

Review of Progress on the Neighbourhood Renewal/Community Strategy

Attendance at review meeting: Jill McAleer /John McEachen/Steve Crow/ Christine Lawrence.

Date of Review

NRS Issue: 6 " Some residents never use the leisure, recreation, library & arts services available in the area".

14/04/04

Special Achievements:

- LPSA target 12 – both visitor number and active membership targets exceeded.
- Outreach work undertaken for the libraries with specific target groups has already proved successful, with new members being recruited.
- The newly established 'Boost' centres have proved popular, attracting learners and students across a broad spectrum (e.g. learners with special educational needs wanting to acquire basic skills; doctors from the Horn of Africa wanting to improve their English so they can practise here.)
- Availability of ICT resources (CLIKC Online & Peoples Network) is both attracting new users to libraries, and helping to overcome problems of access and availability for people without computers.
- New arts strategy prepared; new more inclusive & accountable panel established to award arts grants; new website established (in partnership with Brent) to publicise arts events and opportunities.
- New NRF funded post will concentrate on the development of arts activities in the 5 most deprived wards, reflecting on and celebrating their cultural diversity as well as capacity building for BME artists and arts organisations.

Barriers:

Software that will enable better measurement of library usage by different groups still requires final testing before introduction.

Action for Improvement:

- Range of activities in libraries need a more explicit link to learning.
- Various initiatives have time-limited 'project' funding, and need to identify long-term, sustainable funding streams.

Possible Solutions:

Software should be finalised & installed during Summer of 2004

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NRS Issue 7: Some youth facilities are adopted by groups which then exclude or discourage others / improved range of activities on offer to young people.

Special Achievements:

- OFSTED re-inspection praised progress made in involving young people and training for staff.
- Increased involvement of 13-19 years olds (30% increased involvement compared to a target of 25%) Detailed monitoring systems have been established.
- Youth Forum is now well established, and RBKC has achieved “emerging” standard for Hear by Right.
- Extra £1 million of ESF attracted by Connexions for the 7 LEAs covered by Central London LSC, to recruit more personal advisors to help with young people who may not be accessing educational, employment, or training opportunities and need more intensive support and guidance.

Action for Improvement:

- Identify long term funding to allow larger numbers of Connexions personal advisors to be retained once ESF runs out.
- Look at ways of preventing “burn out” amongst personal advisors, who have challenging and stressful jobs.
- KCP needs to build a closer relationship with Connexions
- Need to look at ways that data on NEETs (not in education, employment or training) collected by different agencies is being used to inform future / better practice.

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Date of Review

NRS Ref: Raise & support the achievement of ethnic minority children, including those developing English as another language. (EAL)

14/04/04

Special Achievements:

- NRF funded post with refugee / asylum seekers team worked well, introducing a range of initiatives: parental involvement sessions; home-school community links programme; 'circle time' project to help parents develop their English, as well as training in relevant issues for teachers. (NRF is to continue to fund this area of work in years 4 & 5).
- NRF funded community literacy work in the North of the Borough saw workshops held for parents; support material produced for them, and homework / reading club introduced. (Barlby School showed improvement in key stage 2 results in all three core subjects & better attendance figures.)

Barriers:

The wards in the North of the Borough (and Earls Court) have markedly transient populations – families in bed & breakfast accommodation; refugee & migrant communities – which mean there is a continuing need for intervention which support children's learning. School rolls can change year on year, with the world's situation dictating the nationality of the refugees who arrive in RBKC. This means that teachers & support staff are constantly learning about new cultures & may need to develop different skills & approaches to promote learning & effective parental involvement. The delegation of Standards Fund – EMTAG direct to schools makes it difficult to take a strategic approach to these issues, when individual schools may only have a few pupils who need specialist support.

Solutions:

On going funding is needed to ensure that work can continue to support children from BME and refugee / migrant communities to reach their full potential.

Action for Improvement:

- Look at what has been learnt from the community literacy work at Barlby School and use this as a model for other schools.
- Look at possible links with Family Learning (Standards Fund)
- New, dedicated funding for EAL, recognising there is a on-going need in RBKC.
- Monitoring system introduced for school attendance which can be sorted by ethnic group to identify particular issues or trends.

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Attendance at Review Meeting: Learning, Arts, Leisure – Jill McAleer/John McEachen/Steve Crow/Christine Lawrence

Date of Review
14.4.04

Special Achievements:

1) MORE POST-16 EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES - INCLUDING LEARNING FOR PLEASURE

- 14-19 forum already established
- Increased flexibility programme established
- Adult Learning plan approved; received positive feed-back from external Adult learning inspectorate

Barriers

- Lack of capacity/provision – funding for work-based learning inadequate
- Sometimes difficult to engage learners aged 19+, who have had bad experiences with formal learning
- Training for Skills centre had a poor inspection

Possible Solutions

- LSC looking to develop a sub-regional approach to work-based learning, but this will still not adequately address need
- 19+ learners may prefer provision within the voluntary/community sector, which may be less formal & more able to promote and maintain commitment
- Planned take-over of Training for Skills Centre by Notting Dale Technology Centre should improve provision/facilities offered to young people

Action for Improvement

- Encourage Kensington & Chelsea College to target more young adults as part of FE programme, in partnership with voluntary/community sector providers
- Explore possibilities for flexibility within funding regimes to allow providers to respond appropriately to learners' needs, particularly those from hard-to-reach groups
- Look at how proposed "Network Plus" model could help local voluntary and community groups access funding to deliver more community learning

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Special Achievements - 2) BETTER ACCESS TO IT SERVICES

- Extensive ICT facilities throughout the borough – in schools, libraries and a range of community venues. CLIKC On-Line and the People's Network initiatives have had a real impact.
- The local "Boost" centres have also proved popular, as study and learning-support centres for a range of clients with different needs

Action for Improvement

- On-going revenue funding to support services needs to be identified
- A planned programme to replace out-dated and worn-out equipment needs financing

Special Achievements : 3) AVAILABILITY OF LEARNING & LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES IDENTIFIED AS A HIGH PRIORITY, WITH THESE BENEFITTING EVERYONE & ENHANCING AND ENRICHING PEOPLE'S LIVES. SHARING & EXPLORING CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND DIVERSITY OF RBKC'S COMMUNITIES

- Targets for increased use of libraries have been exceeded
- Outreach work has proved successful in encouraging target groups to use library services more
- Updated sports activity information on the web-site
- New arts website developed in partnership with LB Brent
- Additional sports activities provided in schools, and taster sessions held for young people
- Range of "women-only" activities on offer, some specifically targeting Muslim women
- New "Cultural Diversity Arts Officer" post funded via NRF to develop arts activities in the 5 targeted wards, to reflect and celebrate the cultural richness of local communities

Action for Improvement

- Sports strategy action plan has identified need to address low rates of participation at sports centres by older people; people with disabilities, and people on low incomes. Cluster to monitor success of actions to address this. Survey data from Action Disability Kensington and Chelsea (work partly funded through NRF) may highlight some issues.
- Still need to make the most of the educational and cultural opportunities offered by carnival.

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