

North Dudley Area Committee 24 June 2009

Report of the Director of Adult, Community, and Housing Services

Community Renewal Working Group

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on the progress to date of the Working Group and development of the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.

Background

2. The Draft Plan was included with my report to your July meeting, and the establishment of the Working Group was approved by that meeting.
3. The Working Group has met on four occasions to develop and monitor the Area Community Renewal plan for North Dudley.
 - 3.1 At each of the working group meetings the community renewal plan has been considered and noted with further activities added where appropriate
 - 3.2 It has been agreed that North Dudley Community Renewal Forum be re-established to bring community groups together, including those “hard to reach” groups.
 - 3.3 Priorities within the plan are identified and once targets are achieved they are added to the Achievements and Completions spreadsheet.
4. At the meeting held on 3 March a discussion paper on youth issues was presented by the Community Renewal Officer to enable Members to focus on some of the work being carried out in this area. To build on this the Area Team Leader for the Youth Service attended the May meeting to present the Area Plan for the Youth Service.

5. **Achievements**

- 5.1 Environmental improvements have been carried out to damaged grass verges and an overgrown site in Upper Gornal in partnership with the residents and Greencare.
- 5.2 Covert operations by Police and Trading Standards at off licences to target “proxy sales” of alcohol.
- 5.3 Programme of positive activities for young people (PAYP) during March and April in Lower Gornal including mechanics, boxing, football and dance workshops.
- 5.4. Gornal and Wallbrook Fun Day Planning Committees have completed “Organising Successful events” training.
- 5.5 A celebration event was held in April to acknowledge the work of volunteers and community groups and the difference they are making to improve quality of life in their communities.

5.6 Ellowes Tenants and Residents Association have been established with the support of the Participation Development Officer.

6. **Current Key Activities**

The following key activities are currently in progress in North Dudley:

6.1 Delivery of 6 week Fairplay project with West Bromwich Albion on Friday evenings at Clayton Park, Coseley and Upper Gornal recreation ground.

6.2 Development of new programme of PAYP activities in the Gornal area.

Consultation currently being carried out with young people and a steering group established to include young people in decision making.

6.3 Dudley Play partnership - the Community Renewal Officer is a member of the partnership which is leading on the Play Strategy and encompasses the delivery of new/refurbished play areas for Lower Gornal, Hurst Hill, Sedgley and Upper Gornal.

6.4 Social Responsibility Scheme - Community Renewal working in partnership with the Police, Trading Standards, Primary Care Trust and Off Licences to raise awareness of the detrimental affect of underage drinking both to the health of young people and to the communities where they live.

6.5 Healthy Communities Challenge Fund - Silver Jubilee park has been identified as the healthy, family hub for North Dudley.

6.6 Family learning intergenerational project in partnership with the Extended Schools Cluster Manager, Community Learning Co-ordinator and local community groups. External funding is being sought for this project.

6.7 Redevelopment of Coseley Youth Centre.

6.8 Establishment of voluntary funded youth club at The Quarry, Upper Gornal. Steering group formed to develop ideas which will include young people and partnership with the Princes Trust.

6.9 Development of North Dudley Community Renewal Forum for community groups to participate and influence the Community Renewal working group and support those groups with capacity building. The first meeting of this forum will be on 27 May.

6.10 The youth service are delivering a programme of sexual health and relationship education in various settings including youth centres to address teenage pregnancy and the health of young people.

6.11 Regular meetings of the Community Safety Partnerships and PACTs are taking place in all neighbourhoods.

Finance

7. The Area Committee Community Renewal Plan is developed in line with the overall Council Plan and priorities whilst encouraging innovation in the commissioning of activities from a variety of partners which will add value and achieve objectives for their area.

Law

8. The Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on local authorities to establish a Local Strategic Partnership to address collaborative working and develop a community strategy and local neighbourhood renewal strategy. Community Renewal is part of that approach.
9. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1980 enables the Council to do anything which is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental well being of the area.

Equality Impact

10. The objective of Community Renewal is to promote inclusion and social cohesion. The Community Renewal strategy targets those most in need in terms of deprivation.
11. Information is collected through each Community Renewal intervention or consultation to monitor the inclusivity and difference made for various groups and people involved. Where inclusion is an issue ACROs engage through various community or interest groups locally to design appropriate responses to different circumstances
12. Where children and young people are involved they are directly consulted and frequently design the response to local issues - such as youth PACT, Junior rangers, breakfast clubs, dance groups, football league, homework mates, places to play , young consultants, intergenerational work

Recommendation

13. That Committee Members note the report and continue to support the work of the Community Renewal team in community localities.



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List of Background Papers

Community Renewal Strategy
North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.