

North Dudley Area Committee 2 February 2011

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 monitoring of the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.

Background

2. The establishment of the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Working Group was approved by North Dudley Area Committee at their meeting in July 2008.
3. The Working Group met on four occasions during the municipal year 2008/09 and five times during 2009/10, to develop and monitor the Area Community Renewal plan for North Dudley.
At each of the working group meetings the community renewal plan was considered and noted with further activities added where appropriate
It was agreed that North Dudley Community Renewal Forum be established to bring community groups together, including those "hard to reach" groups.
4. At North Dudley Area Committee on 23 June 2010 it was resolved that the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Working Group be reappointed for the municipal year 2010/11 with its existing terms of reference and that the working group comprise the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors Mrs Ameson, Mrs Ridney and Stanley.
5. **Report from Working Group**
The Working Group met on 5 January 2011.
 - 5.1 The working group received a verbal update of the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Plan from the Area Community Renewal Officer.
 - 5.2 No issue logs had been submitted since the last meeting.
 - 5.3 The North Dudley Community Forum has not met since the last working group and therefore no minutes were available. The forum will meet again on 11 January 2011 and present minutes of that meeting to the next working group to be held on 17 February 2011.
 - 5.4 A briefing was presented on Local Assemblies and a verbal update was given by the Area Community Renewal Officer on the initial evaluation of the Castle and

6. **Completions and achievements**

- 6.1 The purchase of 10 laptop computers, (funded by Bromford Housing Group) for the Rainbow Community Centre has been completed and broadband connection installed at the centre to be used by the weekly job club, computer courses and user groups at the centre.
- 6.2 Christmas Crafts workshops were completed at the Rainbow Centre during November 2010 and the participants have enrolled on a personal development course which is funded by a Grassroots grant.
- 6.3 The task group has been established to work on the initial bid to Big Lottery for East Coseley for £10,000 which has been earmarked for "Getting People Involved". This group comprises of members nominated at the meeting on 5 November including local ward Councillors, community members and representatives of several local groups. The task group is supported by the North Dudley Community Renewal Officer and officers from Dosti and Dudley Council for Voluntary Services. The application has included a community newsletter, a community consultation package which can be used to take around to various organisations to spread the word about Big Lottery, social media project to include twitter and face book which will involve young people. The bid was submitted at the end of January and a decision will be made within 6 weeks.
- 6.4 A successful funding bid to Dudley Association of Community Networks has enabled DJ workshops to be carried out at the Quarry youth club and funding from North Dudley Area Committee Capital Allocations has been used to purchase a games console and accessories for the young people.

7. **Current and planned key activities**

- 7.1 Continuation of the weekly job clubs at Kent Street Centre, Upper Gornal and Rainbow Community Centre, Coseley in partnership with Bromford Housing Group, Adult and Community Learning employability team and Economic Regeneration team.
- 7.2 East Coseley Big Local
Developing the ideas from the initial £10,000 funding for "Getting People Involved" and delivering the projects. Working with all stakeholders to develop the next stage of the programme in line with Big Lottery guidelines.
- 7.3 Rainbow Community Centre
Ongoing work with the Rainbow community association is taking place with Dudley Council for Voluntary Service to build the capacity of the current committee and to encourage new membership from the community. Delivery of courses at the centre in partnership with Adult and Community Learning team.
- 7.4 The Quarry Youth Café
Continuation of the development of a youth facility on a Friday evening in Upper Gornal. Two volunteers have been recruited who will work alongside Sedgley Kids Club and will be offered training through Dudley MBC youth service.
- 7.5 North Dudley Community Renewal Forum

This forum is becoming well established and the members are working well together to address common issues. They meet regularly and report issues to the Community Renewal Working Group through their chair who is co-opted to the working group. Development work with the group will be carried out by Dosti over the next few months.

7.6 Neighbourhood Services Group

The Area Community Renewal Officer will continue to convene this group and ensure that community issues and local ward member issues are brought to the group for joint actions and solutions by the partner organisations.

7.7 Healthy Heart Activities

A project to address health inequalities, focussing on exercise and healthier lifestyles is being developed in partnership with the Healthy Towns Project Manager incorporating the North Dudley healthy hub - Silver Jubilee Park, Clayton and Cannon park and involving Rainbow Community Centre, local schools, youth centre, PCT, children's centre and other partners in the Coseley area. Services and activities in the Coseley area are currently being mapped to identify the needs of the local community and gaps in services.

7.8 A community integration project is being developed for the Lower Gornal area which will raise awareness and promote community cohesion working in partnership with primary and secondary schools, children's centre, police, youth service and community safety team

8 **Finance**

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

9. **Law**

The Local Government and Public Health Act 2007 extended the statutory duty to involve people in the provision of health services to those services provided by the Local Authority .Involvement may include working with the authority to design policies and services and also carrying out some aspects of services.

The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 gives local councils and communities the opportunity to put forward new thinking on how best to improve quality of life and well being in their local areas. The act provides a statutory framework for councils working with community groups and local people to put forward proposals on sustainable improvements to economic, environmental and social well being.

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.

The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 recognise the importance of embedding the promotion of democracy and engagement of local people at the heart of local government and places a new duty on local authorities to promote public involvement in the democratic workings of that authority and connected authorities.

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.

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10. **Equality Impact**

One of the objectives of Community Renewal is to promote inclusion and social cohesion. The Community Renewal strategy targets those most in need in terms of social and economic inequality.

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

Where children and young people are involved they are directly consulted and involved in designing solutions.

11 **Recommendation**

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

Richard Carter

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List of Background Papers
Community Renewal Strategy
North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Plan