wider third sector.
- be committed to the vision and priorities included in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Applying for the Role

If you would like to be considered for this important role please set out your skills, knowledge and experience in meeting each of the above expectations (maximum one side of A4) and send this to partnerships@action-southbeds.org.uk by 31 October 2008.

Informal interviews will be held on Thursday 6 November 2008 for short listed applicants and the chosen representative will be expected to attend the first meeting of the Central Bedfordshire Shadow LSP Board on the 11 November 2008 (11.30am – 2.00pm).

If you would like to discuss the role with someone informally, please do not hesitate to contact either John Gelder (Director of Voluntary and Community Action) on 01525 850559 or Martin Trinder (Chief Officer of CVS) on 01234 354366.