



# Added Value of Networking

## Success Story

Success Story title *National Leader Conference*

Theme *Network communications; Knowledge exchange;*

NRN *England*

Coordinator *NSU*

Partners *Leader Delivery officers, Leader Policy, Managing Authority, LAG Chairs & LAG Officers*

Period *November 2011*

Resources *£12,000*

Geo-location *Birmingham, England*

Beneficiaries *LAGs, Delivery Officers, Policy Officers, Managing Authorities, FLAG Policy and Community Groups*

### Background

This activity was needed to bring together all of the Local Action Groups in England after a period of change in the way that RDP was delivered, including Leader.

### Main activities

A group of individuals from Leader areas, the MA and the Network were brought together to help shape what the event might look like. At the event itself, which was spread over 1 and half days, there was an informal networking dinner at which LAGs were invited to take part in an after dinner presentation called the '1 minute wonder' where each participant had 1 minute to talk about the success that their LAG has had. The second day was a series of presentations and workshops. Two of the presentations were given by Local Action Groups to share their experiences. The workshops on the day were all run by Local Action Groups and were designed to pass on learning to others and promote peer to peer learning. There was also a chance for participants to ask questions of MA colleagues about the changes that had happened in the programme. We also created a fringe area where participants had a chance to share experiences and approaches.

### Main results/benefits

Since the event all of the material has been placed on the website and shared with everybody interested in attending. We also analysed the feedback of the event to make sure that we met our targets and ensured that the majority of people found the event useful. We have also heard of anecdotal evidence that people have continued discussions had at the event to carry on sharing the learning experience. Coming out of the event we have also formed a Leader Exchange Group that meets three times a year and helps feed into Leader Policy from the bottom up.





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#### Contribution of the NSU

The RDPE Network was responsible for doing lots of the behind the scene activities, writing the papers, arranging the venue, providing support for speakers, sending out invitations, coordinating responses and sharing the information online.

#### Contribution of the partners

The partners for the event were the people that set the agenda for the meeting by providing ideas for the presentations, workshops and other networking activities. If it had not been for this input the event would not have been the success it was.

#### Success factors

This event was a success because of the support that we received from the partners and the efforts that we made to get their input and involvement in the event planning meant that we ensured that the whole event was geared to what Leader groups were looking for. By including people from the MA then we were able to ensure that we could use the right messages and the correct level of information and in the most appropriate manner. Several groups have continued the conversations that they had at the event after the event and have continued to share their learning.

#### Additional information

The day in presentations and write ups can be found here: <http://rdpenetwork.defra.gov.uk/activities/all-activities/leader-now-and-the-future>

