



**WARWICK PARTNERSHIP
Narrowing the Gaps Action Plan 2008/09**

Progress Report to the Public Service Board: 25 November 2009

1. Introduction & Context

- 1.1. The Public Service Board (PSB) at its meeting on 12th March 2008 agreed that a total of £800,000 be allocated to LSP's in 2008/09 in respect of the 'Narrowing the Gaps' agenda subject to approval by the PSB, of an appropriate spending / action plan.
- 1.2. A total of £100,000 was awarded to the Warwick Partnership at the meeting of the PSB in September 2008. A condition of the allocation is the reporting of progress to the PSB at 6 months and 12 months.

2. Progress on the Warwick Partnership Action Plan

- 2.1 The plan provides funding support to the following 6 projects:-
 - i. **Community Enterprise Worker (£33,059)** – to help and support start up of local businesses and creation of social enterprises within targeted communities, offering advice and information, free training, workshops and one to one mentoring
 - ii. **Hybrid Arts (£30,000)** – Access to training and income maximisation for young people – enabling young people to access advice, guidance and training to enable them to set up their own musical/arts related activities and be able to market themselves and their products
 - iii. **Housing Mediation Service (£13,400)** – providing constructive conflict resolution service to those in dispute including neighbours, parents and their teenagers, parents and schools and between colleagues at work
 - iv. **Tackling Obesity (£11,363)** – a solution focused programme involving families with overweight and obese children and young people to help them gain knowledge and skills to embed healthy lifestyle habits and messages
 - v. **Parish Planning and Rural Enabling (£10,275)** – to provide support, advice and information to parishes across the district to assist in addressing local issues including the implementation of their action plans dealing with anything from highways to housing

- vi. **Swimming Lessons for Asian Ladies (£1,902)** – re-establishment of a ‘learn to swim’ scheme for women from the black and minority ethnic communities. To encourage physical activity in a sector of the community that has been identified as being at greater risk of Type 2 Diabetes, cardiovascular problems and obesity
3. Reports on each project are detailed in Appendix 1 however key points to note are as follows:-
- i. **Community Enterprise Worker** – as a result of this post weekly drop in sessions have been set up at local community centres, Job Centre Plus is now engaged and referring clients, a number of potential local entrepreneurs have been referred to Business Link and the Princes Trust and a Social Enterprise Seminar is arranged for November 09
 - ii. **Hybrid Arts** – all the 70 young participants continue to be involved in the music club in several ways from helping to set up concerts, marketing and selling their own CD’s or mentoring young musicians. The project targeted young people in danger of receiving ASBOs and has been successful in diverting these youngsters away from offending through creative musical activities and training. The project has now concluded.
 - iii. **Housing Mediation** - The funding has helped to increase the publicity of the service and so increased the number of referrals from agencies and the general public. Referrals have been received from Social Services, Connexions, 3 Schools, a College, 4 Housing associations, Police officers, Family Group Conferencing, CAB and 6 self referrals (2 recommended by previous clients). Staff have networked and delivered presentations about the service to a wide variety of groups including the WD parenting forum where all agencies working with parents meet. Staff have also undertaken Triple P training to improve the services that they can offer to parents where mediation is not possible or appropriate. This will inevitably produce more positive outcomes in the future
 - iv. **Tackling Obesity** - It has been necessary to adjust the approaches developed for this programme several times as recruiting families has proved challenging. The steering group reformed to include SPAN (Sustainable Partnerships Action Network) and have decided to adopt elements of the Fun Food and Fitness model piloted in Children’s Centres in Rugby. This will enable the project to link with the work SPAN is planning to deliver around healthy food/allotment work. This will now allow for the running of three projects in the most deprived areas of Warwick District and to ensure a level of sustainability that would not have been possible at the start of the project.
 - v. **Parish Planning and Rural Enabling** – 3 housing needs surveys completed and 3 parish plans commenced as a result of funding
 - vi. **Swimming Lessons for Asian Ladies** - Originally project was to be for 10 ladies however there was a lot of interest which resulted in 2 groups of 12 Asian ladies swimming for 40 minutes on alternate weeks. However since the project started over 60’s free swimming lessons has been introduced; therefore a decision was made to run the project for 17 weeks in total. The project has now concluded.

4. Ongoing progress monitoring continues for the projects and is reported on a 6 monthly basis to the Warwick Partnership Executive Group. 2 projects have now concluded.

Liz Young
Warwick Area Community Partnership Team
November 2009

**Narrowing the Gap 2008/09
Progress to Date – 25 November 09**

Project (Description/Areas to be delivered)	
Funding from the “Narrowing the Gap” fund will enable the new post of Community Enterprise Officer, an essential part of the delivery of the Brunswick Enterprise Zone project, to be increased from one part-time (0.5fte) officer to equivalent of 2 part-time (1.0 FTE) officers, enabling the work to be extended to other communities in Warwick District where there are inequalities of opportunity and income.	
Outcomes/Targets	
Progress at 6 months/End Project (incl. Key outputs) Figures up to 31/10/09	
Annual figures (no. people):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessing Business Link training modules: 10 • Attending events focused on enterprise creation: 50 • Attending events designed to promote and improve understanding of social enterprise: 20 • Young people accessing the project: 15 • Women: 15 • BME: 15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 • 18 • 0 (though 25 already booked on to Seminar at BEZ for 25/11/09) • 1 • 13 • 10
Expenditure	
Total Expenditure to Date £8690.13 split as follows: Salary and associated costs £7613.01 Marketing and Advertising £1077.12	

Report by Ian Kirkwood, Community Enterprise Officer, Warwick District Council

- Building work on Brunswick Healthy Living Centre, which includes the new Brunswick Enterprise Zone (BEZ), was completed in June and reopened to the public on the 13th July with a very successful official opening on 3rd October with over 300 members of the local community attending.

- Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce is providing fortnightly one to mentoring sessions to start up businesses and have delivered 3 Enterprising Warwickshire training workshops.
- A Social Enterprise seminar is arranged for 25/11/09 at BEZ to be delivered by Coventry & Warwickshire Cooperative Development Agency Ltd (25 people already booked)
- Business Link and HSBC are visiting WDC Enterprise projects on 27/11 again to arrange dates to run training sessions
- I have successfully referred potential entrepreneurs to Business Link, CDA, The Prince's Trust, WBDA, PRIME
- Job Centre Plus now engaged and they are referring their clients to me and I am looking to go out on the Jobs Bus when it is in WDC District to visit various communities.
- I am running have weekly drop in sessions at three local community centres in the district, the others prefer it be done on an appointment basis.
- My posters and literature is available at community centres, WCC/WDC One Stop Shops, Libraries, CAVA, MP's surgeries, community notice boards etc
- I have attended community forums and all other kinds of community meetings and events to network and promote my role and services.
- I have established links with University of Warwick Students Union as there are in excess of 2000 of their students resident in South Leamington alone.

Project (Description/Areas to be delivered):
Hybrid Arts – Access to training and income maximisation for young people



The project is based at Hybrid:arts Indestructible Music Club in Leamington Spa. The facilities are designed to create a safe place for young people to meet, participate in music rehearsal, digital music production and performance. Traditionally young people / musicians would gather together depending on which genre of music they are interested in, influenced by the cultural background of the individual and their family. Indestructible Music Club has created a 'scene' that is above cultural separation and actively encourages cross cultural co-operation, tolerance and collaboration.

Narrowing the Gap funding has become a major contributor to Hybrid:arts Indestructible Music Club and the company vision of creating a thriving, creative and healthy music scene in Leamington Spa. Critical to the success of the music club was the idea that young people would take advice, guidance and training and go on to set up their own activities and become more able to market themselves and their products.

All of the 70 young participants continue to be involved in the music club in several ways, from helping to set up concerts, marketing and selling their own CD's or mentoring other young musicians.

Outcomes/Targets	Progress at End Project (incl. Key outputs)
Short term aim – to give young people a safe, constructive environment in which to develop	The music environment is still proving to be a real draw for young people – they feel comfortable and safe and this leads to them feeling at ease with each other and helps to create a constructive atmosphere. Although the project has officially finished, all of the participants are still coming to the music club on an open club night although this is limited by funding to five hours per week.
Medium term aim – to give young people the opportunity of progressing into enterprise activity, peer support and volunteering involving inter-generational community projects	Young musicians helped to complete successful funding proposal for new equipment. The funding was used to replace damaged or borrowed music equipment. The new equipment provided

more young people with the opportunity to access high quality equipment. Prior to this we had several 'vintage' amplifiers that were erratic in their performance, sometimes borrowed equipment wasn't there etc.

The group that contributed to the funding application were featured in local press articles (please see attached copies – one article is about the WCC funded youth club but it also mentions the successful funding bid)

Participants are planning their own concerts and DJ nights. There have been two events per month, an 'in house' mini gig for small numbers of invited guests and a larger public concert. The idea of a mini gig came from participants that wanted to experiment with new material with a friendly audience. Participants are producing quality music products to sell in shops. Two compilation CD's of participating bands and MC's are available in 'Head' (formerly Fopp) in Leamington Spa Royal Priors Shopping centre.

Two regular participants (18yrs) are mentoring younger musicians in the art of jamming and effective listening. The mentors take pride in being in a position where they can share skills and see younger musicians develop and learn to play together.

Regular concerts would be impossible if it wasn't for the support of volunteers. 21 volunteers have operated on a rota to ensure the performances run smoothly, safely and are an enjoyable experience for all. All volunteers are still 'on call' and willing to continue whenever the need arises.

The concerts have created an inter generational mix of the community bringing different races and ages together. The age range at performances has been from 9yrs to 57yr old and the cultural mix has seen community members from Asian, Afro Caribbean, Portuguese, Polish, English and Scottish roots.

We are proud to have created an environment where punks and MC's (formally 'chavs and goths') are mixing with

	one another and even collaborating musically.
<p>Specific targets: Numbers of young people attending over the course of the project. 50 aged 11 – 16 yrs 10 aged 17 – 18 yrs 5 aged 19 – 25 yrs 5 aged 9 – 11 yrs</p>	<p>70 participants regularly engaged in positive activities from recording, performing and marketing their music. This is predominantly 15 to 16 year olds with the majority being 15. The youngest age range (5 aged 9-11 yrs) is yet to reach target and this is being addressed by setting up a specific activity in partnership with Primary Schools and the PRU. There are 10 in the 19 to 25 yr old category and this is 100% more than the target.</p>
<p>15 young people to gain nationally recognised accredited unit in for e.g. events management, financial literacy, marketing music or web design.</p>	<p>25 young people have taken the NCFE Level 1 Qualification in Exploring Enterprise Capabilities. This is 10 more than set in the targets. The qualifications will have been completed by 28th February 2009. This activity has included setting up a market stall to sell CDs, interviewing local music shop owners and identifying entrepreneurial skills. External moderation is set for August and the participants will receive their certificate in early September.</p>
<p>15 adults continue to remain involved in project</p>	<p>Volunteering predominantly takes the form of parents helping to supervise concert performances. We have reached the target of 15 committed to helping at concerts. This is something that some of them indicated that they would be prepared to do as an ongoing duty to help us sustain the activities into the future. Other volunteering has included help from a recently graduated digital artist sharing skills in graphic design for participants wishing to make a professional looking CD or other merchandise.</p>
<p>Audiences attending the community celebration events up to 160 people of all ages x 4 events per year</p>	<p>69 attended the first performance event in early November and 165 people attended the performance in December, this number is set to grow as more young people are enquiring about participating. These events are quite unique as they bring together young people and adults from different cultural backgrounds. The average attendance at a concert was 140 with the</p>

largest turnout being 260. This took us over our limit for the performance space so people had to take it in turns to come in to see their favourite artists. We have had extremely positive feedback from young people and parents attending the concerts. A lot of people are impressed that we have created an atmosphere that is more like the real world and not a traditional education setting. We are proud to have been able to get the balance right.

Comments

"This kind of project gives young musicians an insight into the industry and invaluable experience of live performance – as a direct result i'm looking forward to seeing higher quality bands appearing on the local circuit" Miss Power – freelance promoter.

"I consider these gigs to be very important for the expression and development of the people involved. Without things like this, life would be a bit too boring" Mr McCarry – artist volunteer.

"This is a fantastic project, it gives young people the chance to experience and participate in live music and to access professional facilities and equipment" Mr Durrant – parent volunteer.

"It's great to have a place for under 18's to enjoy making music because they're excluded from most premises where adults go. It's brilliant that they can rehearse for free because most of the kids have no money" Ms Kwasnik parent volunteer.

"This project has incredible long term potential when you consider that all of the young people involved are learning invaluable enterprise skills which they will be able to transfer to their own lives and careers. But perhaps the most important benefit is the tremendous confidence boost that that has become evident in the participants. I hear them talking to each other about their futures, and this is very inspiring" Miss Eagle – volunteer.

Summary

This project has created a valuable process of creative community development by identifying what motivates young people and helping them make their aspirations a reality in a positive environment.

Young people can thrive when exposed to the right balance of creativity, fun and professionalism, learning new skills along the way.

An identified risk of this project was that if repeat funding was not available then the positive activity and its structure would disappear. It is hoped that if repeat funding becomes available through the same or different routes then we can build on the successes of the project and open up the same programme to a larger number of young people and therefore reach a wider cross section of society in general.

Tim Ellis
Creative Director
Hybrid:arts
May 2009



Narrowing the Gap 2008/09
Progress to Date – 25 November 2009

Project: Housing Mediation Service	
Outcomes/Targets	Progress at 1 Year
65 referrals for Warwick District young people between the ages of 13 – 25.	55 Parent / young person cases received 9 Neighbour disputes received involving young people directly and 1 community mediation involving young people in anti-social behaviour where tenancies were threatened (a total of 128 households worked with)
Positive outcomes – baseline of 33% positive	49% of cases recorded positive outcomes including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return home • Relationship improved • Assistance given to one party to deal with issues more constructively • Agreement on behavioural issues • Remained at home • Re-engaged with education • Referred to another agency for appropriate help • Supported family to work on reengaging young person • Reduction of tensions • Whole street agreement • Improved relationship with landlord
Female young people – baseline 74%	62% of young people were female in Parent/Young Person cases But only 38% female in neighbour and community disputes Overall, 54% of young people were female (high percentage of male young people involved in Whole community mediation made this figure unusual.)
Single Parent Family – baseline 58%, for period 60% single parent.	67% of young people were from single parent families and a further 4% lived with foster parents, step families or grandparents.
Expenditure	

Budget of £13,400 spent.

General

The funding enabled us to increase the publicity of the service and so enable more agencies and the general public refer cases to us.

Referrals have been received from Social Services, Connexions, 3 Schools, a College, 4 Housing associations, Police officers, Family Group Conferencing, CAB and 6 self referrals (2 recommended by previous clients). Staff have networked and delivered presentations about the service to a wide variety of groups including the WD parenting forum where all agencies working with parents meet. Staff have also undertaken Triple P training to improve the services that they can offer to parents where mediation is not possible or appropriate. This will inevitably produce more positive outcomes in the future

Narrowing the Gap 2008/09
Progress to Date – November 2009

Project Description & Area to be delivered

A Solution Focused Programme involving families with overweight and obese children to help them gain knowledge and skills to embed healthier lifestyle habits and messages

Progress to Date

It has been necessary to adjust the approaches developed for this programme several times as recruiting families has proved challenging. In spite of extensive and intensive advertising and media promotion –visits to local GP surgeries, local radio, school bag leafleting promotion at community events we have only been able to recruit one family. The steering group reformed to include SPAN and have decided to adopt elements of the Fun Food and Fitness model piloted in Children's Centres in Rugby. This will enable the project to link with the work SPAN are planning to deliver around healthy food/allotment work should their bid be successful.

Although this has been a demanding and at times frustrating project it has enabled good relationships to develop throughout the partnership. We feel we now have a way forward that will allow us to run three projects in the most deprived areas of Warwick District and to ensure a level of sustainability that would not have been possible at the start of the project.

Publicity - Publicity has appeared in Leamington Courier, The Gap, Packmores, Brunswick Healthy Living Centre, local radio.

Sustainability of Project

The project has progressed to utilising 3 Community centres and staff and volunteers will be trained to deliver healthy lifestyle and behaviour change advice to ensure consistency of delivery.

Each family will receive recipe cards to help them continue to cook from scratch at home using healthy ingredients.

Lessons Learnt

The recruitment of families is a challenging process and must not be underestimated. Time schedules have slipped due to a variety of factors – staff changes, lack of families coming forward, the necessity of adapting the project in order to attract participants.

Other Comments

We believe that this project will deliver a best value sustainable project and has fostered good partnership working across sectors in the District. It will also link in to other projected healthy eating and lifestyle initiatives and provide participants with a rounded approach to food and physical activity.

**Narrowing the Gap 2008/09
Progress to 25 November 2009.**

Project (Description/Areas to be delivered) - Parish Planning & Rural Housing Enabling	
Warwickshire Rural Community Council	
Outcomes/Targets	Progress at 6 months/End Project (incl. Key outputs)
3 Housing Needs Surveys undertaken	Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Report January 2009 Ashow Report July 2009 Bishops Tachbrook Report August 2009 Cubbington Report November 2009 Stoneleigh Report July 2009
3 Parish Plans Commenced	Offchurch: Currently drafting questionnaire Radford Semele: Endeavouring to formulate steering committee Baginton: Questionnaire circulated, should complete PP soon. Beausale: have been informed that they are not conducting a Parish plan. Rowington: Plan completed proceeding to action plan. Leek Wootton: Parish Plan commenced, steering group established. Cubbington: Initial public meeting, some difficulty with attracting sufficient volunteers Lapworth: As with Cubbington, will try again in new year.

<p>Work at Risk through lack of ongoing funding from October 2009</p>	<p>Budbrooke survey forms to be returned by 4 November 2009 Lapworth survey forms to be returned by 20 November 2009</p> <p>Bubbenhall survey scheduled for New Year 2010 Eathorpe, Hunningham, Offchurch & Wappenbury surveys to be scheduled after Offchurch Parish Plan completed Weston under Wetherley considering survey</p> <p>Baginton negotiations with owners of identified sites Barford negotiations with WCC Highways & owners of identified sites Bishops Tachbrook site canvassing exercise Budbrooke site canvassing exercise Cublington site canvassing exercise Lapworth site canvassing exercise</p>
<p>Expenditure</p> <p>Employment of Rural Housing Enabler : average 4hrs/week =£ 6,325</p> <p>Employment of Parish Plans Officer: average 2.5hrs/week =£ 3,950</p>	

Narrowing the Gap 2008/09
Progress to Date – 25 November 2009

Project (Description/Areas to be delivered)	
To re-establish swimming lessons for Asian Ladies. This is in line with Community Strategy Outcomes – Strategic Aim 12 and 13 and Local Indicator 8.	
Outcomes/Targets	Progress at 6 months/End Project (incl. Key outputs)
To re-establish a 'learn to swim' scheme for women from the BME community.	2 groups of 12 Asian ladies swimming for 40 minutes on alternate weeks. Originally project was to be for 10 ladies; however there was a lot of interest.
To encourage regular physical activity in a sector of the community that has been identified as at greater risk of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular problems and obesity.	Originally the ladies were to pay £1.75 per visit. However since the project started over 60's free swimming lessons has been introduced; therefore a decision was made between Judie Stoddart (Centre Manager) and Tracey Neumann (Strategic Director) to run the project for 17 weeks in total (term time only) as it was felt that it was very difficult to charge some and not others.
The aim is for the ladies to continue attending their pool on their own intergrating into mainstream public sessions.	Swimmers not prepared to pay for the session to maintain lessons. Developed link between Joan Collins from Brunswick healthy living centre. Some swimmers will be using Newbold Comyn ladies only swimming session.
12 ladies attended the pool in half term.	The ladies seem to enjoy the environment and learning to swim.
Expenditure	
Funding £1902	
Swimming instruction per week £18.90 / Transport per week £48 (per person £4.00) / Total cost per week £66.90	
Management fee £750	
£66.90 cost per week for 17 weeks = £1,137.30	
Management fee £750	
Total cost = £1,887.30	
£14.70 credit	

