

Report to: Community Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: 20 November 2007

Report of: Head of Neighbourhood Initiatives

Subject: Service Performance Reporting - Neighbourhood Initiatives

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 Team continue to administer 2 NRF Programmes, which bring together partnership interventions involving the Police, Fire Service, Probation, DISC, Groundwork, Domestic Violence Forum, Victim Support and Youth Inclusion Programme under the thematic areas of; Targeted Interventions and Tackling ASB/Restoring Reassurance. The combined £3.4m programme contains an NRF element of £600k. At the end of quarter 2 the spend profile was on target at above 90% of the projected profile.

Parenting Programme

The Parenting initiative has now established strong links with the Street-Safe Boards, Youth Inclusion Forum, housing providers and other statutory and voluntary agencies. To date, 30 referrals have been received and the Team are now working with 24 families and children across the district, seeking to reduce anti-social behaviour and promote the importance of parental engagement as identified in the Government's Respect Agenda. There are two parenting groups running at present with three more at the planning stage.

Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

Two additional projects to tackle domestic violence have been established in the last quarter; the Specialist Police Domestic Violence Unit, IDVA and MARAC's. The IDVA (funded by NRF) is based within the Specialist Police Domestic Unit at Peterlee Police Station. Since commencement on 1 August 07 the IDVA has engaged with 15 women who have been victims of domestic violence. The role of the IDVA is to support victims and their families and encourage more victims to report domestic violence. Intensive support and advocacy helps to ensure that the victim does not withdraw from the criminal justice process and consequently, more perpetrators are brought to justice.

The MARAC is a crucial element of this development as this formalises risk assessment and management processes. The aim is to prevent further serious harm to the victim and her family and prevent domestic abuse homicide. 20 staff from a range of statutory and voluntary agencies have received specialist training to complete the MARAC risk assessment process. The MARAC co-ordinator convenes a multi agency conference to manage the identified risks and develop a plan to address all of the risk factors.

Anti Social Behaviour Floating Support Worker

This project is funded by Supporting People and is a pilot project for the rest of the county. The aim is to challenge and support families to address the causes of their anti-social behaviour. Referrals can come from any statutory or voluntary agency, housing association, or by the families themselves. A balance is sought between the needs of the family and the needs of the community. A contract is then agreed between the family and the project setting out the changes of behaviour that are required, the support that will be provided and the sanctions that could follow should behaviour fail to change. The intervention will engage up to six families of any tenure on an intensive basis.

Operation Milkshake (4)

Operation Milkshake continues to attract widespread public support and produce some excellent results. Milkshake provides high profile focussed partnership activity around the themes of enforcement, prevention and reassurance. A 4th Operation Milkshake ran from 15-23 September targeting villages in the west of the district. A summary of the results is listed below:

- 13 arrests made
- £14,000 of drugs seized
- £100,000 of stolen plant machinery recovered

- 16 vehicles seized
- 97 Customs & Excise challenges resulting in 3 detections.
- 46 DVLA tickets issued
- 57 free smoke alarms fitted
- 23 school pupils stopped with “no valid reason for not being at school”
- 24 graffiti sites cleaned
- 400 Crime Prevention packs distributed
- 70 young people engaged by youth workers

Eden Hill Criminal Damage Action Plan

In June, the Easington Community Partnership took part in a county-wide problem solving initiative to address rising levels of Criminal Damage, which has increased by 16% since 2003/4. The Eden Hill ward was selected as a pilot area on the basis of it having suffered the highest number of Criminal Damage incidents over the previous 12 months. An action plan was established to co-ordinate partnership activity, which includes increased Street Warden and PCSO patrols, the removal of rubbish and flammable material to prevent secondary fires, police investigation of all household related Criminal Damage reports, increased youth provision and educational work in the areas secondary and feeder primary schools and joint resident/agency walkabouts to identify problem areas and monitor progress. The Plan runs from August to December 2007. During the first 3 months Criminal Damage has fallen by 35% and Secondary Fires have reduced by 25%.

CDRP Strategic Assessment

Amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force in June 2007, abolishing the 3 year Audit and Strategy cycle process and introducing a new annual Strategic Assessment which sets the priorities and objectives for the Partnership. The current 3 year Strategy ends in March 2008 and work is currently being co-ordinated through the Community Safety Team to undertake an inaugural Strategic Assessment, which will set out the Partnerships priorities for 2008/9.

Quarterly Performance (Sept 2007)

Indicator	2006/7	2007/8	Target 2007/8
House Burglary per 1,000 households	11.9	15.1	11.6
Vehicle Crime per 1,000 households	11.7	10.3	11.5
Criminal Damage	29.8	25.8	24
Robberies per 1,000 population	0.4	0.3	0.3
Total Recorded Crime per 1,000 population	98.1	89.7	*77.1

Total recorded crime has fallen by 8.5% during the first half of the year. Encouraging reductions have been achieved in Vehicle Crime (down 12%) and Criminal Damage (down 13%) but House Burglary has risen sharply (up 27%). Intelligence suggests that the increase in Burglary is largely attributable to the release from prison of a small number or persistent offenders and operations are in place to target those individuals. *The target reduction for overall crime was set in 2003/4 before changes in counting practices came into place, which have made this target unachievable.

4.2 Youth Strategy

Political Speed Dating

A Political Speed dating event was held in October as part of Local Democracy Week. Prior to the event a series of meetings were held with young people, including members of EDPIP, to compile a list of questions to ask Councillors. The young people also compiled a political questionnaire, which will inform the production of a youth guide for Members and Council staff. 5 Executive Members took part in the event, which was very well received by the young people. A report on the event will go to Executive in December.

Valuing Diversity

In partnership with Durham University a 'Valuing Diversity' Workshop was arranged on 25th September for 20 young people. 10 Youth Forum members and 10 representatives from EDPIP attended. The main subject of the event was racism, including Show Racism The Red Card. The facilitators used drama and role-play so that the young people could place themselves in another cultural or gender role.

The Youth Forum

The Youth Forum re-commenced activity after the summer break with a meeting in October. Jon Niblo, the Youth Opportunities Officer for Co Durham, spoke to the young people about exchange visits, the Youth Opportunity Fund and increasing membership. As a result the thematic groups are considering opportunities for exchange visits; the Crime group wish to look at Italy's café society to contrast that with youth disorder and the binge-drinking culture here and the Health group are undertaking a survey of HIV support available in the UK and would like to link this with a Youth Forum in South Africa where HIV levels are far higher.

4.3 Pride in Easington

'Food on the Go' Campaign

This campaign was launched on the 24th September 2007 to address problems relating to litter deposited by people eating food on the go. Food on the Go litter bags were distributed to petrol stations and car dealerships. Businesses around schools were identified and also targeted to become involved in the Tidy Business Standard.

As part of the campaign the Pride Team targeted all of the secondary schools within the District to train pupils to grade the litter around their schools and streets leading to local food outlets. The grading of the

litter was in accordance with Defra's national standard code of practice on litter and waste. The purpose was to raise awareness and educate young people on the damage litter causes to the local environment.

Climate Change Workshop

A Climate Change Workshop was held at the Glebe Centre, Murton on 2nd October. CREATE, a national charity, undertook a workshop on energy efficiency and waste issues involving 60 children from 9 primary schools. This event was then followed by a climate change conference on 18th October held at Easington School.

Community Grant Scheme

A second round of the Community Grant Scheme commenced in Sept when The Pride In Easington Grants Panel considered applications from local community groups seeking support to deliver projects and activities supporting the Pride objectives. Successful applicants will be invited to commence their activities in November.

4.4 Social Inclusion

Member Training (7 Steps)

A second Community Cohesion Member training program took place in November. The program, which uses the Home Office 7 Steps Model was attended by 15 Members. With over 40 Members expressing an interest in the course, two additional courses are being arranged to ensure that all Members are able to benefit from the training. Discussions with GONE have indicated that the course may be developed as a model of good practise for other Local Authorities.

Ethnic Minority Group Development

Draft Terms of Reference were agreed by the Polish Residents Group in June and regular monthly meetings have now been established. The group are now at the stage of developing an action plan and looking at developing a resident's welcome pack. The Group, which has 25 members is being supported by the Social Inclusion Team with a view to widening its membership to include other ethnic minority groups.

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:

People Past & Present archive

Archive photographs were displayed at 13 events in the district throughout the summer. A project using the archive led by poet Andy Croft and involving six local schools is planned for November. Work is ongoing with digitising and widening access to the archive, and the Team are working with Durham LEA to put the Archive on the Durham Learning Gateway, making it accessible to all schools in the county.

Holiday Programmes

During the summer and October half-term holidays approximately 500 children and young people participated in 30 taster workshops covering a wide range of art-forms delivered at 20 community venues across the district.

In partnership with the Sports Team, the Arts Team also organised drumming and crafts workshops for the 'Fun Filled Friday' events at five parks in the district during the summer holidays, which attracted between 2,000 and 3,000 people.

Pilot Arts Programme for Adults

Easington Writers Group have continued to meet since sessions with writer Carol McGuigan ended in August. Funding secured from Voluntary Arts England enabled the group to publish a leaflet of their work in September. A reading event held at Easington Welfare Hall in October attracted an audience of over 30 people.

Arts in Health

Partnership work with the PCT will see a mental health arts project start in December at the new Healthworks centre in Easington Colliery. A women's group run by the mental health charity Stonham did a series of visual art and singing tasters in August and September. A proposal to set up a regular singing group with wider participation is being explored with the PCT and Stonham.

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.

Summer Holiday Programme

The summer Holiday Programme built upon the success of the 2006 initiative to offer a wide range of sport and leisure activities. 5,594 young people registered to take part in 224 sessions that were held over the 6-week summer holiday. On an average day the programme offered almost 16 hours of coached activity at either no cost or heavily subsidised rates. Activities included:

- **Archery**
- **Badminton/Table Tennis**
- **Cricket**
- **Cycling**
- **Dance**
- **Fishing**
- **Games and Play (for under 7's)**
- **Gymnastics**
- **Trampolining**
- **Boccia** - a sport that has been specially for severely disabled people.

Coaching Skills

The Sports Development Team organised 'Sports Leaders UK Level 2 and 3 courses which were attended by 30 local people. The courses provide a foundation qualification for people wishing to coach either at a community level or professionally.

Cricket Coaching Development

Over the summer period the team worked with 24 local schools delivering cricket taster sessions. 990 young people took part.

Innovations

The Sports Development Team have forged strong links with the adult disability care organisation 'Innovations' and have provided the group with a 10 week programme of sporting activities. On average it attracted over 20 participants over a 5- week period.

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
November 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 (Play Strategy)</p>	<p>July 2007</p> <p>August 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>
<p>NRF approval of Service Improvement</p>	<p>May 2006</p>	<p>Improved Capacity</p>	<p>LSP minutes</p>
<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 	<p>Ongoing to 2008</p>	<p>Increased and improved facilities and opportunities for young people</p>	<p>Youth Strategy Action Plan</p>
<p>Youth Strategy funding application submitted to the Lottery and Coalfields Regeneration Trust. Second stage application requested by Lottery.</p> <p>Application refused August 2007</p>	<p>August 2007</p>	<p>Improved Capacity</p>	<p>Notes and minutes.</p>

Service Plan – Community Safety			
Implemented Crime and Disorder Action Plans			
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	April 2005- March 2008	An overall reduction target of 15% has been set for 2005/8	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
2 Development days will be held each year to review progress and engage with partners. Development day held in January 2007	Jan 07 November 07	SMART Action Plans	Action Plans
Administrative Support to the Task Groups is provided by two Community Safety Assistants from the District Council's Community Safety Unit	Ongoing	Partnership re structured to deliver on demands from central government and react to local need	Development Day minutes
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.	Ongoing	Facilitation of Task Group works which drives the delivery of the Strategy 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.	Task Group minutes Attendance at meetings by the Community Safety Assistants and associated minutes, correspondence and organisation of Task group and Partnership activities evidence this role.
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.	June 2007	Improved capacity to monitor and deter crime and anti social behaviour.	Partnership minutes.

<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>Develop Sports Dev Team Plan</p>	<p>2007 (on going)</p> <p>Aug 2007</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>Plan in place setting out priority actions for the team.</p>	<p>Attendance registers/feedback questionnaires</p> <p>Team Plan</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</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>

publicity. Develop Arts Team Plan	Aug 2007	Plan in place setting out priority actions for the team	Team Plan
Developed a range of events to raise awareness of the people, past and present archive 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	On going	Raising awareness of the archive by displaying at exhibitions	Number of events held
Improving Sickness Rates	On going	8.1 against a council target of 10.	Sickness monitoring

Best Value Performance Indicators BVPI 175 Racial Incidents with further action BVPI 225 Actions against Domestic Violence BVPI 127b Robberies BVPI 128 Vehicle Crime	Sept 2007	100% 90.9 % Target for 2007/8 is 90.9% 0.27. Target for 2007/8 is 0.32 10.35. Target for 2007/8 is 11.57	CSP Data CSP Data CSP Data CSP Data
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Non - Achievements

We have not	Reason Why	We intend to	Revised Target Responsibilities
Service Plan			
Cultural Development			
Community Safety			
BV 127a Violent Crime per 1,000 population	16.16 Target for 2007/8 is 10.15	Work through the CSP to negotiate a new target with GONE which takes into account the new recording	N/A

<p>BV126 House Burglary per 1,000 households</p>	<p>15.1. Target for 2007/8 is 11.6</p>	<p>practises of Durham Constabulary. Work through the CSP to reduce the rate.</p>	<p>N/A N/A</p>
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