



SELF RELIANCE ANNUAL REPORT, 2004/5

GUILDFORD LOCAL COMMITTEE

20 January 2005

KEY ISSUE:

The report summarises the various Self Reliance activities in Guildford over the last 12 months and maps out the future approach.

SUMMARY:

This Annual Report sets out the various outcomes of the North Guildford Self Reliance Projects, the funding and coordination challenges attached and proposes an action plan for 2005 and beyond.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to

- (i) comment on the achievements of the North Guildford Self Reliance Projects;
- (ii) comment on the draft Action Plan for 2005 and beyond, identifying other areas where actions are needed to address social exclusion.

1. INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Surrey County Council (SCC) has adopted a policy to promote individual and community Self Reliance. The policy aims to target help to disadvantaged individuals and communities, so that they can become more self-reliant and enjoy a better quality of life.
- 1.2 "Self Reliance" means the same as the more generic phrase social inclusion. The aims of the Self Reliance Policy are to:
 - Target help on disadvantaged individuals and communities so that they can become more self-reliant and enjoy a better quality of life
 - Work at long term solutions which break the dependency cycle

- Work in partnership with communities, other public organisations, the business community and the voluntary sector.
- 1.3 A key factor in this approach to addressing social inclusion at the neighbourhood level is to work with SCC services and partner agencies to mainstream the funding of local projects from their existing budgets. However, in order to kick-start local projects, SCC has targeted additional funds during the first 2/3 years in each of the main Self Reliance areas. The Self Reliance Policy and the funding are overseen by the Self Reliance Policy Implementation Group (SRPIG).
- 1.4 Whilst funding from SRPIG was welcomed, when the previous Self Reliance Annual report 2003/4 was presented to the Local Committee on 6 November 2003, Members were concerned to commit some of their Revenue funds to underwrite the local self-reliance coordination costs. As a result of this local funding, an additional £27,000 of SRPIG was secured to pay for a part-time coordinator.
- 1.5 Across Surrey there are 6 main self reliance areas and within the Guildford area, there are three wards that are in the current list of the 20 most deprived wards in Surrey, namely Stoke, Westborough and Ash Wharf. Stoke and Westborough wards form the North Guildford Self Reliance Programme and were the first one in Surrey, when it formally began in 2002.
- 1.6 The key inputs of the Self-Reliance Policy are:
- Adopt a rolling programme focusing on up to 5 neighbourhoods at one time, chosen for their level of disadvantage and the costs currently being incurred there by SCC.
 - Make available additional expenditure in the short/medium term (3-5 years) in these areas, focusing on early intervention to promote independence
 - Make sure that all SCC services are involved at local level in a crosscutting approach
 - Work in partnership with other organisations, both community based and Surrey wide
 - Make sure that we obtain the views of people who are often hard to reach.
- 1.7 In order to identify those areas of relative deprivation, substantive evidence is built up from the available Census data, as updated by central government, but added to by critical need and demand data from a range of services. The list of the “20 most Deprived Wards in Surrey”, mentioned in 1.5 above, is based upon statistical analysis from the 1991 Census and the recently released “Indices of Multiple Deprivation” (IMD), published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
- 1.8 The latest IMD data was discussed by the Local Committee at the 9 September 2004 meeting. In summary, Members were concerned that the changes to the IMD criteria were leading to some distortions in wards or parts of wards (referred to as super output areas) that were pushing up the “deprivation table”, certain wards that were not known for any significant

deprivation. At that Committee meeting, officers gave a commitment to continue to concentrate efforts on the Stoke, Westborough and Ash Wharf wards. In particular, it was agreed that this report would concentrate both on achievements to date in North Guildford and new actions to address social inclusion in the longer-term.

2. ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

- 2.1 As previously reported to the Local Committee, the North Guildford Self Reliance Programme built upon the work of the former North Guildford Project. This project concentrated on Stoke and Westborough wards and grew out of some important pioneering work with residents and groups, coordinating across agencies to focus on both the needs and aspirations of these communities.
- 2.2 This work was partly funded from initial Self Reliance funds, along with contributions from Guildford Borough Council, the former West Surrey Health Authority and others. The North Guildford Project undertook an initial survey of needs and also sought to identify the various aspirations that the community had to find solutions. Before the North Guildford Project came to an end in March 2002, 3 important developments were negotiated and started. These are the North Guildford Children's Centre, the Healthy Living Programme and the North Guildford Self Reliance Project.
- 2.3 All three developments are based on partnership with the community and have a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary approach to their work. The Healthy Living Programme is funded for 5 years from the New Opportunities Fund (part of the Lottery), hosted by Guildford & Waverley Primary Care Trust and has developed innovative and broad approaches to reducing health inequalities. Although based in North Guildford, it also covers the town centre wards, as well as Stoke and Westborough. The Programme started in April 2002 and has been fully staffed since the start of 2003.
- 2.4 The North Guildford Children's Centre is part of the Guildford Children's Centre, which has a town centre site and the North Guildford branch based in the former Stoke Hill Primary School on Bellfields estate. From these two buildings a range of high quality early education and childcare provision is being developed and the overall Centre is part of SCC's commitment to developing a number of "early excellence centres".
- 2.5 The North Guildford Children's Centre opened its doors in December 2003 and provides a flexible range of childcare provision, but equally importantly, it has done so in line with the wider needs of the community. This has been based on the developmental work of the North Guildford Project (see 2.2, above) in consulting with residents on their ideas for the new centre and so many of these ideas have been included in both the design of the building and the structure of the programme. Examples of these activities include a parents' drop-in room and community cafe. This partnership with the local community will be a continuing feature of the Centre's work.

- 2.6 The Children's Centre is part of the combined campus with Christ's College and there are imminent plans to fund the re-building of the College buildings, along with a new building for Pond Meadow School, a highly regarded special school, currently located in Park Barn.
- 2.7 The various activities in North Guildford are also significantly extended by the crucial contribution of Guildford Borough Council (especially the Community Safety Wardens), Surrey Police (the Neighbourhood Specialist Officers and Police Community Support Officers), local churches and voluntary organisations.

3 North Guildford Self Reliance Project

- 3.1 The third part of the three strands that came out of the North Guildford Project is the **North Guildford Self Reliance Project**. As the countywide Self Reliance Policy was being developed, North Guildford was selected as the first Self Reliance area in Surrey. The main activities and their outcomes are described below in paras 3.3 – 3.16. SRPIG had agreed to provide specific funding over the 2-year period from April 2002 to March 2004, although some projects were slower to start and still have some residual funding. In total, SRPIG has provided £339,000 in additional funds, including the preliminary work mentioned in para 2.2.
- 3.2 The individual Self-Reliance projects started in North Guildford in 2002, with a total of 14 different activities being supported. As the 2-year funding for most of these projects comes to an end, the Local Director is working with SCC services and partners to secure ongoing funding, known as "mainstreaming". It is important to emphasize that only those projects that can show effective outcomes should have continued funding.
- 3.3 **Family Links project:** Family Links is a programme that operates nationally and was initially set up in North Guildford, funded from SRPIG. The countywide expansion of project funding has given schools within any of the county's self-reliance areas the opportunity to receive training in school free of charge. In addition other schools, not just in self-reliance areas have shown interest in Family Links. Although typically delivered in primary schools, there is potential to apply Family Links in secondary schools.
- 3.4 This nurturing programme, applying a holistic approach in schools to addressing children's behaviour, is conducted on three levels:
 - the training and refresher training of school employees
 - the training of parents
 - the teaching of children
- 3.5 National and local evaluation has shown significant benefits to children, staff and parents who have received training through the Family Links programme. In Guildford over **35 parent group leaders** have been trained and **15 schools** participated in the programme. The success and importance of the project in improving children's behaviour and attainment is well recognised. The project has recently received £30,000 funding from

SCC Children's Service for a further year (with a view to longer term funding), together with contributions from the Primary Care Trust, the Children and Adolescents Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and self-reliance funds. This is a huge step towards mainstreaming the project and an excellent example of what self-reliance is trying to achieve in Surrey.

- 3.6 **Reading Recovery:** Self reliance supports Reading Recovery at three schools in Guildford - Guildford Grove School, Weyfield Primary School and St Francis Westborough School. It has had a significant impact in improving pupil attainment at key stage 1 and key stage 2.
- 24 children have benefited
 - 14 no longer require this support
 - 58% successfully improved reading levels
- 3.7 In addition, comments on the worth of Reading Recovery include: *"Reading Recovery is like installing a lightning conductor. It's a preventative measure, which is a lot less expensive than the consequences of not installing one. It's a sound investment which will prevent today's non-readers from being socially excluded tomorrow."* (Julia Douitel) and *"All children made accelerated progress and are more confident in accessing the curriculum"* (Reading Recovery teacher, Weyfield School).
- 3.8 Despite these positive signs the mainstreaming of Reading Recovery in these schools needs further efforts in order to secure the necessary longer-term funds. There are 2 main factors to address; firstly the children in these three schools show very significant social, emotional and ability needs. Secondly the schools funding formula allows a socially adjusted factor that is not sufficient to meet all the extra needs of such pupils, such as Reading Recovery. This is a national issue that is currently being considered by the Department for Education and Skills and SCC has made representations to government on the issue.
- 3.9 In addition, the Local Director will be discussing the issue with SRPIG at its meeting on 19/1/05 and SCC Executive will consider the matter in due course in its annual review of the Schools Funding Formula.
- 3.10 **Home-Start:** Home-Start is a national organisation working with families with children under 5. There are nine Home-Start projects running in Surrey, and four of the five self-reliance areas are aided. Home-Start's annual review of 2003 tells of its success in serving families with problems nationwide. This programme begins the process of repair with families who need help through extreme intervention. In Surrey the average success rate for all interventions is 44% (Home-Start evaluation by SCC), and there is a good success rate in removing children, assisted by Home-Start, from the child protection register, with 11 children removed this year. Currently Home-Start in Ash and Guildford have had 56 referrals and support 27 families, eight of these from the self reliance wards in North Guildford. The programme has 24 volunteers with 22 of these visiting families.
- 3.11 Recipients of this programme speak of the helpfulness of Home-Start volunteers: *"Without his help I would not be here and the children would be*

in care"; *"My lifeline"* and *"Home-Start has given me the boost to get better"*. SCC Children's Service has agreed to fund Home-Start from 2005/6, subject to contract negotiations being concluded.

- 3.12 **Benefits Take Up Campaign:** An initial 6-months campaign was funded by Self Reliance (£7k) and SCC Adults and Community Care Service (£6k) and run by Guildford CAB. This funding of £13k enabled CAB to make contact with 90 clients and produced legitimate claims, with arrears, of **£933,000**. CAB also enabled some of these claimants to have reductions in Council Tax bandings or increases in council tax discounts, both due to disabilities. In addition, CAB were able to make appropriate referrals to other care, housing or health services extra support.
- 3.13 **Home School Liaison Worker:** Self Reliance has funded a home school liaison worker at St Francis Westborough School. Also the Healthy Living Programme has funded an equivalent post at Weyfield Primary School. In addition these posts have been supported by capital grants from Self Reliance to build Parents Rooms in the two schools. Both Home School Liaison posts have been shown to be successful, even though the parents' rooms only opened in September 2004. SCC Children's Service have given additional funds for the St Francis Westborough post and will consider mainstreaming the Weyfield post as its Healthy Living Programme funding ends in 2007.
- 3.14 **Bellfields Young Parents Project:** provides support to vulnerable young women, aged 16 –19 years old who are either parents already or expecting their first child. Apart from their age, many of them have relationship difficulties with their partners and their extended families, and are frequently in temporary housing and issues of identity and self esteem. Guildford YMCA, with support from a Connexions Personal Adviser provide a range of support to 6-8 young women at a time. One of the aims of the group is to link them into mainstream services and negotiations are ongoing to link the group into the North Guildford Children's Centre.
- 3.15 The project is currently funded for another 6 months by self-reliance and negotiations have started to secure longer term funding from the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and Connexions.
- 3.16 **Co-ordinator for volunteer youth leaders:** This project aims at increasing provision for disadvantaged children in North Guildford. Smaller clubs are given assistance on a voluntary basis to create a framework that conforms to the legal requirements of youth groups and models of good practice, so that a trained volunteer may be placed with them and provide extra provision for more disadvantaged children. It has been funded by both Self-Reliance and the Global Grants scheme.
- 3.17 The one area of activity that SRPIG had not previously directly funded has been that of the local **Self Reliance Coordinator**. The original coordinator, Wendy Allison, was short-term funded via the Learning & Skills Council and in any event left her post in March 2003. A considerable amount of negotiation has gone into agreeing the funding for this post, with a

combination of funding from Members Revenue Allocation (see para 1.4 above), some additional contributions from Dr Joe Bullock and Dr John Hobrough from 2004/5 and the balance of £27k from SRPIG.

- 3.18 In order to restate and underline the partnership principles of the Self Reliance Policy, the Local Director has sought to locate the new Self Reliance Coordinator post within the Healthy Living Programme. While opportunity was missed in 2002 not to locate the post in the Healthy Living Programme this has been redressed. Discussions have taken place with community groups, the Management Committee of the Healthy Living Programme and Guildford & Waverley Primary Care Trust to agree a Service Level Agreement. It has been a long process, but the advert for this post will go out on 21/1/05.
- 3.19 In the meantime, the Healthy Living Programme Manager has acted as the *de facto* self-reliance coordinator and has taken the lead on behalf of SCC in, for example, supporting the re-launch of the CommunityWorks project in Park Barn and in re-invigorating the Barn Project as a genuine partnership with the Youth Development Service.
- 3.20 Once in post (hopefully by Easter 2005), the Self Reliance Coordinator will act as a consultant to developing Self Reliance activities in the Ash Wharf area, linking it to the Police Reassurance Project in the area.

4 Future Action Plan for 2005 and beyond

- 4.1 The need to further coordinate actions with partners is stressed by the parallel work of both Guildford Borough Council (GBC) and the Guildford Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). GBC has recently reviewed its Anti-Poverty Strategy and asked that the new Strategy be led by the LSP's Health & Social Care Action Group. This has been agreed in principle and the Health & Social Care Action Group has drafted its Action Plan. This Action Plan is attached as Annexe 1 and Members are asked to comment on it before it is submitted to the LSP Executive on 2/2/05.

CONSULTATIONS

With local SCC Members in North Guildford; the Guildford & Waverley PCT; various community representatives; the Healthy Living Programme and the LSP Executive.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

SCC's Self Reliance policy aims to promote and sustain environmental as well as social and economic well-being.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

The links between disadvantage/social exclusion and crime and disorder are well known. The implementation of SCC's Self Reliance policy is an example of an indirect but significant contribution to addressing or reducing the causes of crime and disorder.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The Self Reliance policy explicitly targets disadvantaged individuals and groups in society.

SELF RELIANCE IMPLICATIONS

This report sets out the ongoing implementation of SCC's Self Reliance Policy in Guildford and invites comments on its future development.

CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

A Self Reliance policy has been adopted by SCC and implemented in Guildford with the aim of addressing the needs of some of Guildford's more disadvantaged individuals and communities in an integrated, sustainable and preventative way. The report seeks the views and support of Members in continuing to meet these challenges.

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Guildford LSP

Health and Social Care Action Group

“Addressing health inequalities, social exclusion and poverty”

This action plan is based on three tests;

→ **What is being done now?**

→ **What needs to be done, that we can do?**

→ **Have we got the ability to make a difference?**

Action Plan 2005 onwards;

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
1) Community-based breastfeeding support group	PCT/HLP/NCT/ Children's Centre/ Community members	Early spring 2005
2) Walking for Health in North Guildford & Ash	Age Concern/ HLP/ Community leaders/ GBC/ PCTs/ Safer Guildford/ SCC (Transport; Local Committee/ Adults/ Safe routes to school)/UniS	a) March 2005 (GBC Exec.) b) b) SCC/ GLC January 2005
a) Maintaining activity in North Guildford and Ash		
b) Evaluation of effectiveness (QA) to mainstream and extend to other disadvantaged areas		
3) Alternative access to weight management (Park Barn)	HLP/ PCTs/ Community members/ volunteers/ Private sector tutor/ GAF/ SCC (Adults and Children's)	January 2005
4) Alcohol education project. Piloted in one secondary school and PRU. (Linked to licensing policy)	PCT(Health Promotion)/ SGP/ SCC (LEA and Schools)/ Healthy schools initiative	February - May 2005
5) Breakfast clubs/ School fruit and veg scheme - Developing/ consolidating across North Guildford/ Ash schools	HLP/ PCT/ SCC/Healthy schools initiative/ Primary schools/ SCC-Commercial Services/ Home School Link Workers/ GOSE/ Parents/ Pupils	March 2005
6) Credit Union in North Guildford - Developing the business case	GACC/ CAB/ GBC/ SCC (Adults and Children's)/ Surrey Welfare Rights/ Churches/ HLP/ Private sector	Facilitate meeting to launch a viable scheme May 2005
7) Timebank - Get a co-ordinator in post for North Guildford and town centre	HLP/ GAVS/ Community members/ SCC (Adults)/ Timebank UK	February 2005 - funding agreed September 2005 - co-ordinator recruited by end of year

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| <p>8) Better links between front-line workers in "social exclusion" areas (i.e. high crime areas/ health inequalities/ self reliance areas) –Organise conference or training on the theme of "Effectiveness and diversity in community development"</p> | <p>HLP/ H&SCAG/ SCA/ SCC/ GBC/ PCT/ SGP/ Police</p> | <p>June or September 2005</p> |
| <p>9) Street-level art - community connections</p> | <p>GBC (Housing and leisure) Private sector/ Hostels/ HLP/ Community members/ SCC (Lockwood Day Services)</p> | <p>March 2005</p> |

