

**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**Subject: 'Wood Lane Neighbourhood Improvement Plan'**

## **Evaluation Report**

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### **Executive Summary**

The Area Committee identified several priority neighbourhoods via government statistics on deprivation and recurring issues for example anti-social behaviour. As well as consultation with Ward Members, local residents, agencies and organisations.

From these identified neighbourhoods, the Area Committee agreed to a programme called (NIP's) Neighbourhood Improvement Plans. Neighbourhood Improvement Plans are in place to tackle issues within Neighbourhoods and build capacity amongst residents.

### **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the 'Wood Lane Neighbourhood Improvement Plan' by documenting, planning, delivery and feedback from all parties we hope to learn from the experience and inform future Neighbourhood Improvement Plans.

### **Background**

Wood Lane estate in Rothwell was identified as one of the Priority Neighbourhoods to receive a Neighbourhood Improvement Plan. Each Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) has a Steering Group which monitors the process and delivery of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan.

The NIP Steering Group main aims for the Wood Lane Estate are:

- To focus on addressing worklessness
- To promote volunteering opportunities and training within the community.

The Steering Group is made up of Councillors, Local residents and Partners who work within the area.

### **Wood Lane Neighbourhood Improvement Plan. (NIP) Steering Group Membership:**

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|---------------------|--|
| • Councillor Wilson | Chair of the Wood Lane NIP and Ward Councillor |
| • Nicky Greening    | Priority Neighbourhood Worker                  |
| • Paul Bracewell    | Aire Valley Homes                              |
| • June Newton       | Rothwell Residents Association                 |
| • Ronnie Hammill    | Rothwell Residents Association                 |
| • Allison Roberts   | Rothwell Library                               |

## Appendix 1

- Alison Hall Rothwell Children's Centre
- Lucy Tudor Rothwell Children's Centre
- Jackie Moorecroft Rothwell Children's Centre
- Jo Shiffer Extended Services
- Glen O' Malley Youth Services
- Rosemary Sheen Joseph Priestley College
- Jason Kerry Groundwork
- Emily Godfrey Health For All

### **NIP Process**

The Wood Lane NIP Steering Group was launched on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and finished on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010. During this period the Steering Group met monthly at Haigh Road Community Centre. An area profile was produced and the Steering Group made the decision on how to consult with residents within the NIP Boundary. A budget was allocated for the NIP and an Action Plan for the area is developed.

### **Boundary Area**

The boundary area for the Wood Lane Neighbourhood Improvement covers 10 streets; Cornwall Crescent, Pasture View Road, Cotswold Drive, Manor Road, Albany Road, Castle Street, Manor Crescent, Pasture View Road, Cotswold Road, Manor Close and part of Wood Lane.

### **Budget**

A budget of £3,000 is allocated for the NIP. Additional funding was obtained through Health For All, Aire Valley Homes and Joseph Priestley College.

Actual spend of NIP Budget

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Room Hire	Free
Morrison's Vouchers	£25
Consultation Printing Costs	£96
IT Printing	£50
Hire of Funky Fun Bus	£182.50
Graffiti Workshop	£330
BBQ Mother's Pride Teatime	£360
Funky Fun Bus	£225
First Aid Course	£600
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1868.50</b>

## **Consultation**

For the consultation a questionnaire was designed and delivered to every household within the NIP Boundary and responses were collected by 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 what 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.

## **The Action Plan**

During the first meeting the NIP steering group devised an Action Plan which consisted of the following four key priorities.

- Activities For Young People
- Thriving Communities
- Learning
- Harmonious Communities

The Priorities were then addressed through a project or action and the information is recorded onto the NIP Action Plan, then at each of the NIP meetings each Project or Action was discussed and updated.

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

### **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 up date 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 together an affordable healthy meals 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 search's 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' Following much 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 have since taken up volunteering roles within the Wood Lane Teatime Club after hearing about the project while on the Funky Fun Bus.

## Appendix 1

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, Groundworks, 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 Service.

The Community's Event focus 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
- Community Event Leaflet
- Job Centre Plus Outreach Leaflet

### **Future Work**

The Wood Lane NIP Area Profile and consultation identified the priorities for residents of the Wood Lane estate. The NIP Steering group and The Rothwell Families Project have addressed each priority with a project or action. Community Groups in the area still need on going support until they become established.

### **Other Achievements**

As a result of the Wood Lane NIP and Rothwell Families Project residents have engaged in volunteering work and running their own community projects. This has helped build a stronger sense of community on the Wood Lane Estate. It is hoped that those residents who attended the job seeking projects are nearer to finding employment, in employment or involved in training.

### **Recommendations**

The newly formed community groups set up for residents on the Wood Lane Estate still require support with project delivery and applying for funding. Support from the Rothwell Families Project, TARA, Ward Councillors and Partners are all vitally for their substantiality. Partners agree that on going projects are still required to address worklessness in the community.