

**Report to:** Community Services Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 16 September 2008

**Report of:** Head of Neighbourhood Initiatives

**Subject:** Neighbourhood Initiatives – Performance Report

**Ward:** All

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. To update Members on the progress of the Neighbourhood Initiatives Unit.

## **2. Consultation**

- 2.1 In preparing this report I have consulted with Cllr Patterson, Executive Member for Liveability, Cllr Freak, Executive Member for Social Inclusion and Culture and, the Director of Community Services.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 The report provides an update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Initiatives Unit, which comprises the following service areas:

- Community Safety
- Youth Strategy
- Pride in Easington
- Social Inclusion
- Arts
- Sports Development

## **4. Position Statement and Option Appraisal**

### **4.1 Community Safety**

#### **Tools and Powers Training Programme**

A multi agency anti social behaviour Tools and Powers training programme has been developed by the Community Safety Team, which contains 8 different modules. The first training event took place on 27 June and 11 sessions have been completed so far. The purpose of the programme is to support Officers from all of the partner agencies is making best use of new and existing legislative powers.

#### **School ASB Event**

An anti-social behaviour awareness event is being planned for the first term of the new school year. The event which will target year 8 pupils from across the district involves a series of workshops which address various aspects of anti social behaviour and the impacts it can have on communities e.g. increased fear for elderly people, graffiti damaging the environment etc. The event/s will link with the Pride in Easington programme.

### **Community Reassurance**

A temporary CSP/crime prevention advice shop ran at Wingate Community Centre for 3 days in July. This followed a similar initiative in Peterlee town centre, which proved very popular. Over the 3 days 79 local people received free shed alarms and 23 bike locks were handed out while over 200 people attended the centre to receive crime prevention advice and find out more about the CSP.

### **Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF)**

The Community Safety Team are co-ordinating 3 bids for WNF, which replaced the NRF programme in April 2008. The bids include:

**ASB Intervention** – providing intensive support to families and single people identified as having high risk factors associated with ASB. The project will be similar to the new Family Intervention projects, which are being developed across the county but will also include a Case Manager for young people who will lead on integrating service delivery to ensure that each young person receives the maximum benefit from the available service interventions.

**Mentoring Support** – for priority and prolific offenders (PPO's) and DAAT clients. One to one mentoring support has been proved over recent years to be an effective means of reducing offending behaviour amongst PPO's and those with problematic drug misuse. These people often have very chaotic lifestyles and the mentors provide stability and support in facilitating long term behavioural change. The Mentors will be recruited and managed through the DAAT linking closely with the Probation Service.

**Youth Outreach** – extension of the existing team of 4 Youth outreach Workers to 6. The Team will continue to be deployed operationally through the CSP and managed by Groundwork.

### **Operation Milkshake 7**

This operation ran in early June 2008 in the West of the district and built upon the success of the previous six operations carried out since October 2006. A brief summary of results;

- 14 arrests ranging from possession of controlled drug to possession with intent to supply controlled drug
- 2 firearms recovered
- 2 arrests for burglary dwelling
- 180 hours high visibility foot patrols
- 40 untaxed vehicles
- 43 warnings issued to EDH tenants for external condition of properties/gardens
- Total Cash recovered £1000+
- Value of drugs recovered £17,000

### **Criminal Damage Action Plans Easington Colliery and Deneside**

The Criminal Damage (Deneside) and Crime (Easington Colliery) action plans began in April following the success of the Eden Hill plan last year, which reduced Criminal damage by 35% over a 9 - month period. The results so far have been mixed. The Deneside plan is working well

with a 20% reduction in ASB and a 32% reduction in Youth Related ASB. However, the Easington plan has had little impact so far with small reductions in Criminal Damage (5%) and ASB (1%) off set by a 6% rise in overall crime. A review meeting will be held in September for Easington Colliery.

#### **Local Government Review**

A Community Safety Board for County Durham has now been established with sub groups to begin looking at Community Safety from a county perspective. An LGR work-stream is addressing the practical implications of integrating 7 district based CDRP's into one county partnership. Exit strategies will be prepared over the autumn to facilitate a smooth transition for the Easington CSP to end on March 31 2009 with the business of the partnership transferring to the new county arrangements.

#### **Quarterly Performance (July 2008)**

<b>Indicator BCS Crime</b>	<b>2007/8</b>	<b>2008/9</b>	<b>%Change</b>
House Burglary	498	450	Down 10%
Thefts From a Vehicle	673	465	Down 31%
Theft of a Vehicle	410	416	Down 1%
Criminal Damage	2,702	2,270	Down 16%
Assault without injury	277	228	Down 18%
Wounding	866	770	Down 11%
Vehicle Interference	132	124	Down 6%
Theft from the Person	42	34	Down 19%
Robbery	36	23	Down 36%
Theft of Pedal Cycles	104	71	Down 32%
<b>Total BCS Crime</b>	<b>5,740</b>	<b>4,851</b>	<b>Down 15%</b>

The table shows that we are achieving encouraging year on year reductions in every area.

## **4.2 Youth Strategy**

### **Consultation**

A primary role of the Youth Forum is to act as a consultation group for the involvement of young people in the democratic processes of the district. During July Youth Forum members supported the Council's Regeneration Unit in the distribution of questionnaires for the Thornley Master Plan.

In partnership with Democratic Services political questionnaires were also compiled and distributed throughout the District, by Youth Forum members. Approximately 1,000 questionnaires have been returned and the results will be completed by the end of August.

Young people from the Youth Forum attended an Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) event at Sunderland. The findings from this event will inform national anti-social behaviour and binge-drinking policy.

Further consultation events regarding the South Hetton Youth Café, Haswell Youth Shelter, design of the Forum web site have also taken place.

### **Developing Representation**

As part of the remit to establish democratic processes for Youth Forum representation at national and international events contact has been made with all of the local schools over the new youth forum intake. Schools are being asked to nominate and endorse their representatives in September and shortly after the Forum will meet and develop next years activities and initiatives. The Forum will increase its membership, hold elections to appoint a Vice Chairperson for the Steering Group and undertake surveys.

## **4.3 Pride in Easington**

### **Eco-Schools**

The team are assisting 6 schools in the District who are working towards obtaining Eco School status. Following an assessment on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July Easington Community Science Collage obtained their Green Flag. They are the first school in the North East region to do so. Staff from the school worked with the Eco Team who gave advice and help to put the application and reports together for the assessors.

### **Dalton Park Event**

The event was held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July. Marquees housed community and art groups, sporting events took place in the car parks and parkland areas were used for recycling activities and bug/family walks. In addition, the event was used as part of the launch of the Durham Brass Festival celebrations. Dalton Park and other agencies part sponsored the event. 4,000 people attended.

### **Street Champions Pilot**

The team are working in partnership with North Peterlee Pathfinder, the Development Trust and EDH to develop a pilot scheme of Street Champions for Edenhill, Wembley and Deneside. Funding has been secured for the pilot, which was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> July. The project

involves volunteers from the local community, receiving training and support to evaluate and monitor the effect of the Pride programme in their area.

### **Environmental Awareness**

- A Garden project has been developed with the Positive Futures Team and delivered at Yoden Primary school.
- Support was given to the Art Department's Recreate project in July, which involved all of the primary schools in the district sending pupils to a Dalton Park Unit to create sculptures out of re-cycled materials.
- Graffiti Removal continues as the team link the service into their educational visits to schools. The Tidy Ted committee reported a reduction in graffiti at their July monthly meeting.
- The Tidy Business Code of Practice has been established with a voluntary code of practice involving 20 businesses. The Code is being reviewed at present. Fast food outlets around secondary schools are to be targeted in September and a leaflet based on Encams voluntary code of practice is being produced with press coverage.

## **4.4 Social Inclusion**

### **Community Awards Evening**

A second annual awards ceremony took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> June at Shotton Hall to celebrate the contribution of volunteers in improving the quality of life for people in the district. The event which was attended by 180 members of the voluntary and community sector involved eight categories: Volunteer of the year, under and over 18yrs, Environmental, Youth group, Group of the year, Tidy Ted, Environmental Business award and the David Patterson, Against All the Odds award.

### **Migrant Residents Steering Group**

Meetings continue to be held on a bi-monthly basis with support being given from the Social Inclusion Officer and the Youth Strategy Officer. An introduction pack has been developed for new migrant workers coming into the district. The pack covers some of the key Social Inclusion drivers, such as Housing, Education, Community Safety, Employment, as well as information on schools, local services, libraries, the Local Authority, fire services, churches and leisure activities. The resource will be available through partner agencies and District Offices from September.

### **LGR – Equality, Diversity and Cohesion (EDC) Work-stream**

Easington is the only district in County Durham, which has a dedicated Social Inclusion/Community Cohesion team and as such staff from the team have been the main point of advice and support for the LGR Equality, Diversity and Cohesion (EDC) work-stream.

The Social Inclusion Team have undertaken risk assessments, compiled a stakeholder database and established baseline information. The Team have also led on the formulation of an Impact Assessment

screening toolkit, which each of the 32 work-streams and their sub groups have had to complete.

#### **4.5 Arts Development**

The Arts Team are continuing to develop a creative range of cultural activities for local people to enjoy and experience which contribute towards the delivery of some of the Councils corporate objectives e.g. Community Safety, Health and inclusion. Activities in the last quarter have included:

##### **Pasmore's Apollo Pavilion**

In July the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded the Council £336,000 towards the cost of restoring the Pavilion and developing a related education and community programme. A Design Team has been appointed and tender packages prepared, while a freelance Project Worker post has been advertised with interviews being held early September. The project is planned for completion in March 2009.

##### **Re-create @ Dalton Park**

Developed in partnership with local schools, Dalton Park, local businesses and the Pride In Easington Team, Re-create is a visual arts project that provides local children with the opportunity to work alongside professional artists in creating artworks from waste materials. 25 school classes each spent a day at the Re-create unit in Dalton Park Retail Outlet during June and July, followed by a series of open days in August for play-scheme groups and families.

##### **Summer Holiday Arts Tasters**

The summer holiday programme this year consisted of 34 workshops at 19 different community venues covering a range of arts forms including drumming, felt making, mask making, and kite making, graffiti art, DJ Skills, circus skills, and rock bands.

#### **4.6 Sports Development**

The Sports Development Team co-ordinate and deliver sports programmes across the district. Some of these are targeted at specific groups whilst others seek to increase opportunities for all to engage in sport and leisure activity.

##### **Summer Holiday Activities**

The Sports Team co-ordinated the highly popular "School's Out" activity programme over the summer school holiday period. This years programme was the biggest and most diverse that has been delivered in the district to date.

The programme aimed to provide positive activities for young people in sport, encouraging lifelong participation in healthy activity via pathways into existing local clubs.

The following sports specific sessions have been on offer, some on a sessional basis whilst others were camps (2 or more days) and have taken place all across the District of Easington.

- **Cricket**
- **Football** (In partnership with Sunderland Football Club)
- **Gymnastics**
- **Trampolining**
- **Netball**
- **Archery**
- **Dance**
- **Cycling** (In partnership with Get Active Team PCT)
- **Mini Olympics** (To coincide with the current Olympic Games in Beijing)
- **Outdoor Adventure Activities** (In partnership with Hartlepool Borough Council)
- **Boxing** (In partnership with Horden Boxing Club)
- **Swimming** (In partnership with Everyday Swim Project including water polo, snorkelling, flip and fun)

The programme also included:

- Five day multi sport programme for East Durham Positive Inclusion Partnership (EDPIP)
- Four day multi sport programme for Haswell Mencap.
- A Sports Camps/ Sports Champs programme in partnership with Active Easington held at 4 separate venues on 4 consecutive weeks and delivered over 3 afternoons.

The Sports Development Team delivered a total of 258 sessions over the summer period.

#### **Workforce Development Plan.**

A multi agency Workforce Development Plan for the District has been established which provides training and mentoring opportunities for prospective coaches to gain essential qualifications in range of sports and physical activity. The Plan has been developed to increase the skills base of coaches in the district and to support volunteer coaches who wish to move on to paid employment in coaching which may lead to paid employment.

#### **Free Swimming**

Following the success of this initiative last year free-swimming weekend sessions were held at Peterlee Leisure Centre during the summer school holiday period. Free swims were available for young people between the hours of 10 am 4pm. In addition, as part of the Everyday Swim Initiative a range of water based activities were organised including, water polo, Junior aqua fit and snorkelling.

## **5. Implications**

There are no financial, legal, policy, risk, communications, LGR or corporate implications attached to the report.

## **6. Recommendations**

Members are requested to note the work of the Neighbourhood Initiatives Unit and the progress made against the council's priorities.

### **Background Papers**

Crime & Disorder Strategy.  
Youth Strategy  
Cultural Strategy



	<b>NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>	<b>2007/8</b>	<b>2008/9 Qtr 1</b>	<b>Improve-ment</b>
NI16	Serious acquisitive crime rate per 1,000 population	15.6	14.0	YES
NI17	Perceptions of ASB	37%	N/A	N/A
NI18	Adult re-offending for those under Probation supervision	Baseline to be established		
NI19	Rate of re-offending by young offenders	Baseline to be established		
NI20	Assault with injury crime rate	7.8	5.9	YES
NI21	Dealing with local concerns about anti social behaviour and crime by the local council and police	Baseline to be established		
NI22	Perceptions of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of children in their area	78%	N/A	N/A
NI24	Satisfaction with the way the police and local council deal with anti social behaviour	Baseline to be established		
NI27	Understanding of local problems about anti social behaviour and crime by the local council and police	Baseline to be established		
NI30	Re-offending rate of PPO's	Baseline to be established		
NI32	Repeat incidents of Domestic Violence	46.7%	31.6%	YES
NI 33	Arson incidents	Baseline to be established		
NI40	Drug Users in effective treatment	Baseline to be established		
NI41	Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem	41%	N/A	N/A
NI111	First time entrants to the Youth justice system aged 10-17	Baseline to be established		
NI5	Total crime per 1,000 population	86.1	79.5	YES
NI 8	Adult participation in sport	Baseline to be established		

