

Report to: Community Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: 26 June 2007

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

The Community Safety Team support the delivery of the district's Crime and Disorder Strategy. The Team provide the main administrative support to the Community Safety Partnership and co-ordinate a raft of multi agency projects and initiatives.

Neighbourhood Renewal 2006-8

The Community Safety Partnership is co-ordinating three over arching areas of service improvement approved through the LSP. These relate to targeted interventions aimed at reducing repeat offending, tackling anti social behaviour and, addressing low level environmental crime and the links between poor environmental conditions and a high level of fear of crime (Pride in Easington). The three programmes, which will run through to 2010, received approval from the LSP in May 2006. The total value of the programmes is £4.8m with an NRF contribution £616,000. At the financial year end for 2006/7 the partnership recorded a 95% spend against the financial profile to the LSP

Parenting Initiative (Respect Agenda)

The Partnership received £50,000 of Home Office funding in March to develop a parenting programme. The objective of the initiative is to provide one to one and group support to parents with children who are involved in crime or anti social behaviour. It is a voluntary programme that seeks to support parents in helping to change the behaviour of their children.

A Senior Parenting Practitioner is now in post and working with parents. A support worker will add to the team later this month. A multi disciplinary group of 12 professionals have undertaken parenting training to support the core team in delivering support interventions. The Council's Community Safety Team are included within the group.

Anti Social Behaviour Floating Support Worker (Supporting People Funding)

The Community Safety Partnership has been awarded funding from Supporting People (Innovation Fund) to employ a floating support worker to work across all housing tenures in the district. The project, which links to the parenting initiative outlined above, will offer intensive support to those at risk of eviction and other sanctions.

Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA)

The Community Safety Partnership will increase its capacity to address domestic violence in June with the establishment of a new service. An Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) worker has been supported through NRF funding to work closely with East Durham Domestic Violence Forum and the wider criminal justice system. This role has been developed by the Home Office and is a nationally recognised model of good practice that links to 'Specialist Domestic Violence Courts'. The initiative will aim to increase reports of domestic violence, increase convictions, reduce repeat victimisation and increase victim safety. A specialist police led domestic violence unit has also been established for the district.

Operation Milkshake

A third Operation Milkshake ran from 18 May – 1 June in Horden, Blackhall and Hesledon. The Operation, which involves multi agency enforcement action supported by prevention advice has achieved some excellent results and strong public approval in previous initiatives covering the west of the district and Peterlee. Action from the latest milkshake included:

- 4 arrests for drug offences
- 76 parking notices issued
- Test purchasing of licensed premises
- 73 untaxed vehicles processed
- 53 school age children stopped in a truancy sweep
- 3 tonnes of rubbish collected from estate walk abouts.
- 11 vehicles seized or clamped
- 545 Home Fire Safety checks of local households
- 1,000 + leaflets on anti social behaviour distributed

CCTV

The District's first re deployable CCTV system is now fully operational following the installation of cameras into Easington Colliery and Blackhall. The system has been developed using the latest technology to support the Community Safety Partnership in addressing crime and anti social behaviour problems.

The cameras, which record 24 hours per day 7 days per week, can be monitored from Police and Council offices using new wi fi technology. Random pre sets ensure that there is no pattern to the regular movement of the cameras while officers can control and manoeuvre each of the cameras from the monitoring suites. 10 cameras have already been deployed and a further 4 cameras will soon be monitoring additional locations around the district. The full 14 camera system requires no hard wire connections and has been installed for £100k, making it one of the most cost efficient systems in the region.

4 of the cameras are located in Easington Colliery. There has been a long delay in bringing the Colliery system up to full operational standard since the erection of the columns and cameras in December 2006. This delay which has been caused by technical problems in the systems transmission and recording together with co-ordinating operator training has led to some frustration amongst the local community with the perception that the system is ineffective. To reassure the local community of the systems operational capacity Members and community representatives have been invited to view the system at the control room while a detailed press release has also been issued outlining the capability and benefits of the system.

Police Beat Officers and Council Street Wardens have now received training in the operation of the system and all of the transmission and recording problems have been resolved with the contractors. Images from the system are now being reviewed in connection with a number of on going police enquiries.

Quarterly Performance (Year ending)

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07	Target 2006-07
House Burglary per 1,000 households	10.4	11.9	9.00 (Stretch Target)
Vehicle Crime per 1,000 households	11.55	11.7	9.75
Violent Crime per 1,000 population	20.01	20.32	*10.63
Robberies per 1,000 population	0.47	0.44	0.26
Total Recorded Crime per 1,000 population	96.2	98.1	*77.1

* Changes in counting practices in 2005/6 led to large increases in Violent crime that have also impacted upon overall crime rates and the targets which were set before the change came into force.

- There was an increase in Domestic Burglary and Vehicle Crime during the quarter. However, the overall trend against the base year of 2003/4 remains good. Set against this year Burglary has fallen by 23% and Vehicle crime by 20%
- The district's Robbery rate remains in the lowest national quartile. Robbery for this category means robbery from the person not premises. There were only 41 robberies in 2006/7. The CSP has conducted a campaign to raise awareness of mobile phone theft as this constitutes a large proportion of the robberies taking place.
- Overall crime increased by 1.9% during the year but the rate of 98.1 crimes per 1,000 population remains well below the national average 109.2

4.2 Youth Strategy

Consultative Groups

Young people from the Youth Forum are now taking part in consultative groups for Leisure Connections and the District's Play Strategy. Forum members have attended Youth Opportunity Fund training courses and been involved in the grant selection process while the Forum also contributed to the UK Youth Parliament Climate Change event held at St. James Park, Newcastle.

Strategic Group

Young people from the Strategic Group have reviewed and updated the Forum's membership criteria and terms of reference. The new Terms of Reference will be implemented at the start of the new academic year in September. The group have also updated the Youth Forum website and are applying for external funding to support two film projects which, if successful will also be posted on the web site.

Awareness Raising

Four galaxy radio adverts ran in June together with a bus sideliner campaign. The campaigns focussed on sexual health and alcohol issues while promoting involvement in the Forum. The Forum has been commissioned to produce an anti-binge drinking CD for primary schools and is working towards the establishment of Peer Alcohol Mentors (PAM's) to support the district's Alcohol Strategy.

4.3 Pride in Easington

The Pride in Easington initiative has continued to develop over the last quarter with the objective of tackling environmental issues and anti social behaviour whilst promoting community involvement and a sense of pride in the many positive aspects of life in the district.

Community Grant Programme

With support from NRF an inaugural Community Grant Programme was completed in April. 13 local community projects were supported by the initiative, which sought to facilitate community involvement in the Pride objectives of improving the environment, reducing fear of crime and developing community cohesion. The grants included support to community gardening projects, neighbourhood watch groups and eco school initiatives.

An evaluation of the programme is currently being undertaken to monitor the impact of the programme.

Community Awards

On 7 June the first Pride in Easington Community Awards were held. Over 100 people attended a presentation evening held at Shotton Hall. There were 8 categories of award with three nominations in each category. The Awards were developed to recognise the contribution of local people and groups in supporting their local community and to encourage further community involvement in the Pride initiative.

Dalton Park Family Fun Day

On 16 June a Pride in Easington Family Fun Day was held at Dalton Park. The event which included the Police, Fire Service, PCT, Groundwork Trust, Heritage Coast and several Council Depts provided music, sports, arts, nature walks and storytelling amongst its activities.

Eco Schools

The Pride Team are currently working with 6 local schools to help them attain Eco School status. Eco schools are assessed on educational work and projects that are developed within the school around ecological issues e.g. recycling, protecting the environment, sustainable energy etc etc.

4.4 Social Inclusion

The Social Inclusion Team continue to support initiatives that address the drivers of social inclusion.

Out of the Shadows

The group have been working on access issues regarding disabled toilets throughout the district. Young people have put forward design proposals, which were presented to the Access Group for consideration as part of a consultation process.

Polish Residents Group

The Social Inclusion Unit is supporting the development of the Polish Residents Steering Group. Draft Terms of Reference were agreed by the group on 5 June. Regular monthly meetings have now been established and the group is now at the stage of developing an action plan.

Member Training (7 steps)

The first Member training session, using the Home Office Seven Steps Practitioners toolkit, was held over two full days on February 28th and March 7th at Horden Welfare Centre. The aim of the course was to develop an awareness and understanding of community cohesion including issues relating to the local national and local picture. The training also outlined the role councillors can play in helping to build community cohesion. 12 Members attended the training.

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:

Playful Beginnings

The early years projects at Hodren and Easington Colliery Children's Centre's organised in partnership with Sightlines is continuing. Two artists supported by early years staff are running weekly sessions with parents and children aged under 5 years.

East Durham Artists Network

A Participatory Workshop Training Scheme for visual artists organised in partnership with EDAN is ongoing. Gaining practical insights into working with youth and community groups, trainees have helped to deliver around 40 workshops in six different settings over the last quarter.

The Tempest

800 children from 10 local schools are participating in Visual Arts and Drama workshops in advance of attending special schools performances of William Shakespeare's The Tempest in July. The Arts Team have worked in partnership with Dalton Park and Mad Alice Theatre on the organisation of the initiative

Pilot Arts Programme for adults

Traditional craft groups led by textile artist Margaret Williams have been set up in Thornley, Shotton, and Haswell while a creative writing group working with writer Carol McGuigan has been established in Easington Colliery. In excess of 40 adults are regularly attending these workshops.

Arts in Health

Initiatives in partnership with the PCT and Stonham Housing are being developed to set up pilot projects with a mental health focus. Working with adults with physical disabilities, plans are also being developed for the next phase of the arts programme at Peterlee Day Centre.

4.6 Sports Development

The Sports Development Team co-ordinate and deliver sports development 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.

After School Clubs

The team continue to deliver a range of After School Clubs and during this period have held sessions in Easington, Horden, Peterlee and Wingate cluster schools. A total of 800 children have attended the sessions. Activities provided included multi sports and basketball. Other work with schools includes;

- Organising festivals/tournaments including four cricket festivals and the Asda national cricket competition, which attracted teams from 15 schools.
- Following the success of basketball coaching in Seaham a club has been established at Ropery Walk Primary School.

Bowls Development

Throughout the year the team organise a weekly indoor bowls league, which has over 200 participants. The team administer the league, organise competitions and co-ordinate an end of season presentation event. The league attracts a wide range of age groups with its oldest competitor aged 102.

Easter Half Term Holiday Programme

The link between organised activities for young people and reduced levels of anti social behaviour is becoming increasingly recognised both nationally and regionally. During the Easter half term holidays a varied programme of activities was organised throughout the district at various venues. Activities included, gymnastics, archery, badminton, cricket, trampolining, netball, football and basketball. A total of 350 young people attended the activities.

Everyday Swim

As part of the Everyday Swim national pilot to increase participation in swimming the team are working with the Everyday Swim Co-ordinator, Leisure Connection and school pools to provide more swimming opportunities within the District. Activities planned to take place include targeted swimming sessions for children with obesity/health problems and a range of taster sessions as part of the summer free swims sessions. These include snorkelling, mini polo, aqua circuits and water-safety sessions.

5. Implications

There are no financial, legal, policy, risk, communications 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

Neighbourhood Initiatives Unit
Quarterly monitoring Report: Service delivery Scrutiny Committee
February 2007

Achievements

We Have	When	Outcome	Evidence/Review
<p>Service Plan – Youth Strategy</p> <p>Prepared a draft Action Plan for 2007-09. Involved young people in the development of the Plan.</p> <p>Involved Youth Forum Members in consultation re council and partner agency strategies</p>	<p>Dec 2006</p> <p>March 2007</p>	<p>Action Plan to continue improvement of services for young people – led by young people</p> <p>Young people involved in the council's democratic processes</p>	<p>Minutes of meetings</p>
NRF approval of Service Improvement	May 2006	Improved Capacity	LSP minutes
<p>Delivered projects that meet the identified objectives of the Youth strategy: Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Dinners Programme • Web Site Development • Galaxy Radio Campaign • Skate Park • Youth Shelters • Mobile Cinema • European Exchange programme 	Ongoing to 2008	Increased and improved facilities and opportunities for young people	Youth Strategy Action Plan
Youth Strategy funding application submitted to the Lottery and Coalfields Regeneration Trust. Second stage application requested by Lottery	April 2007	Improved Capacity	Notes and minutes.
<p>Service Plan – Community Safety</p> <p>Implemented Crime and Disorder Action Plans</p>			

<p>The organisation of Task Groups has been modified from the last Strategy. The new Strategy takes into account the National Intelligence Model (NIM) and Prolific & Priority Offenders (PPO). The new arrangements will increase the CSP's tactical and operational capability</p>	<p>April 2005- March 2008</p>	<p>An overall reduction target of 15% has been set for 2005/8</p>	<p>Evidence for achievement is contained in minutes of Task Group meetings and on the Action Plan files themselves. Documentation held in Community Safety Partnership Offices at Lee House. A new Performance monitoring system is also being used</p>
<p>2 Development days will be held each year to review progress and engage with partners. Development day held in January 2007</p>	<p>Nov 06 Jan 07 Sept 07</p>	<p>SMART Action Plans</p>	<p>Action Plans</p>
<p>Administrative Support to the Task Groups is provided by two Community Safety Assistants from the District Council's Community Safety Unit</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Partnership re structured to deliver on demands from central government and react to local need</p>	<p>Development Day minutes</p>
<p>Project implementation supported through the Community Safety Unit with the Senior Community Safety Officer reporting back through Task Group Chairs and the Operations Group on progress towards achieving Action Plans and completing projects.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Facilitation of Task Group works which drives the delivery of the Strategy</p>	<p>Task Group minutes</p>
<p>Re deployable CCTV system in place. 10 re-deployable cameras with an additional 4 semi-permanent cameras to be sited in Easington Colliery in January. System tested and staff trained.</p>	<p>June 2007</p>	<p>Improved capacity to monitor and deter crime and anti social behaviour.</p>	<p>A performance management system implemented to rationalise reporting structures from the Task groups. Initial Training has also been held on the Prince 2 project management system.</p> <p>Attendance at meetings by the Community Safety Assistants and associated minutes, correspondence and organisation of Task group and Partnership activities evidence this role.</p> <p>Partnership minutes.</p>

<p>Identified additional funding streams and facilitate delivery of existing funding programmes</p> <p>The Community Safety Unit has been active in identifying and bidding for additional funding and in delivering existing programmes. NRF funding approved. Programme implementation underway</p>	<p>On going</p>	<p>The Councils CS Team are co-ordinating funding packages involving NRF and the LAA streams</p>	<p>LSP and LAA minutes</p>
<p>Implemented Performance and Evaluation Framework</p> <p>The Community Safety Unit has been instrumental in designing a performance and evaluation framework for the Community Safety Partnership to foster improved and closer working links with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team.</p>	<p>2007 (ongoing)</p>	<p>This self evaluation document, the Performance Assessment Framework, highlights how improvements can be made in the structures of the Partnership and the way in which the work of member organisations can integrate better to be more effective.</p>	<p>The Performance Assessment Framework is reviewed monthly at Co-ordinating Unit meetings. Minutes of these meetings and action points relating to the PAF are recorded and kept at the Unit's offices. Reports on the Performance Assessment Framework have been presented to Community Safety Partnership meetings.</p>
<p>Service Plan – Sports Development</p> <p>Developed an increased attendance to out of school activity clubs</p> <p>Work in partnership with the School Sports Co-ordinators programme (SSCO) to provide health related activity clubs. Sports development team provide a whole range of activities to introduce children to a healthier lifestyle.</p>	<p>2007 (on going)</p>	<p>A range of clubs have been developed with our partner in schools throughout the district.</p> <p>Every primary school in the district participates in the programme on a school term basis.</p>	<p>Attendance registers/feedback questionnaires</p>
<p>Developed a range of arts projects to be included in community festivals throughout the district</p> <p>Community festivals throughout the District. Work with Town/Parish Councils to include the arts in community festivals/carnivals. This includes engaging artists and assisting in publicity.</p>	<p>On going</p>	<p>Ensure that the public have access to opportunities to participate in art and cultural activity.</p>	<p>Feedback from partners/public</p>

<p>Developed a range of events to raise awareness of the people, past and present archive</p> <p>Awareness of the people, past and present archive. Co-ordinate a series of road-shows throughout the district to publicise the archive. Visits have been made to warden control centres and old peoples homes</p>	On going	Raising awareness of the archive by displaying at exhibitions	Number of events held
<p>Improving Sickness Rates</p>	On going	8.1 against a council target of 10.	Sickness monitoring

<p>Best Value Performance Indicators</p> <p>BV175 Racial Incidents with further action</p> <p>BV 225 Actions against Domestic Violence</p>	Dec 2006	100% 81.81 % Target for 2005/6 is 81.8%	CSP Data CSP Data
---	----------	--	----------------------

Non - Achievements

We have not	Reason Why	We Intend to	Revised Target Responsibilities
Service Plan			
Cultural Development			
Produce Sport & Recreation Plan	Difficulties in Identifying Resources	Develop as part of the 2007 Business Plan	Dec 2007
Produce Arts Plan	Difficulties in identifying resources	Develop as part of the 2007 Business Plan	Dec 2007
Community Safety			
BV 127a Violent Crime per 1,000 population	20.32 Target for 2006/7 is 10.63	Work through the CSP to negotiate a new target with GONE which takes into account the new recording practises of Durham Constabulary.	N/A

BV126 House Burglary per 1,000 households	12.66. Target for 2006/7 is 9.00	Work through the CSP to reduce the rate.	N/A
BV128 Vehicle Crime per 1,000 population	11.71. Target for 2006/7 is 9.75	Work through the CSP to reduce the rate.	N/A
BV 174 Racial incidents per 100,000 population	0.44 Target for 2006/7 is 0.27	Work through the CSP to reduce the rate.	