

Subject: Harehills Neighbourhood Management Update: April 2013 – September 2013.

Update on Neighbourhood Improvement Plan priorities:

1. Promote Physical and emotional wellbeing:

- The NICHE tobacco outreach work via trading standards has been underway across the Harehills area with direct delivery to many community groups and schools.
- The Sens networking project has begun in Harehills with community connectors being recruited to expand networks to reduce social isolation in the elderly.
- A worker has been appointed by GetAwayGirls, to directly support young women at risk of sexual exploitation.
- Harehills Smoking reduction group has mapped the services available in the area to support residents to stop smoking and is creating a community event for Stoptober.

2. Reduce worklessness and NEETs and promote the economic viability of Harehills.

- The job club at the Compton centre is currently the second busiest hub in the city. This is being supported by outreach by Igen to support younger people.
- A Harehills Families First group has been established to monitor actions to ensure vulnerable families are properly supported.
- Advice services in the Harehills area have been mapped and can now be promoted across the area.

3. Reduce the levels of Crime and ASB.

- A burglary reduction plan is currently in place for Gipton and Harehills as a ward. This involves a review of amber nominals through the local tasking team and serious acquisitive crime, promoting diversionary and positive activities for young people to engage in, operation confidence and environmental audits to reduce burglary across the ward.
- Harehills traders group has been established to support the business community in Harehills lane and agencies are providing additional resources to tackle the crime and ASB issue raised from this forum. Concerns of crime and illegal trading are being addressed and Harehills is ear marked to be a priority pilot area with trading standards to address the issues of illegal tobacco and alcohol.
- Hovingham land project plans have been finalised with a view for the space to be operational by the end of the financial year. Funding schemes are currently being explored.
- Harehills is currently a Designated Public Place to tackle the issues arising from street drinking.
- A large scale multi agency operation is scheduled for the 22nd August to address the issues raised from Harehills traders meeting and the burglary action plan.

4. Improve the local environment

- Keep Harehills Tidy group are being supported to become a formal constituted group. They have undertaken a campaign against dog fouling in north Harehills.

- A school clean up day has taken place around Bankside school in Harehills whereby 50 bags of rubbish was collected by the day. The school are hoping to continue more projects in the next academic year to support a tidy environment and education around environmental responsibility with pupils.
- Support is on going for the environmental improvement zones across the area.
- Research has commenced on a strategy to tackle the issues of bin yards across the Harehills area and ways to secure external funding are being explored.

5. Increase levels of community confidence.

- Work has commenced to establish a community leadership team in Harehills. A chair has been appointed and residents are being contacted and invited to join.
- A programme of summer holiday activities has been established across the ward with activities running at Banstead Park, Ashton Park.
- The Hovingham youth HUB has been launched with a celebration event, the centre is now engaging large groups of young people on a regular basis and has run additional sessions throughout the Ramadan period.

Additional Resources

Community first applications for the Gipton and Harehills ward have totalled £20,720. There has been £8500 awarded to Harehills Youth Hub via ENEHL area panel.

Challenges

- There are currently a number of key partner agencies undergoing review which presents difficulties for staffing serving the area.
- Work is needed promote and develop community cohesion across the area and supporting community groups to work in partnership to meet the needs of the community.
- The creation of the CLT is more challenging due to the lack of existing groups and residents associations to draw upon for membership.

Focus for next six months

- The immediate focus for Harehills as a neighbourhood is to establish a community leadership team to give residents the opportunity to take part in local decision making and link to the area committee. This needs to be supported by developing a fully operational local management team of managers at a local agency level to support and develop partnership working on the Neighbourhood Improvement plan.
- In light of the welfare reforms the main priority for the area is to focus on employability, this will be initiated by drawing together all the agencies within the area providing support on this and filling gaps in provision. In addition further programmes are required to build community confidence and cohesion, this will be supported by the scheduled operation champions, provision of a community space at Ashton Park and the development of a community market.
- The delivery of the youth contract funding is an important element for the area and needs to be focused to provide positive activities and aspirations for the young people of the area.