

Area Committee's Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker (PNDW)
12 month (March 07 to March 08) progress report
from South Leeds Health for All to the Inner South Area Committee
By Pat McGeever, Director of South Leeds Health for All.

INTRODUCTION

The post of Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker (hereafter referred to as 'PNDW') was established at the end of August 2006, working for the Council's Inner South Area Committee. The project is managed by South Leeds Health for All on behalf of Leeds City Council's Inner South Area Committee which both funded and commissioned this post. The contract is overseen by the Area Management team.

The key function of the post is to support successful community engagement as part of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) process. This would include supporting community groups and individuals, building capacity in groups and delivering on projects in the NIPs.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY

NIP's were completed on the Central Middleton Estate and Cottingley towards the beginning of 2007, with the PNDW continuing to support some activity in these areas.

Three other NIP's started in 2007 on the Manor Farms, Recreations area of Holbeck and on the Arthingtons/Royals in Hunslet, with the PNDW supporting and developing community engagement in these areas.

The PNDW has also supported the Area Management Team and Area Committee in Belle Isle where a 'youth forum' has developed to engage with young people and local councillors. Also in Belle Isle, work is underway developing a 'residents' forum'.

Additional activities have included supporting Holbeck in Bloom, Intensive Neighbourhood Clean ups, Operation Champions and environmental development with the Middleton Regeneration Board.

Towards the end of the year the PNDW has also begun involvement with the Area Delivery Plan and it is envisaged that the PNDW will undertake further community engagement activity including

- 2 ward based events.
- Several thematic events prior to Area Committee meetings.

PNDW ACTIVITY IN MORE DETAIL

Although this report covers the period March 07 to March 08, it also includes proposals for up to the end of August 08 because this would be the end of the second year for the PDNW. In line with last year, the report is provided for this Area Committee to decide on whether or not to fund a third year and allow SLHFA, and the current PNDW, to find alternative support in case the Area

Committee decides not to fund a third year. With this in mind the report additionally provides costs for year 3 covering August 08 to August 09. The Area Committee received a report in March 07, which covered the very early stages of group development as the PNDW had only been in post around 6 months. An end of first year report was also provided to the Area Committee in August 07.

It is clear that some community groups have moved on and require far less support from the PNDW and would generally be advisory in nature, in particular

- Middleton Community Group
- Cottingley in Bloom

and others are developing enough to reduce the role of the PNDW, particularly

- Manor Farms Community Group
- the Voice of Holbeck

Essentially with these two groups the main area of support would be in the strengthening of their committees.

The main achievements have included

- enabling groups to engage more effectively with the Area Committee e.g. having regular group meetings and members of groups attending Area Committee meetings;
- empowering the groups to affect the decision making processes e.g. building the confidence of groups by seeing their ideas and needs being delivered and supported by councillors and agencies.
- and having effective mechanisms to do this e.g. through well organised and minuted meetings and developing working relationships with agencies. .
- perhaps more significantly groups are now at a stage to develop projects and run their own affairs e.g. through providing own publicity such as the Middleton Community Group calendar or environmental projects such as in Cottingley or having organised committees to run the groups such as in the Recreations, Voice of Holbeck.

Finally, the report identifies other organisations that could help provide other support to the community groups, but these are only suggestions at this stage.

Middleton Park Ward

Middleton

The development work with Middleton Community Group (MCG) has continued to see an increase in people attending meetings and the group running it's own affairs and activities. The PNDW continues to support the minute taking role, but the group set the agenda, publicise meetings/activities. The group have

- an ongoing working relationship with many agencies;
- developed a 2008 calendar for the estate, with support from I Love South Leeds;
- run a Garden Competition as an initial precursor to developing a Middleton In Bloom group.
- become actively involved in the Middleton Regeneration developments and working on mapping of green space.
- developed ideas for several environmental projects around the Middleton Circus.
- been working on a 20mph zone around the Sissons area - presently this is under council internal consultation design process.
- The chair of the group was runner up in the Individual Award at LCC's Community and City Pride Awards.



General Statistics

- The monthly meetings attract on average 20 to 25 residents regularly, with an active (people who express interest in being kept informed, but don't always attend meetings) mailing list of 70 people.
- Gender split is 50:50 male to female
- Age is generally 35 years plus.
- Ethnic origin – 95% white, includes east European; 5% Afro-Caribbean.
- People involved in publicising group/mail outs 6 group members
- People involved in activities – e.g. Calendar 4 group members; bulb planting 4 group members.
- Committee (called Small Group) 7 people

Future developments and role of PNDW

- The PNDW to provide a less active supporting role, with this becoming a more advisory function and attend occasional meetings in this advisory role. This advisory role could also encourage visiting other groups and organisations such as the Hamara Centre to help broaden the groups knowledge of community activity in south Leeds.

- This advisory function to be developed over the coming months and completely in place by the start of the next year for the post i.e. August 2008. Additional support for the group being provided by other organisations the group now has contacts with such as Aire Valley Homes Leeds to support group administration and Groundwork Leeds to support the development of environmental projects.
- Support the development of Middleton in Bloom. This has yet to be established, but recent work by the PNDW has identified a small group of people who may be interested in developing this group separately from Middleton Community Group, although it is envisaged that there will of course be links between the 2 groups and others in Middleton.

Manor Farms

While this has been slow to get off the ground the PNDW has been able to re-establish a Manor Farms Community Group and continues to support the minute taking role and producing publicity for meetings, but the group set the agendas for meetings.

- regular meetings of the group are taking place and a small committee has developed, with an AGM/launch of the group due in April.
- the group have developed close relationships with several agencies, especially Aire Valley Homes Leeds and the Police. This has helped improve the general environment of the estate and tackle anti-social behaviour.
- the development of the group has been instrumental in ensuring that CCTV cameras have been erected by Aire Valley Homes Leeds.
- the group has planted 1,000 bulbs and recently a small orchard.
- the group are developing further small environmental projects such as flower beds and hanging baskets
- the PNDW has produced two newsletters for the estate
- an Intensive Neighbourhood Clean up has taken place that included two 'drop in'/information sessions for residents.



General Statistics

- The meetings attract on average 10 to 12 residents regularly, with an active (people who express interest in being kept informed, but don't always attend meetings) mailing list of 25 people.
- Gender split is 50:50 male to female
- Age is generally 35 years plus.
- Ethnic origin – 98% white; 2% Afro-Caribbean.
- People involved in publicising group/mail outs 2 group members
- People involved in activities – e.g. bulb planting 3 group members.
- Committee 5 people.

Future developments and role of PNDW

The NIP for the Manor Farms began around June 2007 and so it is envisaged that the PNDW will

- Support the development of the committee until August 2008 and then PNDW providing advisory role in line with Middleton Community Group above and/or create direct links between the two groups to provide mutual support. Additional support could be provided by Aire Valley Homes Leeds to help with group administration and Groundwork Leeds to support the development of environmental projects.
- Support the AGM for the group on 3rd April 2008.
- Produce a final newsletter for the Manor Farms NIP.

Beeston and Holbeck Ward

Cottingley

The role of the PNDW, with Cottingley in Bloom, has been minute taker and supporting publicity. The agenda has always been set by the group, which has recently been taking more control of minutes and publicity. The (TRAC) has always undertaken it's own publicity and organising until very recently. The PNDW has provided only limited support to Tenants and Residents Association Cottingley Hall (TRAC) as they have always run their own affairs.

Cottingley in Bloom group, which has resulted in the group developing new actions to lift the estate such as

- installing Welcome Boards
- enhancing flower beds around Cottingley Heights and Towers,
- developing hanging baskets around the flats,
- running a garden competition,
- receiving a commendation award in the Yorkshire in



- Bloom Neighbourhood Awards
- planting over 100 trees and 4,000 bulbs,

Working with **Tenants and Residents Association Cottingley** (TRAC) has seen

- supporting TRAC to produce the two newsletter themselves.
- TRAC is presently undergoing some changes and the PNDW is supporting the group to reactivate local interest. This has included leafleting all properties on the estate, door knocking, talking with parents at Cottingley Primary school about TRAC. A recent meeting saw some 30 people attending and the election of a new secretary for the group and several additional committee members.

Other activities have included supporting various grant applications to re-develop the Community Centre Garden; developing intergenerational work between the school and Dulverton Court. This work has further helped local people and groups to have confidence to once again organise and run the Cottingley Summer Fayre in 2007 and are now preparing for 2008.

General Statistics

Cottingley in Bloom

- The meetings attract on average 6 residents regularly, with an additional 10 people on a mailing list who have expressed an interest in being updated.
- Gender split is 40:60 male to female
- Age is generally 40 years plus.
- Ethnic origin – 100% white;
- People involved in publicising group/mail outs 2 group members
- People involved in activities – e.g. planting/flower bed maintenance 6 group members.
- Committee 6 people.

TRAC – figures from the AGM on 5 March

- Meeting attracted 30 people
- Gender split – 40:60 male to female
- Average age was 30 plus
- Ethnic Origin – 94% white 6% (1 Afro-caribbean, 1 Asian)
- People involved in publicity/newsletter (prior to AGM) 3 group members.

Future developments and role of PNDW

- Reduce the level of involvement in Cottingley in Bloom to an advisory role similar to Middleton Community Group above. Ongoing support can be gained through Parks and Countryside, AVHL and Groundwork Leeds.
- Support this years Summer Fayre.
- TRAC – has recently seen a decline in interest in the group on the estate, with Secretary of the group resigning at their AGM on 5th March 2008. However, recent work by the PNDW has seen an increased interest in TRAC and with some further input (supporting the committee and publicity) up until August 2008 is envisaged to re-establish this group. Thereafter, further support for the group could come through AVHL and/or Leeds VOICE.

Recreations

Up until very recently the PNDW had a full role in organising and developing a group in the Recreations NIP area. However, a new group, The Voice of Holbeck, has been set up and has it's own management committee in place. The group is developing a variety of projects including

- an environment day proposed for August,
- an information panel for Holbeck Youth Centre,
- collating nuisance diaries of various incidents in the area
- working with a range of agencies.
- undertaking regular mailings around the area covering 1200 properties
- PNDW has produced two newsletters for the area.

General Statistics

- The meetings attract on average 20 residents regularly, with an active (people who express interest in being kept informed, but don't always attend meetings) mailing list of 35 people.
- Gender split is 50:50 male to female
- Age is generally 35 years plus.
- Ethnic origin – 90% white; 10% Asian.
- People involved in publicising group/mail outs 6 group members
- Committee 8 people.

Future Actions to Include

- Support the ongoing development of its committee until end August 2008. Thereafter, further support for the group could come through various other agencies such as Leeds VOICE or the new SLHFA Community Health Worker for Holbeck (funded by the PCT, but not in post yet). Also encouraging the group visit other local groups and organisations such as the



- Hamara Centre to develop cross-cultural links.
- Support group with an Environment Day in August.
- Produce a final newsletter for the NIP area.

City and Hunslet

Arthingtons

In support of the NIP in this area, the PNDW has undertaken

- A survey of residents in the Royals to establish issues in the area. This included door knocking and distribution of a questionnaire. A number of those responding were interested in being involved in a group and this has been provided to AVHL's Customer Involvement Officer. (Leeds Federated Housing Association undertaking some work around the Arthingtons)
- A newsletter has been distributed.
- Intensive Clean up has been undertaken
- Supporting the Middleton Railway on managing a small section of line used by the railway.



General Statistics from questionnaire survey around the Royals

- 80 people responded to the questionnaire out of which 20 were interested in hearing about a community group.
- Gender split is 50:50 male to female
- Age was generally 35 years plus.
- Ethnic origin – 100% white.

Future Actions to Include

- Complete work with Leeds Federated Housing Association (LFHA) and Aire Valley Homes to develop community group for the area. This will depend on the support from AVHL in the Royals area and the Arthingtons by LFHA. An initial meeting took place in the Arthingtons, facilitated by LFHA last year, but little progress has been made since then.
- Have at least 1 community/social event in the NIP area in the next 6 months.
- Produce second newsletter for the area.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED FUTURE ACTIVITY APRIL 08 – AUGUST 09

The proposals cover longer than a year as there is still 5 months of the second year of the project to run.

The work of the PNDW has allowed groups to develop their own identity and projects. With this in mind the PNDW will

- Be less involved with some groups/neighbourhoods allowing for a greater role in other neighbourhoods.
- Be working on other community engagement activity for the Area Committee including two ward based events for each ward each year and thematic events prior to Area Committee meetings.
- Be developing new community engagement work in new NIP areas as they become identified.
- Be supporting the Area Management Team and local ward councillors in developing 'forums' in Belle Isle to support engagement between local councillors and local people and groups.
- Be attending local summer galas
- Be attended appropriate Operation Champion events, with the view to encouraging local community involvement.

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN FOR PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT WORKER for Years 1 to 3

<u>Cost</u>	Year 1 – Aug 2006 to July 2007	Year 2 – Aug 2007 to July 2008	Year 3 - Aug 2008 to July 2009
	£	£	£
Salary	23,175	23,175	24,600
Management Fee	3,837	3,837	3,837
Salary on costs	2,405	2,405	3,600
Training & development costs	1,933	1,933	(3,000) TO BE FUNDED BY SLHFA
Mobile Phone	300		
PC or Laptop	700		
Printer & Consumables	250		
Internet/software subscription & licences	200		
TOTALS	32,800	31,350	32,037

Explanation of income and expenditure

Years 1 and 2

Funds identified under Training and Development have been used mainly for community group development costs. This has included some printing costs, purchasing plants and other materials to facilitate actions for groups as they develop their own bank accounts and fund raising. These costs were available only in year one and year two.

Mobile phone, PC, Printer consumables, internet/software licences were only claimed in year one as set up costs. Any ongoing costs for these items have been provided for by SLHFA.

Appendix 1 to 3 provide more details of income and expenditure.

Year 3

The costs provide the basic requirements for the PNDW post and any future group development costs will be met by SLHFA through its own resources (other staff and funds) or by applying for other grant support such as Awards for All, or small grants from various sources. There are a couple of options for year 3

Option 1 – Area Committee provides year 3 costs to cover the PNDW post, with SLHFA providing additional funds for group development activities as required.

Option 2 – if only 2 wards decide to support the project then either these 2 wards would have more PNDW time available or they pay for 2/3 of the post and consequently the PNDW would work only in those 2 wards.

While there doesn't seem much change in Area Committee funding in the third year it must be remembered that salary costs have increased and that SLHFA will be drawing in other funds.

Additionally, throughout year 3 SLHFA will be looking at possible grant sources for a fourth year, so that there is less of a burden on Area Committee resources.

CONCLUSION

The Area Committee's development of the PNDW role has, through the NIP programme, provided the direct support required by groups and individuals to sustain their positive involvement in the NIP process and beyond. The post is presently funded until the end of August 2008.

The PNDW has continued to support work in Middleton and Cottingley and has undertaken more intensive work on the Manor Farms and Recreations NIP areas. The work in the Arthingtons is still ongoing.

It should be acknowledged that the development of groups into strong, sustainable entities is long term and takes time to establish, especially in areas

with a mixed history in terms of agency involvement and where some people have become sceptical about changes. Over the last 12 months the main thrust of the PNDW activity has been to concentrate on developing strong groups, which can look forward to sustainability and are ready, with assistance, to organise and run their own events and activities.