



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORK
UPDATE ON TARGETED AREAS IN MOLE VALLEY**

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE
(MOLE VALLEY)**

22ND NOVEMBER 2006

KEY ISSUE

To report recent developments in the implementation of the County Council's Self-Reliance policy and community development work within the District of Mole Valley, and recent partnership work contributing to the policy.

SUMMARY

The County Council's community development and self reliance work aims to ensure that the particular needs of selected parts of the County are inbuilt into local service planning and delivery. The work targets 5 areas across the County, one of which is North Leatherhead ward, within Mole Valley District.

Smaller scale self reliance work is undertaken by County Council services in a large number of areas, where a need is highlighted. A number of initiatives have been pursued in Leatherhead and Chart Downs and Goodwyns, in order to tackle levels of social exclusion in these areas.

These initiatives are part of an overarching framework designed to produce significant and lasting change in the long term, and particularly to enhance the life chances of the younger generation.

Much of this work has been undertaken in partnership, under the broader umbrella of community development.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the initiatives in progress and in development in Leatherhead and Chart Downs, Goodwyns and North Holmwood;
- (ii) Agree that the Local Committee continues to monitor the work with County Services to ensure they are targeted towards Self-Reliance areas.

www.surreycc.gov.uk/molevalley

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Surrey County Council adopted its Self Reliance Policy on 6th November 2000, in order to tackle deprivation in localities that are particularly in need of assistance. The three 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
 - To work at long-term solutions which will break the dependency cycle
 - To work in partnership with other government organisations, the business community and the voluntary sector.

2 INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION ANALYSIS

- 2.1 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2004 analyses the relative deprivation of the population in considerable detail. It is a very useful tool when comparing the different needs of each area. It is also useful when highlighting where certain services or provision should be targeted.
- 2.2 When comparing Surrey as a whole with other strategic authorities, only two authorities, Rutland and Wokingham, are more affluent than Surrey, which ranks 147 out of 149.
- 2.3 Surrey's overall affluence can mask pockets of considerable deprivation, and the experience of deprivation can be greatly increased when less affluent communities are located close to areas that are substantially better off.
- 2.4 A previous report to this committee highlighted a number of areas with higher needs across the District including North Leatherhead and Chart Downs and Goodwyns. The report also noted that some areas within the District suffer from "relative rural deprivation".

3 NORTH LEATHERHEAD SELF RELIANCE AREA

- 3.1 Surrey County Council identified the North Leatherhead ward as a Self Reliance area in 2002/03 and a focus for community development work. This resulted in funding of £150,000 being allocated to the area over a three-year period. The aim of the funding was to provide initial funding for preventative projects to support long-term improvements for the area.
- 3.2 The Mole Valley Local Strategic Partnership also agreed that the ward would benefit from a concentrated effort by the statutory and voluntary agencies to work for the general development of the community.
- 3.3 The purpose of this focus was to assist in empowering local people to become more active and involved in their community, to attempt a united tackling of social issues in the area and to work against fear of crime.
- 3.4 The North Leatherhead Partnership was therefore formed, agencies such as Surrey County Council, East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey Primary Care Trust and Mole Valley District Council, coming to the table alongside Surrey Police, local schools, representatives of the voluntary sector and local residents.

- 3.5 To oversee the work of the partnership a development worker was also appointed, employed by Central Surrey Council for Voluntary Service. This development worker was to give time and effort to glue ideas, networks and people together. The worker was to be a bridge between agencies and local people; to facilitate positive change.
- 3.6 The post has resulted in some very positive results for North Leatherhead, including:
- North Leatherhead Community Safety Group established;
 - Kingston Road Recreation Ground mass community-led redevelopment;
 - Close partnership with All Saints Family Project & local benefits worker;
 - Close partnership on the local schools merger;
 - Involved with the shaping of the new Children's Centre & overseeing the Communities that Care initiative;
 - Walking for Health scheme underway;
 - Bfree Youth Café established;
 - Close partnership with Bridge Youth Centre & Liquid Youth group.

4 CHART DOWNS, GOODWYNS AND NORTH HOLMWOOD

- 4.1 The area comprises of three distinct communities, each with its own identity and culture. IMD statistics (Index of Multiple Deprivation) highlight the Chart Downs, Goodwyns and North Holmwood as areas of need within Surrey, and in particular within Mole Valley.
- 4.2 A partnership combining statutory and voluntary agencies was formally established and includes Surrey County Council, East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey Primary Care Trust, Mole Valley District Council, Police, Schools, Churches, representatives of the voluntary sector and local residents.
- 4.3 The Chart Downs, Goodwyns and North Holmwood Partnership aims to:
- Seek to influence, monitor and ensure co-ordination of services provided in the area.
 - Facilitate community consultation in planning projects relating to the area.
 - Liaise with partner agencies to raise awareness of community needs and lobby for support in delivering against these identified needs.
 - Assist the different communities in working together for the benefit of the whole community.
- 4.4 A Community Development Worker was appointed in June 2006 and employed by Central Surrey Council for Voluntary Service, funded by the partnership. The Development Worker's role is to initiate, facilitate and enable the partnership to achieve its community aims, acting as a champion for the local community.
- 4.5 In the early stages of the community development role time has been spent establishing good relationships with the members of the partnership and other key community role models or organisations.
- 4.6 The partnership has agreed the aims for the community development role; these aims need to be delivered in ways which recognise and celebrate the three distinct communities.

- 4.7 There are a number of priority issues emerging, some of which are already being addressed. There is a particular need to develop youth provision but there are also other opportunities to develop services for the wider population in adult and family learning, sports, transport and healthy living.
- 4.8 To date much work has been put into developing the King George V playing fields which will have a new skate park in place in 2007. Plans for a sports pavilion are also underway. This initiative is underway with the community and partners.
- 4.9 A grant from Sport Relief has been recently awarded to support the development of "B-Spoke" – a youth cycling project which will serve the three communities.
- 4.10 There are many other projects currently at the early stages of development. An action plan will be shared and agreed early in 2007 to underpin the work and take the development forward.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The financial benefits of preventing greater future unemployment, reducing ill health etc, are allied to the social benefits of promoting the capacity of people in self-reliance areas to contribute to their own communities and society as a whole.

6 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 More sustainable communities, with lower social and economic costs to the wider community, and a higher level of local commitment to maintaining infrastructure.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 One of the principal purposes of self-reliance is to assist communities in reducing crime and, in particular, the fear of crime. By addressing a lack of facilities, and by focusing on parenting and children's education and upbringing, it is intended that the tendency of poorly-supported young people to engage in anti-social and criminal behaviour can be reduced, and that a wider range of life choices available to them can promote more constructive patterns of behaviour.

8 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Successful implementation of Self Reliance initiatives will provide a much wider range of life chances to socially excluded populations, ranging from young people to older residents in a variety of circumstances. The purpose of the Self-Reliance programme is to bring identified areas of deprivation closer to the Surrey average, and thereby increase the participation of the communities affected in the prosperity of the County as a whole.

9 CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Surrey is a county of considerable affluence with a very successful commercial sector, high levels of employment and generally low levels of disadvantage. However, there are many people in Surrey whose ability to take part in society is impaired, and who cannot contribute fully to society and lead fulfilled lives.
- 9.2 The Self Reliance policy focuses on targeting community development support both to the communities most disadvantaged and at risk, and in the most deprived neighbourhoods in Surrey. It gives a framework for better co-ordination of activity.
- 9.3 The benefits of achieving 'self-reliance' in communities include:
- Increased freedoms for individuals, better health and self-esteem;
 - By taking a preventative approach, Surrey County Council, and its partners can achieve long term savings;
 - Increased skills available to businesses and more people with money to spend;
 - Reduction in crime and disorder and traffic accidents.

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the initiatives in progress and in development in North Leatherhead and Chart Downs, Goodwyns and North Holmwood;
- (ii) Agree that the Local Committee continues to monitor the work with County Services to ensure they are targeted towards Self-Reliance areas.

Report by: Lynne Martin, Area Director

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| LEAD/CONTACT OFFICER: | Lynne Martin, Area Director |
| TELEPHONE NUMBER: | (01737) 737694 |
| BACKGROUND PAPERS: | Surrey County Council Self Reliance Policy |
