

**Report to Area Committee on Bramley Elderly Action's
Community Participation Project
May - August 2007**

The grant has enabled us to extend our work in the community in the following ways:

- Working with Fairfield Community Partnership to set up a lunch club - the Partnership have successfully applied for funding for a 6 month pilot and we are helping to publicise the scheme (which is due to start on 10th August), recruit volunteers and members for the group, provide transport (if needed). At the same time as contacting all our members on Fairfield to recruit for this, we will be able to offer additional support to those older people whose homes will be undergoing refurbishment.
- Working with Pauline Ward (Moorside Community Centre) and Skippko Community Arts Project to recruit and support people to take part in their 'Tall Tales' project - an arts project aimed at socially isolated older people. This project will (hopefully) start early autumn
- Working with the Church of the Nazarene (Westover Road) to hold a reminiscence/social event for residents of Westholme Aged Persons Home (Wortley) and older people living near to the church
- Recruiting and supporting 3 older people to participate in Leeds West North West Homes area panel
- Co-ordinating the E-bus to go to Fairfield Community Centre during Adult Learners Week. The event was organised to coincide with their Thursday Lunch, to encourage people to use the centre and to find out more about IT and other adult learning opportunities
- Liaising with PCSO's to give out timers (for turning on lamps whilst people are away from home) in our drop in.
- Taking information to Bramley Carnival
- Taking information/'message in a bottle'/energy saving lightbulbs - and a 'history quiz' to (a very windy) Gamble Hill Fun Day
- Encouraging the re-establishment of, and attendance at Bramley Clinic's Older People's Wellbeing clinic.
- Having a 'community information' section in our newsletter with information from the Community Forum

All of these activities have strengthened our links within the local community and given us some indication of need for development in the future, including:

- More opportunities for older people to communicate with local service providers. The community forum is not necessarily the most appropriate way for many older people, as the time and the format is not easy for people who are frail or have hearing difficulties. We are exploring the possibility of having coffee mornings or talks at lunch clubs to ensure that older people know what is going on.
- Further outreach and consultation with older people across Bramley through another piece of participatory appraisal in the autumn
- Looking at ways to target older men, who don't access services and can be very isolated.
- Ensuring input at Community Forum, Debt Forum etc to ensure that the needs and views of older people in Bramley are represented
- Looking at ways to reach older people living on the estates which don't have community facilities nearby (Langleys and Summerfields, Gamble Hills, Calverleys)

As the Committee will appreciate, community development work is always costly in terms of time and it is something which our other current funding streams don't include to any great extent. We really value the opportunity that this funding from Area Committee is giving us to ensure that our services reach as many older people as possible