



barnsley
progress through partnership

Date: 29 October 2003
Item: No. 7

SOCIAL INCLUSION FRAMEWORK

1. Summary

1.1 Social inclusion is one of the cross-cutting themes of the Community Plan. This report from the Social Inclusion Group provides a framework for addressing the issue of social exclusion. The framework focuses on 3 aspects:

- Places - deprived areas
- People - groups most vulnerable to exclusion
- Infrastructure - delivery of change

1.2 Recommendations are made to address social exclusion in respect of:

- Neighbourhood Renewal (creating successful neighbourhoods)
- Education
- Employment
- Housing and the Environment
- Crime and Community Safety
- Health and Well Being
- Transport and Accessibility

1.3 Finally the report describes mechanisms for delivering these objectives through:

- Community development and Capacity Building
- Effective partnerships
- Monitoring change

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that One Barnsley adopts the Social Inclusion Framework.

Social Inclusion Framework 2003 -2006

1. Introduction

Why do we need a Social Inclusion Framework

Social Exclusion is ethically, socially and economically unacceptable. It has costs not just for those who are excluded, but also for all those who live and work in Barnsley. Social exclusion is “ *a short hand term for what can happen when people or areas suffer from a combination of linked problems such as unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime, bad health and family breakdown*” (*Preventing Social Exclusion, Cabinet Office 2001*)

If we take it that Social Inclusion is a more useful term than just poverty, as it accepts that there are multiple dimensions of disadvantage, then we must also accept that social inclusion is about more than just money. Social inclusion is achievable by reductions in poverty, through employment and by reducing income inequality. But we must also instil a sense of shared goals and meaning, and an understanding that we must give something back to our society and actively promote that we are in society.

Becoming socially included is therefore the responsibility of both society and individuals themselves. Within the family of partnerships that exists under One Barnsley, the Barnsley Social Inclusion Group has been established to take whatever steps are required to significantly reduce social exclusion and its consequences. The Group would therefore argue that:

“Social Inclusion is the process by which efforts are made to ensure that everyone, regardless of their experiences and circumstances, can achieve their potential in life. To achieve inclusion, income and employment are necessary but not sufficient. An inclusive society is also characterised by a striving for reduced inequality, a balance between individuals’ rights and duties and increased social cohesion” (*Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion 2002*)

Unlike many other areas, disadvantage in Barnsley tends to be more evenly distributed across the borough. According to the Government’s Index of Multiple Deprivation, 41% of Barnsley wards (9) fall within the most deprived 10% in the country. These cover two areas. The main belt of 7 wards runs from Worsborough to Brierley, on the south and east sides of the Barnsley town, including Atrhersley. The other area comprises the two wards of the Dearne, of which Dearne Thunscoc is the most disadvantaged ward in the Borough. A further 36% of wards (8) fall into the category above the most deprived 10 %, the 10-20%, and these are the average wards for Barnsley. However, they are still very deprived in the national context.

Problems have been both economic e.g. high unemployment and skills mismatch following the massive numbers of jobs lost in the pit closures, and social, e.g. falling

demand for social rented housing, unpopular housing estates with high turnover and vacancy rates.

Whilst the regeneration of Barnsley is taking place, the people living in a number of communities or who are part of a community of interest, are not all benefiting from this change. Many of the Borough's most deprived areas still experience multiple problems that are resistant to short term change. The consequences for people's lives are numerous:

- **Health** - ill health in Barnsley is widespread, with 77% (17) of Barnsley wards in the most deprived 10% in England. Dearne Thunscoe is ranked 16 out of 8,414 wards in England, the most extreme score of any Barnsley ward in any IMD Domain
- **Employment** - 64% of Barnsley wards (14) are in the most deprived 10% wards in England
- **Crime** - Taking an average of the last two years Kendray is the only neighbourhood where domestic burglary rates are over three times the national average

A number of linked factors combine to affect neighbourhoods where the most socially excluded tend to be concentrated. The National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal explains it as: *The absence of work does not only create poverty. It also feeds a variety of other social problems such as crime, poor health and low educational attainment. Once these inter-related problems have begun, a vicious dynamic can take hold. Property prices fall, shops close. Those who can move out, do so. The area attracts a bad reputation, meaning that only the most vulnerable people will agree to live there, and some housing becomes difficult to let or vacant*"

However, we need to recognise that deprivation in Barnsley is a borough wide issue that requires a borough wide thematic response embracing all neighbourhoods but targeted on those particularly high levels of disadvantage within the theme issue.

- Therefore our first challenge in addressing social exclusion in Barnsley is to raise the floor targets of the poorest neighbourhoods in worklessness, health, crime, education, housing and the environment.
- The second challenge is to identify those disproportionately at risk, who live outside these areas and to ensure their needs are met through a range of measures.

The Social Inclusion Framework's vision is for Barnsley to be a town, where irrespective of where people live or to which community they belong, everyone has the opportunity and choice to benefit from and contribute to the borough's growth and restructuring.

We will do this by:

- Ensuring that people from Barnsley's most disadvantaged communities benefit from the borough's growth and restructuring

- Preventing those at risk from being excluded
- Reintegrating those who have become excluded
- Improving basic service standards so that they are more inclusive

Barnsley Social Inclusion Group

One Barnsley acts as the Local Strategic Partnership, with strategic borough wide decision making responsibility in Barnsley. Within the family of partnerships that exists under One Barnsley, the Barnsley Social Inclusion Group has been established to take whatever steps are required to significantly reduce social exclusion and its consequences.

The Social Inclusion Group is one of the family of partnerships that make up Barnsley's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). Its membership has recently been reviewed to ensure that it can meet the challenges outlined within this framework, and it is inclusive in its approach. Its membership consists of :

- One individual from a key organisation involved in each of the five Neighbourhood Renewal Floor target areas; worklessness, education and skills, crime, housing & the environment, and health.
- One member of the Community Empowerment Team
- One representative from the Community and Voluntary Sector Network
- Five members from the Social Inclusion Network or Forum
- One member of the Council's Senior Management Team
- Barnsley Council's Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion
- Secretariat for the group is provided by the Principal Social Inclusion Officer, Community Planning and Regeneration, who is also a member of the group

A Social Inclusion Forum for service organizations also exists alongside the Network for excluded groups, which both feed into the Social Inclusion Group.

What is the Social Inclusion Framework

The 3 year Social Inclusion Framework, will be the framework for the Borough through which all partnerships and service providers can review their current priorities and identify future activity which will address the causes and consequences of Social Exclusion for individuals and communities. The challenges are huge and will take a long time to overcome. We aim to build on progress made in the last few years. The Social Inclusion Framework will form the basis of the tackling social and economic exclusion through social inclusion cross cutting theme of the Community Plan.

This first Social Inclusion Framework for Barnsley is a starting point from which we can build on our successes, identify our shortcomings and refine our approaches. As

such, this framework will be a working document that is annually reviewed. It will set out key issues, priorities, actions and ambitious targets against which we will judge our success. It will be used as an important reference point for partners in shaping their own social inclusion strategies and actions. As the framework is implemented and evaluated, there will be a strong emphasis on identifying and promoting good practice. It is anticipated that the other Partnership plans will increasingly take the lead in setting clear targets and actions to challenge the causes and consequences of social exclusion.

The framework has been developed in the context of :

- The Government's new approach to tackling social exclusion - National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal
- National equality policies and frameworks that are critical to tackling social exclusion; including the Disability Discrimination Act, recommendations from the McPherson Report and the Race Relations Act (2000)
- The recommendations on achieving Community Cohesion
- Learning from the range of initiatives that have been established to promote local innovation in improving the delivery of key public services - Education Action Zones, Health Action Zones, Sure Start, Employment Action Zones and area based initiatives to reduce crime and improve community safety
- The new emphasis on comprehensive renewal to turn around the most deprived neighbourhoods. Neighbourhood Management in Kendray is a good example.
- Changes to public services to ensure that they are delivered in a more joined up way such as JobCentre Plus
- New duties that require local Councils to attend to the social, economic and environmental well being of citizens (Local Government Act 2000)
- The modernisation of Public Services using tools such as Best Value, to make them more responsive and relevant to the customer, as well as more cost effective
- The modernisation of local government's political management arrangements including the development Barnsley Area Forums that is supporting local partnership working and creating opportunities for citizens to engage and participate in the work of Area Forums and Community Summits
- The development of and support for key strategies at the regional level including the work of the Regional Development Agency (Yorkshire Forward) and the development of the South Yorkshire Objective 1 programme. These have an important role in tackling social exclusion and reconnecting communities to the economic mainstream and are seen as a critical factor in its success.

The Social Inclusion Framework's approach focuses on:

- Places - deprived areas
- People - those most vulnerable to exclusion
- Infrastructure to deliver change and monitor its impact

Neighbourhood Renewal - Deprived Areas

Our first task is to address the problems of our most deprived neighbourhoods. These areas have been identified by the Neighbourhood Renewal Needs Analysis, details of which are within the Community Plan

- by mapping those wards in the borough according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation
- by identifying concentrations of deprivation below ward level using a combination of indicators of deprivation
- with an intention of further refining our approach by using additional local information and issue specific information

The approach will have an impact on our most disadvantaged communities by bending mainstream programmes to meet local priorities to improve progress towards floor targets in worklessness, health, crime, education, housing and the environment. The details of how this will be achieved are outlined in the Neighbourhood Renewal section of the Community Plan.

Target groups - Disadvantaged people

The second strand of the Framework focuses on those groups who are disproportionately at risk of social exclusion across the borough, regardless of where they live. Particular priority will be given to:

- Women, men & children living in poverty
- Women & children experiencing domestic violence
- Black and minority ethnic communities who experience discrimination and multiple deprivation
- Disabled People
- Children & Young People who are vulnerable to exclusion
- Travellers
- Homeless/Roofless People
- Those who experience mental health
- People in low pay
- Asylum seekers and refugees

We will identify how different services providers will address the needs of these groups. It is also recognised that these groups are not exclusive and that activity that targets one group will also benefit others. The Framework also acknowledges that other groups such as gay and lesbian people and single parents also face barriers that prevent them from benefiting from opportunities. As other Partnership Plans are developed and refined to focus on Social Inclusion, we hope that there will be opportunities for the Barnsley Social Inclusion Group to develop additional targets to address the needs of other groups.

Structure of the Document

The Social Inclusion Framework has three sections:

This first sections sets out the current context for Social Exclusion and the Groups' priorities

The second section details how the prioritised objectives will be met through the service delivery areas:

- Neighbourhood Renewal
- Education
- Employment and worklessness
- Housing and the environment
- Crime and community safety
- Health and well being
- Transport and Accessibility

The third section describes in detail the mechanisms that will ensure targeted, inclusive and monitored delivery of the Framework. These are :

- Community Development and Capacity Building
- Effective Partnerships
- Monitoring Change

The interventions outlined in this Framework do not cover all of the activity that is happening in Barnsley to challenge the causes and consequences of Social Exclusion. Within other Partnership Plans, the Barnsley Community Plan, Council Service Plans and other organisational plans, there are a large number of measures that will contribute. We have outlined some of these plans for reference within this Strategy.

2. DELIVERY CHALLENGES

Barnsley Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Critical Challenge: Creating Successful Neighbourhoods

Assertion:

The main goal of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy is to narrow the gap between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country in order to ensure that everybody has a genuine opportunity to benefit from that enhanced quality of life.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy is an integral part of the Barnsley Community Plan. The Community Plan is the over arching strategy for the future development of the borough. It will play a key role in shaping economic, social and environmental change over the next few years.

It will help partners to work together to address the causes and consequences of social exclusion for our communities. The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy therefore, is the tool we will use to make sure that the aspiration and impact of the Community Plan can be the same for all the residents of Barnsley

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy sets out a series of new areas of activity that we think need to be taken forward over the next ten years and will help us to make the best use of new and current funding. The strategy will look at issues that affect our most deprived communities, like education, employment, crime, health, housing and the environment. We will also look at what needs to be done to support people in these communities.

A neighbourhood renewal needs analysis study in Barnsley, analysing indicators of deprivation, has identified the need for a Borough wide thematic response (e.g. employment, education, health, crime, housing and the physical environment) to neighbourhood renewal, embracing all neighbourhoods but targeted on those with particularly high levels of disadvantage within the theme

The drive behind the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy in Barnsley is the commitment of the partners of One Barnsley to make a real difference in the quality of life for all those who live and work in Barnsley.

A strategic approach to creating successful neighbourhoods

How we achieve this will be built on the following principles:

We need to:

- Secure significant improvement in basic services in all areas, but in particular those areas that are the most deprived, and build that commitment into formal plans and strategies
- Start from the needs of residents and not how services have traditionally been organised in the past

- Provide people with the mechanisms to participate in decision making about service delivery
- Focus on building sustainable solutions rather than short term initiatives
- Develop and establish new ways of delivering services, and co-ordinate services better
- Consider the use of current assets

The Strategy:

- Includes a neighbourhood renewal needs analysis study which provides an analysis of neighbourhood deprivation across the borough. This provides a themed targeting framework based on indicators of deprivation
- Sets local targets, for improving unemployment rates, crime levels, educational attainment, health, and housing conditions in Barnsley
- Strategic Objectives: to translate the vision into action the Community Plan focuses on twenty one strategic objectives. Each is accompanied by an action plan setting out key actions to be taken over 2003-2006. The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy details those strategic objectives which will meet the floor targets.
- Sets out a process for mapping resources and agreeing how resources are targeted according to need within local communities as detailed action plans are developed
- Details our approach to the development of a local learning plan for neighbourhood renewal
- Defines how progress will be communicated and evaluated more effectively

Recommendations

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy proposes a number of critical initiatives to reduce the disparity that exists between our most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country. Because we wish to use this Strategy to inform where Neighbourhood Renewal Funds are invested in Barnsley we will undertake activity:

- To develop Social Inclusion as a priority within the activity of key partnerships
- To support the effective delivery of Neighbourhood Renewal Funded activity

Key initiatives include the following: (sample list)

- One Barnsley re-accredited as the Borough's Local Strategic Partnership
- Review the Social Inclusion Group to include members who can represent or have a perspective of the needs and experiences of people living in priority neighbourhoods
- Ensure that the Sports and Culture Strategy outlines the contribution Leisure, Sport and the Arts can make to Neighbourhood Renewal, Community Cohesion and the floor targets
- Use of the Community Empowerment Fund to support excluded groups representation on the Local Strategic Partnership
- Agree the Compact and arrangements to roll out to include other members of the Local Strategic Partnership

- Use the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund to support the development of Community Partnerships and delivery of community action plans
- To pilot and evaluate the use of Neighbourhood and Service level Agreements within the Kendray Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder

Targets and timescales

See revised targets within Community Plan

Lead Organisation

Community Planning & Regeneration, Barnsley MBC

Who will make sure it happens

One Barnsley - Secretariat, John Woodside

Other strategies that relate to this issues

- A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal
- National Strategy Action Plan (Jan 2001)
- The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (March 2001)
- Accreditation Guidance for LSP's (Oct 2001)
- Urban White Paper
- Objective 1 Priority 4

EDUCATION

1. CRITICAL CHALLENGE

“ To engage with the community in understanding the effect of Barnsley’s culture and levels of deprivation on achievement and take coherent and positive actions in order to increase participation and attainment to enable choice and raise aspiration”.

2. ASSERTION

The correlations between poverty, social class and poor educational attainment are strong. They are evident before entry to primary schools, they strengthen in primary school, strengthen further during secondary schools, and are reflected in differential rates of access to further and higher education.

Poor education is the key vehicle through which poverty is passed on from one generation to the next – and good education can be the most effective means of helping to counteract the damaging effects of poverty. But the relationship between poverty and education is not immutable – some poor children excel in school. Measures to intervene either in educational inequality or income inequality are likely to impact positively upon each other.

The potential for educational disadvantage starts early. Poor parents are less likely to be well educated and may be less aware of strategies for encouraging their children to learn. Higher stress levels, less access to transport, less stimulating environments, and less help with bringing up children; all these factors can reduce the capacity of the young child to learn.

Schools in the poorest areas achieve lower educational targets. Within schools, children entitled to free school meals tend to record lower results. The effects of poverty in schools go beyond test results. Poor children can be denied access to school trips; they can find problems in affording school uniform; they can suffer stigma from insensitive approaches to free school meals; they can feel socially excluded.

Poverty is also related to the incidence of special educational needs. Poor families are more likely to have a disabled child, and the identification of emotional and behavioural difficulty shows a correlation with low income. Children in special schools are more than twice as likely to be eligible for free school meals. The existences of SEN or disability reduces the anticipated qualifications on school- leaving and consequently correlate to increased poverty in adulthood.

Educational inequality also correlates to other forms of social disadvantage. Homeless families, unemployed parents, parents with mental illness, lack of fluency in english, looked after children, traveller’s families – all these correlate with reduced educational outcomes. Truancy rates correlate with social class and with unemployment among parents. Children excluded from school represent a high risk and a trigger for an escalating rate if crime and

disaffection.

3 EVIDENCE

“we continue to have one of the greatest class divides in education in the industrialised world. A socio-economic attainment gap is evident as early as 22 months and widens as a child gets older. In English, schools with under 8% of pupils eligible for free school meals see nearly 81% of their pupils achieve the expected level at Key Stage 3. The equivalent figure for schools with over 50% of disadvantaged pupils is 39%” (DfES Strategy, 2002)

“The class gap is profound ... poor children are still one third as likely to get 5 good GCSE’s as their wealthier classmates; young people from unskilled backgrounds are over five times less likely to enter higher education than those from professional backgrounds. (David Miliband, 2003)

Evidence Indicators	Data
<u>Participation</u>	
Barnsley level attendance and unauthorised absence 2001/2002	Attendance Primary – 93.5% Attendance Secondary – 89.7% Unauthorised absence Primary – 1.0% Unauthorised absence Secondary – 2.0%
Staying on and destinations data	
Uptake and completion of adult training	
Exclusion data 2001/2002	Permanent Secondary – 36 Permanent Primary – 12 Fixed Term Secondary Fixed Term Primary
Primary /secondary transfer loss	
<u>Attainment</u>	
Borough wide key stage 1,2,3,4 and national comparisons	Please see attached.
Linking of KS data to proxy indicators of deprivation (Free School Meals) and ranking of schools	Please see attached
Adult learning basic skills data and comparison to national and participation figures	

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) Develop new intelligence around information available.
- ii) Ensure that all plans, strategies and developments identify and tackle issues of social inclusion, e.g. Adult Learning Plan, Educational Development Plan, Behaviour Support Plan, 14-19 Plan, Early Years Development and Childcare Plan, Extended/ Community Schools, etc.
- iii) Research what works, locally, nationally and internationally and evaluate effectiveness, e.g. Family Support Strategy, Children and Young People's Board, 14-16 re-engagement, 16-19 lifestyles, Neighbourhood Nurseries, Sure Start, etc.
- iv) Dissemination strategy for good practice
- v) Work with employers – lifelong learning agenda
- vi) Engage with communities and communities of need – voice and influence, building on good practice, e.g. Youth Council, Neighbourhood Nurseries, Extended Schools, Family Support Strategy, E to E, Behaviour Support Strategy, SEN Strategy, Children's Centres, Children's Fund, Sure Start.
- vii) Broadening participation, access issues – flexibility of access and service delivery, e-learning, Learn Direct, Neighbourhood Learning Net, Accessibility Strategy – disability discrimination issues, PFI.

5 TARGETS AND TIMESCALES

6 LEAD AGENCY

Barnsley LEA and Lifelong Learning Goal Group

7 NAMED OFFICER

Denise Faulconbridge – Assistant Director of Education (Social Inclusion)

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKLESSNESS

Critical challenge for service delivery:

“To reduce the number of residents with low incomes by improving employment rates among disadvantaged groups”.

and or

To promote work as the best form of welfare, helping unemployed and most economically inactive people of working age move closer to the labour market and compete effectively for work’ while providing appropriate help and support for those without work

Assertion

Barnsley faces many challenges, including economic, social and environmental that impact on opportunities for social inclusion. While much has been achieved, much more remains to be done. Today’s solutions need an overall approach that brings together the different components in the social inclusion arena.

Unemployment, and especially long-term unemployment, in households where no one has worked for lengthy spells (including a generation or more) is closely associated with poverty, childhood poverty, poor educational achievement, low aspirations and ill health. There is also a greater likelihood of people in these circumstances being exposed to substance abuse, alcohol-dependency and offending behaviour. All of these characteristics, in turn, present barriers to finding sustainable work and therefore affect peoples “life chances”.

Regeneration, in terms of creating a broader range of more highly skilled job opportunities, coupled with developing peoples’ skill levels and educational attainments (in order that they can compete for and fill these job opportunities) is the key to breaking this cycle. At the same time it is necessary to encourage a culture of personal development, community involvement, commitment and endeavour. So that people aim to improve themselves and their family circumstances; using employment as a platform for improving income and self-sufficiency.

While there is evidence of improvement, (eg. reduction in long-term unemployed, and youth unemployment generally), recent data confirms the scale of the problem remaining - an estimated 30,000 economically inactive people reside in the borough many of whom may be encouraged to return to work under the right conditions. In addition, work conducted by Sheffield Hallam University indicates that the true level of unemployment, currently at 3,186 (3.7%), could be three times higher than the official figure (Beatty and Fothergill 2002).

Evidence

Data is drawn from the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).

In overall deprivation terms, Barnsley has nine wards that fall within the most deprived 10% of wards in England. In addition, another eight wards fall within the 10-20% most deprived in England. The percentage of employees in employment in Barnsley is 69.7% in relation to the national average which is 75.2%

Employment deprivation is very high in Barnsley fourteen wards fall within the worst 10% in England.

At a neighbourhood level, employment deprivation in the borough has worsened- in 1991, 45% of neighbourhoods were among the most deprived in England. Eight years later the figure had increased to 64%.

Recommendations

- Develop the social economy and Intermediate Labour Market programmes as a means of providing a stepping stone back to the mainstream jobs market
- Support the Social Economy to develop innovative supply chain solutions for all sectors
- Full Employment pilot in two of the most deprived areas in the borough.
- Launch of South Yorkshire wide ILM programme.
- Increase policy intervention in targeting resources at the economically inactive

Targets – to 2004/10

To increase the employment rates of:

Lone parents
People with disabilities
People aged 50 and over

To reduce the number of long-term unemployed

- Suggest 1% improvement in the percentage of employees in employment (currently 69.7%), relative to the national average

(75.2%), over the next 3/4 years ie by April 2006, taking into account the economic cycle.

- A continuing downward trend of the number of JSA claimants (the unemployment count), taking into account the economic cycle (-761 over 12 months to September 2002)
- A total reduction in the number of IS and IB recipients by 4% over the next 4 years (2% in 2 years, ie by October 2004) taking into account the economic cycle.

Lead Organisations

Barnsley Development Agency – Community Economic Regeneration Team
Job CentrePlus

Lead Officers

Kevin Jebson
Ian Harris

Other strategies that will relate to these issues

Jobs and Wealth Creation Strategy
Barnsley Learning Plan
Objective 1 Regeneration Cluster Development Strategy

HOUSING , HOMELESSNESS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Critical Challenge

Everyone should have access to a home that is warm, dry and affordable in a peaceful and secure environment.

Assertion

Barnsley exhibits a weak local economy and widespread disadvantage across communities. Average household incomes and property prices are below national and regional averages.

Barnsley has a housing stock of approximately 96,000 homes. The west of the borough is largely rural, characterised by private housing; there are growing issues of affordability. The east of the borough is urban with high levels of unemployment and low average incomes.

Too many homes of people on low incomes live in properties that do not meet the decent homes standard. The incidence of housing market failure and housing at risk has an impact on housing market balance and prevents mobility and reduces housing choices for many. There is insufficient supported housing and housing related support to enable vulnerable people to access appropriate housing with support and maintain independent living.

Evidence

- 7.5% of households are living in unsuitable housing.
- 4.7% of existing households are in housing need.
- 40% of properties in the public sector do not meet the Decent Homes Standard.
- 41% of the housing stock is at risk of low or changing demand (over 40,000 properties designated at risk).
- There are high levels of illness and disability and an ageing population.

Recommendations & targets and time-scales

Balanced Housing Markets

- Develop a Housing Market Renewal Policy for the whole borough in partnership with the South Yorkshire HMR Pathfinder project by April 2004.
- Develop an affordable housing policy by April 2004
- Review and strengthen the Empty Homes Strategy by July 2003 to reduce the empty property rate by 3.5% across all tenures
- Deliver regeneration strategies for Grimethorpe (complete site treatment and commence new build April 2003), Kendray (completed phase 3 stock reduction April 2003) and develop strategies for Athersley / New Lodge (by July 2003).
- Develop a strategy for Barnsley Town Centre as part of Re-making Barnsley

Stock Condition

- Achieve 3 star housing inspectorate rating in September 2003 to gain £118 million additional resources. (£43.2 million guaranteed)
- Achieve the decent homes standard by 2008.

- Target resources at reducing unfitness and major disrepair in private sector properties in the 7 target areas. The proportion of unfit dwellings will fall by 170 per year.
- Deliver an investment programme targeted at regeneration supported housing and general need schemes where there is an identified unmet need in specific localities through the Approved Development Programme.

Supported Housing & Homelessness

- Deliver detailed accommodation action plans as part of the Partnership in Action Client Board Strategies by July 2003.
- Develop supply and demand profiles for care leavers, lone teenage parents, ex-offenders and people with substance misuse problems by April 2003.
- Develop and implement the 5-year Homelessness Strategy for Barnsley MBC by July 2003.
- Review the Neighbourhood Safety Unit as a key part of delivering the Community Safety Plan by October 2004
- Deliver a range of supported housing options for vulnerable people across the borough through the development of 5-year strategy by July 2003

Lead Organisation

BMBC LA Housing Services

Named Officer

Liz Newman Housing Strategy Co-ordinator

Other strategies that relate to these issues

Community Plan

Neighbourhood Renewal

Housing Strategy 2002

Shadow Supporting People Strategy 2002 (5-year strategy to be published July 2003)

Barnsley's Homelessness Strategy (to be published July 2003)

Community Safety Strategy

Unitary Development Plan

CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Challenge Tackling crime in an inclusive way and targeting groups and neighbourhoods where vulnerability can lead to repeat victimisation

Assertion

What follows is a Social Inclusion perspective on issues already in the Community Safety Plan.

We know from our consultation and crime analysis work in Barnsley that some of our neighbourhoods experience four to six times the national burglary rate. These neighbourhoods are some of our most deprived and quite often social housing. This means that people that have been victimised may be living in poverty and quite likely not have house contents insurance etc. Replacement of property is therefore impossible and can lead to an under-reporting of crime. In these neighbourhoods the people who do the offending live near to the victim.

Both offender and victim are often affected by the use of drugs.

Confidence in the service providers slips as fear and concerns about reprisals increase. People become further excluded if this is not understood and tackled.

Hate and hidden crime including domestic abuse, racially aggravated incidents and homophobic harassment has a debilitating effect on families and communities. They are crimes that generally go unreported.

Young people are as likely to be victims of crime as to perpetrate crime and bullying affects many. Some choosing to escape reality with the use of drugs and alcohol.

Evidence

Barnsley is a safe place to live with a lower than National average crime rate.

Working from an inclusive perspective we need to consider the following facts:-

Fact

Minority ethnic population of Barnsley is 0.9% (less than 1%). Yet last year there were over 200 incidents of racial harassment

Fact

This year, 2002-2003 the trend is downward due to a number of factors:-

1. Increased confidence
2. Publicity hate crime events
3. Anti-racist campaigns (x2)
4. Regular publicity releases
5. Organised events with children

Fact

A recent trawl of Doncaster's Child Protection Register showed that more children are registered as a result of domestic violence than substance misuse

Fact

A woman will on average suffer 35 domestic assaults before seeking help. Children are classed as 'at risk' by association.

Fact

There were 25 incidents of homophobic harassment reported from January 2002 to December 2002.

Fact

South Yorkshire was 9th place throughout England in the number of incidents reported i.e. agencies being reported to.

Fact

Campaigns to raise awareness are resulting in people gaining confidence to report incidents.

Recommendations

1. In neighbourhoods where people experience repeat burglaries they have access to 'target hardening' measures of a minimum standard and via direct referral from Victim Support

Target:

- To address repeat victimisation of burglary.
- Overall target in the Community Safety Plan is to reduce the overall rate of Domestic Burglary by 7% (each year) and by 10% in high crime areas

Milestones:

- BMBC using its Public Service Agreement (PSA) has commissioned Victim Support to co-ordinate target hardening measures for victims of burglary and to provide automatic referral for action

1. **We have a balanced approach to tackling hate and hidden crime which is about tackling intolerance and celebrating difference (eg support of black and ethnic minority groups BBEMI, Indian Welfare Association, Chinese Association, Asylum Seekers, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender groups and a women's centre etc.). Also, being proactive by fastracking incidents.**

Domestic Violence

Target:

- To increase the levels of reporting of Domestic Violence in the year 2003/04
- To reduce the levels of victimisation

Milestones:

- To go live with the newly established recording system which all agencies have signed up to. This will assist with baselines and understanding.
- To assist in the development of a women's centre

Racial Harassment

Target:

- To increase the reporting of racial incidents.
- To increase the support for victims and witnesses
- To work alongside black and ethnic minority groups to ensure they are central to decision making processes

Milestones:

- To employ a Case Worker
- Increase involvement of all Barnsley Communities
- Run awareness raising campaigns

Homophobic Harassment

Target:

- To increase the levels of reporting

Milestones:

- Set up reporting centres
- Campaigns to challenge views

2. Myths and misunderstandings about young offenders are challenged by using facts and counter publicity, especially about housing needs and related projects.

Target:

- Creative communication to tackle the myths and misunderstandings about rehabilitation and young peoples needs

3. Bullying is tackled as a matter of urgency and more emphasis given to the role of victim/offender mediation work.

Target:

- To understand the nature and extent of bullying in Barnsley amongst young people
- To put measures in place that tackles both the victim and those who bully

Milestones:

- To take the recommendations forward on bullying recently taken to Barnsley's Children and Young People's Board

Lead Organisation:

Barnsley Community Safety Partnership

Named Officer:

Denise Casbolt, Director, Barnsley Community Safety Partnership

Who will make sure it happens:

Mick Clapham MP, Chair Barnsley Community Safety Partnership Policy Board

Other strategies that relate to these issues:

Barnsley Community Safety Plan 2002 -2005

Community Plan

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Community Development Strategy

Drug Action Team Plan

Barnsley Youth Justice Plan

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Critical Challenge

To improve health and reduce health inequalities in the Barnsley Borough.

Assertion

Health inequalities challenge not just health and social care services but everyone interested in the future prosperity and well being of the Borough. Health is closely associated with people's standard of living, occupation, level of education and where they live. In general people who are on low incomes, children who do not do well at school, unemployed people and people who live in poor areas are more likely to be ill, to suffer serious illness or to die younger. People who are socially excluded are likely to have poorer health.

Fit for the Future is the health community's response to this challenge. It is a long-term strategy to systematically reduce health inequalities. Its focus is on early intervention to prevent ill health and more generally the underlying causes of health inequalities. It will channel resources to interventions where modest changes in behaviour are known to yield dramatic improvements in people's health. Its delivery will bring services closer together and engage the whole community.

Evidence

Detailed statistics are included in the draft Fit for the Future Strategy. Key messages include:

- Life expectancy in Barnsley is lower than the national average for both men and women and this gap has not narrowed since 1993. Life expectancy varies considerably in different areas of Barnsley.
- 14.1% of Barnsley people reported their health as being "not good" in the 2001 census this is the highest figure in the region and the 7th highest in the country.
- 25.2% of Barnsley people reported having a limiting long term illness, health problem or disability in the 2001 census. This is the highest in the region and the 10th highest in the country.
- Barnsley has death rates 15% higher than the national average and 10% higher than the regional average for people aged under 75. Death rates vary considerably between the wards.
- Teenage pregnancy is strongly associated with deprivation. The most deprived wards in Barnsley have higher teenage pregnancy rates.
- Breast feeding rates at six weeks are almost half the national average.
- Dental decay in children is increasing.

A stocktake of health and interventions to reduce health inequalities in the 25% most disadvantaged areas in the Borough will be undertaken to identify gaps in services and to ensure that we direct our resources appropriately.

Recommendations

The programme to deliver the strategy consists of 7 themes. Action plans are being developed to take forward all of these themes.

1. Smoking, nutrition, alcohol and physical activity
 - To reduce the gap in premature deaths from heart disease and cancer between the borough and the country as a whole and those parts of the borough with the highest and lowest rates.
Actions to include expansion of smoking cessation service, development of 5-a-day initiative, employment of food strategy co-ordinator, piloting of weight management clinics
2. Opportunities for Children and Young People
 - To give children and young people a good start in life that they can build on throughout and beyond their school life.
Actions to include expansion of healthy schools programme, focus on looked after children, raise GCSE attainment, improve school attendance
3. Family Support
 - To provide support for parents, especially those most in need so that their children grow up happy, healthy and socially and emotionally well adjusted.
Actions to include development of family support and early intervention, promoting healthy pregnancy and supporting breastfeeding mothers, reducing teenage pregnancy and the risk of social exclusion for teenage parents and their children
4. Strengthening Disadvantaged Communities
 - To improve the health and quality of life of people living in the most disadvantaged parts of the borough.
Actions to include development of healthy living Barnsley, undertake stock take of 25% most deprived wards, repeat social capital survey in Kendray, Darfield and Thurnscoe
5. Improving health and care services
 - To ensure that all parts of the borough have access to high quality health and social services.
Actions to include implementation of research into barriers to access, LIFT development, stocktake as above, increase nursing support to primary care and communities, roll out welfare rights service, develop Expert Patient Programme
6. The wider determinants of health
 - To work with other strategies to improve people's quality of life, generate new opportunities and tackle the root causes of economic and social disadvantage and health inequalities.
Actions to include continued joint work on regeneration and neighbourhood renewal, improve health service support to Sure Start, stocktake as previous, work with strategies underpinning strategic goals of the Community Plan

7. The role of the NHS in the local economy

- Maximise the contribution of the NHS to the local economy through helping local people to access the employment opportunities it offers and its procurement policies

Actions to include raising the profile of the NHS amongst school leavers, ensure local people know about vacancies, development of step by step process to develop basic skills and qualifications of local people, provision of pre-employment training, encouraging local suppliers of foods, goods and services.

The implementation of Fit for the Future is intended to be very action-focused. We will build on areas of work that have proved to be successful and roll them out. We are investing a significant proportion of our resource into the development and implementation of a media and marketing strategy to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to be engaged.

Targets and Timescales

Specific targets for delivery of Fit for the Future are still to be decided. We want local targets that genuinely reflect progress towards our aims but which do not distract from service performance and improvement. Overall the strategy will contribute to the delivery of the NHS Plan inequalities targets and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy floor targets relating to increased life expectancy and teenage pregnancy.

Key NHS Plan targets for inequalities are:

- Contribute to a national reduction in death rates from coronary heart disease of at least 25% in people under 75 by 2005 compared to 1995-97 targeting the 20% of areas with the highest rates.
- Contribute to a national reduction in cancer death rates of at least 12% in people under 75 by 2005 compared to 1995-1997 targeting the 20% of areas with the highest rates.
- Deliver a one percentage point reduction per year in the proportion of women continuing to smoke throughout pregnancy
- Contribute to the national target to reduce by at least 10% the gap in mortality between “routine and manual” groups and the population as a whole by 2010 starting with children under one year.
- Deliver an increase of 2 percentage points per year in breastfeeding initiation rate focussing on women from disadvantaged groups.
- Reduce the gap in teenage pregnancy rates between the worst fifth of wards and the average by at least a quarter in line with national targets.
- Achieve the target of 70% uptake in influenza immunisation in people aged 65 years and over targeting the populations in the 20% of areas with the lowest life expectancy.

Lead Organisation

Barnsley Primary Care Trust is the lead organisation but Fit for the Future is everyone’s business and will be delivered through the Steering Group of partner organisations and in partnership with local people.

Responsible Officer

Cathy Read, Consultant in Public Health, is the lead officer but responsibility rests with the Steering Group.

Related Strategies

Fit for the Future is closely linked to all health related and other strategies to improve health and address the wider determinants of health including:

- The Government's Tackling Inequalities Delivery Plan shortly to be announced.
- The Government's white paper "A Better Quality of Life: A Strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK" which argues that the health improvement and sustainable development agendas are closely linked.
- The Strategic Health Authority's Draft Framework for NHS Action to Address Health Inequalities
- The Community Plan and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
- The Primary Care Strategy and PCT Local Delivery Plan

TRANSPORT AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

CRITICAL CHALLENGE

The aim is to increase accessibility for all sectors of the community, especially those identified as being socially excluded because of:

- Poor availability
- Physical accessibility
- Affordability
- Safety and security
- Excessive journey times
- Lack of awareness of travel opportunities
- Poor location of facilities

ASSERTION

Over the past 50 years, the need to travel has become greater and more complex as society became organised around the car and facilities became concentrated in larger units. The average length of a journey has increased by 42 per cent since the early 1970's while the average number of journeys per person has risen by just 8 per cent.

Rising car use has provided greater opportunity for travel. But nearly one in three households do not have access to a car, for reasons that include cost, disability and choice. People in low-income households depend primarily on walking to get around, but also on buses, lifts from family and friends, and taxis. Cycling and rail make up a small proportion to their journeys.

Some people, in both urban and rural areas, cannot reliably get to key places in a reasonable time. Five key barriers to accessing services are:-

- **The availability and physical accessibility of transport:** For some people there is no public transport, or it does not go to the right places or at the right times, or it does not go often enough or reliably enough, or vehicles are not accessible to disabled people. People living in rural areas without access to a car can face particularly acute problems. To date, only 29 per cent of buses meet the accessibility regulations applying to new vehicles under the Disability Discrimination Act.
- **Cost of transport:** Some people find the costs of personal or public transport is very high or unaffordable. Bus fares have risen by nearly a third since 1985. Motoring costs account for 24 per cent of the weekly expenditure of households in the lowest income quintile who have cars.
- **Services and activities located in inaccessible places:** Developments including housing, hospitals, business and retail are often located in areas not easily accessible to people without a car. Between 1986 and 1997, the number of out-of-town shopping centres increased four-fold.
- **Safety and security:** Some people are unwilling to use public transport or walk to key services because of fear of crime or antisocial behaviour, or fear of road accidents. For example, 53 per cent of women and 23 per cent of men feel unsafe waiting on a train platform after dark.
- **Travel horizons:** Some people are unwilling to travel long journey times or distances, or may not know about or trust transport services. The average distance to work for people on low incomes is three miles compared with eight for the general population.

EVIDENCE

National Level

Access to work: Two out of five jobseekers say lack of transport is a barrier to getting to job. One in four jobseekers say that the cost of transport is a problem getting to interviews. One in four young people have not applied for a particular job in the last 12 months because of transport problems.

Access to learning: 16-18 year old students spend on average £370 a year on education-related transport, and nearly half of them experience difficulty with this cost. Six per cent of all 16-24 year olds turn down training or further education opportunities because of problems with transport.

Access to healthcare: 31 per cent of people without a car have difficulties travelling to their local hospital, compared to 17 per cent of people with a car. Over 1.4 million people say they have missed, turned down, or chosen not to seek medical help over the last 12 months because of transport problems.

Access to food shops: 16 per cent of people without cars find access to supermarkets difficult, compared to 6 per cent of the population as a whole.

Access to social, cultural, and sporting activities: 18 per cent of people without a car find seeing friends and family difficult because of transport problems, compared with 8 per cent for car owners. People without cars are also twice as likely to find it difficult getting to leisure centres (9 per cent) and libraries (7 per cent).

Impact of traffic on deprived communities: Children from the lowest social class are five times more likely to die in road accidents than those from the highest social class. More than a quarter of child pedestrian casualties happens in the most deprived 10 per cent of wards.

These problems have an impact on the individuals concerned, for example by cutting them off from jobs, education and training. This in turn prevents them from breaking out of the cycle of social exclusion. The problems have costs for communities, which may be left isolated or unable to attract investment. They also undermine national and local objectives that are essential to combat poverty and social exclusion like welfare to work, raising educational participation and attainment, narrowing health inequalities, and reducing crime and antisocial behaviour.

Local Level

See related strategy documents for local level evidence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Priorities should be determined locally and will require a long term commitment from a wide range of internal departments and external organisations.
- 4.2 The local Strategic Partnership associated Goal Groups and the Barnsley Social Inclusion Framework Document will provide the joined up working/thinking.
- 4.3 A further recommendation is that the issue of transport and social exclusion is cross cutting and is addressed across all four Goal Groups
- 4.4 That the Transport for Communities Group currently a sub group of the Environment Housing and Accessibility Goal Group is established as a cross cutting group and plays a pivotal role in drawing together the work of transport partnerships already established and delivering in Barnsley. They are:
 - Coalfields Rural Transport Partnership
 - Western Area Rural Transport Partnership
 - Kendray Initiative Transport Sub Group
 - Jct 36 Transport Group

At present no one is responsible for making sure that people can get to key services, jobs and other activities. A new approach accessibility planning will be built into the next round of Local Transport Plans. This framework once developed will facilitate a more targeted use of funding and practical measures can be tailored to the particular needs and priorities of the area. It is recommended that in order to address the need for accessibility planning within the Borough that funding be made available for the recruitment of an Accessibility Officer whose main remit will be to take forward accessibility planning for the authority.

7. TARGETS AND TIMESCALES

Progress in improving accessibility will be measured by developing a set of local indicators and targets. These will need to be decided locally, but will have to allow comparison between areas and benchmarking against national standards.

8. LEAD ORGANISATION

BMBC Strategic Policy

9. NAMED OFFICER

Ann Beddoes - Senior Transportation Officer

10. RELATED STRATEGIES

South Yorkshire LTP - Transport and Social Exclusion Study 2000
Coalfields Rural Transport Partnership Action Plan 2002-03
Grimethorpe Transport and Mobility Study 1998
Penistone Area Rural Public Transport Study 2001
South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan
BDA Report Transport Barriers to Employment in Disadvantaged Areas (Athersley Case Study) 2001
Regeneration Scrutiny Commission Report, Access to Jobs: Transport & Skills 2003
Objective 1 Transport Study

3. ACHIEVING MECHANISMS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Assertion

There are fundamental connections between social inclusion and community development because;

- people who are socially excluded are prevented from participating fully in society
- community development seeks to work with people who are most marginalized

It is these two principles that bring together the traditions and principles of social inclusion work and community development.

Capacity building is the development work that strengthens communities by improving structures for participation in renewal and regeneration. In Barnsley there are good foundations to build on and a clear commitment from all Barnsley Forum Executive partners to increasing opportunities for participation. Currently Barnsley has approximately 16 community partnerships, a number of well established regeneration partnerships, several important city wide umbrella organisations such as Voluntary Action Barnsley, Association of Community Partnerships, Barnsley Community and Voluntary Network, Black and Ethnic Minority Initiative, Creating Self Reliance and the Council's 9 Area Forums.

Despite these encouraging signs, there is evidence that many Barnsley citizens opt not to use their influence by voting at local and general elections, or through active participation in local groups or networks. However, where particular effort has been put in to promote opportunities to engage in activity that has direct local relevance and benefit, there have been promising signs. For example, great interest has been shown in the Kendray Neighbourhood Management pathfinder, with residents holding the majority of places on the Kendray Initiative Board. Enthusiasm shown by young people in Barnsley was reflected in their interest in the UK Youth Parliament elections in the Council Chamber this year which saw over 100 young people attend.

The Social Inclusion Framework proposes that existing good practice is built upon and extended. The framework acknowledges the need to address the barriers to participation that may make it extremely difficult for the most deprived areas and communities of interest to engage, for example young people, people with disabilities and people from the black and minority ethnic communities.

We want to see improvements in capacity at a number of different levels, within grass-roots organisations, neighbourhoods and local areas. This needs to be supported by greater understanding and commitment to the development of capacity by city-wide partnerships and their members.

Recommendations

- Build on existing structures in the voluntary and community sectors to increase local representation and the ability of local people to substantially influence decisions made on their behalf
- Provision of practical support to assist with capacity building processes with priority given to areas that have little or no existing infrastructure
- Build the capacity of target groups (specifically young people and BME's) to access mainstream services and to engage in decision making through Area Forums, Community Summits, BBEMI, democratic engagement of young people agenda and community regeneration structures.
- To develop, resource and implement the Barnsley Learning Curve - a plan for developing skills, knowledge and behaviours for those working in and affected by the neighbourhood renewal and regeneration process.
- develop a pool of expertise that can be drawn upon to provide specialist support to communities - e.g. fundraising, planning, project management, business planning and knowledge of services
- Support Community Partnerships to move up the Community Economic Development Framework

Targets and timescales

- Implementation of the Community Development strategy from 2002 to 2007
- Endorsement of Community Partnership Community Action Plans 2003
- We will pilot Community Summits in January 2003, building on the work of Area Forums and Community Partnerships
- Implementation of the Barnsley Learning Curve - providing a programme of training in partnership and active participation skills for individuals taking up places within key borough wide and area based partnerships. Delivery of training and support to 70 individuals over three years to 2005, with at least 60% of places for voluntary and community sector representatives

Lead Organisations: Barnsley MBC Community Planning, Voluntary Action Barnsley and the Association of Community Partnerships

Who will make sure it happens: Joe Micheli, Principal Social Inclusion Officer

Other Strategies that relate to these issues:

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Community Development Strategy

Barnsley Learning Curve

Health Improvement and Modernisation Programme

Effective Partnerships

Assertion

Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) are a key element of the Government's National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal and are central to the delivery of the strategy. By drawing the key service providers into a single partnership with which the community is actively engaged, LSPs will give communities a greater say in the running and delivery of public services. Given the Government's approach to tackling Social Exclusion is the Neighbourhood Renewal agenda, One Barnsley will play a critical role in delivering this agenda.

Effective neighbourhood renewal relies on the co-ordination of public services in deprived areas. This in turn requires local agencies to work in partnership with each other. Barnsley has developed a variety of partnership arrangements over the years in order to provide mechanisms within which people and organisations can work effectively together to tackle key issues concerning regeneration, social inclusion and the delivery of public services

Over time One Barnsley has developed into "a family of partnerships" with the Social Inclusion Group having responsibility for taking whatever steps are required to significantly reduce social exclusion and its consequences. One Barnsley adopts the overarching strategic role:

- Establishing and maintaining the family of partnerships
- Agreeing and ensuring quality standards of operation among the partnerships within the family
- Ensuring consistency in target setting so that each delivery organisation has a clear set of achievable success measures that others within the partnership framework sign up to
- Building consensus and resolving conflict that might arise

One Barnsley has met and exceeded the Government's accreditation guidance for LSPs. The six criteria for accreditation are:

- Strategic; they are effective representative, and capable of playing a key strategic role
- Inclusive; they actively involve all the key players, including the public, private, voluntary and community sectors
- Action-focused; they have established genuine common priorities and targets, and agreed actions and milestones leading to demonstrable improvements against measurable baselines
- Performance Managed; members have aligned their performance management systems, aims and objectives, criteria and process to the aims and objectives of the LSP

- Efficient; they reduce, not add to, the bureaucratic burden
- Learning and Developmental; they build on best practice from successful partnerships by drawing on experiences of local and regional structures, and national agencies

Recommendations

One Barnsley continues to develop its forward plan to meet and exceed the LSP accreditation criteria

- The Social Inclusion Group continues to develop and pilot inclusive and imaginative forms of partnership working to ensure inclusion of excluded groups
- Work is undertaken with Black and Minority ethnic groups through BBEMI to explore better involvement in local community partnerships
- The Compact between Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector is endorsed
- A protocol between One Barnsley and the Barnsley Community and Voluntary Network is developed.
- Develop quality standards for Community Partnerships

Targets

- Compact adopted June 2003
- Secure Objective 1 Community Cohesion to support Black and Minority Ethnic involvement in community networks and partnerships, November 2003
- Protocol between Barnsley Forum Executive and the Barnsley Community and Voluntary Network adopted January 2004

Monitoring Change

Assertion:

Describing change, whether good or bad, is an important part of any strategy. Given the complex nature of the social exclusion process this is no easy task. In Barnsley there is a range of statistical information collected covering a wide range of issues, needs and communities. Some of the information used to measure particular activities such as educational attainment, deprivation, crime and prosecutions has been drawn upon in developing the Social Inclusion Framework. While this information is useful, it is not always helpful when trying to monitor changes in social exclusion over time.

Statistical information can not fully describe or explain the experience of people living in Barnsley. For example, there is little relationship between actual crime and people's perception of community safety. Nor does it consistently help when trying to describe change at neighbourhood level. Barnsley also has a number of approaches to reviewing and measuring service performance across communities and the Borough through Best Value Reviews, Performance Targets and Performance Indicators.

To support the work of the Social Inclusion Group we need to identify some simple, consistent and robust indicators that can be used to measure change at a borough wide, community and neighbourhood level. These must describe differences in need,

experience and quality of service delivery over time at both a neighbourhood and community level.

Recommendations

- Work with the One Barnsley, to agree a number of statistical indicators that can be used to monitor change over time
- Work with other Local Strategic Partnership members to develop effective processes of consulting with disadvantaged groups and people living in priority neighbourhoods
- Ensure that the Social Inclusion Group has effective mechanisms for listening and consulting with groups and neighbourhoods
- Work with members of the LSP to develop comparative indicators of service performance at both a neighbourhood and community level.
- Develop a monitoring process that collects statistical evidence of change (Quantitative); asks people to express their own needs and views (Qualitative); monitors the quality and use of mainstream services within neighbourhoods (Service Quality)

Targets and Timescales

- An agreed set of Social Exclusion statistical indicators that can monitor change over time as part of the Community Plan by April 2004
- An agreed process for measuring the level of service delivery broken down to neighbourhood level to measure changes in inequality between different parts of the borough by April 2004.

Lead organisation: Barnsley MBC Community Planning

How will make sure it happens: John Woodside, Assistant Borough Secretary
Community Planning