

**North Dudley Area Committee 1 December 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 23 June 2010 it was resolved that the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Working Group be reappointed for the municipal year 2010/11 with its existing terms of reference and that the working group comprise the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors Mrs Ameson, Mrs Ridley and Stanley.
5. **Report from Working Group**  
The Working Group met on 21 October 2010.
  - 5.1 The working group received a written and verbal update on Operation Staysafe which is a partnership co-ordinated by the Community Safety Team involving Children's Services and West Midlands Police. The working group commented on the positive aspects of this initiative and welcomed its continuation as a model of best practice in tackling underage drinking, anti-social behaviour and the safety of young people.
  - 5.2 The working group received a verbal update on the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Plan from the Area Community Renewal Officer.
  - 5.3 The working group received a verbal report on current activities at Community Centres in North Dudley from the Community Development Officer (Community

Centres). The members of the working group commented on the varied activities that are carried out at community centres by volunteers.

5.4 No issue logs had been submitted since the last meeting.

5.5 The minutes of the Community Forum held on 19 October were circulated and noted by the working group

5.6 Future meeting dates of the working group are as follows:  
Wednesday 5 January 2011 at 6pm  
Thursday 17 February 2011 at 6pm

## 6. **Completions and achievements**

6.1 Rainbow Community centre Breast Cancer Awareness event was held on Thursday 14 October. Over 30 people attended the event to take part in workshops organised by Adult and Community Learning team and receive health information and advice from the PCT Community Health Improvement Team, The Whitehouse Cancer Support Service and Russell's Hall Hospital. Bromford Housing Group also supported the event. The Rainbow Community Association applied for Grassroots funding for this event and they organised a successful raffle and provided a healthy lunch along with healthy recipe cakes. Over £200 was raised for the Breast Cancer Charity. The remainder of the funding from Grassroots is for Christmas Craft workshops during November and courses starting in January 2011.

## 7. **Current and planned key activities**

7.1 Following the evaluation of the Kent Street Centre job club and the Rainbow Community centre job club it has been agreed that with certain changes they will continue.

Adult and Community Learning employability team will continue to run the Kent Street Centre job club every Tuesday morning to support those clients who live the Gornal area

A partnership co-ordinated by the Area Community Renewal Officer with the Rainbow Community Association, Bromford Housing Group, adult and community learning employability team and economic regeneration team will provide the job club at Rainbow Community Centre to support those clients who live in the Coseley area.

7.2 Coseley - At least £1 million of Lottery good cause funding has been allocated to the east of the Coseley ward which includes Summerhill, Rainbow and Wallbrook estates. The funding is part of the Big Local Trust programme and will be available over the next ten years to help turn neighbourhoods into better places to live by identifying local issues and developing skills. The BIG Local Trust will be working with a wide range of local organisations. The Big Local Trust will help local people and partner organisations set up local funding schemes. Progress will be reported to this Committee at regular intervals as well as through the Working Group. A drop in session for local community groups was held on 1 September at the Summerhill Community Centre to tell the groups what the big lottery will mean for their area and a further drop in will take place on 5 November at Rosewood School from 3.30 pm to 5pm.

7.3 Rainbow Community Centre - Ongoing work with the Rainbow community

association is taking place with Dudley Council for Voluntary Service to build the capacity of the current committee and to encourage new membership from the community, along with planned workshops during November and courses to begin in January. Bromford Housing group have funded the purchase of 10 laptop computers for the centre to run the job club and computer courses.

- 7.4 The Quarry Youth Café - The youth café was launched on 16 July with a successful barbeque with around 30 young people attending. Funding for the youth café has been provided through Connexions Positive Activities for Young People and High Arcal School which funds staff from Sedgley Kids Club. Further funding opportunities will be sought e.g. Awards for All and Area Committee Capital Allocations. Two volunteers have been recruited who will work alongside Sedgley Kids Club and will be offered training through Dudley MBC youth service.
- 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 meet regularly and report issues to the Community Renewal Working Group through their chair. The Forum has elected two members to attend North Dudley Community Education Network and one member to attend Civic Heart.
- 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 Grosvenor and Wallbrook estates in Coseley.
- 7.8 Healthy Heart Activities - A project to address health inequalities, focussing on exercise and healthier lifestyles will be developed in partnership with the Healthy Towns Project Manager incorporating the North Dudley healthy hub - Silver Jubilee Park, Clayton and Cannon park and involving Rainbow Community Centre, local schools, youth centre, PCT, children's centre and other partners in the Coseley area.

## 8 **Community Centres**

The Council's Cabinet approved a report on "Shaping Community Centres for the Future" on 22 September 2010. The report proposed a positive vision for community centres as "a network of local community hubs and resources meeting the needs and aspirations of local communities" and principles for engagement. Engagement with the community centres and any interested party was approved by the Cabinet and an engagement plan has been developed. Arrangements have been made for the plan to be sent to community centres and e-mailed to elected members. The plan briefly sets out arrangements for engagement over the next eight months with:

- Community centre members and any other interested parties including the community centres support group;
- Elected members through the routine Area Committee local community renewal plan update report as well as the Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services prior to submission of a concluding report

to Cabinet in summer/autumn 2011;

- Voluntary and community sector engagement being organised by the Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (DCVS).

The North Dudley Area Committee will be kept informed of progress routinely through this report and any comments that members wish to make in the Area Committee at this stage will be gratefully accepted.

## **Finance**

9

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

## **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.

## **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.

## **Recommendation**

That Committee Members note the report and continue to support the work of the Community Renewal team in community localities.

*Richard Carter*

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**Richard Carter**  
**Interim Director of Adult Community & Housing**

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**List of Background Papers**

*Community Renewal Strategy*

*North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Plan*