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VSA representative on the Herefordshire Partnership Chief Executives Group
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The last six months has been extremely hectic, characterised by change and challenge as the development of the new Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the Public Service Trust (PST) has dominated the agenda of the Partnership's Chief Executive Group (CEG). The CEG has met on four separate occasions and I have been able to attend and participate in all meetings. The VSA provides one of two voluntary sector voices on the group, the other is drawn from the Herefordshire Infrastructure Consortium (HIC) where Richard Betterton has recently replaced Magda Prail.

The prime purpose of the Chief Executives Group is to lead and manage the overall operational functions of the Partnership, to maximise performance and to ensure its effective development as it moves forward. At times this requires overcoming difficulties or barriers that arise in partnership working within and between organisations.

Each of the four meetings of the CEG has had a full agenda covering a variety of issues within the consistent theme of improving and 'joining up' service delivery in Herefordshire. In addition to the LAA and PST developments, which have dominated discussions, the CEG also approved the local Herefordshire Compact and prioritised the Volunteering and the Funding and Procurement codes to be moved forward first. It also decided on the option for the delivery of the Area Based Grant in 2008/09 and agreed the final list of priorities for the new LAA.

Membership of the CEG has also brought additional opportunities for collaboration and I have been working with others from the VSA, the HIC and the Alliance to ensure that whenever possible the sector presents a united and co-ordinated response to new strategic initiatives and developments. In particular this approach was used in the PST consultation earlier in the summer and again in relation to the sector's input into the LAA's 'story of place' over the past couple of months.

Going forward I hope to see the partnership increasingly avail itself of some of the good practice that can be found within the voluntary and community sector locally. In particular I am keen to see the sector play a growing role in the delivery of LAA. I continue to find the other members of the CEG to be welcoming of the voluntary sector and keen to hear from and to engage with the sector.

If you would like to discuss anything further about this report or my role as VSA rep on the Chief Executives Group please do get in touch with me, Richard Quallington through the VSA: admin@thevsa.org.uk