

Local Nature Partnerships

Background

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) were formed following the Government's Natural Environment White Paper 2011, [The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature](#). In the white paper the Government recognised the importance of partnership work in delivering positive environmental change at a local level. The aim of the resulting LNPs is to work within their local area, creating positive change through strategic, integrated management of the natural environment.

LNPs involve a broad range of stakeholders who are able to work with and influence decision makers, ensuring that the value of the natural environment is embedded in the local decision making process.

The Purpose of LNPs as set out by Defra is to:

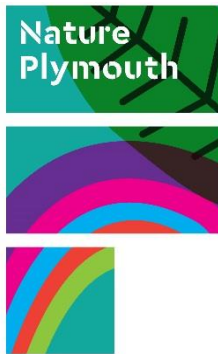
- Drive positive change in the local natural environment, taking a strategic view of the challenges and opportunities involved and identifying ways to manage it as a system for the benefit of nature, people and the economy.
- Contribute to achieving the Government's national environmental objectives locally, including the identification of local ecological networks, alongside addressing local priorities.
- Become local champions influencing decision-making relating to the natural environment and its value to social and economic outcomes, in particular, through working closely with local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Health and Well-being Boards.

Defra approved the formation of 48 LNPs in 2012.



The Chairs and Officers of the LNPs in the South West meet once or twice a year to share experiences and work together on joint initiatives, such as natural health.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @SouthRSHN #SRSHN #Nature



Strategy and Vision

The Plymouth Area LNP is the strategic champion for the natural environment and promotes the value of a high quality natural environment to other sectors and new audiences. A clear articulation of the value of a high quality natural environment in delivering against a wide range of priorities and initiatives has been developed and championed by the LNP. This forms the basis of new collaborations with the economic and health sectors that enable the natural environment to be fully embedded within strategic plans, policies and projects.

The Plymouth Area LNP has 3 priority areas:

1. Growth – embedding the natural environment in the growth of the area and ensuring growth provides a positive benefit.
2. Water Environment – providing a positive influence and improving the quality of the water environment in and around Plymouth.
3. Health and wellbeing – working in collaboration with the health sector to ensure communities can access the numerous benefits of accessing the natural environment and embedding these benefits in the work of the health sector.

Natural Health

The Plymouth Area LNP has been working to develop better link the health sector and health professionals with the benefits of accessing the natural environment. Active Neighbourhoods is one of the projects that is being supported and championed by the LNP as an exemplar of the environmental and health sector working together. The project aims to deliver a range of activities that engage local residents and promote active citizenship, support improved health and wellbeing, and improve and safeguard vital local assets. Through training and networking with Public Health services, health professionals will be given skills and confidence to use the natural world as part of their 'toolkit' for care. The value of contact with nature will be embedded in professional practice through the incorporation of 'nature checks' into the design of existing and future public health services in Plymouth. The introduction of Health Impact Assessments into the design and development of green space infrastructure developments will ensure that the health benefits from green spaces are maximised. www.facebook.com/ActiveNeighbourhoodsProject/

Contacts

E: Kathryn.deeney@plymouth.gov.uk

TW: [@NaturePlymouth](https://twitter.com/NaturePlymouth)



Strategy and Vision

Devon LNP's purpose is to ensure that a healthy natural environment underpins a high quality of life across Devon, with a strong green economy and healthy communities. We have three aims and seven themes.

Aims:

1. To protect and improve Devon's environment
2. To grow Devon's green economy
3. To reconnect Devon's people with nature

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @SouthRSHN #SRSHN #Nature

Themes: Naturally Healthy, Green Connections, Outdoor Learning, Farming with Nature, Wood for Good, Resilient Wetlands and Sustainable Seas

Natural Health – Connecting People and Nature

Our Naturally Healthy work is led by Devon County Council's Public Health and Environment teams and Active Devon. Work has included setting up a Working Group, research into the barriers that people face in accessing Devon's environment, the appointment of two Naturally Healthy Project Officers for Exmoor and Dartmoor National Parks, a two year Naturally Healthy Outdoor Learning Schools Project, organising the Devon Naturally Healthy Month with a wide range of partners (this is being done jointly with Somerset in May 2017), producing Naturally Healthy Case Studies and feeding Naturally Healthy opportunities into the developing Devon Healthy Living Contract. Our Naturally Healthy work overlaps with work on other themes, especially Green Infrastructure and Outdoor Learning.

Contact

E: sarah.jennings@devon.org.uk

W: www.naturaldevon.org.uk

Tw: [@Devon_LNP](https://twitter.com/Devon_LNP)



Strategy and Vision

Dorset LNP has 6 priority areas:

- Natural capital – investing in Dorset's natural assets
- Natural value – adding value to the local economy
- Natural health – developing Dorset's 'natural health service'
- Natural resilience – improving environmental and community resilience
- Natural understanding – improving understanding of, and engagement in, Dorset's environment
- Natural influence – integrating natural value in policy and decision-making, locally and beyond

Natural Health

Dorset LNP is working with Public Health Dorset and LiveWell Dorset on a project called Natural Choices. LiveWell Dorset offers clients advice and support on how to improve their health on four pathways: stop smoking, drink less, get active and lose weight (some with an indirect link to supporting low level mental health). Natural Choices supports health and wellbeing with activities focused on the natural environment – e.g. horticulture, mindfulness in nature, wildlife health walks and conservation work party activities. Following a pilot in Weymouth and Portland the programme is being rolled out and we are looking for additional ways to encourage people to sign up for Natural Choices activities alongside LiveWell Dorset. More information at: www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/Natural_Choices_in_Dorset

Contacts

E: info@dorsetlnp.org.uk

W: www.dorsetlnp.org.uk

Tw: [@dorset_lnp](https://twitter.com/dorset_lnp)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @SouthRSHN #SRSHN #Nature

Gloucestershire's Natural Environment

Working together at a landscape scale

Strategy and Vision

To improve the prospects for Gloucestershire's natural environment while demonstrating its vital role in our health & well-being, its significant contribution to a thriving economy and to a better quality of life for all".

Natural Health

Gloucestershire LNP have been working in partnership with the Public Health Team to identify ways to make better use of the health benefits of the natural environment. There is a strong focus on a NERC Knowledge Transfer Partnership project to develop a nation green infrastructure benchmark, which could ensure that new development are healthy places to live where people and wildlife thrive. A number of organisations are providing outdoor therapeutic activities to help address a range of mental and physical health challenges and the LNP is looking at how these can be integrated into social prescribing programmes.

Contacts

E: Colin.studholme@gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk

W: www.gloucestershirownature.org.uk



Strategy and Vision

The Somerset Local Nature Partnership (SLNP) works to ensure that the scale and quality of our natural environment is maintained so that it remains special into the future. We want to make sure that everyone can enjoy nature, wherever they live and we need to show how supporting nature is good for business and communities. To achieve this, the Somerset Local Nature Partnership has three overall aims:

- To create a shared vision and set of priorities for Somerset's natural environment
- To provide strong environmental leadership for nature at a strategic level
- To forge strong and active connections with other sectors

Natural Health

In its Prospectus, the SLNP has chosen improving health and wellbeing through nature connection as one of six themes to showcase the importance of a healthy natural environment. Through developing relationships between health care professionals, Local Authorities and the environment sector, the SLNP seeks to ensure every Somerset resident can access nature, wherever they live, that developers include high quality green space in urban areas at outset, and commissioning bodies recognise, value and utilise nature based activities for improving people's health and wellbeing. The SLNP is supporting the initiation and delivery of the first Somerset Naturally Healthy Month in 2017, which will see a range of partners running activities in the natural environment to promote health and wellbeing and embed nature connection as a valuable tool to help people feel happier and healthier.

Contacts

E: Simon.nash@somersetwildlife.org

W: www.slnp.org.uk

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @SouthRSHN #SRSHN #Nature



Strategy and Vision:

WENP exists to create and coordinate a plan for the restoration of the natural environment within the West of England region and integrate that plan into strategies for spatial planning, economic development and public health.

Connecting People and Nature

WENP have been working with practitioners from across the health and nature sector to “champion the outstanding quality of the natural environment and the benefits of ‘Nature Based Health Care’ to all levels of society, by facilitating greater community involvement and engagement for therapeutic and preventative health care” (Aim 4 WENP Prospectus). Outputs include supporting ‘A Dose of Nature’ project, working on Green Impact Toolkit for GPs surgeries, working with online signposting portal ‘Wellaware’ and delivering a successful event during the Health City Week 2015. WENP are currently preparing for a bigger event during 2016 Health City Week: *Wellbeing that Doesn’t Cost the Earth*.

Contacts

E: info@wensp.org.uk

W: www.wensp.org.uk

Tw: [@WoENP](https://twitter.com/WoENP)



Strategy and Vision

L2N has been set up to provide leadership and strategic direction, to support positive local action to protect, maintain and enhance Wiltshire and Swindon’s natural environment and help to build resilient ecosystems that directly support the health, wellbeing and livelihood of local people.

Natural Health

Link2Nature (L2N) has prioritised five areas to focus on, including the enhancement of public health through access to nature. The role of L2N is to identify opportunities, support partnership working, enhance the evidence base, influence decision making and seek to secure resources to help achieve positive outcomes for the local environment.

Contacts

E: GaryM@wiltshirewildlife.org

W: www.link2nature.org.uk

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @SouthRSHN #SRSHN #Nature

South East Local Nature Partnerships



Strategy and Vision

Berkshire LNP works together for a sustainable, healthy and vibrant Berkshire. Our strategic vision delivers a unified voice for decision-making regarding the natural environment and its social and economic values, alongside a network of advice and expertise to improve awareness of the challenges and opportunities to nature. Our objective of promoting the conservation and enhancement of nature contributes locally to the Government's national environmental objectives. We provide a platform for the identification of opportunities for local ecological networks, biodiversity conservation and landscape connectivity alongside addressing local priorities such as health and wellbeing.

Natural Health

By working closely with Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Health and Wellbeing Boards we are local champions for influencing decision-making relating to the natural environment and its values to health. With our Health & Wellbeing working group we will develop our links with health organisations to facilitate practical action whilst enhancing existing opportunities. Working alongside local conservation organisations and businesses we will facilitate more regular public connection with nature through community involvement, documentation toolkits and Local Authority strategy.

Contacts

E: info@berkshirelnp.org

W: www.berkshirelnp.org

Tw: [@BerksLNP](https://twitter.com/BerksLNP)



Strategy and Vision

The Kent LNP has a vision for the Garden of England to have a healthy natural environment that is rich in wildlife, is enjoyed and valued by all and underpins our long-term economic, social and personal wellbeing.

The KNP has four work priorities in this year's Strategic Management Plan:

1. Set strategic direction for conservation and enhancement of the natural environment; early input and integration into strategic planning and significant proposals/policy.
2. Promoting the Natural Environment White Paper and Biodiversity Strategy 2020 aims and visions at a Kent level
3. Establishing a working relationship with key partnerships, including the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership
4. Ensuring an effective and broad partnership, monitoring progress and celebrating success

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @SouthRSHN #SRSHN #Nature

To achieve each priority the KNP has developed a set of actions with measurable outcomes and named delivery organisations. Progress is reported to the Management Working Group quarterly and posted on the [website](#).

The KNP has three delivery groups; Rural & Green Economy, Habitat Improvement and Health & Nature.

Natural Health

The KNP's Health & Nature delivery group is chaired by Kent Public Health with the support of the Kent's Countryside Management Partnerships. The aim of the group is to establish closer working links with the public health sector in Kent and Medway and to contribute to initiatives and documents that will have a significant influence on public health commissioning, such as Health and Wellbeing Strategies and the Kent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Information on some of its recent work, including a needs assessment relating to the provision of natural greenspace in areas of low levels of physical activity across Kent, can be found at <http://kentnature.org.uk/health-wellbeing.html>.

Contact

E: info@kentnature.org.uk

W: www.kentnature.org.uk

Tw: [@KentLnp](https://twitter.com/KentLnp)



Surrey Nature Partnership

Healthy Environment | Healthy People | Healthy Economy

Strategy and Vision

Our Vision is to see a healthy natural environment throughout Surrey supporting economic and social benefits.

Our Mission is to hard wire recognition of the value of the natural environment into all decision making resulting in more informed decisions for Surrey. It will increase recognition of the value of our natural capital and ecosystems as critical assets for Surrey, as important as its financial and social capital, and promote the need for thoughtful, sustainable management of these assets. This will be delivered through implementation of [naturally richer: A Natural Capital Investment Strategy for Surrey](#).

We have two active Working Groups – the Biodiversity Group currently producing a State of Nature for Surrey and a Health & Wellbeing Group.

Natural Health

The Health & Wellbeing Group is chaired by the Deputy Director of Public Health for Surrey and aims to co-ordinate and publicise activity already being carried out in Surrey so that we can maximise the use of green space in order to increase levels of physical activity and improve mental health and wellbeing. We facilitate new working relationships between health care professionals and greenspace managers to deliver better joint outcomes.

Contacts

E: getintouch@surreynaturepartnership.org.uk

W: www.surreynaturepartnership.org.uk

T: [@SurreyNP](https://twitter.com/SurreyNP)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @SouthRSHN #SRSHN #Nature