



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S
LOCAL COMMITTEE IN EPSOM
& EWELL**

SELF RELIANCE

18th July 2005

KEY ISSUE

To keep members up to date with the progress of the self reliance programme for Court and Ruxley wards.

SUMMARY

This report brings to the Committee's attention recent advances in the arrangements for delivering a self-reliance programme in Court and Ruxley wards.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes this report and receives further progress reports at regular intervals.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The County Council has adopted the self-reliance programme to address deprivation in the County. The self-reliance philosophy is to identify the risk and protection factors in target neighbourhoods and devise sustainable programmes to produce a lasting improvement in the quality of life and chances of people maximising their potential. Sustainability is ensured by services agreeing to mainstream the approaches proposed by self reliance programmes for as long as the area requires them.
- 1.2 A report to the committee in March highlighted the work of the Community Planning Team in progressing the Communities that Care Project as well as several other partnership projects that were being planned and implemented. Moreover the report highlighted the work being done to rationalise and build the capacity of local partnership groups in the two target wards.

2. CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 The Communities that Care Programme is ongoing and is now at the “Action Planning” stage. A comprehensive “Resource Audit” investigating current provision related to the priority risk factors in the target wards has been completed (not included as an appendix because of its size but can be made available on request). Three specialist “Focus Groups” subsequently met to discuss in detail recommendations in the areas of school, family and youth. The draft action plan will be completed in September.
- 2.2 There are now “Community Partnership” groups in both Court and Ruxley wards, which are in the process of being constituted. These groups include representatives from the local communities and also from several agencies including Rosebery Housing Association, Primary Care Trust (PCT), Police, Adult and Community Learning, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, voluntary sector groups and also Borough and County Councillors. The aims of the groups will be to create a forum in which residents and agencies can work together in partnership to improve the communities within the target wards of Court and Ruxley.
- 2.3 There are several projects that are underway or in advanced stages of planning. These include:
 - **Mobile Construction Classroom:** A fully converted and equipped bus will teach basic construction skills mainly in local schools. However, through working with the local Community Learning Partnership and the Surrey Education Business Partnership, an innovative project to allow community access to this bus is going to take place in Court ward, one morning a week, from September. The project hopes to attract the long term unemployed, young people not in education and other

reluctant learners to attend the course in order to build self confidence, learn new skills and eventually enter employment, further training or apprenticeships in the construction industry.

- **Health Shop:** Self Reliance and PCT funding has provided 16 hours worth of public health work in Court and Ruxley wards. Having consulted various groups and individuals, including the two community partnerships, the public health team are setting up a “Health Shop / Drop in” once a week in locations in the centre of each of the target wards. This will provide a place for residents to go to receive advice and information on health and poor health, with familiar faces and in a safe and accessible location.

- **Youth Forums:** Youth issues are consistently high on many agendas. In partnership with the Police, Rosebery Housing Association and the Youth Service, forums are being developed in both Court and Ruxley wards, to enable the views of young people to be heard and to be used to develop programmes of activities to suit their needs and work with them to try and resolve issues such as anti social behaviour, graffiti, school failure and boredom.

- There are many other current and developing partnership projects in which Self Reliance has been and is a key component. These include: Let’s Get Active, Community Football Coach (Court ward), Youth Shelter, Development of Multi-Use Games Area (Longmead), Hogsmill Development Project, Youth Diversion Activities, Adult Learning focussing on the Portuguese community and a Community Merit Scheme encouraging young people from both Court and Ruxley wards to get involved in community activities to “earn” activities and trips out.

2.4 Finally, the aims of the Self-Reliance programme have been built into the Community Strategy as a common aim for all of the participating public, voluntary and private sector agencies. This agreement bodes well for wide support for the individual projects as they are developed.

3. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The self-reliance programme is developing rapidly and, therefore, regular progress reports will continue to be submitted to, and considered by, the Committee so that it is fully informed of developments.

Responsible Officer: Chris White, North Area Director
07968 832 313

Contact Officer: Kirsty Light, Local Committee & Partnership Officer
020 8541 7062