

Priority Neighbourhood Worker Project – Six Month Update

This is a six month update report of the Priority Neighbourhood Worker project from April 2011 to September 2012. 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.

1. Neighbourhood Improvement Plans

Since the last Priority Neighbourhood Worker (PNW) report in March 2011 the Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIP's) in the Harrops (Morley South) and Thorpe (Ardsley and Robin Hood) have now been completed. Two new NIP's have begun; Asquith and Ingles, Morley and Springbank and Moorlands, Gildersome, both in Morley North ward.

- **Thorpe Neighbourhood Improvement Plan**

The last steering group meeting for the Thorpe NIP was held on the 18th June 2011. A significant achievement was a series of free activities sessions organised throughout May 2011 named the 'May Madness Month'. Activities organised were supported by Well being and £990.80 secured from Adults Learners Week funding. The sessions promoted the newly refurbished community centre and encouraged learning and development opportunities for local residents in Thorpe. Key outcomes include good attendance from local residents and a request for the sessions to be continued. An evaluation report on the NIP was presented at the July Area Committee.

- **Harrops Neighbourhood Improvement Plan**

Following positive feedback from parents and children and young people attending earlier activities organised through the NIP, a further round of sporting activities at Hembrigg Park, Morley has been arranged. The activities for 7-13 year olds ran from 1st – 5th August, free of charge, and provided opportunities for developing confidence, self esteem, fitness and coordination skills through a range of sports including football, cricket, and rounders. An evaluation report on the NIP was presented at the July Area Committee.

- **Asquith and Ingles Neighbourhood Improvement Plan**

The Asquith and Ingles Neighbourhood Improvement Plan Steering Group held it's first meeting chaired by Councillor Tom Leadley at Asquith Primary School on the 22nd June 2011. Steering group membership consists of Ward Councillors, Aire Valley Homes, Morley Elderly Action, Morley North Children's Centre, Extended Services, Youth Service, Morley Library, Morley Neighbourhood Policing Team, District Nursing, Faith Sector, Leeds ASB Team, the warden from Ingles Court and local residents. An area profile was presented at the meeting for partners to discuss. Issues within the area identified by the steering group include noise nuisance and untidy gardens. As a first action, it was agreed to provide residents with information leaflets on the Morley Elderly Action Garden Maintenance Service and how to report Noise Nuisance in an aim to raise awareness of the services.

A questionnaire has been designed to consult with residents, with partners on the NIP assisting with the distribution of the questionnaire. On the 23rd August, Aire

Valley Homes Mobile Office will be used as a point for residents to complete and submit questionnaires.

The results from the questionnaire will help to identify priorities for the area and inform an action plan.

- **Springbank and Moorlands Neighbourhood Improvement Plan**

The first Springbank and Moorlands Neighbourhood Improvement Plan took place at Gildersome and Drighlington Children's Centre on the 19th July 2011. Chaired by Cllr Bob Gettings, the steering group of; Aire Valley Homes, St Peter's Church, the Baptist Church, Community District Nursing, Gildersome and Drighlington Children's Centre, Joseph Priestley College and Morley Elderly Action considered the area profile compiled by the PNW and how to undertake residents consultation. The group agreed to engage with the Parents Forum at the Children's Centre, asking them as local parents to design the consultation questions with support from the PNW. Partners from the steering group have agreed to support the door knocking exercise consultation.

2. Supported Areas

The Supported Area status was developed to enhance community empowerment and the capacity of Resident Associations. This is particularly important following the completion of a NIP. This work involves supporting residents in planning, organising and managing their own community initiatives and projects. The PNW circulates all training and funding opportunities they receive to the groups.

Within the Outer South area, the PNW supports eight Tenants and Residents Associations (TARA);

- The Harrops Residents Group,
- Tingley
- Newlands and Denshaws
- Thorpe
- Northfield and Hopefields
- Rothwell
- Oakwell and Fairfax
- John O'Gaunts

The PNW also provides a vital contact point to support the most fragile of these groups at difficult times to ensure their sustainability.

- **Harrops Residents Group**

Attendance at meetings by residents continued to be low, despite changes to meeting times and venues, which included Fountain Primary School and Morley Working Men's Club.

Since the completion of the NIP, several door knocking and leafleting exercises were undertaken in conjunction with emails and phone calls to potential Committee members with little response.

Morley South Members recognised issues with apathy on the estate and if a TARA is not sustainable then it will not be through a lack of effort from the Area Committee and Priority Neighbourhood Worker. It was agreed that a final, short term action plan would be drawn up to engage with the residents. The results of which would be reviewed by Members to agree whether to continue the work or put on hold.

As a result the PNW contacted Morley Youth Service Manager who agreed for the Youth Service mobile provision to be used as a venue for meetings. This

informal venue aimed to encourage parents whose children attend the youth work sessions to form a residents association. After leafleting and attendance by the PNW at two Youth Service sessions on the mobile, residents agreed to attend a residents meeting if organised within the area. The first residents meeting was organised on the 11th July 2011 on the Youth Service mobile and thirteen residents attended. This is seen as a significant step forward and the PNW continues to support the residents using the model.

- **Tingley**

A referral were made by the PNW to Aire Valley Homes for training for the new secretary of the group. The group were supported by the PNW to apply for an Area Committee Small Grant for an Easter event. This successful event was held on the 23rd April 2011 at Blackgates Community Centre with high attendance from local residents and their families.

The group have a full committee, regular meetings that are well attended and a strong links with partners. As a result the group require only limited supported from the PNW.

- **Newlands and Denshaws**

The TARA continue to operate well, holding a successful AGM on May 9th, where they welcomed new two new Committee Members to the group. They have also organised two community trips; to Chester Zoo on the 25th June 2011 and to Bridlington on the 6th August. Both trips were well attended and enjoyed by all. The committee have raised funds towards a lighting project called Dusk to Dawn where vulnerable older people within the neighbourhood will receive security lighting to their properties. Funding so far has been received from Aire Valley Homes Area Panel, Morley Crime Prevention and local Ward Councillors. The group are operating well and require a minimum level of support.

- **Thorpe**

As a result of the refurbishment works to Stanhope Community Centre, the monthly Thorpe TARA meetings were cancelled until May 2011. Following the success of the 'May Madness Month', the TARA are now planning to continue the successful activities and organise a community outing for residents. The committee are also discussing holding a gala day in 2012 which the PNW will offer planning support. Thorpe TARA is well established and similarly to other well run TARA's in the Outer South, the PNW provides a key role in identifying issues and supporting the group to resolve them. Recently the PNW provided an important link between the residents and Aire Valley Homes regarding capacity issues amongst the residents to manage the community centre. This important role fulfilled by the PNW supports the long term sustainability of this key groups.

- **Northfield and Hopefields**

The group receives limited support since establishing a full committee. The PNW keeps in contact with the group via telephone and email and will attend meetings if requested to by the committee. The TARA are pursuing the Greenspace Community Orchard Project in partnership with Parks and Countryside.

- **Rothwell**

Volunteers from the Wood Lane Teatime Club are joining up with the Rothwell TARA to organise the second community event for the Wood Lane Estate.

The first event was supported through the Wood Lane Neighbourhood Improvement Plan in 2010. The group are receiving regular support from the PNW with the planning and organisation of the event and applying for funding. A volunteer from the Teatime Club attended the Wood Lane TARA meeting on the 6th July 2011 to talk to residents about organising the event on behalf of the residents association, this was followed by a planning meeting held at Haigh Road Community Centre.

- **Oakwells and Fairfax**

The PNW continues to meet up with committee members and maintains regular correspondence via email. The chair is organising a committee meeting to discuss future projects for the TARA and a leaflet drop is planned to attract new members. This is a fragile group who require a high level of support from the PNW to meet and develop into a well established group.

- **John O Gaunts**

Shortly after a successful AGM meeting, the position of secretary within the TARA became vacant. To support the group the PNW fulfilled this role until a new volunteer could be identified. The residents arranged for a committee meeting and leafleted the estate to advertise to all residents within the area. As a result two new Committee Members have now been recruited. The PNW will support the new committee members with their new roles and organise appropriate training for them.

With assistance from the PNW, the TARA secured an Area Committee Small Grant for a community event. This has been postponed until later in the year and the PNW continues to support the group with planning including completing a risk assessment and gaining permission to hold the event.

3. Participatory Budgeting Projects

Gildersome Go For Gold Projects

Following the 'Gildersome Go For Gold' decision day, the PNW has completed a final evaluation report which was presented at the July. Details of the project have been added to Talking Point. Funding agreements have all been drawn up and payments made to each of the six successful projects. The PNW is in contact with each of the groups:

- **Building for the future**

The key focus of the project is to provide additional and much needed quality playing and training surfaces for young people to develop their sporting skills within the local community. The project is progressing well and work is continuing with the cricket section to develop the two playing areas for the junior football. Plans have now been drawn up and a site visit is planned at a later stage of developments.

- **Scout Group Multi Media Project**

The Scout Multi Media Project has enabled young people to learn skills in designing and setting up a website. The website includes general information on scouting, latest events, a suggestion box, the scout calendar and story articles written by the young people.

The second project the scouts are pursuing is a speed awareness project with Morley Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT). The young people have used the

laptops to design posters highlighting the dangers of speeding in the village. The project will involve the young people attending training on the Speeding Indicating Device with local officers from Morley NPT.

- **Cooking for the Community**

St Peter's Church 'Cooking in the Community Project' is progressing well. The group have now purchased the cooker which is installed and in good use, not least during the Gildersome Scarecrow Festival where the group served homemade soups and cream teas.

The volunteers have been on Health and Safety and Kitchen Hygiene Training and contact has been made with the Children's Centre for referrals on to the cookery course. A pilot project is planned for July 2011 with a view to starting the course in September 2011.

- **Gildersome Guiding Centenary**

The project is in its early stages it is too soon for a site visit., but regular contact is made with the Brownie Guider for updates on project progress.

- **The Stroke Foundation Summer Day Out**

On the 20th June 2011 The Stroke Foundation attended a trip to Bridlington which was enjoyed by all that attended. The funding enabled the group to book the Windmill coach which is adapted for disabled people and purchase their annual liability insurance.

The Stroke Club were supported by the PNW with drawing up a risk assessment for the trip and Vulnerable Adults Policy. A final evaluation report is to be written on the project.

- **Adventurers Homework Club**

The Adventurers Homework Club is due to start in September 2011 with the publicity for the sessions already designed. The project is slightly behind schedule as a result of existing volunteers leaving because of personal circumstances and the recruitment of new volunteers has taken longer than anticipated.

Lofthouse Participatory Budgeting Project

The PNW is monitoring two projects from the Lofthouse 'Bright Ideas' project These are the Lofthouse Brass Band Project 'On the Slide' and 8th Carlton Scout Group 'The Graveyard Shift'..

- **8th Carlton Scout 'The Graveyard Shift'**

The 8th Carlton Scout project was to clear and tidy the derelict portion of the Lofthouse Parish Cemetery. On a recent site visit by the PNW, the project was progressing well and all the equipment has been purchased. The many graves, that were previously hardly visible as a result of overgrown vegetation are now cleared and tended by relatives. Links have also been made with a Community Payback Service to support the project.

- **Lofthouse Brass Band ' On the Slide'**

The aim of the project was to introduce young people to music and help the continued development of Lofthouse Brass Band by the introduction of a

specialised trombone group called 'On the Slide'. The evaluation report has now been submitted along with publicity and photos.

4. Springboard Event

Thirty people attended the 'Springboard to Independence' event at the Belle Isle Family Centre on the Wednesday 13th July 2011, organised through Health For All to bring together community groups.

The aim of the day was to encourage people to take on a more active role within their groups, examples include taking on committee roles, applying for funding and organising volunteering. The PNW attended the event and with residents from the John O'Gaunts TARA, presented an agenda item on committee roles and team working. The outer south residents benefited from the training provided and networking with other community groups in the South.

5. Rothwell's Families Project

The Mother's Pride Tea Time Club and Wood Lane Tea Time Club are being supported by the PNW to apply for funding from 'Awards For All'. The focus of the funding bid is to provide funding to support the running of both tea time clubs this will include training for volunteers, session workers and room hire at the Baptist Church in Rothwell.

6. Community Safety

The PNW regularly attends 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.