

North Dudley Area Committee 8 April 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 three occasions.
The working group have been provided with :-
 - The “Strategy for Community Renewal in Dudley”
 - Community profiles of localities within their wards
 - A “Framework for Thinking” matrix to assist members in considering and prioritising issues.
 - The North Dudley Community Renewal Plan
 - Issue logs so that members of the working group or other ward members can raise new issues and issues in relation to implementation.
4. Terms of Reference were approved by the working group at the meeting held on 4 December.
5. At the meeting on the 4 December it was resolved -
 - That Mr D. Allen be co-opted to the working group to represent tenants and residents in Upper Gornal
 - That Members of the Working Group use the matrix form provided to direct the work of the Area Community Renewal Officer to identify and prioritise the needs of the Communities.
 - That representatives of professional organisation be invited to attend future meetings on an as and when required basis.
6. At the meeting held on 20 January it was resolved -
 - That the North Dudley Community Renewal Forum be re-established to bring community groups together, including those “hard to reach” groups.
 - That priorities within the plan are identified and target date achieved marked against those achieved.

7. 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 including diversionary activities, underage drinking and anti-social behaviour, North Dudley youth forum, health, community safety, reinstatement of play areas, Coseley youth centre, NEETS (not in employment, education or training) and Safer routes to school
8. At each of the working group meetings the community renewal plan was considered and noted with further activities added where appropriate.

Achievements to date

- 9.
- 9.1 Brunel Court - community cohesion/intergenerational event completed and greater respect achieved in the community.
 - 9.2 High Arcal Park - residents regularly monitor the conditions at the park and work in partnership with Green care to ensure there is a clean and safe environment.
 - 9.2 Liveability action plans for Clayton Park, Silver Jubilee Park and Priors Mill Park have been delivered through the Liveability team and Friends of the park groups.
 - 9.3 Fairplay project - delivery of a 7 week pilot project with funding from Stronger Communities engaged with 110 young people at Clayton Park and Upper Gornal Recreation ground.
 - 9.4 Adult and family learning projects completed, including Abba Mania and Men's Cooking.
 - 9.5 Implementation of road safety measures in Upper Gornal.

Key Activities

10. The following key activities are included in the North Dudley Community Renewal plan.
- 10.1 Cleaner environment - clearing overgrown shrubs and bushes. Maintaining standards of grass cutting and litter picking in partnership with Green care and residents.
 - 10.2 Positive activities for young people - 10 week programme of activities in Lower Gornal including boxing, mechanics, "Fairplay" sports and dance.
 - 10.3 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.
 - 10.4 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.
 - 10.5 Healthy Communities Challenge Fund - Silver Jubilee park has been identified as the healthy, family hub for North Dudley.
 - 10.6 Family learning intergenerational project in partnership with the Extended Schools Cluster Manager, Community Learning Co-ordinator and local community groups.
 - 10.6 Redevelopment of Coseley Youth Centre.
 - 10.7 Establishment of voluntary funded youth club at The Quarry, Upper Gornal.

10.8 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.

Finance

11. 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

12. 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.
13. 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

14. 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.
15. 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
16. 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

17. 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.