

**Derbyshire Policy Officers  
Housing and Health  
Annual Report**

**2006**

# Contents

	<b>PAGE</b>
Introduction	3
Housing and Health	4
Funding	5
Draft Action Plan	7
Funded Projects	8
Terms of Reference	10

# Derbyshire Policy Officers Housing and Health Group

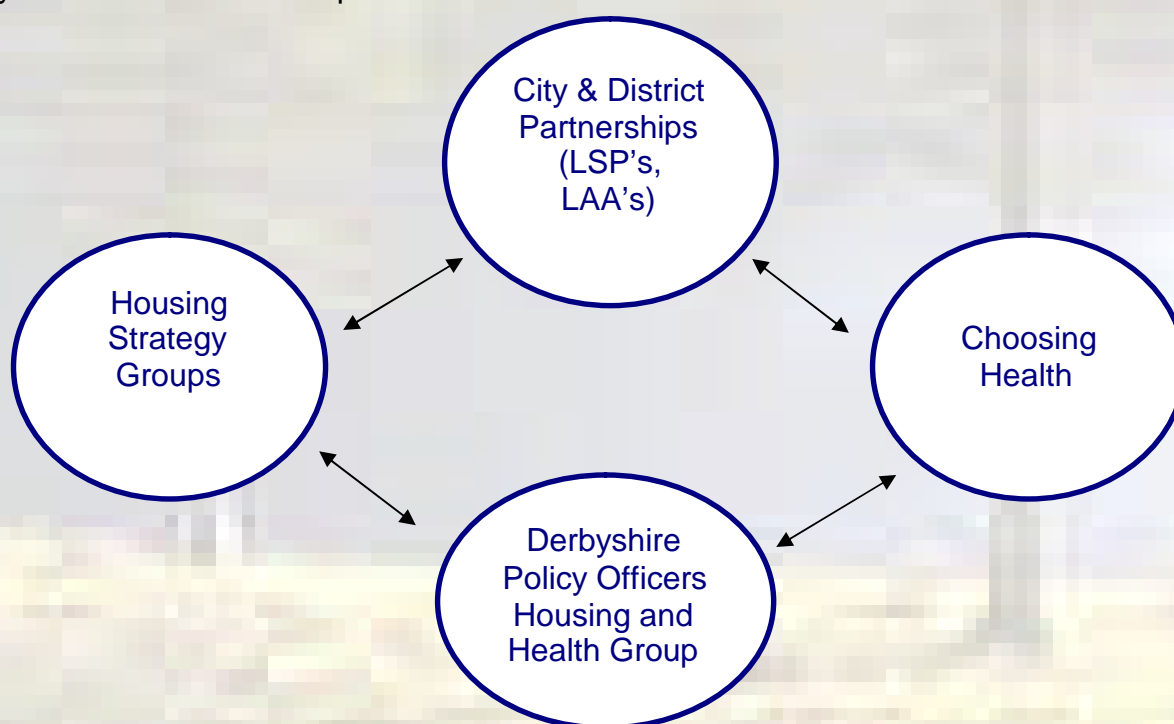
## Annual Report 2005/2006

### Introduction

The Southern Derbyshire Health and Housing Forum has been in existence for over a decade, during 2006 due to the changes within the NHS PCT boundary changes, the Southern Derbyshire group merged with the Derbyshire wide Derbyshire Policy Officer group, and renamed itself – Derbyshire Policy Officers Housing and Health Group. Its purpose is to provide direct links between health and housing related services across Derbyshire.

When the Forum was originally established it was recognised that a full time post was required to develop partnerships that could deliver the health and housing agenda. The post, the Health and Housing Strategy Manager is currently joint-funded through the 5 Primary Care Trusts of Southern Derbyshire; this will inevitably alter over the coming year as it is proposed that stronger links are developed within the North of the county feeding directly into the Districts Housing Strategies. This is seen by Housing partners to provide an essential strategic bridge between Health and Housing related services, and a much needed link between the North and the South of the County.

The table below illustrates the reporting pathways that exist between the current Derbyshire Policy Officers Housing and Health Group, Health and Housing strategies and City and District Partnerships.



Over the years the Group has provided initial funding for a number of initiatives many of which have developed and attracted mainstream funding. Other initiatives have been for a specific period or to help meet a one off need.

Organisations from both the statutory and voluntary sectors were invited to bid for schemes. The schemes listed below represent the successful bids that have been supported in the last year.

## Housing and Health

Recognition of the impact of poor housing on health is not recent. In 1842, Chadwick established a link between the appalling living conditions of the poor and their ill health. There has been widening recognition of the health consequences of poor housing during the 20th century. The Black report in 1980 suggested that housing deprivation appears to pose a health risk that is of the same magnitude as smoking and, on average, greater than that posed by excessive alcohol consumption, as did the Acheson report in 1988.

Vulnerable groups, including the elderly, the very young and those suffering from long-term ill health, are at particular risk. These groups also have the greatest exposure to many specific hazards due to the lengthy periods that they spend indoors. People with health problems are disproportionately likely to occupy poorer housing stock. Also, poor quality accommodation is often situated in impoverished surroundings with few local amenities, worsening health-promoting opportunities for vulnerable people.

No one chooses to live in poor quality housing or in 'unhealthy' neighbourhoods, yet the shortage of affordable decent housing means that people from deprived groups may find that this is the only housing available.

A shrinking social housing sector no longer provides housing for a broad cross section of the community and has become characterised by deprivation and social exclusion. The owner-occupier sector has expanded and now includes more people on low income. The resulting increase in stress as a result of mortgage debt, arrears and repossession is also a major public health issue.

The government has set a number of long-term targets and embarked on initiatives across various departments to improve housing quality and address related issues of access. Provision of a reasonable standard of accommodation for all will have health benefits for the most disadvantaged in society; in the long term it may even lower health care costs.

## **2005/2006 Funding**

### **Derbyshire Housing Aid / Derby / Derbyshire**

Funding granted for printing and laptop purchase. To re- brand Derbyshire Housing Aid image, produce information material in different languages for use in the outreach clinics across Derbyshire. To increase the range of advice and availability of advocacy services to those who could not access the main office in Derby City. The lap top is for use by the outreach worker to keep records of cases from clinic to clinic.

### **Derbyshire Housing Aid Lesbian and Gay Bisexual and Transsexual caseworker / Derby / Derbyshire**

This project is to help LGBT people by offering free specialist legal advice on housing, debt, and harassment to the LGBT people, through close working with Derbyshire Friends. Providing a specialist service tailored to meet the needs of the LGBT people and to encourage diversity and equality. To meet the needs of a minority group, and to raise awareness amongst some of the main stream providers of the needs of this under represented group.

This work links to supporting Diversity and Equality, Social inclusion, Creating Opportunities for all in Southern Derbyshire and Healthy communities.

### **Amber Valley Borough Council – Health and Warm / Amber Valley**

A contribution towards printing of the cards to promote the Health and Warm referral project was agreed. Pilots have taken place over the last two years with GP practices, sending out information cards with Flu Vaccination letters, resulting in a 5% return of cards for further information from the energy efficiency advice team at Amber Valley Borough Council. Initially cards were sent to over 65 year olds and those suffering from chronic disease.

The overall aim is to increase awareness of energy efficiency/affordable warmth issues, whilst addressing the impact on health of poorly insulated and heated homes, with links to the wider health agenda e.g. excess winter deaths, Coronary heart disease etc.

### **Mencap – Furniture Project/ Derbyshire**

Small grant agreed for purchase of dining room furniture. To provide a dining room where all the residents at the project could dine together and use as a communal area and improve the atmosphere and social contact amongst the residents.

The room is used by 8 residents who previously could not all dine at the same time, they are between the ages of 36 and 59 and all have learning difficulties, most have mobility difficulties, as they spend most of their spare time in the house due to their high support needs the provision of new furniture will benefit them as a group.

### **Extra Care Research Bid – Amber Valley Housing / Derbyshire**

The bid was granted to research the potential of extra care housing in Heanor in line with the options appraisal required by Amber Valley Partnership. The research will determine the type of project that will best satisfy the housing and support needs for this group.

The need for some form of extra care housing provision in Amber Valley was identified by the Derbyshire County Councils Extra Care Housing Strategy, and

Amber Valley Borough Councils Housing Strategy, and has been identified as a target area by both Social Services and the Primary Care Trust for additional and complimentary services for older people.

### **Canaan Trust – Jordan House / Kitchen equipment / Building works. (Erewash)**

Funding was granted for the fitting of kitchen equipment and building works at the above project. The Canaan Trust acquired the building needing approx £78,000 expenditure. The Trust provides temporary supported accommodation to single homeless males, the project aims to equip them for fully independent living by providing skills and training opportunities, literacy and educational courses, and mediation and reconciliation with families.

The original kitchen was ill equipped for using to develop independent living skills, food preparation / cooking skills healthy eating, communal use. The building required adaptation suitable for at least one ground floor access accommodation and 8 other bedrooms, the work has now been completed and the project is fully occupied.

### **Amber Valley Association for Mental Health – ‘People Power – learning for inclusion’ / Amber Valley**

The aim of the project is to enable people who use or have used the services of AVAMH to increase the ability and opportunity to influence and bring change through involvement in all levels of the organisation.

The training aims to improve people’s confidence and independence skills, through a broad range of training and development opportunities via a flexible and supportive development programme. AVAMH work in partnership with other training providers and the CVS to provide appropriate learning opportunities to the 110 service users currently registered with them.

### **Mother and Baby unit / Conservatory – Walbrook Housing / South Derbyshire**

Part funding agreed for this project, Walbrook Housing recently remodelled the unit to change from rooms with shared facilities, to self contained flats. This necessitated the loss of the communal lounge, kitchen area.

The development of a conservatory area is to establish a communal area again, Kitchen area, to facilitate training sessions from local college, life skills training, baby care classes etc.

The unit currently supports 3 vulnerable girls and 5 young parents, plus 8 others in the community.

Walbrook Housing are currently applying for planning permission and raising additional funds required.

### **Health and Warm – Amber Valley Borough Council – Derbyshire**

The group agreed funding for purchase of flat hypothermia thermometers, for use by health professional, social services and front line staff who have contact with vulnerable people in communities.

To be used with staff to promote referrals to energy efficiency teams within Local Authorities, to sign post people to grants, for energy efficiency, benefit checks, home assistance repairs grants, etc.

## Draft Action Plan for 2006/2007

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>	<b>Strategic Link</b>
1. Keep members and partners of the DPOHHG informed of progress and actions.	Produce detailed bi-annual report.	Bi-annual report circulated to DPOHHG members and partners	August 2006 and then every two years	PCT Capacity	Future reports to highlight strategic links between DPOHHG partners.
2. Ensure DPOHHG remains relevant with clear objectives and priorities.	Annual review of terms of reference and group membership (attached)	Relevant terms of reference	August 2006 and the annually	PCT Capacity	Strategic links identified within terms of reference
3. Support Health and Housing related projects that would not traditionally otherwise receive funding.	Promote bids for Derbyshire Policy Officer Housing and Health Group  Assess applications for DPOHHG funding.	New Health and Housing related projects provided with 'pump primed' funding.	Ongoing	£36,000 joint funding from Derbyshire PCT's	All new projects must identify clear strategic links to Health and housing related strategies
4. Support priority projects agreed by the DPOHHG.	DPOHHG to agree priority areas for funding.	Targeted areas of funding that link to partner priorities.	Annual	£36,000 joint funding from Derbyshire PCT's	Priorities linked to partner strategies.
5. Ensure that DPOHHG supported schemes meet their objectives	Quarterly report from service providers who have received DPOHHG funding	Monitored supported projects meeting there objectives	Ongoing	PCT Capacity	Monitoring will ensure projects retain strategic relevance
6. Develop closer ties between DPOHHG and other strategic groups	Link to : LSP's LAA's – City and County Partnerships	Closer integration between Health and Housing partners. More efficient use of officer time.	June 2007	PCT Capacity	Closer integration with partners will lead to closer strategic fit

## Funded Projects from 2003 – 2006

<b>Organisation</b>	South Derbyshire District Council	
<b>Project</b>	Telecare Resource Bi South Derby / resource for Derbyshire	
<b>Funding</b>		£6,000

<b>Organisation</b>	Derbyshire Housing Aid	
<b>Project</b>	Disabled Persons Housing Project / Derbyshire	
<b>Funding</b>		£24,470

<b>Organisation</b>	Derby City Council	
<b>Project</b>	Healthy Warm Homes / Derby City	
<b>Funding</b>		£1,000

<b>Organisation</b>	South Derbyshire District Council	
<b>Project</b>	Research Project for Supported Housing for Substance Misuse / South Derbyshire	
<b>Funding</b>		£10,000

<b>Organisation</b>	Derbyshire Housing Aid	
<b>Project</b>	Smart Share Project / Derbyshire	
<b>Funding</b>		£14,180

<b>Organisation</b>	Derby City Council	
<b>Project</b>	Hospital Discharge Package / Derby City	
<b>Funding</b>		£8,280

<b>Organisation</b>	Derby City Council	
<b>Project</b>	Warm Homes in Derwent / Derby City	
<b>Funding</b>		£1,000

<b>Organisation</b>	Supporting People Derby City	
<b>Project</b>	Research Bid for the Needs of Vulnerable People/Derby City	
<b>Funding</b>		£6,000

<b>Organisation</b>	Supporting People Derbyshire County Council	
<b>Project</b>	Research Bid for the Needs of Vulnerable People / Derbyshire	
<b>Funding</b>		£6,000

<b>Organisation</b>	Derby City Council	
<b>Project</b>	Mediation Service for 16-17 year olds / Derby City	
<b>Funding</b>		£6,000

<b>Organisation</b>	Derbyshire Housing Aid	
<b>Project</b>	Printing and Laptop / Derby / Derbyshire	
<b>Funding</b>		£2,200

<b>Organisation</b>	Derbyshire Housing Aid	
<b>Project</b>	Lesbian and Gay Bisexual and Transsexual Caseworker / Derby / Derbyshire	
<b>Funding</b>		£5,000

<b>Organisation</b>	Amber Valley Borough Council	
<b>Project</b>	Healthy and Warm / Amber Valley	
<b>Funding</b>		£600

<b>Organisation</b>	Mencap	
<b>Project</b>	Furniture Project / Derbyshire	
<b>Funding</b>		£1,000

<b>Organisation</b>	Amber Valley Housing	
<b>Project</b>	Extra Care Research Bid / Derbyshire	
<b>Funding</b>		£3,000

<b>Organisation</b>	Canaan Trust	
<b>Project</b>	Jordan House / kitchen equipment and building works / Erewash (3,000&6,000)	
<b>Funding</b>		£9,000

<b>Organisation</b>	Amber Valley Association for Mental Health	
<b>Project</b>	People Power, Learning Inclusion / Amber Valley / Derbyshire	
<b>Funding</b>		£6,500

<b>Organisation</b>	Walbrook Housing	
<b>Project</b>	Mother and Baby Unit / South Derbyshire	
<b>Funding</b>		£3,000

<b>Organisation</b>	Amber Valley Borough Council	
<b>Project</b>	Healthy and Warm / Derbyshire	
<b>Funding</b>		£1,100

## **Derbyshire Policy Officers Housing and Health Group**

### **Terms of Reference**

**June 2006**

#### **Aim**

- To improve and develop networking between Local Authorities, Primary Care Trusts, Voluntary Sector and other partners and organisations who are part of the DPOHHG. (*see membership*)
- To develop a sub regional approach to policy development in the development of housing in Derbyshire.
- To ensure that the housing needs of vulnerable and excluded communities are addressed in a co-ordinated way in Derbyshire as partners, to develop and deliver outcomes over and above each individual organisation as separate bodies, and identify actions to address gaps.
- To ensure that developments in housing help to improve the health of communities in Derbyshire and in particular those vulnerable and deprived communities which have the worst health outcome. To maintain healthy living aspects for all groups of people, and to reduce inequalities.
- Develop strategy direction for Housing and Health, with action planning and recommended projects to take forward and link to other groups e.g. Older People, Young People. Mental Health etc.
- Produce a Bi-annual report and yearly action plan with targets.

#### **Objectives**

- To share information and expertise
- To share priorities and developments
- To promote best practice
- To consolidate the work between Housing and Health
- To lead and promote
- To promote confidentiality of members on sensitive issues

#### **Frequency of meetings / Chair**

The Group to meet quarterly.

Sub Group – to meet quarterly / or when required due funding allocations.

Chair/Vice Chair to be elected each year on a rotating basis.

*(Rob Cogings Derbyshire Dales District Council 2006/2007)*

Quorum – minimum of six representatives from different organisations.

Amber Valley Primary Care Trust to Service the Group (*until reconfiguration of NHS complete*).

#### **Terms of Reference**

- Identify cross boundary housing needs / opportunities with partners.
- To promote joint responses from the group to consultation documents.
- Inform and have input to the Regional Housing Strategy Groups, Coalfield and Three Cities etc.
- Establish and carry out bench marking for Housing Strategies.
- Recommend priorities in line with Local Area Agreement targets, Supporting People Strategy, Choosing Health, Older Peoples Housing Strategy, Young People and other key strategy documents.
- To bring best practice for Housing / health and where possible mirror in individual organisations.
- To feedback from partnership working arrangements
- To administer the Finances of the Group
- To act as a budget steering and Advisory Group / identify other sources of funding /finance as appropriate.
- To monitor the funding applications on a quarterly (*minimum*) basis and evaluate all funded projects.
- Identify any training issues

### **Group Membership**

Amber Valley Borough Council \* (*One Officer*)  
 Derby City Council \* (*One Officer*)  
 Chesterfield Borough Council (*One Officer*)  
 Erewash Borough Council \* (*One Officer*)  
 South Derbyshire District Council \* (*One Officer*)  
 Derbyshire Dales District Council \* (*One Officer*)  
 Bolsover District Council (*One Officer*)  
 Derbyshire County Council Supporting People \* (*One Officer*)  
 Derby City Council Supporting People \* (*One Officer*)  
 Derbyshire Probation \* (*One Officer*)  
 North East Derbyshire District Council  
 Derbyshire County Council Community Safety (*One Officer*)  
 CVS Derbyshire – (*Officers to be identified*)  
 Primary Care Trusts (*Currently Southern Derbyshire Only*) \* (*One officer + minute taker*)

\* *Identified members of funding sub group*

### **Sub Group – Funding**

- Members \* Previous sitting on Southern Derbyshire Housing and Health Forum to vote on funding issues until funding for the whole of Derbyshire is confirmed.
- All other members welcome to attend and comment on bids and strategic fit to assist in future development of the group.