

## **Newry and Mourne District Council**

Report of Wellbeing Action Partnership Meeting held in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry, on Friday, 23 June 2006 at 9.30 a.m.

**In Attendance:** Fergal O'Brien, Community Development Unit  
Aisling Rennick, Investing for Health Officer  
Brian Quinn, Community Representative  
Patrick Kelly, ROMAL  
Bertie Flynn, Community Representative  
Micheal Keenan, SELB  
Kathleen Smyth, Newry and Mourne Women  
Paul O'Neill, Newry Sports Centre  
Moira Aiken, Women's Health Development Worker  
Orla McCann, NITAP  
Caroline Speers, NITAP  
John Farrell, Environmental Health Dept  
Geraldine Donaghy, Confederation of Community Groups  
Laurence Bradley, Confederation of Community Groups  
Briege Magill, Administration Officer, NMDC

**Others:** Inspector Lorraine Dobson, PSNI  
Kevin Scullion, Environmental Health Dept  
Adrian Fitzsimons, Environmental Health Dept

**Apologies** Eddy Curtis, NMDC  
Liam Donnelly, Simon Community  
Kieran Devlin, Health Promotion

Fergal O'Brien, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

### **Report of Wellbeing Action Partnership Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

Read: Report of Wellbeing Action Partnership Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2006.  
(Copy circulated)

*On the proposal of Orla McCann, seconded by Kathleen Smyth, it was agreed the report of the WAP Meeting held on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2006 be adopted as a true and accurate record, same having been circulated.*

## **Presentation - Air Quality Management Strategy**

Kevin Scullion, Environmental Health Officer with Newry and Mourne District Council then gave a presentation on Air Quality Management Strategy. (Copy attached).

Kevin said that air quality was generally quite good throughout the district but a few "hot-spots" existed within Newry City and such areas had been declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's). He said since 1991 the Council had paid out over £1 million to householders to convert from coal to other sources of heating such as oil fire central heating. He said there was a legal obligation on the Council to review and assess air quality in the whole of the district and that it was their aim to maintain those areas currently with satisfactory levels of air quality as well as improving air quality in the Newry City AQMA's.

Kevin said over thirty sites in Newry were being monitored in relation to air quality. The five AQMA's were Kilmorey Street, St Mary Street, Canal Street, Water Street and Bridge Street. He said it was necessary to identify the source of pollution and determine the level of improvement in air quality required. He said pollutants of concern were – Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulates, a principal source of which is considered to be traffic pollution.

Kevin said it was hoped to set up an Air Quality Forum in September 2006 including a Working Group which would develop an Action Plan to be put out to consultation. It was proposed to have the agreed Action Plan published by April 2007.

Kevin said the Department of Regional Development had prepared a Draft Sub-Regional Transport Plan in which it details measures proposed for Newry City Centre. These proposals are welcome but it will take time to evaluate their impact on local air quality. In addition the Planning Service are to publish their Area Plan in August 2006 at which stage it should become clear whether the Newry Southern Relief Road will be included. The development of a Newry Southern Relief Road would greatly assist improvements in air quality within the AQMA's. He said there was a statutory obligation on the Council to develop an Action Plan but all agencies had a role to play in its implementation.

Kevin confirmed to Brian Quinn that air quality monitoring had been carried out in both Warrenpoint and Kilkeel Towns. He said that both towns were found to meet air quality standards.

In reply to query from Brian Quinn, Kevin said Environmental Health made the Planning Service aware of any concerns they had in relation to sand quarries.

Following further discussion it was agreed the Environmental Health Department representatives would note the concern expressed today regarding the lack of enforcement of existing weight restrictions on vehicles traveling up Canal Street and surrounding areas.

*It was agreed representatives from Environmental Health Department would keep WAP members advised of progress regarding air quality.*

### **Presentation – Fuel Poverty in Newry and Mourne**

Adrian Fitzsimons, Environmental Health Officer with Newry and Mourne District Council then gave a presentation on Fuel Poverty in Newry and Mourne. (Copy attached).

Adrian said in 2005, Aoibheann Downey, from Environmental Health had carried out a great deal of work regarding Fuel Poverty in Newry and Mourne. Aoibheann had carried out research of what grants were currently available and associated criteria and had then gone out into local communities to make presentations and to help those who required assistance. A Warm Homes Leaflet had been published and circulated.

Adrian said the main causes of fuel poverty were inadequate insulation, low household income and high fuel prices. The House Condition Survey carried out in 2001 indicated that one third of all households in Northern Ireland were in fuel poverty, with owner occupiers and privately rented being the worst hit.

Adrian said financial support was available via Housing Executive grants, and also from schemes such as the Warm Homes Scheme, the Warm Homes Plus Scheme and the Cash Back Scheme. He said since 2001, 2477 dwellings within Newry and Mourne had been provided with insulating measures and 961 dwellings had been provided with complete heating systems.

Following further discussion, it was agreed John Farrell circulate to WAP members, at a later date, a breakdown of the areas within the District where up-take of funding had been greatest and to take into consideration comments regarding confusion over contact numbers contained in the Warm Homes Leaflet.

Aisling Rennick confirmed that the Southern Investing for Health Energy Efficiency Worker would be working closely with the Environmental Health Department and with community groups when the focus was on the Newry and Mourne area.

John Farrell said that householders were now being encouraged to use alternative energy, e.g. solar heating or wood chip rather than oil. He said grants for provision of wood chip had opened in April and uptake had been so great that all available funding had now been allocated.

Fergal thanked both Kevin and Adrain for the very informative and interesting presentations.

## **Progress Report from WAP Sub Groups**

### **(a) Mental Health Sub Group**

It was noted that evaluation report had been considered at the last WAP Meeting regarding the one day Capacitor Training and the two day Pharmaceutical Awareness Project.

It was noted there was nothing further to report at present.

### **(b) Physical Activity Sub Group**

Paul circulated a summary of programmes running in Newry Sports Centre, which contributed to improvement of health and wellbeing and said he would have a similar summary relating to activities in Kilkeel Sports Centre e-mailed to WAP members when available.

*Paul also agreed to report to the next WAP meeting on progress made regarding attempts to secure match funding (£3,500) to provide a hoist to enable use of trampolines for rebound therapy at Newry Sports Centre.*

### **(c) Ethnic Minorities Sub Group**

#### **Welcome Pack for BME/Migrant Workers**

Aisling said amendments had been made to the draft welcome pack and she hoped to have the finalised version ready for printing by early autumn.

It was noted £2,500 approximately would come from the WAP budget with match funding from the Community Safety Partnership.

**Funding for Ethnic Minority Worker** - Aisling Rennick informed those present that the re-submitted joint application with Louth County Council to PEACE 11 Measure 5.2 Cross Border Cooperation between Local Authorities, for funding for a Cross Border Minority Ethnic Development Project, had been unsuccessful.

Inspector Lorraine Dobson from the PSNI said that the PSNI were aware of the applications made by WAP and had a very similar proposal in mind. She said the PSNI were trying to strengthen links with ethnic minority groups and were attempting to address issues such as under reporting of crime and hate crime, road safety, domestic violence, public safety issues such as carrying of knives and street drinking and also community and cultural issues to reduce tensions and manage integration.

Lorraine said a private individual had donated £25,000 to the PSNI to help provide such a resource and application for match funding could be made to the "Policing with the

Community” Fund. This would provide £50,000 to run the project for the first year. Lorraine said funding thereafter would have to be found with further applications to the police fund more likely to be successful if they were accompanied by matched funding from another source. She said it was hoped to find a long term partner in the form of another statutory body and perhaps funding from the business community or another private source.

It was agreed that such a worker could:-

- Collate existing research and where gaps are identified, undertake further research on the ethnic minority populations in the area, this will facilitate a needs assessment and preparation of a development plan.
- Development and operation of a “one stop shop” initial point of contact for BME people.
- Development of outreach “one stop shop” services to rural areas and workplaces.
- To work with local community groups to increase understanding of ethnic diversity and assist the integration of migrant workers and other ethnic minority individuals into local communities.
- To identify and support a number of individuals within ethnic minority communities who can act as a voice for the needs of their communities.
- To work with and support existing and new groups from within the ethnic minority populations.
- To encourage the participation of people from Ethnic Minority backgrounds in cultural and civic events in Newry and Mourne.

Lorraine requested that WAP might consider providing strategic management for this proposal, with NMDC providing accommodation and operational management for the project. She said the support of the Wellbeing Action Partnership was crucial to this project’s success and sustainability. All member agencies in WAP would have use of this central point to enhance their service delivery to BME.

Lorraine suggested that if funding were secured, the Council might consider employing and housing such a worker. She said STEP in Dungannon had agreed to consider the possibility of seconding a worker to the project for one year or at least assisting in finding a worker qualified and experienced in this field.

Following further discussion, it was agreed in principle to support the proposal. It was agreed Lorraine would e-mail the proposal to Briege for circulation to WAP Members for their comments. It was also agreed Fergal would meet with E Curtis to discuss the proposal which would be brought before the Council for approval.<sup>1</sup>

It was noted that the deadline for application to the Deputy Chief Constable’s fund ‘Policing with the Community’ is Friday 30/06/06 at 5pm.

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<sup>1</sup> Proposal brought before Council attached.

### **Polish Needs Assessment**

Fergal said the Polish Group were now constituted and were currently seeking funding to help support and develop the Polish Resource Centre.

Both Brian Quinn and Aisling Rennick said they were hugely sympathetic but to date WAP had refused funding requests from other groups in the area, and that to do so in this case would set a precedent for the future.

*Following further discussion it was agreed not to make a contribution to the Polish Resource Centre. It was agreed that Aisling Rennick would contact a representative from the Polish Resource Centre to advise of other possible sources of funding such as the Good Relations funding.*

*It was also agreed that WAP commission the Polish Resource Centre to assist in translating information contained within the Welcome Pack.*

### **Progress Report regarding Community Infrastructure Programme**

It was noted that the January – March 2006 progress report had been circulated at WAP's last meeting.

Geraldine Donaghy said the Programme had been extended to August to complete projects etc and it was hoped that ROSA, ROMAL and CCG would all come in on target for spend.

Geraldine then showed a short clip from the DVD on community achievement shown at the Celebrating Communities event held in the Canal Court on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

Fergal thanked all those who had participated in the Community Infrastructure Programme.

Patrick Kelly said he wished to record his thanks to ROSA and CCG for their assistance and said it had been a pleasure taking part in the Programme.

## **Update re SIHP Partnership and SIHP Issue Groups**

Aisling Rennick provided the following update: -

### **Blood Donation**

SIFH are working with NI Blood Transfusion Service on a campaign to increase the number of Blood Donors within the Southern Area. Currently donor sessions in Newry are particularly well supported so the campaign will particularly focus on other areas of the District. It is hoped to encourage an increase of between 100 and 200 donors per Council area.

### **Nutrition Policy**

Work is being carried out with Southern Board and the local trusts on the development of a generic workplace nutrition policy that can be adapted to suit various environments. It is hoped the policy will be available in early Autumn.

### **Suicide Strategy**

SIHP has produced a detailed response to the Northern Ireland Suicide Strategy, which has been adopted by the Council.

### **Southern Area Obesity Group**

SIHP leads the Southern Area Obesity Group, a multiagency group that focuses in particular on children and young people. The group is currently considering the implications of the Fit Futures report and investigating linking in with existing nutrition courses.

### **DVD**

SIHP have produced a DVD showing some of the work, which has been carried out over the past 2 years. It is planned that the DVD will be available on the SIHP website once permission has been granted from all those who took part.

### **Rural Isolation and Poverty Research**

The Rural College, Draperstown have completed the interviews and research into the effects of rural isolation and poverty. The report is to be presented to the next meeting of the Poverty and Disadvantage Issue Group. The report is likely to highlight the real disadvantage hidden by taking an area based approach.

### **BME/Migrant Workers Research**

The initial stage of literature review and desktop research to identify themes and gaps has been completed. Based on the outcomes of this initial research, STEP (South Tyrone Empowerment Programme) are now developing the full research which is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year.

### Play at Home Scheme

The group are funding a pilot of this scheme in the Craigavon & Banbridge Trust Area. The scheme encourages physical play among under 5s and includes healthy eating and oral health messages

### Weaning Recipe Booklet

The group has funded Craigavon & Banbridge Trust to design and print a weaning recipe booklet for distribution Board wide.

### Cook – it

The group has supported training and accreditation for local people to support the cook-it community based healthy eating scheme.

### Safer Drivers

The scheme to support young drivers to undertake the Advance Driving Test has been re-launched for the current year. The scheme provides subsidies to enable young people (18 – 25) to undertake the test for as little as £25.

### Healthy Eating in Schools Programme

The schools' healthy eating programme which was so successful last year in Newry and Mourne has been extended to 7 Post Primary Schools in Armagh and Dungannon, this year. Initiatives included introduction of water coolers/water bottles, salad bars and the purchasing of a range of equipment such as smoothie makers. One school reported a 34% increase in salad sales for January and February compared to the same period last year.

### Health Based Messages

The Further Education colleges in Armagh and Kilkeel developed programmes incorporating health based messages into adult literacy programmes. Topics covered included smoking, alcohol, obesity, healthy eating and physical activity.

### After Care Programme

£4000 has been made available to develop and deliver a peer education programme to high risk young women from the looked after/leaving care system. The programme aims to provide a positive experience of understanding the nature of groups and the development of personal communication skills in order to assist the young people to improve their self confidence and interaction with society.

### Community Energy Efficiency Project

The group is currently developing a partnership between our Community Energy Project Worker and National Energy Action to provide a workshop programme for the community sector and to provide accredited training for 4 community volunteers.

### Homelessness

The information department of Southern Board has produced a paper on levels and causes of homelessness in the Southern area for the issue group and we are currently discussing with NIHE any possible assistance, which can be provided.

Aisling also advised that the Council had recently agreed to purchase five defibrillators for Council and community use and said a press release would be issued in the near future stating exact locations.

It was also agreed that the update from Aisling re SIFH be moved up the agenda for future WAP Meetings.

### **Health in the City Plan**

Fergal said joint priorities had been identified and the Health Improvement Plan should be the beginning of a model of best practice in terms of health improvement and was a plan, which needed to have long-term commitment from all agencies. He said it was about using existing resources to connect people better and to keep health on the agenda.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Next Meeting - Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2006 at 9.30 a.m. in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry.

There being no further business the Meeting ended at 12.00 noon.

**Signed: B Magill**  
**Administration Officer**

## **Wellbeing Action Partnership Minority Ethnic Proposal**

The purpose of this proposal is mainly two fold; to promote sectoral service development and secondly to promote equality, and social inclusion, thereby building better communities. In order to achieve this, the project has several objectives:

- Collate existing research, in partnership with Investing for Health, and where gaps are identified, undertake further research on the ethnic minority populations in the area, this will facilitate a needs assessment and preparation of a development plan.
- Development and operation of a “one stop shop” initial point of contact for BME people providing information, support and appropriate signposting in Newry.
- Development of outreach “one stop shop” services to rural areas and workplaces.
- To work with local community groups to increase understanding of ethnic diversity and assist the integration of migrant workers and other ethnic minority individuals into local communities.
- To identify and support a number of individuals within ethnic minority communities who can act as a voice for the needs of their communities.
- To work with and support existing and new groups from within the ethnic minority populations.
- To encourage the participation of people from Ethnic Minority backgrounds in cultural and civic events in Newry and Mourne.

Equality of opportunity and social inclusion is central.

The project focuses on a group in society who are particularly vulnerable through language and cultural differences, poverty and in many cases, through a lack of knowledge of the Northern Ireland situation. Through direct support and by empowering local indigenous communities the project will facilitate the integration of our BME population into local society thus enabling them to achieve their full potential and play their role in the community.

The project aims to address the tensions arising out of inward migration to what are deprived areas by working with community organisations to develop an understanding of diversity and to support communities to welcome new residents.

Newry and Mourne Wellbeing Action Partnership support for this project is crucial to its success and sustainability because it is a multi agency and multisectoral partnership, which will be able to address a wide range of issues including policing, health and education as well as community based issues  
It would also afford a problem solving approach to any particular issues that may arise.

When the Newry and Mourne Wellbeing Action Partnership surveyed groups providing services to ethnic minorities, it was noted that these groups included organisations which were cross community in nature and also those which were more single identity including Churches, St Vincent de Paul and various community groups from both Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist and Catholic/Nationalist backgrounds. However, it was also noted that most of these groups were working on the issues in isolation with little awareness of what other groups were doing. The project would aim to assist such groups to build up links with each other improving access to services but just as importantly improving understanding between the different local communities.

### **WAP input**

This project would be under the strategic direction of the Wellbeing Action Partnership and managed operationally by the Council. The Council's contribution would include accommodation of the worker. All member agencies in WAP would have use of this central point to enhance their service delivery to BME Communities.

### **Recruitment of Worker**

The post will be publicly advertised and filled by public tawl. Newry and Mourne District Council in association with WAP and its members will determine the job specification.

### **Funding**

The funding proposal builds on an existing application, to the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland, which was unsuccessful. The proposed funding for this post is as follows:

£25,000 from PSNI (subject to approval of PSNI funding, closing date for application 30 June 2006)

£25,000 from Private Sector.

Application for additional funding will be submitted in time to various funding agencies with the aim of extending the contract, subject to satisfactory evaluation and monitoring of the project.