

North Dudley Area Committee 23 June 2010

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 24 June 2009 it was resolved that the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Working Group be reappointed for the municipal year 2009/10 with its existing terms of reference and that the working group comprise the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors Caunt, Mrs Ridley and Stanley.

5. **Report from Working Group**

- 5.1 The Working Group has not met since the last Area Committee.

6. **Completions and achievements**

- 6.1 The programme of Positive Activities for Young People in Gornal has been completed with very positive outcomes for the 8 - 10 young people involved. There have been encouraging changes in their behaviour which has been to the benefit of the individual and members of the community.
- 6.2 A trip to the Houses of Parliament which was organised by the Oval and Tudor Tenants and Residents Association and Area Community Renewal Officer has taken place. The purpose of the trip was to encourage wider understanding of

governance and government. Young people from North Dudley youth forum, the tenants and residents association and newsletter editorial committee all took part in the trip.

6.3 The weekly job facilitated by Future Skills Dudley ceased at the end of March due to funding issues. In recent months there had been 5 people regularly attending the sessions and they have been re-directed to other provision.

6.4 A job fair and information event was held in Lower Gornal on 7 April 2010. The event was successful with around 80 people, mostly local to the Gornal area, received advice, information and guidance about a number of opportunities including further education, training courses, volunteering and employment. The event was jointly organised by the Area Community Renewal Officer and an officer from Sanctuary Housing Group.

6.5 The Area Community Renewal Officer worked in partnership with Bromford Housing Group and Rainbow Community Association to carry out redecoration and improvements to the community centre.

7. Current and planned key activities

7.1 Coseley East

A Neighbourhood Employment and Skills Partnership (NESP) will be established once the Economic Regeneration Team has completed a Neighbourhood Employment and Skills Plan for the Coseley area which it is anticipated will be by the end of June.

7.2 Plans are being developed with Adult and Community Learning to establish 2 job clubs in Coseley and Upper Gornal.

7.3 Rainbow Community Centre

The Area Community Renewal Officer is working in partnership with Bromford Housing Group and the Rainbow Community Association to hold a re-launch event on 19 June, to engage with the wider community and establish the centre for learning opportunities and possibly a job club. Applications for funding are being made for various grants to enable the community association to run courses and events over the coming year.

7.4 Youth Café

A meeting of the steering committee will be taking place on 8 June to take forward new proposals to establish this activity.

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 met on the 11 May and took part in a Participatory Budgeting exercise to determine priorities for each of the organisations and to have a framework to report to the North Dudley Community Renewal Working Group.

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 Tenants and Residents Association

The Area Community Renewal Officer is working with the Participation Development Team to establish new tenants and residents associations where a need has been identified for example Wallbrook estate in Coseley.

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 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.

10 **Equality Impact**

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.

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.



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List of Background Papers

Community Renewal Strategy

North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Plan