

North East District Partnership – Intensive Neighbourhood Management Neighbourhood Improvement Plan

Introduction

The Neighbourhood Improvement Plan is designed to demonstrate how the needs of the neighbourhood will be met over the period January 2007 to March 2008. This is the period of the current round of Safer, Stronger Communities funding. Reversing the cycle of deprivation in the area requires us to address the causes not just the symptoms of the problems presented in the area and this requires a longer term approach. The plan therefore also contains longer term aspirations that will be reviewed and updated in light of the improvements achieved by March 2008.

Within North East Leeds there are a number of local drivers for change, including:

- The Joint Service Centre - a one stop centre to access health services such as mental health services, midwifery, health visitors as well as services provided by Leeds City Council and Leeds Credit Union.
- Townscape Heritage Initiative - Lottery funding has recently been secured to restore and repair local Victorian and Edwardian properties and to carry out restoration work along Chapeltown Road.
- Chapeltown Road Development Plan - a realistic physical regeneration proposal for Chapeltown Road setting out how public and private sector investment will be harnessed to regenerate this major arterial route.
- Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) – LEGI aims to help individuals become more entrepreneurial and to help existing businesses to prosper.
- Community Facilities Review - the review has provided opportunities to improve and expand existing community provision to address instances of low usage, duplicate provision, and to identify any gaps in provision. Local stakeholders have been invited to participate in supporting the development of a partnership approach to delivering improved community provision in Chapeltown.

Needs Analysis

The INM area stretches from Harehills Road in the East to Potternewton Road in the North and to Scotthall Avenue in the West. There are five SOAs in total, two fall within the Gipton and Harehills electoral ward, three fall within the Chapel Allerton electoral ward. Chapeltown Road, Roundhay Road and Scotthall Road are major arterial routes that cut through the INM area.

- There are 8,801 people living in the 5 SOAs and over half of them are under 30 years of age. The largest ethnic group is Asian or Asian British (40%) followed by White (29%) and Black or Black British (22%) according to the Census. The area is also home to recent immigrant communities such as Zimbabweans, Somalians, Polish and Iraqi Kurdish.

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- There are 4,489 domestic properties. Housing is a mix of pre-1919 terraced housing, through to mid-war semis and more recent Council housing estates in the Scott Hall area. The profile data from the Empty Property Team gives a void rate of 4.10% in the Harehills area and 4.8% in the Chapeltown area compared to a city average of 5.06%.
- The area is rich in community activity including many BME representative groups and a number of tenants and residents associations. The Chapeltown Carnival is the longest running West Indian carnival in Europe - it will be celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2007. 2007 also marks the bi-centenary of the abolition of slavery, with many local events being led by the Chapeltown West Indian Centre.
- There are high levels of worklessness in the area. 50% of the working age population are on Jobseekers Allowance, Incapacity Benefit or Income Support – 2,070 out of 4,082 people aged between 16 and 56 (Source: Jobcentre Plus). Educational achievement is also low.
- Neighbourhood Policing Teams are working in partnership with the public and agencies in the locality to target the problems that matter most to the public. Drugs dealing and using are the biggest issues – between April 06 and Jan 07, 253 crimes were recorded for offences relating to the supply of drugs. Operations to target those dealing in drugs in the area are making a visible difference but need to be sustained. This is being tackled by the use of injunctions against users coming into the area. A residents' survey is currently being undertaken to inform future policing.
- ENCAMS (formerly known as Keep Britain Tidy) have recently undertaken a survey of the Neighbourhood Management Area, providing detailed information about the visible streetscene environment. In terms of both graffiti and litter the overall rating for the 5 SOAs is unsatisfactory and considerably below the UK average.

Outcomes

There are specific outcomes attached to the Safer, Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) that relate to the Local Area Agreement. Government Office guidance identifies three outcomes for the fund:

- To reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and drug use
- To promote cohesive communities
- To improve the liveability of areas by making them cleaner, greener and safer

A baseline survey has been undertaken by QA Research to gather residents' views and perceptions on where we are now in relation to these outcomes. These results can be found in the accompanying action plan. In addition, a Quality of Life survey is currently being undertaken in partnership with Leeds North East Homes to support the baseline survey. Residents will be asked for their views on levels of criminality and perceptions of crime, their ideas for improving the local environment and their sense of belonging to the local community.

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Intensive Neighbourhood Management provides a unique opportunity to marshal all the available local resources to address locally agreed priorities by focusing on the lowest level of delivery – the neighbourhood. There is already a wide variety of partnership activity that complements and supports the delivery of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan.

These activities are funded by partners rather than SSCF but contribute towards the outcomes. The short list below gives a flavour of just some of the IMPACT partnership's work.

- The Feel Good Factor is a well-established voluntary group working to improve health by improving access to a range of healthy living opportunities and promoting physical and mental well-being.
- Surestart Chapeltown & Chapeltown Children's Centre offer a range of services to support children and families in the community including a community mid-wife, counselling services, nursery and after school childcare and parent support groups.
- Space2 is a dedicated arts and sports facility based within Bracken Edge Primary School in Leeds. Space2 works with a cluster of primary schools to provide a range of activities and extended services to local communities.
- Fuel Savers Initiative - Care and Repair are working with Environmental Health to encourage residents to access grant schemes for improving the thermal efficiency of their homes.
- Leeds PCT is delivering on a number of 'Choosing Health' priorities supported by local partners focusing on health inequalities. This covers sexual and mental health, alcohol, obesity and diet, smoking and physical activity.

Additionality

Safer, Stronger Communities Fund is a relatively small resource compared to mainstream investment and other discretionary funding streams that come into the locality. In order to achieve a radical transformation, Neighbourhood Management must identify and establish mechanisms that accelerate the delivery of critical service improvements and improve the overall quality of life.

Worklessness is a key issue in the locality. The Jobs Enterprise and Training (JET) subgroup of the North East District Partnership has been tasked to address this issue, but in order to achieve the SSCF outcomes tackling low income and economic deprivation must also be addressed. There are many projects underway to address worklessness but there has been a lack of coordination between the many service providers. This is being addressed by the JET group through a multi-agency bid for Neighbourhood Renewal Fund in 2007-08.

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Neighbourhood Management can add value to the work of the JET group by establishing an employment outreach tasking forum that will coordinate outreach and engagement activities. This will draw together Jobcentre Plus Deprived Area initiative, the Chapeltown and Harehills Job Shops and all other projects linked to this agenda.

Priorities

The following priorities have been agreed for the period January 2007 to March 2008.

- Chapeltown Pride Team. To collect litter, clear fly-tipping and graffiti as well as undertaking boundary repairs and tidying gardens.
- Environmental Health and Environment Enforcement officers dedicated to the INM area, working in partnership with other agencies through the IMPaCT tasking team.
- Woodland Mount Pocket Park and Sholebroke Mount Shopping Parade regeneration.
- Community Development Activities - building communities capacity to engage with local decision making.
- Chapeltown Information Ribbon - An innovative communication method for local residents and agencies.
- Young Peoples Activities – To increase involvement in decision making and provide positive activities that showcase talent and creativity in the area building on the success of the Summer Talent Event 2006.
- Intensive Family Support Project - An intensive support programme will be offered to ten disengaged families in the IMPaCT area.
- Regeneration of Shepherds Lane Area - focus group will be established in early 2007 to take this forward.
- Tailor made activities to promote community cohesion focussed on newly arrived immigrant communities.
- Activities to reduce overall levels of crime in the area and in particular to reduce anti-social behaviour.
- Activities to support the celebration of the 40th Chapeltown Carnival.
- An Employment Outreach Tasking Forum – to coordinate engagement with service providers in the area

**North East District Partnership – Intensive Neighbourhood Management
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A key element of the success of INM is the development of a strong and committed partnership that brings together residents, service providers and strategic partners. IMPaCT is the subgroup of the North East District Partnership that has been charged with overseeing INM in Chapeltown and Harehills. The outputs in the attached Action Plan will be monitored locally.

The Neighbourhood Management Team will provide regular progress reports to the North East District Partnership as well as to LAA Management Board via Neighbourhoods and Housing's Regeneration Service. Progress reports will go for information to the East Leeds District Partnership, the JET group, the Inner North East Area Committee and the Inner East Area Committee.

An external evaluation will be commissioned to cover all the INM areas across the city and further baseline progress surveys will be conducted to quantify the extent of improvement.