

Report to: Community Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: 27 January 2009

Report of: Head of Neighbourhood Initiatives

Subject: Service Unit 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

Tackling Violent Crime Programme 2008/09

A funding proposal has been accepted by Government Office North East to support work that will address a rise in violent crime in Easington. A violent/knife crime conference was held on 18 November 2008, which resulted in a multi agency action plan. A police officer has been seconded to act as project manager for the plan which includes enforcement and educational interventions.

School ASB Event

A second anti-social behaviour awareness event is being planned for 28 January at Wellfield School, following the success of the initial event at St Bede's School in October last 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/Operation Milkshake 8

Operation Milkshake 8 concluded on 10 October 2008. Results included:

- 20 Magistrates search warrants executed, resulting in 9 arrests including possession of controlled drugs and possession with intent to supply.
- Drugs recovered with a street value of £45,000
- 200 hours of high visibility foot patrols carried out and numerous leaflets delivered to target areas giving advice and advertising the community policing team for Horden and Blackhall.
- The community policing team carried out an additional 128 hours of covert patrols to tackle burglaries being committed in the Horden area.
- 17 warnings were issued to EDH tenants for the external condition of properties/gardens. 11 gardens cleared with 940kg of rubbish removed and 9 enforcement visits carried out in relation to breach of tenancy.

Local Criminal Justice Board -Inside Justice Week - Mock Trial and CJS Surgery

Children from selected local schools were invited to take part in mock trials held at Peterlee Magistrates Court on 24 October 2008 on the subject of knife crime. The children gained an insight into how the criminal justice system works in practice. Organised tours of the court building also took place with members of the public accessing community safety advice. The event was held in support of the "Inside Justice Week" initiative.

Parenting Programme

There have been 70 referrals to the service since it commenced in April 2007. The Strengthening Families accredited training was completed in October. 18 parents and 22 children are now ready to start this programme in early January.

Anti Social Behaviour Floating Support Project

Durham County Council Supporting People have agreed a further 12 months funding for this project until March 2010. There have been 17 referrals to date for intensive, sometimes daily, support for perpetrators of anti social behaviour where the tenancy is at risk.

Quarterly Performance Table

Indicator BCS Crime	2007/8	2008/9 9 months	Predicted %Change 2008/9
House Burglary	499	413	Inc 10%
Thefts From a Vehicle	506	303	Dec 20%
Theft of a Vehicle	430	229	Dec 29%
Criminal Damage	2,373	1,524	Dec 15%
Assault without injury	161	129	Inc 7%
Wounding	810	447	Dec 26%
Vehicle Interference	133	74	Dec 26%
Theft from the Person	44	16	Dec 52%
Robbery	23	18	No change
Theft of Pedal Cycles	72	68	Inc 25%
Total BCS Crime	5,094	3,250	Dec 14%

The table shows that we are achieving encouraging year on year reductions in most areas of our British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes although the increase

in House Burglary is something that the CSP is addressing through enforcement and prevention initiatives.

New Partnership Arrangements

The existing Easington CSP which has been in operation since 1997 comes to an end on 31 March. The work of the partnership will be taken forward through the arrangements of the Area Action Partnerships and the County Community Safety Board.

4.2 Youth Strategy

Handover Arrangements

The Forum will continue until at least the end of the academic year but arrangements from September onwards are still uncertain. There are a number of formats in operation across the county for youth engagement and the Easington Forum will be considered alongside other initiatives with a view to developing a package of engagement mechanisms.

The Youth Forum Steering Group held their AGM on 4 December and appointed Honorary Officers and members to its Board.

Communication Sub Group - A District of Easington Press Officer gave a presentation to Forum members on communications and the media. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session. The information obtained by the young people was used by each of the sub groups as a basis to complete a newspaper front page.

Environment and Leisure Sub Group - An Education Officer from Greencycle has worked with this group to develop a poster competition, which is currently being run by Greencycle. In addition to their recycling activities the group devised a Christmas themed project to make sweet parcels for local Care Homes and also looked at future involvement with a Street Wardens Allotment project and a beach clean up.

Crime and Community Safety Group- This group has been working on a 'Beat the Bully' campaign and have also undertaken work in relation to the impact of Domestic Violence on young people.

Health and Education Group – This group have developed their project plans around healthy eating and looked at food preparation fact sheets and recipes for young people.

4.3 Pride in Easington

The Pride Team have continued to implement initiatives and activities in support of the Pride objectives. Activities in the last quarter have included:

Environmental Awareness

- Delivering 3 beach watch weekend activities – clearing and surveying Easington, Horden and Crimdon beaches and supporting Volunteer Rangers.
- Work recently began on developing a project to develop fishing in Easington, which will include coastline land management, conservation and clearing. Partners on the project include Groundwork, Positive

Futures and the Coast and Country-side Rangers. The project has £30,000 for the first years funding with a further £30,000 being applied for to fund year 2.

- The Tidy Ted storybook has been completed and launched with story telling sessions at Blackhall community centre. Copies of the booklet have been distributed to schools in the district and a series of school visits have taken place to advertise the story telling resource sack.

The Word

'The Word' Project is a music event aimed at yr9 and yr10's about discrimination, anti racism and bullying which is delivered through hip hop and rap music. The event will take place on Wednesday 11 February at the Glebe Centre and will involve all secondary schools in the district.

Eco-Schools

The Pride Team continues to assist schools in the District who are working towards obtaining Eco School status. Support has been given to St Bedes School with lunchtime litter picks involving 15 pupils from the Eco team as part of Encams national big tidy up campaign. During the week 24 bags of litter were collected.

Acre Rigg Juniors have recently registered with Eco Schools. Cotsford junior school Eco Team are at the stage of discussing their action plan and Cotsford Infants are going through their Green Flag application as well as Seaham School.

Street Champions Pilot

The pilot Street Champions Scheme has now been established in 2 areas, Edenhill and Wembley, and involves 10 Street Champions whose role is to help evaluate and monitor the effect of Pride programme.

The Pride team and the District's Social Inclusion Officer organised a meeting with community members from Easington Colliery and Edenhill. 5 members of the community signed up as street champions from Easington and 2 from Edenhill. Following the initial recruitment a training session was held at the Glebe Centre on 1 December 2008.

4.4 Social Inclusion

The Team continues to increase access to services and promote equality of opportunity for hard to reach groups such as EDPIP, the Migrant Residents Support group and the newly formed East Durham Credit Union Steering Group.

The Team continue to support **EDPIP**. As part of the organisations own fundraising efforts to take a number of young people from the Out of the Shadows Sub Group to Euro Disney, a ball was held at Seaham Hall. The event took place on 21 November and raised over £4,500. Seaham Hall have offered the use of the hall for another fund raising event next year.

Third Party Reporting Centre

7 volunteers from within the Neighbourhood Initiatives Unit have been selected to manage the Third Party Reporting centre. The volunteers undertook training using the National True Vision Hate Crime Reporting Mechanism. The centre, situated in Building 9, is the first one to be established in County Durham outside of the Police/Judiciary system.

Members of the community who suffer from any form of hate crime are to be encouraged to report the incident at building 9.

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 Council's corporate objectives e.g. Community Safety, Health and inclusion. Activities in the last quarter have included:

Pasmore's Apollo Pavilion

Work is ongoing with the capital refurbishment scheme. The contractor has now been formally appointed and started work on site at the beginning of January, with a scheduled completion date in May. Work is also ongoing with planning the education and community programmes, which will be implemented from June to December.

People Past & Present Archive Poetry Project

Poet Andy Croft has been working with children and adults at schools throughout the district writing poems inspired by photographs in the archives. These are soon to be published in a book featuring the photographs.

Care Home Arts Pilot

This programme, which started in May, has now involved three Care Homes in the district, with sessions at a fourth home starting in January. The aim has been to introduce a variety of meaningful and sustainable arts activities for residents.

Peterlee Day Centre

Two weekly sessions of singing and drumming have been ongoing, with the year-long programme due to come to end in mid-January. Funding has now been secured to extend the public art programme in 2009.

Playful Beginnings

A project involving creative arts sessions with children under five and their parents has now involved five Children's Centres in the district. In the last quarter the project moved to Thornley and Blackhall where it's due finish in early February.

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.

Workforce Development Plan

In partnership with Easington Primary Care Trust (PCT) the Council was successful in drawing down funding from Sport England to organise a menu of training opportunities aimed at people living or working in Easington District. Local people can now access free places on courses to obtain coaching qualifications.

After School Activity Clubs

The Sports Development Team continued to deliver a high quality after school multi skills activity to a number of local Primary Schools in Easington District. The clubs aim to improve fundamental movements, which are transferable

skills into any given sport/game. In the last quarter the Team ran after school clubs in 8 schools engaging over 160 children.

Innovations

The team have worked in partnership with the Get Active Team PCT and casual coaches to deliver a weekly activity session to registered adults from the local care organisation 'Innovations'. Activities included: Boxercise, swimming, boccia, cricket, basketball and circuits.

On average it has attracted over 20 participants and initial steps have been taken to apply for funding to extend the project.

Bowls Development

The District Short Mat Bowls fixtures came to an end and rounded off with a successful Bowls presentation Christmas party at the Glebe Centre with over 150 people in attendance.

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

