

## **Evaluation Report of the Priority Neighbourhood Worker Project**

The is the evaluation report of the Priority Neighbourhood Worker project from December 2008 to March 2011. The post is employed by Health for All on behalf of the Outer South Area Committee but is directly line managed by South East Area Management and located in the South East Area Management Offices within the Dewsbury Road One Stop Centre in Leeds.

### **The Project aimed to:**

- Deliver a programme of Neighbourhood Improvement Plan's (NIPs) to the Outer South
- Engage with local residents
- Support Tenants and Residents Associations (TARA's) with organising Committee meetings, TARA meetings, guest speakers and promotion of the group, training and funding support.
- Support TARA's with the organisation of community events and projects
- Provide information on support services
- Establish new residents groups
- Undertake other work / Rothwell Families project
- Undertake Community Engagement Work and Participatory Budgeting Schemes
- Undertake Community Consultation Work
- Provide a link between NIPs, TARAs and tasking and support Community Safety projects

### **We Delivered:**

4 NIPs were delivered in the Outer South to the following areas.

- Oakwells and Fairfax in Morley North
- Wood Lane in Rothwell
- Harrops and Bridge Street in Morley South
- Thorpe in Ardsley and Robin Hood

Research skills were used to produce an area profile for each of the 4 NIPs. The information was drawn from various sources, including information from partners and members who work within the area, local and national statistics, including the indices of deprivation.

Each NIP is chaired by a Ward Councillor and co-ordinated by the Priority Neighbourhood Worker. The Steering Group is brought together by the Priority Neighbourhood Worker (PNW).

To support each NIP a consultation takes place, and the Steering Group decides on the most appropriate way to consult with local residents to find about community views and key issues. The PNW role is then to co-ordinate and deliver the consultation.

The following details creative consultations coordinated by the PNW for the 4 NIPs.

### **Oakwells and Fairfax**

During initial consultation, partners identified that residents from the Oakwells and Fairfax neighbourhood were reluctant to engage with activities outside of their estate. Concerns were raised that residents from within the boundary area were becoming isolated from the wider community.

A Family Fun Day was organised on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009 at Drighlington Meeting Hall, and a consultation took place where residents had the opportunity to write down suggestions for their neighbourhood on to leaves of an 'Ideas Tree'. The 'Ideas Tree' was a miniature model of an oak tree where ideas could be written on to paper leaves, and swapped in return for an Easter egg.

### **Wood Lane**

For the consultation a questionnaire was designed and delivered to every household within the NIP boundary, and responses were collected in reply boxes located at the newsagent on Manor Road and the Children's Centre. The consultation was also distributed at the Rothwell Children's Centre to local residents who attend the centre.

The questionnaire focused on discovering the skills local residents wanted to learn. 37 responses were received from the local community. The priorities of Health and Wellbeing, ICT, cooking, skills for Life, Arts and Crafts, Family Activities, Financial Support, Volunteering and Skills for Work emerged from the questionnaire results.

The results from the consultation influenced the priorities identified on the Action Plan.

### **Harrops and Bridge Street**

Two consultations took place with residents of the Harrops and Bridge Street. The first involved a door knocking exercise. 62 residents were asked four questions about their neighbourhood. The second consultation took place at Fountain Primary School with children who attend the school and live within the boundary area of the NIP. The children were asked in small groups for views about their neighbourhoods and a story type board was produced. 7 children aged 5-11 years of age were consulted.

### **Thorpe**

For the Thorpe Consultation a questionnaire was produced and delivered to every household within the boundary area. A display stand was produced with pictures of the Thorpe NIP area. Residents were asked to write their thoughts onto post-it notes. The display stand was situated at Thorpe Primary School on the annual sports day. 120 responses were received in total.

### **The Action Plan**

Following the Area Profile being written and consultation results with Members, partners and residents being collated, a number of key priorities are identified. The PNW role is to devise an action plan to help partners work together to identify projects or actions which address the key priorities.

The information is then recorded on to the action plan, and at each NIP meeting each project or action is discussed and updated by the PNW. Administering the steering group is undertaken by the PNW and involves making sure the steering

group members are provided with a detailed action plan, minutes and agenda prior to each NIP meeting.

The PNW provides regular updates at each steering group meeting on projects and actions devised by the steering group. The role involves making sure actions and projects are moved forward. This involves considerable liaising with partners on the steering group outside of the NIP meetings and making regular requests for updates and presentations from partners.

The PNW supports Ward Councillors with their Community Champions roles, for example promoting Ward Members work through the achievements of the NIP and through the events organised as part of the NIP. To date four Community Newsletters have been produced (one for each NIP) and delivered to residents within the NIP boundary areas.

The PNW role involves encouraging all steering group members to play an active role in contributing to the action plan and in making decisions for the benefit of the neighbourhood. Partners involved with NIPs are now familiar with the process and have gained an understanding of what is expected from them as a member of the Steering Group.

A sharing of knowledge and skills is demonstrated by partners at NIP meetings. This avoids duplication of work, encourages a sharing of resources and promotes a clear aim from each steering group to work together.

The input from local residents enables NIPs to identify the Communities' needs from the resident's perspective as well as a professional's perspective.

### **Achievements of NIPs in the Outer South.**

#### **Oakwells and Fairfax NIP**

As a result of discussions held at the Oakwell's and Fairfax Steering Group meetings an action plan was devised which consisted of the following four key priorities.

- Community Safety
- Activities for Young People
- Environment
- Community Engagement

The following is a summary of achievements from each of the priorities identified.

#### **Community Safety**

- Additional Youth Services and mobile provision was provided in the area addressing ASB and increasing the number of young people engaged with the Youth Service
- Operation Champion address issues of community safety
- Police attending TARA meetings

#### **Activities for Young People**

- Funding awarded for the creation of a community room at Drighlington

- The Health For All Children's Project received funding for their project working with 8-11 year olds
- Summer Activities were organised at Drighlington Rugby Club for young people

### **Environment**

- Environmental Initiatives targeting littering and dog fouling, additional litterbins placed on the estate after consultation with local residents.
- Dog Fouling Warning Stickers placed around neighbourhood and letters sent to households.
- The Residents Association took part in Groundwork's Bulb Bonanza Scheme.

### **Community Engagement**

- The NIP created and supported the Oakwell and Fairfax Residents Association which currently consists of five committee members.
- The Association has enabled residents to address neighbourhood issues such as ASB and environmental concerns directly with the relevant partners.
- The Residents Association organised its first community outing to Scarborough

### **Wood Lane NIP**

(A full evaluation of the project is available at **Appendix 1**)

### **Activities for Young People**

For part of the Action Plan updates were received from the Wood Lane Participatory Budgeting projects.

- **Wood Lane Junior Wardens**  
As a result of the NIP Steering Group meetings Groundwork linked in with Victoria Primary School and Rosefarm Day Centre on the Wood Lane Estate to run the Junior Wardens Scheme.
- **Wood Lane Youth Project**  
A regular update was received from the Youth Service Project where young people from Wood Lane were awarded funding towards youth activities over the summer holidays.
- **Wood Lane Teatime Club**  
A regular update from the project was received. The NIP Steering Group members promoted the project to residents of the Wood Lane estate.

### **Thriving Communities**

The consultation identified that people living on the Wood Lane Estate wanted advice around Debt issues. C.A.B. sessions were arranged through the Children's Centre. Demand from local residents was high and places became quickly booked up resulting in a long waiting list.

As a result a second project was organised by Aire Valley Homes who provided the 'Money Talks Officer'. The project offered free help and advice on managing money, checking benefits, and arranging for reduced payments to debts.

It was identified that residents wanted support with basic financial guidance. For example residents wanted information on how to manage bills and live on a budget. The Cook and Eat Project was organised through the Rothwell Families Project where families could learn to cook an affordable healthy meal together on a budget. The Wood Lane Teatime Club also offered local residents a place to purchase a healthy affordable meal for the family.

## **Learning**

The NIP steering group developed several projects to address the community's needs. 'The jobseekers this is for you' involved the following partners: Job Centre Plus, Aire Valley Homes, Area Management and Joseph Priestley College.

The project targeted unemployed members of the community and involved the Aire Valley Homes Mobile being located outside of the Manor Road Shops. Staff attended the mobile office from Job Centre Plus and Aire Valley Homes for three consecutive Wednesday in May. 12 people attended the sessions for assistance with job searches' and writing up CV's.

In January 2011 as a result of findings from the NIP consultation the Rothwell Families Project and the Rothwell Children's Centre arranged for Jobcentre Plus Outreach Advisers to attend the Children's Centre every Monday in January 2011 to offer advice and information on CV's, Applications, better off calculations, in work benefit advice, job searches, childcare issues, college courses and work placements.

## **Training and skills**

The NIP consultation highlighted IT training as a key interest from residents and the NIP Steering Group organised for an IT training course.

The project involved Joseph Priestley College, Area Management, Libraries, and Health for All. An IT training session was arranged for the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 1pm at the Rothwell Library which included child care facilities provided by the Health For All 'Funky Fun Bus.' Despite intensive publicity there was no take up for the IT training provided, although four parents attended the 'Funky Fun Bus' and engaged with staff. Two parents who attended the Funky Fun Bus have since taken up volunteering roles within the Wood Lane Teatime Club.

In December 2010 the Steering Group agreed to fund a First Aid accredited course for Wood Lane residents with some of the remaining NIP funds.

## **Harmonious Communities**

The final project organised through the NIP was a community event on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2010. The event was supported by all Ward Councillors and the NIP steering group members. These included Youth Services, Rothwell Children's Centre, Victoria School, Extended Services, Area Management, Groundwork, Rothwell Tenants and Residents Association, Libraries, Aire Valley Homes, Wood Lane Youth Group, The Rothwell Families Project, Joseph Priestley College and the Police and Fire Services.

The focus of the Community Event was to promote local volunteering opportunities and give volunteers the opportunity to organise their own community event. The event was well attended and feedback from those volunteers involved and residents that attended showed that the day was a success.

### **Information Leaflets**

As part of the NIP several leaflets were produced:

- A Job Seekers 'This is You' leaflet
- IT Sessions leaflet
- Volunteers required leaflet
- Community Event leaflet
- Job Centre Plus Outreach leaflet.

### **New Residents Group Formed**

#### **Oakwell and Fairfax**

The Oakwells and Fairfax Residents Group formed in September 2009 and decided to organise a community event in 2010. As it was only a small tenants group at the time the committee decided to link in with the Parish Council on their Gala Day on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010. The TARA decided to run a tombola stall at the event to raise funds for the residents association. The funds raised supported a community outing to Flamingo Land in North Yorkshire.

Lindsey Broadbent, Chair of the Oakwells and Fairfax Residents Group, became a member of the Aire Valley Homes Area Panel as a representative for residents of the Oakwell's and Fairfax estate.

### **The Oakwell's and Fairfax Residents Association at the Parish Councils Gala Day.**



## **The Tingley Bar Residents Group**

The Tingley Bar Residents Group first meeting took place on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2010 at Fountain Primary School in Morley. Residents raised concerns of Anti Social Behaviour within the neighbourhood. The following partners were invited to meetings organised for the Tingley Bar Residents Group: Ward Councillors, AVH, Neighbourhood Watch, the Police and The Anti Social Behaviour Unit.

## **Lofthouse Residents Group**

The reforming of a residents group in Lofthouse is in progress. A focus for the residents is to pursue a sports equipment project for young people in the area.

The PNW role will be to support the group until a Committee is established and the group is able to manage their own community initiatives.

## **Community Days**

The PNW supported and attended planning meetings for community days and 9 Community Events. These included:

- 2 events organised by Newlands and Denshaws
- 2 events organised by the John O'Gaunts TARA
- 2 events organised by Tingley TARA
- 1 event organised by the Drighlington Parish Council, which the Oakwell's and Fairfax Residents Association attended.
- One event organised through the Wood Lane NIP.

The PNW assisted Committee Members in committee planning meetings for community events and projects. This involved supporting residents with identifying the roles of committee members, and good practice when working in a group. Good Practice examples include supporting Newlands and Denshaws with developing their own Child Protection Policy, and supporting John O'Gaunts TARA with completing the event handbook Risk Assessment required by Parks and Countryside to hold their annual community event.

The PNW supported residents with organising committee meetings and residents meetings with information on how to set agendas, project plan and take actions from meetings and organise an AGM. Information was provided on how to write up task lists for events, co-ordinate volunteers and design leaflets and posters to promote the group to the wider community. The PNW provided the TARA secretary with contact details for guest speakers and partners such as the Police, AVH, Parks and Countrysides, Highways; who all contribute to the TARA meetings. The PNW provides information to the TARA via the post and email.

## **Funding**

The following TARAs requested support with filling in funding forms for the Area Committee Wellbeing Small Grants Scheme. This enabled funding for their Annual Community Day.

- John O'Gaunts TARA
- Tingley TARA
- Newlands and Denshaws

The PNW assisted TARAs with writing donation letters to organisations for funding towards community events.

### **Harrops and Bridge Street NIP**

The Action Plan for the Harrops and Bridge Street NIP identified the following as priorities.

- Community Safety
- Few activities for children aged 5-12 years
- Community Engagement
- Environment
- Health and Wellbeing

### **Community Safety**

The following is a list of achievements of each of the priorities

- The Prevent Programme aim was to tackle anti-social behaviour amongst the 13-19 year olds in the Harrops area of Morley. The project started on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2010 and involved 12 two hour sessions. The success of this project resulted in the steering group using NIP Funding to support the continuation of the project.
- The Youth Service presented an evaluation of the project at the Steering Group meeting and brought details of a breakdown of how the £200 would support the project.
- The Youth Service has located the Youth Services Mobile Provision in the Harrops area on a Monday evening with the additional funding received through Extended Services and the NIP. Young people from the area have engaged with the Youth Service and are now attending sessions organised at Lewisham Park as a result of encouragement from Youth Workers, and attending sessions on the Mobile Facility.
  - In the Tenants and Residents Meeting awareness was raised amongst residents about the importance of reporting all ASB incidents. The following partners attended to support residents, these included: Neighbourhood Watch, ASB unit, the Police, Ward Councillors, AVH. Diaries were also provided and details on how to report ASB.
  - Two letter drops have taken place which gave contact numbers for reporting ASB incidents.
  - Four leaflet drops have taken place promoting the residents association.
  - Parenting Skills Courses were advertised at the TARA meetings and by Family Outreach Workers within the area.



- Police have noted a decline in reported ASB incidents especially when activities were in place for children and young people.

### **Few activities for children aged 5-12 years**

- Extended Services organised children's activities and family activities including the Teddy Bears Picnic, the Keeping Safe Fun Bus and the Seaside Fun Day and Trash Art. All were open to children and young people who live on the Harrops.
- The Groundwork Junior Wardens Scheme received funding through the Harrops and Bridge Street NIP of £1000; the rest of the funds were provided through Aire Valley Homes. The sessions have been well attended by young people aged 5-12 years.
- The consultation with young people from the Harrops identified that children wanted sports activities such as cricket and football in Hembrigg Park. Following the results of the consultation the steering group funded the Community Sports Officer to deliver sporting activities for young people. 14 young people attended and feedback from those that attended was positive resulting in a request from children and parents for a second coaching session. The steering group decided to fund a second sports coaching project as a result of the feedback received.
- The Photography Project received £300 funding from the NIP. The steering group decided to fund the project, and arranged for the project to run straight after the Junior Wardens Scheme, and involve the same group of children from the Harrops.
- It was noted that activities for children within the area had reduced ASB incidents, and staff working on the projects noted a positive change in young people's behaviour and attitudes.

### **Community Engagement**

- The Tingley Bar Residents Group was set up on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Speakers have included Neighbourhood Watch, ASB Unit, the Police, and AVH and Youth Service.

### **Environment**

The consultation identified litter and general untidiness of the area as a priority. The NIP identified a number of projects to address this. These include the following:

- Community Clean Up organised through AMT and AVH on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010; skips provided on Askey Avenue, Harrops Grove, Harrops Terrace.
- Aire Valley Homes and Morley Elderly Action contacted all older residents within the area regarding the Morley Elderly Action Gardening Scheme.
- Community Clean Up organised by the Groundwork Junior Wardens Scheme to include TARA, AMT and Cast Teams for the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

In Morley North the issue of a high teenage pregnancy rate and poor physical health was identified as priority issues. As a result the Junior Wardens Scheme and Youth Service included sessions on healthy eating in their programme. The Youth Service provided registering of the C Card at various Youth Centres with an aim of reducing teenage conception in the area. The Junior Wardens Scheme will visit the Morley Leisure Centre for an induction to the sports centre.

### **Thorpe Neighbourhood Improvement Plan**

The Steering Group is made up of Councillors, local residents and Partners who work in the area. The NIP focused on the following priorities.

- Community Engagement
- Activities For Young People
- Environment
- Transport
- Learning

### **Community Engagement**

- Stanhope Community Centre required upgrading to enable community use. Aire Valley Homes carried out a fire survey, improved the door access and provided a re-wire. Partners have been notified of the upgrades during steering group meetings.
- Community Payback will be involved in the re-decoration of the Community Centre once work is completed.
- Funding received through the NIP supported a Christmas tree for the Thorpe Village. Thorpe Primary School arranged for the school children to sing carols around the Christmas tree for the light switch on and the TARA, Dolphin Lane and parents from Thorpe Primary school to provide refreshments. The event had to be cancelled due to snowy weather conditions in the village on the night.
- A newsletter was produced promoting the Thorpe Halloween Event and giving an update on the NIP.

- Second newsletter was produced highlighting the NIP achievements and Easter Community Event.
- Easter Event to be organised through the NIP when community centre is open to encourage the community to make use of Stanhope Community Centre.

### Activities for Young People

- Extended Services provided funding towards Multi Sports and Family Holiday activities which were open to children and young people in Thorpe.
- The MUGA Park opened with a Halloween Themed Event organised at Stanhope Community Centre. The event involved all partners from the NIP and these included: the Police, Rothwellive@home, Libraries, Yorkshire Housing, the Children's Centre and Youth Service, Extended Services.
- The event involved the opening of the Thorpe MUGA Park, and Halloween art activities for children and young people, and included a colouring and fancy dress competition.



**Thorpe MUGA Park Opening**

### Environment

- A community Clean Up was organised on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2010. 12 local residents of all ages attended and partners included the PNW, the Neighbourhood Policing Team and Yorkshire Housing. Equipment was provided by Groundwork.
- Thorpe Primary School designed posters to address environmental issues such as Dog Fouling and Litter. Children were educated around the hazards to health; the Steering Group are looking at ways to permanently display the pictures.
- Dog Fouling Warning stickers were placed around the village.
- Residents from Dolphin Lane residential home planted bulbs from Groundworks bulb bonanza around Stanhope Community Centre to improve the Community Centre's surroundings.
- A meeting was arranged for an In Bloom Group, attendance was low resulting in the project not being pursued.

## Transport

- It was identified through the Thorpe NIP that a limited transport service in the village may have been a barrier for children and young people engaging in activities over the summer holiday. Additional transport was provided to and from the event enabling 9 young people to attend from Thorpe Village.
- The consultation results were given to Metro. Metro are to attend the NIP Steering Group Meeting regarding consultation and community transport schemes.
- Speeding was raised as an issue within the village; Police have noted areas and are training officers in the use of SID devices, with a plan to later train residents.

## Learning

- A Ward Councillor provided MICE funds to support the Steps Course at Thorpe Primary School, after the project was presented by the Children's Centre at the NIP meeting.

## Community Newsletter Produced

As part of the NIP two newsletters were produced

- One promoting the Halloween Event and opening of the Thorpe MUGA Park
- One to promote the Easter Open Day and achievements of the NIP.

- **Provide training and funding support to TARAs**

The PNW supported TARAs with training and funding.

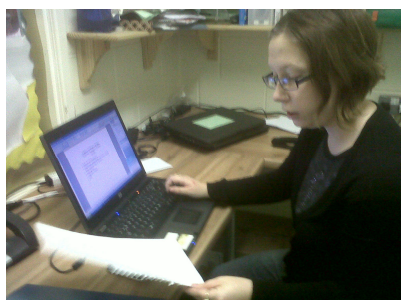
The following are examples:

### John O'Gaunt's TARA

All the Committee Members attended a training course on risk assessment, this including planning and writing a risk assessment for the community event and the Community Outings. Two Committee Members attended Chair and Treasurer training at Leeds Federation Housing organised through the PNW.

The current Secretary Lorraine Shaw Williams was unable to attend a training course for her role as Secretary so was supported by the PNW with the role.

**'Nicky helped me to write up minutes for the meeting, write agendas and organise the speakers'**



## **Northfield and Hopefield TARA**

Committee Members took part in first aid training, and the Treasurer attended training through Leeds Federation on the Treasurer role found by the PNW.

## **Newlands and Denshaws**

Committee Members and local residents attended First Aid Training, and the Chair attended a Finding Funding Course organised through Leeds Federation found by the PNW.

## **Rothwell's Families Project**

- The PNW supported residents from the John O'Gaunts estate with establishing The Mother's Pride Teatime Club. This involved developing the group's Constitution and Policies, setting up a bank account in the name of the group, and supporting residents with finding training opportunities. The residents completed training in Charing Meetings, Book Keeping, Risk Assessment, Basic Food and Hygiene, and First Aid.
- The PNW supported The Mother's Pride Teatime Club with funding to support the group. This included writing a funding application to ARISE for catering equipment for the group, and supporting two volunteers from the Mother's Pride Club with applying to the Wood Lane 'You Choose' event for funding to help set up another Teatime Club on the Wood Lane estate. As a result of this confidence volunteers then went on to apply to other funding sources to support the work of the group.
- The PNW supported The Mother's Pride Teatime Club with their catering social enterprise. The Mother's Pride Teatime Club provided catering for the following events after recommendation by the PNW.
  - Volunteering Event at Blackgates Community Centre
  - Wood Lane 'You Choose' Event
  - Wood Lane Fun Day

## **Community Day Consultation**

The PNW completed 100 questionnaires at Community Days organised by Residents Associations in the Outer South. The results identified the community views and priorities.

- **Undertake Community Engagement Work 3 PB**

The PNW Worker was strongly involved in 3 participatory budgeting initiatives which have been delivered in the Outer South. The PNW took the lead on the Wood Lane 'You Choose' Event and is currently supporting the Gildersome 'Go for Gold' Participatory Budgeting Project.

Examples of roles included producing publicity for the initiatives, carrying out the consultation, and supporting projects with the application process and Decision Day. Event planning was carried out for the Decision Day, and producing an evaluation report. Following completion of the participatory Budgeting Initiatives the PNW is involved in monitoring the projects that have been successful and received funding.

**Local residents from John O Gaunts estate taking part in the Wood Lane Decision Day.**



- **Community Safety**

The PNW attends regular Tasking meetings in Morley and Rothwell. Tasking meetings are led by Neighbourhood Policing Teams and have representation from Anti Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU), Aire Valley Homes, Probation and the Youth Service. This multi-agency group share and co-ordinate information and actions, to support the resolution of crime issues in the Outer South.

The PNW's role is to link community safety issues raised by Members, Area Management and residents, with relevant partner agencies.

The PNW has supported 3 Operation Champion events organised in the Outer South. At the recent East Ardsley and Tingley Operation Champion event 8 residents attended the Environmental Visual Audit as a result of the link with the PNW.