

## **Central Middleton Neighbourhood Improvement Plan – Final report**

### **Executive Summary**

This report outlines the achievements of the Central Middleton Neighbourhood Improvement Plan and provides an overview of the next steps in terms of continuing action for the area and developing closer links with the Middleton Regeneration Board.

#### **1.0 Purpose Of This Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Inner South Area Committee with a summary of achievements carried out through the Central Middleton Neighbourhood Improvement Plan and how this work is to be continued through the Middleton Neighbourhood Network.

#### **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 During the consultation process on the Profile & Priorities document for 2004/05 for the Inner South Area Committee, Elected Members agreed that there were a number of neighbourhoods within each ward in Inner South with a range of particularly difficult issues to address, such as anti-social behaviour involving young people, crime levels significantly higher than surrounding neighbourhoods, high levels of unemployment, low levels of educational attainment and environmental problems, such as litter and fly-tipping. 22 such neighbourhoods were identified across the Inner South area.

2.2 One of the neighbourhoods selected through this process was the Central Middleton estate – the area covered the Sissons, Throstles, Thorpes, Acres and Intakes – this equated to approximately 1700 homes. An extensive community consultation exercise was undertaken to find out local residents views on particular issues and to find out what specific problems needed to be addressed or service area which required some improvement. The consultation exercise involved holding a community event at St Cross Church and sending out a postal questionnaire to all households. Key issues that came up from this exercise were:-

- Action on crime and anti social behaviour
- Increased visibility and patrolling by police, police community support officers and/or neighbourhood wardens
- Action on untidy and unkempt gardens
- More activities for 13 – 16 year olds

2.3 From this baseline information, along with a comprehensive statistical profile of the NIP area, an action plan was developed and a steering group established with membership of the following organisations / groups; South Leeds Area Management Team, West Yorkshire Police, Leeds Primary Care Trust, South South East Leeds Homes, Streetscene Services, Enforcement, Youth Service, Groundwork, St Cross Church, Middleton Community Group, Middleton Community Centre, Middleton Leisure Centre and Jobs and Skills.

#### **3.0 Central Middleton Neighbourhood Improvement Plan Achievements**

Through the 14 months the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan was in operation in the area, the following achievements were made within the locality:-

### ***Community Safety***

- Weekly Police surgeries are taking place at St George's Centre. Housing Officers are also present at these surgeries on a fortnightly basis. These surgeries are promoted on the Rothwell NPT website
- Two intensive multi agency Operation Cavas (now known as Operation Champion) have been held across the area targeting numerous crime and grime issues – some key achievements from the last operation included:-owners of 61 untaxed vehicles fined, 58 arrests took place for various offences, 900 community safety information packs distributed to households, 150 personal alarms distributed to young people, elderly and other vulnerable groups, removal of rubbish from 54 properties, 5 void properties and two 40 tonne roll on roll off skips were deployed in the area.
- New neighbourhood watch scheme has been set up in the area with support from the Police
- Police information points including slips where people can leave information or ask local PCSOs to get in touch are to be shortly put in various community facilities in the area
- The Police are working with Middleton Primary School on a poster campaign around drinking and anti social behaviour
- A Neighbourhood Safety Liaison Officer has been appointed to cover the Intensive Neighbourhood Management area and is closely working with the Police on community safety issues, particularly supporting victims of anti social behaviour

### ***Streetscene, Housing & Enforcement***

- Five community clean ups, organised by the South Area Management Team, have taken place across the central Middleton estate involving Leeds South Homes, Neighbourhood Wardens, Streetscene Environmental Pride Team, Fire Service, Police and local residents
- Regular environmental audits being undertaken by the Enforcement Officer and Housing Management Officer to tackle dumping and untidy gardens – enforcement action is being taken against various properties on the estate to improve its appearance – following on from these visits a number of caution letters and injunctions have been taken out
- A list of damaged or missing street and no fly tipping signs have been drawn up – new signs have been ordered and will be erected shortly
- Void properties are being secured more safely in order for utility boxes / connections to be prevented from being damaged
- Regular inspections of void properties are now taking place to ensure that issues with dumping in the gardens are dealt with
- Welfare rights leaflets are now given out to new tenants when they first occupy their new home
- Inner South Area Committee contributed £19,000 for a fencing improvement scheme for Middleton Park Court. A further £14,000 was also approved for improvements to Throstle Rec to compliment a programme of works funded through Intensive Neighbourhood Management monies
- A litter picker is now regularly covering the area

### ***Young People***

- A project to provide two detached youth workers was established by St Cross Church – the youth workers are linking up with current Youth Service activity in the area

- Inner South Area Committees Mobile Youth Provision, managed by St Luke's Cares is operating on a fortnightly basis across the area, providing more for young people to do and giving advice on a range of issues and informing young people about the provision
- A double page feature was included in one of the Central Middleton NIP newsletters highlighting all the activities going on in the area, as well as key contact numbers. All PCSO's have these key contact details too and pass them on to young people to encourage them to get involved
- A promotional event for Middleton Children's Centre and extended services was held in May 2006 – over 150 people attended and 700 information packs were distributed in the area

### ***Heath & Well Being***

- Improved promotion of Middleton Leisure Centre is taking place – new signage is being put up outside the facility and information packs are being put together to highlight what activities are on offer at the centre. The Leisure Centre is also involved in the Radio Aire 'Pay your mortgage for a year ' promotion
- A PCT active health programme is up and running in the area delivering a number of physical activity sessions including badminton, self defence, walks in Middleton Park and salsa lessons. Over 100 people are currently participating in the scheme
- Playground markets have been held once a term at Middleton Primary School – the market sells fruit and vegetables to increase access to healthy, fresh foods for local people
- Smoking cessation clinics have been held, with 20 attendees at each session, and information packs put together and distributed about a smoke-free homes initiatives and smoking bans coming into force later in the year

### ***Community Involvement***

- Five residents newsletters have been produced and distributed to all households within the Central Middleton NIP area
- The Area Committees Priority Neighbourhood Worker has supported Middleton Community Group (formally known as Sissons Residents and Tenants Association) to become a stronger group and drive their ideas forward into action

## **4.0 Next steps and the way forward in Central Middleton**

- 4.1 At the last meeting of the Central Middleton NIP Steering Group in April, a discussion took place about re-launching the group as Middleton Neighbourhood Network. The idea behind this is to link in with the plans which are currently being developed for the Middleton Regeneration Board in partnership with Re'new.
- 4.2 The Middleton Neighbourhood Network would aim to involve local people and on the ground agencies covering that area to assist with the implementation of specific actions or deliver neighbourhood specific projects which are part of the overall wider Middleton Regeneration Action Plan. The regular steering group will allow partners to share good practice and create further inter-agency working opportunities.
- 4.3 The network will also provide the opportunity to carry out any locality specific consultation for issues that might effect the neighbourhood and would also provide the opportunity to access the thoughts of local people in terms of their perceptions or feelings about local developments. This will allow local people and local agencies to feel more engaged with the wider regeneration process and build upon the good work that has been started through the NIP process.

## **5.0 Conclusions**

- 5.1 The steering group agreed that this has been a successful NIP with a considerable number of achievements and there are no outstanding tasks remaining to be completed.