

Chief Executives' Group – North Yorkshire and York

14 November 2013

Tackling multiple deprivation in communities

1 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report provides an update on work to tackle multiple deprivation in communities in the county.

2 Background

- 2.1 The North Yorkshire Community Plan 2011/14 states that partners will work together to identify communities where multiple deprivation exists and the issues partners need to work on in these areas to tackle this. This objective is about partners working to narrow the gaps that exist between some of our communities in terms of the quality of life they experience.
- 2.2 In 2012 the Group agreed that pilot work should be undertaken in Selby North and Skipton South, complementing and informed by existing work in Scarborough Borough and Harrogate Borough, and that updates on progress should be brought to meetings of the Group. No additional resources are available to support these pilots, the aim being to target current resources more effectively in partnership.

3 Updates on pilot work

3.1 Working together to tackle multiple deprivation in Selby North

Partner organisations seek by working together to have positive impacts on people living in Selby North without the need for additional funding. The core area around Charles Street is one of the lower super output areas within the 20 per cent most deprived in England.

The aims are:

- To improve how people feel about where they live;
- To develop stronger connections between people ie neighbours; and
- To help people to become more involved in their local community.

The hope is that stronger support mechanisms and a sense of belonging and shared responsibility will reduce isolation and build community cohesion leading to more resilient and healthier individuals and communities.

There is no funding to account for and no pre-set targets to achieve. Instead, partners are committed to a long term and evolving collaboration to address entrenched problems.

The early stages of the project have been about building links between partners including county council, district council and police. Local practitioners are involved - children's centre staff, social care workers supporting older people, youth workers, community officers supporting people in social housing, the town council, the CVS, the local school, a local church group living on the estate, colleagues from public health.

One early realisation is that organisations do not link up effectively enough. This is improving - the task group has participated in an estate walkabout and an initial survey of

the area via door to door visits and questionnaires in key locations to baseline people's feelings about Selby North and to try to identify people who might be willing to get more involved.

The group's initial focus is on children and young people as they are a priority for residents, both in terms of wanting more facilities for children and anxiety around anti-social behaviour and drug use. Members attended Selby fun day to try to identify what facilities young people want. Attendance at further events is planned and services are working together to raise awareness of support and activities available during school holiday periods.

Work is also taking place to identify health priorities and to see how co-operation can help signpost residents and refer to other sources of help. People tend to have improved health outcomes in communities where there is good social interaction and people feel safe. This community has a high turnover of residents (evidenced by the local community primary school) and there is the potential for developing tension as Eastern European residents become a small but identifiable minority group. This project seeks to improve community cohesion and the belief is that by doing this health outcomes will improve. Developing better joint working and community visibility will also provide better opportunities for raising awareness of health issues and delivering interventions at community and individual level.

This area is included in "Big Local" and the project will support the long term work of getting residents to work together to access funding to meet some shared community desires.

3.2 Working together in South Skipton

In response to the South Skipton area being identified as in the top 20% of deprived areas in England, a multi-agency team has been pulled together. Agencies include local authorities and registered social landlords in the area, also health, education, police, older people's series and more.

Partner agencies carried out research to understand what the deprivation issues are, how they affect the community of South Skipton and what resources are already in place to tackle these issues. The research indicated South Skipton was considered deprived in terms of health and well-being, training, education and employment.

It was also clear that although there was a lot of good work going on in each of these areas, coordination was needed to ensure it was targeted. In October 2013, partner agencies funded a project coordinator to coordinate activities, source funding to get start new initiatives and sustain the post in the future. The project coordinator has created an engagement plan of activities with the community and identified various funding streams for the project.

The South Skipton Steering Group will meet twice per year to ensure the project is on track and working groups are in place as a mechanism to tackle the afore mentioned key issues.

4 Recommendation

4.1 That the update is noted.

Neil Irving, Assistant Director (Policy and Partnerships), North Yorkshire County Council
Paul Shevlin, Chief Executive, Craven District Council

24 October 2013