

The Government has emphasised that it sees a specific role for Faith Communities:

- as a channel to hard-to-reach groups
- as a resource of buildings & volunteers

Faith Communities & LSPs interact at 3 levels:

- as members of boards/ steering groups etc.
- as part of Community Networks
- as participants in local regeneration schemes

Further information on LSPs and faith communities can be obtained from:

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0161 828 1448

The Faith in partnership series is:

- *an information resource for people of faith as they engage with their local communities in the new partnership agenda*
- *a joint enterprise, between The Partnership for Theological Education, Manchester various ecumenical partners from the North West*

Whilst we currently provide this resource for the Christian Community we welcome contributions from other faith traditions.

For copies of the FiP leaflets and further information please contact

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The Faith in Partnership Series

*An information resource for people of faith
as they engage with their local communities*

No 7. Local Strategic Partnerships (& Faith Communities)

Partnerships of the Statutory, private, Voluntary & Community Sectors - a new opportunity for Faith Communities

This leaflet

- Outlines why faith communities are involved
- Describes how faith communities can contribute to regeneration initiatives
- Gives some examples
- Identifies a contact person who can provide more information

The Government has given a new emphasis to the role of partnership in local communities.

The experience of programmes such as regeneration initiatives has shown that the improvements are achieved and maintained only when the whole Community has participated in planning service delivery.

New partnership structures are being developed which bring together the public, private, voluntary and community sectors into one body. These are known as:

Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)

These partnerships are a new and important opportunity for people of faith to participate in their local communities.

The Government believes that LSPs provide opportunities for all participants to “promote equity and inclusion – particularly of faithcommunities”

LSP Guidance, DTLR, March 2001

What is an LSP?

An LSP is a partnership of the public, private, voluntary & community sectors making strategic decisions about services

- it is non-statutory/non-executive
- it operates strategically but close to neighbourhoods
- it aligns with local authority boundaries

What do LSPs do?

LSPs have been given 4 main tasks

- prepare the Community Strategy
- rationalise current plans and partnerships
- aid development of Local Public Service Agreements
- develop and deliver local neighbourhood renewal strategies

Overall LSPs will seek to align the services, programmes and initiatives of all providers from each of the sectors

What is the point?

It is believed that by bringing together all of the agencies involved in local communities the following will be achieved:

- more Sustainable Regeneration
- deeper understanding of local context
- local skills and knowledge mobilised
- local ownership of solution
- mainstream services of all providers matched to local need

What do they look like?

There is no nationally set pattern so different structures exist

- some have evolved from historical partnerships, others have been established from first principles
- partners remain individually accountable for delivery within their own area of responsibility
- partnership structure varies to suit local needs but must have ‘core membership’ from the public, private, community & voluntary sectors
- Local Authorities may take the initiative in establishing the LSP but other organisations can become the lead bodies
- Government Offices must accredit the LSP for local authorities to access Neighbourhood Renewal Fund monies (FiP No5.)

There are some features which are common to LSPs and multi-tiered structures have been favoured

- normally an overarching forum with very broad membership and may meet on an annual basis.
- a central board of representatives from each of the sectors. This is a smaller decision making body which meets more regularly
- various task groups and working parties

Community Sector Participation

How do you adequately involve the breadth of the community, voluntary sectors?

This is a complex problem and the Government suggests the establishment of a community/voluntary network (see FiP no 8.) for:

- consultation
- outreach to hard-to-reach groups

- capacity building
- selection of LSP representation