

Halesowen Area Committee 22nd January 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 made by the Working Group in developing the Halesowen Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.

Background

2. Youth issues were identified at previous meetings as a priority, and a special meeting of the Working Group was held on the 9th December to discuss the topic. The new Head of Youth Service, and the Lead Officer Targeted and Curriculum Services were in attendance to advise members on Youth Service Consultation, its consequential effects on Local youth provision, and how their work could link into Community Renewal.
3. The Head of Youth Service advised that following the consultation period all comments made would be considered before any amendments and/or additions were incorporated into an updated Youth Plan. From this revised plan the Halesowen Area Team Leader would be tasked with drawing up a 2 year local area plan to identify and outline services and facilities available to young people in Halesowen. A need for a flexible approach was acknowledged so that youth provision covered as many areas as possible within the time available.
4. During in-depth discussion a number of points were highlighted:-
 - Continue work in developing the Youth Forum, and engaging young people with citizenship issues, and the political arena. New ways may need to be found to get them involved.
 - Need to forge close links with schools and colleges.
 - Ward Members to meet the Team Leader and identify local issues. Some areas of concern were identified.
 - Facilities for disadvantaged and disabled young people needed to be addressed.
 - Cross order working was needed both with our own Stourbridge Team in Wollescote and also the Teams in Sandwell.
 - Need for close partnership working in areas of concern both with the police and also other services. Head of Youth Service was due to meet the Chief Superintendent of Police to discuss.
 - Youth Service and Community Renewal need to discuss how the revised plan following consultation will impact on Community Renewal.

Finance

5. In line with the draft local community plan, Area Committees plan 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

6. 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.

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

7. The objective of Community renewal is to promote inclusion and social cohesion. Community renewal plans target those most in need in terms of deprivation. Information is collected through each CR 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 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

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



.....
Linda Sanders
Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services

Contact Officer: Arwyn Thomas
Telephone: 01384 815964
Email: arwyn.thomas@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

Community Renewal Strategy
Halesowen Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.