

# **South East Cornwall Local Strategic Partnership**

## **A better future together**

### **What's a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)?**

South East Cornwall Local Strategic Partnership represents organisations in the private, public and voluntary sectors that work together to improve the quality of life in South East Cornwall.

### **Who's involved?**

South East Cornwall's LSP includes Caradon District Council, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Cornwall County Council, Cornwall Fire Service, Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, East Cornwall Rural Transport Partnership, the Federation of Small Businesses, Jobcentre Plus, Market and Coastal Towns Initiatives (MCTIs) and Calstock Development Trust.

### **What does the LSP do?**

The LSP tackles local issues and gets things done via a community strategy. This focuses on nine key areas: health and housing, economic growth, young people, environment, vulnerable people, community safety, transport, MCTIs and parish plans and the Local Opportunities Partnership.

### **Has it made a difference?**

Absolutely. For example, just ask the 400 pensioners who have benefited from South East Cornwall LSP's Pension Extras campaign.

The Pension Extras Claim Your Just Rewards campaign has helped pensioners in South East Cornwall claim an extra £545,943 in benefits income over eighteen months, and hopes are high that even more pensioners will claim their just rewards this year.

Organised by LSP partners including the Citizens Advice Bureau, Caradon District Council and Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust, the two year benefits take up project takes help and advice for pensioners to community locations such as village halls and doctors' surgeries.

With more than 17,000 pensioners living in the area, getting the benefits entitlement message out is a huge task and one ideally suited to a partnership arrangement. Citizens Advice Bureau volunteers have donated nearly 3,000 hours of their time to the project so far, and 140 people working in council, health and voluntary support services for the elderly have been trained to flag up the benefits to which they may be entitled. There have also been several Don't Miss the Bus roadshows taking the campaign out to local towns and villages in red double decker bus.

And what a difference it can make to pensioners struggling to make ends meet! A Saltash pensioner's friend told him about Pension Extras and encouraged him to visit his local Citizens Advice Bureau to check on his entitlements. Since retiring a year ago, the pensioner had been living off a basic pension of just £84 a week and his savings. He still had a small mortgage, which he found impossible to pay, and nearly lost his home as a result. Pension Extras helped him to claim pension credit and council tax benefit, which meant that he could afford to keep his home and live much more comfortably.