

Stockton Renaissance

An assessment of the impact of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme for the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees

2001-2008

FOREWORD

Acknowledgements

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FOREWORD

On behalf of Stockton Renaissance I am pleased to welcome this report and DVD on the impact of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme in Stockton-on-Tees.

Research has shown how those living in some of the more deprived communities tend to experience a poorer quality of life. Therefore we are particularly pleased that this programme has made a significant difference to communities across the Borough. This has been achieved through both challenge and intervention to improve the quality and level of service in local neighborhoods.

Neighbourhood Renewal and partnership working has had a key role in 'narrowing the gap' between our most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the Borough by bringing together a wealth of experience and expertise in delivering services and initiatives. This has clearly been demonstrated by how Stockton Renaissance has delivered the Neighbourhood Renewal agenda and has made a significant contribution to improving the quality of life of Stockton's residents. This report also highlights the value and importance of strong partnership working which has taken place through Stockton Renaissance to achieve these positive outcomes and which we will seek to build on in the future to continue to improve the quality of life in the Borough.

I must note the contribution of the voluntary and community sector in both Stockton Renaissance and the Neighbourhood Renewal programmes. The sector has not just been involved in delivery of the programme but also provided the vehicle to enable inclusivity and opportunity to access community networks to both benefit from these programmes and influence change at a local level.

The important message for the residents of the Borough is that these improvements will have contributed to better health and employment opportunities, safer streets, and an overall improved quality of life, irrespective of where they live.

I both challenge and aim to continue to drive Stockton Renaissance towards continuously improving and tackling inequalities in the Borough and making the idea of a deprived neighborhood in the Borough a thing of the past.

Acknowledgements

On behalf on Stockton Renaissance may I also take the opportunity to thank all the Stockton Renaissance, Area and Thematic Partnership, and Community Empowerment Network members for all their hard work and support. In particular I would like to say a special thank-you to all the Thematic Lead Officers and the project deliverers over the years that have helped to make this happen.

Ken Lupton
Chair of Stockton Renaissance

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Stockton's Neighbourhood Renewal programme has had a major impact on the Borough since it began in April 2001. In total over £23 million of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) has been allocated by Stockton Renaissance (the Local Strategic Partnership for the Borough) since 2001. NRF was used to target delivery against the National Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Targets, with projects being implemented across the most disadvantaged areas within the Borough to improve services, reduce inequality, tackle unemployment, address health issues and fight crime.
- 1.2 This report aims to provide:
- A summary of projects funded through NRF;
 - A review of key performance for the various themes;
 - Progress on mainstreaming; and
 - Information on service improvements across the Borough.
- 1.3 Neighbourhood Renewal has aimed to improve health, education, jobs, housing and the local environment and reduce crime in the poorest areas. This means raising the standards of service delivery in the most deprived neighbourhoods to make sure that groups in the community, who experience a poorer quality life, are improved so they have the same standards and opportunities as those living in more affluent neighbourhoods.
- 1.4 In 2000, there were 25,236 households in Stockton-on-Tees in the worst 10 per cent wards nationally. By 2004, the number of households in the 10 percent most deprived areas nationally had fallen to 13,073 households (the 2004 index was based on Lower Super Output Areas). This fall has continued and in 2007 there were 10,829 households in Stockton-on-Tees in the 10 per cent most deprived areas nationally. There has been a clear improvement in the number of households living in the most deprived areas, a fall of nearly 14,407 households in the worst 10 per cent nationally (a 57 per cent reduction). (p.7, Narrowing the gap report, 2008)

Context for the Borough

- 1.5 Stockton-on-Tees is a diverse Borough with a thriving population of more than 189,000 people within easy reach of city shopping and leisure facilities, the coast and rural North Yorkshire (2) The population is increasing (up from 175,000 in 1991), and this rise is projected to continue to over 204,000 by 2029. We are experiencing significant shifts in the make up of the population with rising numbers of older people but a decline in children and young people.
- 1.6 There is a unique social and economic mix within the Borough, with areas of quite acute disadvantage situated alongside areas of affluence. Whilst 15 per cent of the population live within the top 20 per cent of most affluent areas of England, 34 per cent live within the 20 per cent most deprived areas. The Borough is one of contrasts, a mix of busy town centres, urban residential areas and picturesque villages. In addition to Stockton there are four main townships: Billingham, Thornaby, Yarm and the new community of Ingleby Barwick.
- 1.7 Areas of affluence lie alongside areas of disadvantage. The Borough is one of the most polarised in England, with 17 of our 117 Super Output Areas (SOA's) in the top 20 per cent most affluent wards in England, and 40 within

the 20 per cent most deprived. However, a testament to the success of the programme is that there is significantly more optimism about the future than in 2000 (a 23 percent net improvement) 26 per cent believe the Borough will improve but, in the neighbourhood renewal areas this rises to 41 per cent (p.1, 1).

- 1.8 In 2006 the IPSOS MORI Residents Survey identified that 35 per cent of residents from the most deprived areas within the Borough felt the local area had got better over the last two years, this is in comparison to 24 per cent for the Borough as a whole. There were also significantly fewer residents from the deprived areas who felt the area had got worse (19 per cent) compared to 26 per cent for the whole Borough. This data shows more people from the most deprived communities feel the area has improved; this would suggest it can be attributed to the continued Neighbourhood Renewal Programme and the targeted service provision in these areas. (3)
- 1.9 Stockton has benefited through various funding regimes over recent years, significant investment and attention has also been paid to the quality of life of local people by regenerating local communities, providing opportunities and services for individuals, promoting achievement and tackling disadvantage within our Borough. Stockton Renaissance has worked to improve this, where possible and in particular, for those living in the poorest neighbourhoods.
- 1.10 From April 1999 to March 2006, Stockton Renaissance secured £17.8 million of Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) funding through rounds 3, 5 and 6 of the programme. SRB was a government backed area based initiative of investment in the most deprived areas of the country. The vision of the SRB programme in Stockton was:
- “To build a more inclusive community by reintegrating those people in the target area who are presently excluded, through the development of a series of systematic regeneration initiatives”.* (6)
- 1.11 NRF which was introduced in 2001 provided a more targeted approach towards those living in the poorest neighbourhoods and with the aim to ‘narrow the gap’ between the poorest and more affluent areas in the Borough.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund - Programme Funding

- 2.1 From April 2001 to March 2008 Stockton Council secured in total over £23 million of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF). This is broken down in detail as below:

Year	Amount
2001 / 02	£1,926,102
2002 / 03	£2,889,153
2003 / 04	£3,852,204
2004 / 05	£3,852,204
2005 / 06	£3,852,204
2006 / 07	£3,684,295
2007 / 08	£3,701,049
TOTAL	£23,757,211

- 2.2 NRF has been a special ring-fenced grant which has been made available to England’s most deprived Local Authorities, to enable them in collaboration

with their Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), to improve services, narrowing the gap between deprived areas and the rest of the country.

Policy Context

- 2.3 "A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal - National Strategy Action Plan" set out the Government's policies to tackle deprivation in England. A key element of the strategy was the improvement of mainstream services to produce better outcomes in the most deprived areas. This means increased employment and improved economic performance, reduced crime, better educational attainment, improved health, better housing and cleaner, safer, greener public spaces.
- 2.4 To achieve these improvements, the Government, Local Authorities and other service providers needed to reallocate resources in their mainstream programmes to tackle deprivation better.
- 2.5 Following the Spending Reviews in both 2000 and 2004, the Government set targets for improved outcomes by public services in deprived neighbourhoods. The targets mean Government departments, local authorities and other service providers were being judged for the first time on their performance in the areas where they are doing worst - not on the national average.
- 2.6 To support the national context and to provide some focus to this agenda, a Neighbourhood Renewal strategy for the Borough was developed. The aim of this strategy was to support the delivery of the neighbourhood renewal agenda through the LSP and provide some direction.

Neighbourhood Matters

- 2.7 'Neighbourhood Matters' was the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy for the Borough from 2002-2007. The Strategy was a 5-year framework, which aimed to set out an agreed vision and plan for positive change in Neighbourhoods in need of renewal. The strategy detailed the approach to help the poorer neighbourhoods contribute towards the work of Stockton Renaissance. (5)
- 2.8 This plan was followed up by the production of 'Neighbourhood Plans', which were known as 'Local Action Plans' for all the priority neighbourhoods. These plans were produced to provide a local dimension to support the strategy and make these relevant to local people. These plans were prepared in close consultation with communities. Section 4.0 provides more detail on these plans.
- 2.9 As part of the Performance Management Framework submissions required from Government Office North East (GONE), a number of improvement plans were developed. These plans also formed the annual update to the 'Neighbourhood Matters' document and detailed:
 - The actions to be taken to improve service delivery and incorporated consideration of any external influences
 - Relevant linkages to new government policy i.e. Local Area Agreements
 - Our response to new national floor targets; and
 - Considered any changes to local circumstance / implications.

Strategic Fit and Commissioning

2.10 In Rounds 1-3 of NRF, each Thematic Partnership was responsible for identifying projects for their theme in addressing the national floor targets. The Thematic Partnerships and the floor target which they were responsible for was as follows:

*Thematic Partnership	Floor Target responsibility
Economic Regeneration & Transport Partnership	Employment & Enterprise, Worklessness, Transport
Environment Partnership	Environment
Housing & Neighbourhood Partnership	Housing
Safer Communities (Safer Stockton Partnership)	Crime
Children's Trust Board	Children & Young People
Health & Well-being Partnership (formerly the Health Improvement Partnership and Adult Care Partnership)	Health

*Please note that over the years the names and make up of these partnerships have changed accordingly to fit with both national and local strategic priorities.

2.11 By Round 4 of NRF, there was a shift to a commissioning approach for the two priority areas of health and worklessness. This allowed focussed targeting of resources against delivery of the Floor Targets by producing specifications for organisations to bid against, these included evidence of need and details of existing provision to avoid duplication/establish and improve joint working. This approach also provided the Voluntary & Community sector (VCS) with the opportunity to become more involved in both the strategic decision making and the commissioning arrangements for this package.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategic Working

2.12 Neighbourhood Renewal has been about improving health, education, jobs, housing and the local environment and reducing crime in the poorest areas. This means raising the standards of service delivery in the most deprived neighbourhoods and making sure that groups in the community, who can experience even poorer results and more barriers, such as the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community are able to benefit from this new focus on outcomes.

2.13 This is where floor targets and mainstreaming came in.

Floor Targets

- Floor targets helped reduce the gap between the poorest areas and the rest of the country.
- They showed what the priorities should be at a local level.
- Floor targets made sure where public services are failing, they get better.
- Floor targets set a minimum standard for poorer areas and disadvantaged groups.

2.14 Following the 2004 Spending Review, the floor targets became more robust, with a greater range across government departments. This ensured that, at a local level, those delivering services, like schools and police, focused more strongly on the key challenges of neighbourhood renewal. Progress against the floor targets was reported through our Performance Management Framework (PMF) arrangements. The floor targets following the spending review in 2004 are attached at Appendix 1.

- 2.15 The PMF submissions involved a detailed review of the partnership and the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme, where evidence was provided on 'narrowing the gap' on the various thematic areas. The outcome of the reviews resulted in the following ratings over the years:
- **2003/04** - **Green**
 - **2004/05** - **Amber/Green**
 - **2005/06** - **Green**
- 2.16 In 2006/07, with the introduction of Local Area Agreements, the opportunity was taken to streamline the performance management process to include Neighbourhood Renewal as part of the overall LAA process. This has resulted in an approach where a more simplified and aligned performance management mechanism has been established which has replaced the need for separate monitoring of Neighbourhood Renewal. However LSPs were still required to continue to demonstrate through the LAA how they are narrowing the gap between the most deprived areas/groups and the rest through including mandatory outcomes with a neighbourhood focus.
- 2.17 The outcome of the LAA review resulted in the following rating:
- **2006/07** - **Green**
- 2.18 The above ratings demonstrate the successful delivery of the Neighbourhood Renewal programme and efficient partnership working taking place across the Borough.

Eligible Areas

- 2.19 The areas eligible for NRF have changed slightly over the years as the Index of Multiple Deprivation has changed, however it has remained consistent in ensuring the top 10 per cent most deprived neighbourhoods are those which benefited.
- 2.20 For NRF Rounds 1 and 2, the 11 wards within the worst 10 per cent nationally were the prioritised eligible areas. Geographically, the neighbourhoods within the worst wards were prioritised as Portrack & Tilery, Hardwick, Parkfield, Stockton Town Centre, Newtown and Primrose Hill.
- 2.21 For Round 3, the eligible areas were based on the IMD 2004, for which the top 10 per cent nationally most deprived wards were chosen to benefit from NRF. These wards were then drawn into neighbourhoods, which were agreed by Stockton Renaissance, to ensure further targeting of the funding.
- 2.22 For Round 4, the IMD 2006 was introduced, where the top 10 per cent most deprived Super Output Areas (SOA) were used. SOA were introduced to improve the reporting of small area statistics and are comprised of a population of around 1,500. These were areas further refined and agreed through Stockton Renaissance and the Area Partnerships, to ensure that the boundaries were suitable neighbourhoods.
- 2.23 It is important to note that not all deprived people live in deprived areas and conversely, not everyone living in a deprived area is deprived. This is an important factor for many communities and families who choose to live in these neighbourhoods for a whole host of reasons i.e. family networks, accessibility to support services etc.

- 2.24 It is also worth observing that in 2000, there were 25,236 households in Stockton-on-Tees in the worst 10 per cent of wards nationally. By 2004, the number of households in the 10 per cent most deprived areas nationally had fallen to 13,073 based on lower super output areas. This fall continued and in 2007 there were 10,829 households in the Borough in the 10 per cent most deprived nationally. There has been a clear improvement in the number of households living in the most deprived areas, a fall of nearly 14,407 households in the worst 10 per cent nationally (a 57 per cent reduction). This shows that the gap between the most and least deprived areas of the Borough has narrowed.

Mainstreaming

- 2.25 Neighbourhood Renewal has allowed both innovation, changes in service provision and learning from good practice from pilot projects. One way of delivering these key changes at a local level has been through mainstreaming. Mainstreaming in the context of neighbourhood renewal can be defined as:

“Influencing ‘mainstream services’ to make them work better in deprived neighbourhoods, by shaping and resourcing them for the task, and making them focus explicitly on the places and people most in need of their support”.

- 2.26 Mainstreaming has not been a simple concept and there were a variety of different models of mainstreaming adopted over the various rounds on NRF. Conventionally mainstreaming has focussed upon the process of transferring policy, resources, good practice or activity from area-based initiatives or special programmes into the core of mainstream service provision. For example in Rounds 1 and 2, the mainstreaming model adopted was primarily around lessons learnt and the continued shaping of future service delivery. As the rounds progressed this further evolved into ensuring that successful programmes were sustained through financial planning by public sector agencies or through external funding. Each of the rounds demonstrate a significant impact on service delivery undertaken through both *‘influencing ‘mainstream services to make them work better’ or resourcing them for the task, and making them focus explicitly on the places and people most in need of their support’.*

Some examples of mainstreaming for NRF Round 1 and 2 include:

- 2.27 The Families & Schools initiative enhanced the learning experience of both parents and children. Research indicated that parental involvement significantly increases the achievement of children at all key stages. Most of the courses within this initiative were accredited and enabled parents to increase their levels of qualification. Local schools welcomed the intervention and it helped to increase the involvement of parents in the life of the school.

- 2.28 The alleygates scheme introduced through Round 1 involved erecting high security gates at the entrances and exits to rear alleyways, restricting access by key to only those residents with a property backing onto the alleyway. This initiative has been targeted at areas with high incidences of rear-entry burglaries, incidences of anti-social behaviour and nuisance fires, and high incidences of fly tipping in the alleyways. Restricting access to only residents of the street helps to highlight when strangers are walking in the alleyway, restricts access for people loitering, prevents traffic using the alleyway as a thoroughfare, and highlights which residents are tipping in the alleyway. The gates in fact won the 'Gold Secured By Design' award, meaning that Stockton has the best gates available on the market. All of the ongoing maintenance costs of the alley gates were picked up through the Council's mainstream budgets.

Some examples of mainstreaming for NRF Round 3 include:

- 2.29 From the NRF Round 3 Health Package, the Primary Care Trust (PCT) provided over £2,063,636 of mainstream funding to continue projects.
- 2.30 All capital works for transport initiatives funding through NRF round 3, such as traffic calming schemes and street lighting were maintained through existing Council budgets.
- 2.31 The Anti-Social Behaviour Team achieved mainstreaming for a number of posts through mainstream budgets; the Police seconded two Officers into the team and the Fire Service seconded one Officer part-time. The Primary Care Trust paid 50 per cent of the salary of the Community Safety Officer working in alcohol related crime and disorder.
- 2.32 The Open Space Warden intervention was successful in mainstreaming 80 per cent of funding required from this project. The majority of this funding has been provided directly from Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.

Some examples of mainstreaming for NRF Round 4 include:

- 2.33 The Fire and Police Service have continued to second officers into the Anti-Social Behaviour Team. Following the transitional year NRF funding 2008/09, the Anti-Social Behaviour Team will be picked up through Council mainstream budgets.
- 2.34 The properties purchased along with the property that was refurbished under the Housing Package has become part of Community Campus' stock and therefore will continue to be used for housing vulnerable young people.
- 2.35 Over 71 per cent of the Health Package projects have been funded by the PCT from 2008/9, which will mean that 85 per cent (which includes a couple of projects that will be part of the NRF transitional arrangements) of the health package in total will continue.
- 2.36 The Council's Enforcement team will also be funded through mainstream Council budgets post March 2009.
- 2.37 The Kerbside recycling scheme will also be funded through mainstream Council post March 2009.
- 2.38 For a selection of success stories relating to the Neighbourhood Renewal programme see the section on 3.0 Service Improvements and Case Studies.

3.0 SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

- 3.1 This section provides a detailed summary of each of the thematic areas and highlights the key achievements of the thematic packages during the lifetime of NRF.

Safer Communities

Background

- 3.2 The overall aim of the Crime Package has been to provide a targeted and coordinated response to crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour across the NRF areas. Neighbourhood Renewal Funding has been matched with Council mainstream budgets as well as funding from partners to provide a holistic approach to tackling crime and disorder. The programme has used the result from the Crime and Disorder residents' questionnaire to prioritise activity within the package.

Key Achievements

Round 1 and 2

- 3.3 Anti-Social Behaviour Team
NRF funding was used to establish an Anti-Social Behaviour Team within the Council to work in the NRF areas to gather evidence and prepare cases for Court for enforcement action, to deter and disrupt anti social behaviour. The Team included a Landlord Liaison Officer, who worked with Landlords in the private sector to encourage them to seek references on prospective tenants and to tackle anti social behaviour caused by their tenants.
- 3.4 During rounds 1 and 2, NRF funding enabled the Anti Social Behaviour Team, which was made up of two Officers, to deal with 285 incidents, of which 47 were resolved using a range of enforcement measures. The part-time Landlord Liaison Officer signed up 104 landlords to the Landlord Liaison Scheme, enabling them to seek a reference on any prospective tenants.
- 3.5 Additional Police Hours
In 2003/04 an additional 3,508 hours of police patrols were provided to the Neighbourhood Renewal areas and intelligence lead deployment maximised the effectiveness of this project. A total of 170 arrests were made, of which 138 were for criminal and driving offences and 32 were on warrant for failure to appear at court and 1,109 people were stopped and searched under Section 1 of the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984, who were believed to be in possession of stolen prohibited articles or drugs.
- 3.6 Alleygates
NRF funding provided a considerable investment into a programme of Alleygating, initially within the highest crime areas. This community safety and environmental evidence based initiative has reduced the numbers of domestic burglaries with entry at the rear of the property, deliberate fires and fly tipping in areas of older housing stock.

Round 3

- 3.7 NRF continued to fund some of the successful elements of the previous rounds, including the Community Wardens, Anti Social Behaviour Team and

additional police hours. However, a number of new projects were also introduced, particularly around prevention and the provision of diversionary activities.

3.8 Detached Youth Work

One of the new projects focused on detached youth work. The Corner House Youth Project was tasked to engage young people in the area to identify needs and modify behaviour. The workers liaised with the Anti Social Behaviour Team, the Community Wardens and existing youth provision to ensure existing facilities were used fully and any new facilities addressed the needs of the young people and the communities they lived in.

3.9 A capital element was built in to provide equipment known as a Play Out-Doors (POD) (a moveable container equipped with computers, TV, games console, tea and coffee making). This resource was used to engage with a variety of young people and provided them with activities. The PODs have continued to be utilised, particularly during school holidays and are integrated into youth service provision.

Round 4

3.10 Anti-Social Behaviour Team

NRF funding during round 4 provided a change in the pattern of working and enabled the Multi Agency Anti-Social Behaviour Team to operate on a geographical basis, which improved relations with residents, who became familiar with named officers for their ward. Each ward had a dedicated ASB Officer with accreditation to issue fixed penalty notices for fly tipping, rubbish dumping and littering. They could also remove alcohol and request names and addresses from people causing a nuisance. NRF funding enabled a priority service for residents from the Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.

3.11 Volume Crime

The Volume Crime post has been cited as best practice by the Home Office and using this approach exceeded the target for the number of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) to be met in the Borough. Coordinating volume crime has enabled the fast tracking of ASBO's and Criminal Record Anti Social Behaviour Orders (CRASBO) for those who are causing problems of violence, criminal damage and disorder, as well as anti social behaviour and the targeting of repeat offenders. This post has resulted in a more focussed proactive approach to crime types that cause the most concern to local residents and has contributed to reductions in volume crime.

3.12 Partnership Working

The package has successfully worked in partnership with a number of agencies, providing additionality to the service beyond NRF funding:

- The SWITCH Prevention worker works alongside the ASB Team within the Youth Offending Service to ensure that young people and their families receive support to enable young people to remain outside of the criminal justice system.
- Police overtime hours provide additional presence in the Neighbourhood Renewal areas through police patrols that will not be reduced by abstraction for holidays/sick leave. The additional patrols in these areas could not have been provided without this funding.
- The Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer service is now embedded within other mainstream services; if a resident contacts the Council or the police to report low level crime or anti-social behaviour, an Enforcement Officer may respond depending on the nature of the call.

Performance Information

Narrowing the Gap

- 3.13 In 2006 residents are significantly more likely to feel 'very safe' than they were in 2000 and 2002, with 94 per cent feeling safe outside in the daytime and 54 per cent after dark (IPSOS MORI, 2006). This is similar to 1998 when 94 per cent of residents felt safe in the daytime compared to 56 per cent in the dark. (p.13, 3)

LAA 2007/08

Performance Measure	Progress
Reduce the number of dwelling burglaries in the Borough: To improve the ratio of burglaries per 1,000 households between the Stockton rate and the average rate for the family of most similar CDRPs from 1.2 (i.e. 27:67:23:09) in 2003/04 to 1.15 over the 3-year period April 2004 to March 2007 and maintain	Achieved
Reduce Crime in line with local Crime and Disorder partnership targets and narrow the gap from a baseline of 6,340 between the worst performing wards / neighbourhoods and other areas across the district	Achieved

- 3.14 This performance at the end of the 2007/08 Local Area Agreement shows that the gap has reduced and 100 per cent targets have been achieved.

Healthier Communities & Older People

Background

- 3.15 The overall aim of this package was to provide an extensive programme of health interventions, targeting service developments for those people who are often the most isolated and deprived within disadvantaged communities. Funding provided additional services around tackling premature death rates from coronary heart disease, reducing under-18 conception, drug and alcohol services and healthy lifestyles and exercise.

Key Achievements

Round 1 and 2

- 3.16 The Carers and Users Advice Service provided advice to carers regarding benefits and services available to them. At the end of 2002/03, 200 residents from the NR priority areas were advised by the service, with over £250,000 of previously unclaimed benefits being claimed for priority area carers and service users.
- 3.17 In 2003/04 NRF enabled the following:
- 20 adaptations to properties within NRF priority neighbourhoods, to enable residents to continue living independently. (13 public sector properties, 7 private sector).
 - 15 home visits per month to the most isolated users and carers and extended outreach service to GP practices.
- 3.18 The Public Involvement Partnership enabled a group of 20 users, carers and patients to be trained on a leadership programme to promote involvement in such forums.

Round 3

- 3.19 Healthy Schools
The Healthy Schools programme supported and developed access for school pupils on healthy living, drugs, sex and relationships education as well as initiatives to encourage consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables. The project supported 29 schools (69 per cent) in reaching the new standard of healthy school status, which exceeded the national target of 50 per cent.
- 3.20 Adaptations
The Adaptations project provided adaptations to 11 properties within priority neighbourhoods, which enabled residents to continue living independently in their homes.
- 3.21 Sexual Health
Sexual health services established more community based clinic sessions with 2 nurse-led smear clinics held per week. A Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) project manager was appointed to further develop the integrated sexual health service.
- 3.22 Weight management
Weight management pilot projects involving GP practices in NRF areas showed successful BMI and weight reduction (100 per cent meeting or

exceeding 2-5 per cent weight loss target) with participants who are clinically obese with co-morbidities.

3.23 Try and Takeaway

Taste Try and Takeaway project in Port Clarence offered cooking skills workshop allowing local residents the opportunity to eat a healthy meal at a subsidised rate and develop cooking skills at the same time to lead to improved family eating behaviour.

Round 4

3.24 Health 4 Life

The Health 4 Life project aimed to reduce the risk of premature death from heart disease and raise awareness of cancer within the Neighbourhood Renewal areas. The project invited over 7,809 people for health checks and screened 4,282 people. As well as direct patient benefits in terms of heart disease reduction, there have also been softer benefits of the project including health promotion advice and awareness raising.

3.25 Credit Union

The Stockton-on-Tees Credit Union Development Project addressed financial exclusion, a major problem particularly for those with mental illness. The project amalgamated the Credit Unions in the Borough into a Tees Credit Union, increasing its capacity. Over 400 beneficiaries were advised and supported by the Credit Union.

3.26 Mental Health Advice Service

The Mental Health Advice Service provided a comprehensive advice service for people with mental health problems, giving accurate information and support on problems such as debt, benefit entitlement and housing. The project resulted in increased income for clients through benefit take-up, increased security of housing and reduced stress and anxiety as problems such as debt are actively managed. The project has received letters of commendation from psychologists and psychiatrists.

Performance Information

Narrowing the Gap

3.27 For circulatory disease mortality rates, since 1998-2000 there has been a reduction in the gap between the whole Borough and Neighbourhood Renewal areas (NRA) from 23.3 per cent to 22.6 per cent by 2002-2004.

3.28 Within NRA's there has been a reduction in the disparities with the whole Borough in relation to cancer mortality rates. The gap has reduced from 21.3 per cent in 1998-2000 to 20.7 per cent in 2002-04.

3.29 The overall trend for life expectancy is improving for the Borough and Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. The gap in life expectancy for women has noticeably reduced and despite that gap not reducing for men, the actual life expectancy has improved. (p. 17,18,19 - 3)

LAA 2007/08

Performance Measure	Progress
Reduce premature mortality rates and reduce inequalities in premature mortality rates between neighbourhoods with a particular focus on reducing the risk factors for heart disease, strokes and related diseases (CVD), smoking, diet and physical activity. (NR Target) by:	
Reduce the gap in the overall death rate between the neighbourhood renewal areas (based on the 3-year average for 1998-2000) and Borough average from a baseline of 159.8 per 100,000 population by 2015	No data available
Reduce the death rate from Coronary Heart Disease from 138 per 100,000 population in 2000 to 100 per 100,000 population in 2008	Latest death rate information relating to CHD is currently below the required level with performance being reported as 93 deaths per 100,000 population
Cervical Screening - 80 per cent of women aged 25-64 screened for cervical abnormalities	Target Achieved
Breast Screening - 70 per cent of women aged 50-70 screened for breast abnormalities	Performance against the breast-screening target remains above the target.
Reduce health inequalities between the local authority area and the England population by narrowing the gap in all-age, all cause mortality	Health inequalities reduced by 0.7 per cent.

3.30 The data above shows that over 70 per cent of the health targets have either been achieved or are on track to be achieved.

Background

- 3.31 This theme has evolved over time to ensure that it has reflected the cross cutting nature of the employability agenda effectively. An example of this was the establishment in 2006 of the Health & Worklessness Working Group to address the issues highlighted as part of the LSP Performance Management Assessment. This was to prioritise and achieve tangible and sustainable outcomes across the areas of local prosperity, community well-being and employment. This group has now further developed into the Stockton Employability Consortium, which is establishing a strategic focus with key stakeholders to improve the employability of the residents of Stockton. It is now developing a framework for the Communities Fund and supports the Regional Employability Framework at a local level. The Consortium offers proposals to the Economic Regeneration & Transport Partnership, which then in turn makes recommendations to the LSP.

Key Achievements

Round 1 and 2

- 3.32 SIFC Training Kitchen
This intervention enabled the complete refurbishment of the catering facility at the Stockton International Family Centre. Various agencies delivered activities including “Cooking on a Budget” (Adult Education) and “Healthy Eating” (Health & Social Care) in an accessible way to members of the local community. The training kitchen and vegetarian café provided training and moved on a number of students from no knowledge in this area to a qualification level of NVQ Level 3 over its lifetime. The facility, although passing relevant standards, was not to the highest standard and therefore the refurbishment through NRF enabled it to be set out in a more user-friendly way. It also made the facility more favourable in the eyes of the LSC and for funding.
- 3.33 Provision of Information, Advice & Guidance:
Provision of a wide range of information, advice and guidance to over 150 people was provided in 2002/03. These events were organised by Stockton Learning Towns and associated partners. One to one interviews with Guidance Officers led to the project as a whole encouraging over 30 people to enter some form of employment and more than 165 people have gaining a qualification as a result of the project.
- 3.34 Business Incubator Units:
In 2003/04 NRF contributed towards the costs of contaminated land reclamation works and the redevelopment of a disused building for work units. Both sites were designated as accommodation for new and expanding businesses in the NR areas.

Round 3

- 3.35 Access to Apprenticeships
The Access to Apprenticeships project provided extra assistance to young people who are not engaged in employment, education or training (NEET) or those coming to the end of compulsory education who are at risk of not

engaging in further economic or learning activities. The success of the project increased participation of Neighbourhood Renewal residents three-fold.

3.36 Fit for Employment

Fit for Employment was a 'pilot' project aimed at working with students in Years 10 & 11 interested in working in the construction industry. The project resulted in 20 young people gaining apprenticeships in the industry and a further seven accessed college courses

3.37 Into Self-Employment

The Into Self-Employment intervention continued, which helped 109 residents' access self-employment workshops of which 79 per cent were from the NR areas, resulting in 20 new business start-ups.

3.38 Stockton-on-Line

Stockton-on-Line provided free, open, broadband ICT access and learning opportunities with dedicated one-to-one support in community venues. Through the project 444 people obtained qualifications and 80 moved in to employment.

3.39 Jobs-link

Continuation of Jobslink, which offered a peripatetic advice and guidance service from community venues within the Neighbourhood Renewal areas. This intervention successfully placed 217 people into employment during the two years it was funded.

3.40 Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) Business Champion

The BME Business Champion received NRF funding to promote self employment as an option for BME residents within the Borough. After a period of development it helped establish 11 BME businesses. A BME Business Forum was also launched in Stockton to bring together existing and new BME businesses to share good practice.

Round 4

Employment & Enterprise Package

3.41 Fit for Employment

Due to the overwhelming success of the pilot project, Fit for Employment continued under Round 4 of NRF. The project provided a work based learning opportunity for 14 – 16 year olds, giving students the opportunity to gain knowledge and first hand work experience of, primarily, the construction industry. The project exceeded its target by supporting 29 young people to obtain jobs and start an apprenticeship.

3.42 Stockton Online

Further funding was provided for Stockton Online to allow the transfer of ownership from the public sector to the voluntary and community sector. After a slow start it is now embedded within the communities which it serves and as a result it has enrolled over 1500 new members. ICT accreditations are now offered in some of the centres and 68 people have gained qualifications.

3.43 Guidance & Support Services

The project provided a community based guidance and support facility offering focused information, advice, guidance and practical support for local residents to successfully improve their job search skills. The project helped 146 people in to employment.

Health & Worklessness Package

3.44 Community STEPS

The Community STEPS project provided one to one support for vocational training and employment opportunities, helping individuals overcome the barriers to employment and helping build confidence and self-esteem. The project enabled 65 people to go on to obtain jobs. Furthermore, 16 young people have also benefited from projects to promote personal and social development as an additional output.

3.45 Ground Level

This project specifically targeted clients whose drug/alcohol addictions prevented them from completing education programmes effectively within mainstream provision. This project provided the opportunity for service users to gain horticultural and basic skills qualifications in a work based environment. Ground Level has helped 19 people achieve qualifications and it maintained 100 per cent attendance record on their programmes against 80 per cent envisaged, which is especially remarkable given the difficulties faced by this client group

Performance Information

Narrowing the Gap

- 3.46 The number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) has reduced significantly since the introduction of NRF and Stockton has outperformed its peers across the Tees Valley.
- 3.47 The Lower Super Output Areas with the highest rates of JSA claimants in 2001 have recorded the largest percentage decreases to 2006, the gap reducing by 7 per cent from 13.6 per cent to 6.7 per cent.
- 3.48 Gross Value Added (GVA) is a key indicator of the wealth of an area and GVA and the number of VAT registered businesses in the Borough has increased.
- 3.49 Within the Tees Valley, Stockton on Tees has had a significantly higher rate of new business registrations since 1994 with an increase in VAT registrations per 10,000 adult population in Stockton from 18.4 in 1997 to 21.3 in 2005. There has been a reduction in the gap between Stockton and England from 23.0 in 1997 to 16.9 in 2005; this is evidenced by a 15.8 per cent increase in VAT registration per 10,000 adult population in Stockton compared to 8.5 per cent in the North East and a 3.2 per cent reduction across England.

LAA 2007/08

Performance Measure	Progress
Increase the number of start-up businesses in the Borough supported through the Business Link Start-Up (and other) programme(s). Target: 488 businesses with 28 per cent from IMD areas.	Actual figures in 06/07 were 692 with 238 (34 per cent) from the IMD areas exceeding the target. Information from

Increase the number of VAT registered businesses in the Borough from 3,255 by 35.	2006/07 was the most recent available. 3,330 VAT registered businesses in Stockton as at 1 st April 2007.
Increase in the Employment rate in the Borough and maintain above the regional rate.	LA rate is 1.4 per cent above the NE rate. Data from NOMIS for October 2006 – September 2007.
Maintain the unemployment rate in the Borough below the regional rate.	0.1 per cent below NE rate and 0.7 per cent below Tees Valley rate.
Within that NRF district a reduction by 2007/08 of at least 1 percentage points in the overall benefits claim rate for those living in the Local Authority wards identified by DWP as having the worst initial labour market position	Reduced from 30.81 per cent to 29.76 per cent, a reduction of 1.05 per cent.

3.47 The data above taken from the end of year Local Area Agreement monitoring for 2008, shows how both the gap has reduced and over 80 per cent of the targets are either being achieved or are on track to being achieved.

Background

- 3.48 Liveability covers both the Housing and Environment Themes. The aim of these packages was to improve the overall environment someone lives in; this includes their homes, local environment and social environment by implementing a number of initiatives to improve environmental standards and raise awareness of environmental issues.

Key Achievements

Round 1 and 2

- 3.49 Wipe Out the Dampness
This project enabled dampness to be remedied in 30 properties from the Neighbourhood Renewal areas. The 30 properties included private households as well as Tristar stock. Although the scheme initially contributed towards the improvement of residents living conditions it also contributed towards improving their health.
- 3.50 Thornaby Community Project
This project offered a low cost gardening service to users throughout Neighbourhood Renewal areas in the Borough. The service was available to elderly and disabled residents who were referred to the scheme from Social Services, Age Concern and the Community Psychiatric Service. The scheme employed four people from the Borough and enabled volunteers to gain practical work experience. It also enabled seven young people to gain the work experience they required to pass their Horticulture NVQ.
- 3.51 Neighbourhood Improvement Projects
A number of works were carried out under this scheme, these included environmental improvements, community safety measures and traffic calming. All of the works undertaken had previously been identified by residents and/or local councillors through extensive consultation. The environmental improvement works were designed specifically to address unkempt and neglected areas within neighbourhoods which would not otherwise have been improved. The community safety measures included the removal of overgrown shrubbery which directly contributed to the fear of crime.

Round 3

- 3.52 Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team (NEAT)
NRF funded the Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team (NEAT) package, which was delivered through a partnership between several departments of Stockton Council and Tees Valley Wildlife Trust with the objective of improving the local physical environment and raising awareness of wider environmental issues.
- 3.53 Neighbourhood Recycling
The project included intensive door-to-door work across the NRF areas by the NEAT team in order to encourage residents to recycle using the kerbside recycling collection facilities as well as holding road shows to try and promote the different recycling schemes that were in operation (green waste,

composting etc). Within the NRF areas there was a gradual increase in recycling rates. For example a study carried out within Hardwick showed a 6.83 per cent increase in participation from August 2004 – February 2006. Also as part of this project 11 schools were involved in the consultation to increase the awareness of recycling and other waste issues.

3.54 Open Space Wardens

Two open space wardens were employed to work with local community groups and residents to raise awareness and to improve two local open green spaces; Hardwick Dene and the Tees Corridor (Portrack & Tilery). Through this intervention 341 Volunteers were involved carrying out 65 Site management/improvement tasks. Three schools were also involved and 14 events (guided walks/training etc) were held involving 229 people.

3.55 Furnished Accommodation Initiative

The initiative used furnished accommodation to provide an alternative form of temporary accommodation to homeless households (whom the council has a statutory duty to assist) rather than inappropriately placing households in bed and breakfast accommodation. In 2005/06 44 households (that would have previously been placed in bed and breakfast accommodation) benefited from the scheme. The purpose of NRF funds was to 'kick start' this initiative through the purchase of the furniture. The project continued to ensure the provision of quality and appropriate temporary accommodation to vulnerable households without further NRF monies.

Round 4

3.56 Eco Schools

The project was led by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust and operated in the majority of schools across the Neighbourhood Renewal areas. The project worked in schools to make children more aware of recycling and waste awareness in addition to healthy living with the overall aim of attaining a nationally recognised ECO school award. The aim was to ensure all participating schools achieved at least a bronze award. All schools achieved at least the bronze award with Tilery Primary and Norton Primary Schools being successful in achieving the much prized green flag status, the highest award.

3.57 Green Youth Project

The project, also led by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust worked with local youth clubs and organisations across the NRF area to engage young people in environmental activities, including litter clearance and tree planting. It provided an additional 137 volunteers through the project.

3.58 Parks

The improvements to the parks that serve the NRF areas - John Whitehead Park, Newham Grange Park, Tilery Park, Primrose Hill Park and The Great North Park have resulted in a noticeable increase in the number of users. These improvements have included the installation of CCTV, new children's play equipment and the rationalisation of the shrubbery areas within the parks to reduce the fear of crime.

3.59 Tenancy Support

The project provided tenancy support to new vulnerable Council tenants to assist them in maintaining their tenancy. It was very successful and as a result 46 households were successfully supported to the point where it was deemed they no longer required the support in their tenancy. The project has now been mainstreamed by Tristar Homes and extended to include an additional support officer.

- 3.60 Decent Homes and Key Skills
The project, delivered by Community Campus succeeded in improving and bringing back into use three properties in Neighbourhood Renewal areas. One property was converted into two units of accommodation, which meant the project actually provided four additional units of accommodation for vulnerable young people.
- 3.61 The project also provided a number of other key outcomes including 14 training and learning opportunities for the long term unemployed, seven training and learning opportunities for young people on the NEET and/or E2E programme, 12 training and learning opportunities for those involved in return to work schemes and 16 training and learning opportunities for young people in year 10/11.
- 3.62 The maintenance of the properties is being picked up by Community Campus and will be included in their portfolio of properties to be used by other vulnerable young people in the future.

Performance Information

Narrowing the Gap

- 3.63 Total satisfaction with parks and open spaces in the Neighbourhood Renewal areas is 72 per cent compared to 73 per cent for the whole Borough, the more disadvantaged communities are equally as very and fairly satisfied as all residents across the Borough.
- 3.64 In 2004, the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) with the poorest air quality scores were in Mandale and Victoria, Norton South, Stockton Town Centre, Billingham South and Village. The areas with the best air quality were Western Parishes, Yarm and Eaglescliffe. A 2006 refresh of the air 20 quality data used in the Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that air quality has improved in 67 of the 117 Lower Super Output Areas or 57 per cent of locations; the largest improvements have been in Western Parishes, Fairfield, Northern Parishes and Mandale and Victoria. (p.12, 3)
- 3.65 The gap has narrowed in relation to refuse collection, especially with net satisfaction of 98 per cent in Neighbourhood Renewal areas. The data suggests that people in more disadvantaged areas are more satisfied with refuse collection than the general population. Furthermore there have also been significant improvements in relation to street cleaning and recycling facilities with the gap narrowing between the different areas of the Borough, street cleaning by 10 per cent with all areas now experiencing satisfaction levels of over 50 per cent, and for recycling facilities the difference in net satisfaction has fallen by 30 per cent. (3)
- 3.66 There has been a considerable improvement in decent housing stock within the Neighbourhood Renewal Areas, with a nearly 70 per cent increase in the proportion of stock that is decent between 2002/03 and September 2007. (Pg 62, 7) Whilst the areas in receipt of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding have, changed since 2002/03, the data shows that the largest improvement in the condition of housing stock has happened in the most disadvantaged communities of the Borough. This would suggest that at a local level as well as a Borough wide level the gap between the most disadvantaged and affluent areas in terms of decent housing has narrowed.

LAA 2007/08

Performance Measure	Progress
Percentage of empty private properties at 1 April each year from a baseline of 1,047 properties	The average number of empty private sector properties has increased in 2007/8 (1,091) compared to 2006/7 (1,031).
100 per cent Council homes in NRF areas to be made decent by 2010	On target to achieve 100 per cent by 2010.
225 private sector properties to be made decent through the direct take-up of financial packages of support to vulnerable private sector households (by 2009)	On target to achieve by 2009.
Improve the quality of the local environment by reducing the gap in aspects of liveability between the worst wards/neighbourhoods and the district as a whole with particular focus on reducing levels of litter and detritus	Data not available at ward level

3.67 Of the LAA measures where data is available 66 per cent have either been achieved or are on track to be achieved.

Children & Young People

Background

- 3.68 The Children and Young People theme evolved throughout the rounds of funding. The aim of the package originally was to primarily raise educational attainment. However in later rounds it included personal and social development.

Key Achievements

Round 1 and 2

- 3.69 Families & Schools
The purpose of the initiative was to engage parents in learning. They aimed to enhance the learning of both parents and children. Community Liaison Auxiliaries were employed to promote family learning and work with parents in order to encourage them to join workshops, activities, educational visits, and courses. Ten schools were involved in the. Some schools were more successful than others and had up to three courses per term. The intervention enabled Stockton Adult Education Service to effectively use Learning and Skills Funding for Family Literacy and Numeracy programmes, as the community liaison auxiliaries have recruited parents onto these programmes. Most of the courses offered to parents involved accreditation and therefore parents increased their levels of qualification.
- 3.70 Youth Empowerment Service
Funding contributed to the development of the Youthy in Thornaby. The Youthy is a dedicated facility for young people which provides a range of activities and work shops for young people including football coaching, drama workshop, music development activities, internet café, 6.5 metre climbing wall and the street wise project. It also enabled them to look forward in developing future workshops i.e. intergenerational allotment project, friendship group and a youth exchange programme.
- 3.71 Hear by Right
The project established two Student Councils and supported four others. It delivered a training programme to the Student Council and citizenship-based projects on topics such as Anti-Social Behaviour. It developed the work of the Citizenship & Democracy Headquarters (a base for young peoples work). It enabled young people to understand the importance of decision-making and participate in such projects as the Hear by Right Community Forum (a group of young people who advised and directed the Hear by Right project in the final year). It also supported 32 young people to gain a TROCN Level 1 in Citizenship through a residential training weekend, supported young people to obtain qualifications in First Aid and supported two special needs based groups to develop their skills and knowledge of citizenship and democracy through dance and drama.

Round 3

- 3.72 Stockton Events & Activities Listing
The NRF3 programme delivered 27 smaller scale projects and as part of improving the way that children, young people, parents and families can access information on what is available, SEAL (Stockton Events & Activities

Listing) was developed. It is a database containing details of activities for 8-13 year olds.

- 3.73 CyberChaos
Stockton Libraries ran CyberChaos gaming events, in partnership with Community Development team. The events were based on interactive computer gaming, or what is known as Local Area Network (LAN) gaming. CyberChaos Ltd provide computers and a local server, hosting various games that are open to all. These events provide access to those without a computer at home.
- 3.74 The CyberChaos project not only offered a great form of entertainment and generated interest in the wide field of IT, but also offered an opportunity to think strategically. Team play is another skill learned through the project as well as forming new relationships and making new friends.
- 3.75 This Is Me
The project ran by Arts Development commissioned a range of artists to work with parents, children and groups using a range of art forms (including digital art) to explore self-perception, and perceptions of their own and other generations.
- 3.76 A number of different workshops and groups were organised for example the Art Club at Norton Primary which, involved pupils and parents. The club was very successful with an attendance of approx 30 each session on average 8 adults and 22 children. They made a variety of different things such as t-shirts, masks, flags, stained glass mosaic, hand puppets etc

Round 4

- 3.77 Community Sports Leaders
The project was been very successful, with the fourth level 2 Community Sports Leadership awards being completed. Three level 1 course were also successfully completed. One of these was targeted at young people with physical and learning disabilities. The project has also enabled eight people who have completed the training to move on to National Governing Bodies level 1/ 2.
- 3.78 Twister Arts
The Twister Arts project took an innovative approach to addressing issues of unemployment, health awareness, crime reduction and educational attainment and was aimed at reducing the numbers of young people including teen parents from Neighbourhood Renewal areas not in education, employment or training. The project helped 14 previously unemployed young people access employment through training, career advice or specific targeted assistance.
- 3.79 Service Level Agreement
One of the main benefits of the whole Children and Young people package is the improved commissioning and contracting arrangements of the projects that were approved. These, along with the robust reviews and monitoring, worked very well especially taking into account the sensitive nature of working with children and young people. Due to the SLA's and contracts all the projects had clear aims and objectives to meet including contributing towards the five outcomes of Every Child Matters.

Performance Information

Narrowing the Gap

- 3.80 In 2005, there was a 45 per cent range in the percentage of pupils entering full time education from 47 per cent in Mandale and Victoria to 92 per cent in Northern Parishes. In 2006 the gap between the different wards had reduced to 31 per cent with 62 per cent in Hardwick compared to 92 per cent in the Northern Parishes. The reduction in the gap shows an increase in life opportunities for all children across the Borough. (p.25, 3)
- 3.81 There has also been a narrowing of the gap between the most disadvantaged areas and most affluent areas of the Borough between 2002/03 and 2005/06 in relation to key stage 2 and 3 results for English, Maths and Science (based on pupil's residence). Data for all three subjects at both key stages shows that the areas with the lowest scores in 2002/03 have made the largest percentage improvements to 2005/06. (p.27,3)

LAA 2007/08

Performance Measure	Progress
Reduce the attainment gap at Key Stage 2 Level 4 between NR and non NR areas from 18 per cent to 17 per cent in English by Summer 2007	Gap reduced
Reduce the attainment gap at Key Stage 2 Level 4 between NR and non NR areas from 18 per cent to 17 per cent in Maths by Summer 2007	Gap reduced
Raise standards in English, Maths and Science in Secondary Education so that by 2008 in all schools located in the districts in receipt of NRF at least 50 per cent of pupils achieve Level 5+ in English, Maths and Science	Target Achieved.
Children and families from all neighbourhood areas will have access to the full core offer of Children's Centre services by 2008	Target Achieved
Increase the stock of child care places in disadvantaged areas so that children and families from all neighbourhood areas will have access to the full core offer of Children's Centre services by 2008	Target Achieved

- 3.82 The data above taken from the end of year Local Area Agreement monitoring for 2008, shows how both the gap has reduced and the all the targets have been achieved and the gap narrowed.

3.83 CASE STUDIES

THE NEW ME! – Healthy diet in lunch boxes, by MARIE LEVY

Teesside parents are being urged to send their children back to school with a healthy balanced diet.

Less than 45 per cent of UK primary and secondary school pupils eat school meals according to the schools Food Trust.

According to a survey by Kellogg's, one in four North East parents say they give food money to their children each day despite 46 per cent knowing it will be spent on sweets, crisps and fizzy drinks.

Two million parents across the country admit they are concerned about their children's health because they refuse to exercise and eat healthily.

One who is not worried is Louise Kent of Thornaby, who says her daughter Amanda, 15, is like a new person after signing up to a Young Persons Active Health Scheme and losing two stone in three months.

The scheme, run by Tees Active, allows overweight youngsters to use its facilities at Splash, Thornaby Pavilion, Billingham Forum and Stockton Sports Centre for free thanks to a grant from the **Neighbourhood Renewal Fund**.

As well as enjoying activities such as swimming, ice-skating and fitness classes, members are encouraged to keep a food diary. Amanda, a pupil at Thornaby Community School, now attends aerobics, spinning and pump classes. *"I have just been eating sensibly and going to classes with my mum," she said. "At school I used to eat chips, but now I have a sandwich, yoghurt and fruit. I feel more confident and look better."*

Louise said: *"I'm extremely proud of her, but she spends more of my money now on clothes. She's a lot more healthy and confident. She's like a new kid."*

North Tees Primary Care Trust has produced a leaflet on how to create a tasty healthy packed lunch. Sandra Brown, the trust's obesity lead for public health, said simple changes such as using a low fat spread, cutting down on processed meats, mixing eggs with tomatoes instead of mayonnaise and reducing cakes and biscuits could make a huge difference.

For details of health scheme contact Cheryl Bythway on (01642) 524568.

Evening Gazette, Thursday, September 6, 2007, p.19

GROUNDWORK PROJECT

"Addicts' crop is hailed a success"

A Project to help drug addicts and alcoholics find work has been hailed a success.

Ground Level aims to provide 30 people with NVQ qualifications in horticulture. Since coming together in January, the team have been working on an allotment in Thornaby and have just picked their first crop of potatoes, courgettes, squash and tomatoes.

Funded by Stockton Renaissance through Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, the project is working closely in the community with residents from Victoria Community House.

Councillor Bob Cook, Stockton Council's Cabinet Member for regeneration and Transport, said: *"The project has come on leaps and bounds since it started in January 2007 and seeing how the plot has been prepared and seeds planted has been rewarding for all involved and there was certainly a fine crop of vegetables to show for their work"*

Gareth Metcalfe, Stockton Service User Representative, said: *"You can't explain the feeling when you see the first crop and know that you have planted it. It was a really proud moment."*

Evening Gazette, Thursday, September 13, 2007, p.5

ECO SCHOOL PROJECT

"Flying the Green Flag, Eco-warrior pupils raise the standard"

Youngsters waving the flag for the environment have been rewarded for their green-thinking efforts. Norton Primary School near Stockton has been given Eco-Schools Green Flag status which recognises its commitment to helping the environment. The school boasts its own Eco Club, as well as a Peace Garden with wildlife area and pupils also ensure recycling is carried out both in class and at home.

Steve Ashton, from the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust who acted as an advisor to the school, said "*The pupils have put a great deal of effort into improving their school. They have been reusing and recycling paper, monitoring electricity use, composting fruit, using a wormery, doing litter picks and even had links with African schools.*"

The school has developed an eco-code to help pupils remember their responsibilities. It says "*Care for your area in each and every way. Look after plants and animals and recycle everyday*" and this is displayed in every classroom.

Headteacher Susan Dawson said "*We are absolutely delighted to receive this award in recognition to the great emphasis we place on environmental issues across the whole school. It is a particular tribute to the impact of our dedicated Eco Club whose enthusiasm and passion make us all consider our impact on the future of our plant and the contributions we can all make to do it.*"

Evening Gazette, Tuesday, April 29, 2008,

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CASE STUDY

During my time with the Says Who! Drama Project I have been extremely impressed by the young people and their commitment and willingness to participate. The group evolved from the Newtown Youth Drama Group, which was established in 2004, and some members have been involved since it started. At the outset of 'Says Who!' in 2006 we worked on a set of 'Golden Rules' to which the young people all contributed and they are very good at sticking to their own rules. We also, at their request, had a 'buddy scheme where new members would be befriended by an older member of the group. We have worked with a number of tutors and experts and have had the same aim throughout, that of using input from the young people and working with them to develop their ideas no matter how complicated! But we also made sure they understood boundaries and unreasonable requests. Due to this ethos we have had some very impressive outcomes in relation to performance and working in co-operation with each other and also we have seen the confidence in the young people grow. Three of our members have achieved the status of 'gifted and talented' at their school since joining the group and they say being a member of Says Who! Drama group has given them the confidence in all aspects of their lives; Grace Bakes says "*knowing you are listened to in a positive way and having your opinion and ideas taken seriously in Says Who! makes you feel other adults will also listen to you and when you act sensibly at school teachers listen to you. It all has a knock on effect!*"

Another group member, Eleanor was so painfully shy when she first joined the group I wondered if she would ever say anything, let alone act or dance. I always wondered if she would turn up for the lessons but she always did. At first she just sat on the side of the room and watched everyone else, but due to our 'buddy' scheme someone always sat near her and spoke to her and tried to encourage her. Gradually she did take part in planning and discussion and as we always start with a game and finish with a debrief she was happy to sit with the rest of the group. She finds it really hard to take on any dialogue, dance routines and performing but with the support and encouragement from everyone in the group she now takes on small, non-speaking parts and has danced during 'live' performances. I find it a testament to the group that they are so kind and encouraging and also to her determination to be apart of the group that she has overcome her shyness somewhat.

Four members of the drama group are working with a script supervisor in writing the Says Who! Pantomime, Queeniemodo and Humphry, which will be performed on Monday 10th December (venue to be arranged) and are also looking forward to working in groups to direct, develop and basically every connected in a performance except act! The last show of the NRF funding will see the children and young people on the back stage side and adults will be doing the acting. By this time the young people will have had lots of experiences, which they would not have had, if not for the grant received from the NRF4.

I work with about 8 different children's projects and groups and always take into account their needs and ideas, most activities have retained numbers and in some groups i.e. Passport to Summer Fun craft group we had too many children for the size of room and had to keep a reserve list.

I have just started a project called Manacles and Money and am working in partnership with the Museum Service to deliver this project about the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade and was very pleasantly surprised that we had a group of 12 to start and one 8 year old said she wanted to join because she loved history. The Education Officer and I were very impressed at the knowledge and awareness the group showed.

4.0 PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- 4.1 Stockton Renaissance was originally established as a Regeneration Partnership for the Borough in 1998. In 2001, Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP's) were introduced and in Stockton the Regeneration Partnership evolved into the LSP for the Borough. This incorporated existing partnership members and also invited a range of other representatives to ensure that the LSP was representative of all sectors and service themes.
- 4.2 LSP's, since their establishment in 2001 have been used to channel some area based government funding into an area. Whilst the relevant local authority has been the legally and financially accountable body for those areas that received Neighbourhood Renewal Funding they were required to have a LSP, which effectively decided on how the funding programme was to be used, and subsequently monitored its effectiveness.
- 4.3 The structure below provides an outlines of the current Stockton Renaissance model; detailing how the Area and Thematic Partnerships feed into the main LSP board.

Stockton Renaissance Structure



Area Partnerships

- 4.4 Area Partnerships have an important role within the Stockton Renaissance process and have played an essential role throughout the NRF process. They have provided a vehicle to feed to local communities progress on the NR programme through their Community Partnerships and Residents Associations and also given the opportunity for these communities to feed into the relevant Area Partnership boards, which underpin the Stockton Renaissance process. The Area Partnership boards bring together representatives from the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) local business, local agencies and residents associations to give local people a chance to influence services provided in their area. There are four Area Partnerships Boards within the Stockton Renaissance, which are as follows:
- Central Area partnership Board covers the areas of Hardwick, Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree, Fairfield, Hartburn, Grangefield, Parkfield and Oxbridge, Stockton Town Centre, Norton and the surrounding villages.

- Eastern Area Partnership Board covers the areas of Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick, Hilton, Maltby and the surrounding villages.
 - Northern Area Partnership Board covers the areas of Billingham, Wynyard, Wolviston and the outlying areas.
 - Western Area Partnership Board covers the areas of Yarm, Eaglescliffe, Kirklevington, Long Newton, Elton and the surrounding villages.
- 4.5 These partnerships have also played a key role in the commissioning of some NRF projects, with Stockton Renaissance devolving over £300k of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) from its 2006/08 allocations to three of the eligible Area Partnerships, to enable them to address and support local priorities to improve the quality of life in their communities.
- 4.6 Each Area Partnership agreed a sub group to take forward the commissioning arrangements, which also fed back to their Area Partnership. Each of the sub groups:
- agreed the process to be taken forward for commissioning services;
 - agreed the criteria to deliver against;
 - took part in the interview panel to agree the successful interventions; and
 - met to receive updates from the projects and make recommendations on their future sustainability approach.
- 4.7 Some examples of the interventions introduced include:

Financial Inclusion – from the cradle to the grave: Thornaby Credit Union

This project aimed to engaged Neighbourhood Renewal residents to access provision for financial support and increased availability of financial services; to provide a wider range of saving opportunities other than mainstream banking.

Information Advice and Guidance Project for Central Stockton: The Five Lamps Organisation

A comprehensive package of intensive Information, Advice and Guidance the project specifically targeted the most hardest to help people in the community.

Multi-Usage Games Area (MUGA) for Billingham area

This project, match funded through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme, installed a new multi use games area on a former 5 a side court area on Rievaulx Avenue recreation ground.

- 4.8 The Area Partnerships also monitored the schemes and received regular updates on the progress and performance of the projects.
- 4.9 One comment received by one of the members from the sub group was:
- “This approach allowed both myself and the Area Partnership to directly have funding to address a local priority for our area. More importantly, it allowed us to be empowered to tackle deprivation from agreeing the criteria through to the delivery of the service. We made the decisions, and that was important.”*
(Paul Thomas, Member of the Central Area Partnership - sub group)
- 4.10 This approach empowered the Area Partnerships to make decisions about addressing priority areas within their neighbourhoods, which has made a significant difference to their lives.

- 4.11 The success of this approach has resulted in the Council agreeing to provide a further allocation of over £516k for the period 2008-11 from their Area Based Grant to continue to fund the Area Partnerships to address their local priorities.

Voluntary & Community Sector

- 4.12 The VCS have been heavily involved in the NRF process from the outset and beyond, dating back to the days of City Challenge. This is demonstrated throughout the delivery of projects by the sector throughout the various rounds as well as their involvement in the LSP, in particular through the Area Partnerships, which are made up of predominantly voluntary and community sector representatives. The IDeA Peer Review recognised the strength of our approach in their report:

“Representatives from the voluntary and community sector believe that working together through Renaissance has made a tangible difference.... Representatives identified that Stockton should be proud of the level of involvement of the community and voluntary sector and this should be noted as a significant achievement. The Council clearly have high aspirations for even stronger engagement and participation with local communities and organisations but this should not detract from the current position which is strong.” (4)

- 4.13 The need to develop some aspects of the communities' infrastructure within Stockton resulted in some funds being used for community development purposes, rather than against the floor targets. This was seen as a necessary aspect of delivering the programme to ensure that there was sufficient capacity to support the wider delivery of the programme and further support to the voluntary & community sector infrastructure. Over the lifetime of the programme some examples of projects funded to support the sector include:

Voluntary Sector Support Fund

- 4.14 Funding has been used to augment the Council's core funding budget for the VCS. The funding has assisted in providing a range of core services at a grassroots level such as youth services, information, advice and guidance, education & training and jobs provision, and health services etc; Government guidance states that the VCS should be equal partners and their concerns and perspectives should be of an equal value.
- 4.15 The Borough has a wide range of voluntary sector organisations. They deliver/contribute to a wide range of agendas (i.e. encouraging citizenship, community cohesion, support for disadvantaged groups, bringing in external funding, localised delivery etc). The purpose of the fund is to ensure that recipient organisations contribute to broader strategic work occurring in the Borough, for example Stockton International Family Centre work closely with the Local Strategic Partnership in delivering the Community Cohesion agenda.
- 4.16 Core funding is important to the voluntary and community sector, because it is a guaranteed, medium-term fund for the organisation that can, and is, matched against other funding streams. VCS are also integral and a much-required service needed in delivering public services. It is a vital element in delivering the LSP's agenda in improving the quality of life of local communities.

- 4.17 The recipient organisations complement and develop the community cohesion agenda by supporting the fundamental principles by assisting marginalised communities i.e. BME groups, young people etc; in accessing facilities and bringing them together from different backgrounds to address local issues.

Community Empowerment and Black & Minority Ethnic Network

- 4.18 The aim of Community Empowerment is to provide support to the Community and Voluntary sector representatives on Stockton Renaissance (Local Strategic Partnership) and the four Area Partnerships. The CEN has enabled the community and voluntary sector to play an active role within their communities and within the decision making process.
- 4.19 The CEN has been a vehicle for engagement for not just the LSP and Neighbourhood Renewal process but wider strategic working. Some of the additional support provided by the CEN to a wide range of stakeholders includes:
- Access to Funding advice and help;
 - Access support for marginalised communities i.e. the BME Network;
 - Networking opportunities with local communities;
 - A mechanism for consultation and communicating with local communities through the network;
 - A mechanism for local communities to both influence and be involved in the decision making processes ;
 - Opportunities to take part in training and events of the network;
 - A mechanism to feed information through local communities through the network and in reverse through to public sector agencies;
 - A mechanism, which allows a democratic election process to elect as appropriate representatives onto the LSP family of partnerships and wider.
- 4.20 As the rounds progressed the sectors capacity to work with communities in an innovative way became evident. This resulted in the voluntary and community sector delivering 47 per cent of the NRF package (2006/8). A further example is the Local Action Plans (LAP's) which were developed in partnership with Stockton Residents & Community Groups Association (SRCGA).

Local Action Plans

- 4.21 Local Action Plans (LAP's) were part of Stockton Renaissance's approach to Neighbourhood Renewal in 2004, with the aim to reduce the deprivation gap between the Boroughs 17 most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. They added detail and a local perspective to the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, which covered the Borough. Within the LAP's key actions were agreed to improve service delivery and direct it to local needs in their neighbourhoods.
- 4.22 Local Action Plans provided an opportunity for residents and service providers to consider how mainstream services and resources could be more effectively or sensitively deployed to meet local needs. Stockton Residents and Community Groups Association were commissioned to lead this engagement and prioritisation process.

- 4.23 As well as addressing very local concerns the actions within the Local Action Plans were designed to contribute to the National Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Targets. These are attached at Annex 1.
- 4.24 The LAP's set out the actions to be undertaken in response to the top priorities defined by the residents from their neighbourhoods across the various themes of Neighbourhood Renewal.
- 4.25 The relevant Area Partnerships acted as the guardians of the LAP's and monitored progress on a six-monthly basis. The Area Partnerships role was to work with agencies to ensure that service providers deliver on their commitments and assess the impact of the actions within the LAP.
- 4.26 Following the completion of the LAP's the Area Partnerships felt that a more suitable way forward to continue to make service improvements was to use the LAP to help inform the priority setting events for the Area Partnerships where Neighbourhood Renewal theme priorities for the Board to address were agreed. This led to a drilling down of priorities on an Area Partnership level and a greater understanding by the Area Partnerships of what services were already being delivered within their areas, which informed how they used their NRF funding
- 4.27 Summary Plans are now used which provide an overview and detail progress that each of the Area Partnerships are making for their priority areas.

5.0 THE WAY FORWARD

Summary Plans

- 5.1 These Summary Plans provide details of decisions made by the Partnership where they have requested some change, and where they have had progress reported on key areas of work on their priority areas. These will also further inform future work programmes for each of the Area Partnerships and inform service areas planning of future services and their delivery.
- 5.2 These summary plans will continue to be developed and progressed by the Area Partnerships and where appropriate will be used as a tool to both feed into service planning and informing improvements across the various thematic areas.

Area Partnership Priority Setting/Participatory budgeting

- 5.3 The Area Partnership priority setting work will also continue which will provide an opportunity for local issues to be addressed through the Communities Fund allocation as detailed in section 4.4.

NRF Transitional Year and Communities Fund

- 5.4 The late announcement of deprivation related funding as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review meant that there was little time to develop exit strategies for the 68 crime, children and young people, housing, health and employability schemes delivered through NRF within the Borough, approximately half of which is delivered by the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). Similarly there was little time to develop, agree and implement new arrangements for the non-ring fenced Communities Fund within the new Area Based Grant.

- 5.6 Through its budget setting process the Council agreed a transitional year, which allowed the change from NRF schemes to a worklessness programme to be managed without having a significant detrimental effect on those involved, particularly the VCS. Where schemes had been evaluated as successful and no “mainstream” funding could be found for 2008/09, schemes were able to continue during 2008/09, funded from the Council’s Area Based Grant (ABG). The Thematic Partnerships led on the evaluation of the projects and recommendations on those, which would benefit from a transitional year.
- 5.7 During 2008/09, alternative funding will need to be sought by the delivering organisations to mainstream/extend the transitional projects where they are deemed to continue to provide value to the Borough. Where schemes relate to worklessness they may be able to attract further funding from the element of the Area Based Grant that the council allocated to the Communities Fund.

6.0 CONCLUSION

“Stockton is the first place I have lived in which has engaged with people and given more of a voice to make a difference in the community. Stockton is good for getting people engaged and is driving community led change”
Attendee at Sustainable Community Strategy consultation event 2007

- 6.1 This assessment report has sought to answer whether NRF has delivered change. It has provided clear evidence of how the ethos of Neighbourhood Renewal has been reflected in the delivery of main programmes across the various thematic areas.
- 6.2 Within Stockton there have been noticeable improvements in terms of the Index of Multiple Deprivation, which can in part be attributed to the success of the NRF programme in providing targeted service delivery within the areas of greatest deprivation. Stockton’s ranking within the IMD has improved quite noticeably compared to other areas within the Tees Valley in terms of the rank of average score, which is the closest to an overall measure of Borough deprivation. In the 2004 IMD Stockton had a rank of average score of 75, with this score improving to 98 in the 2007 IMD.
- 6.3 In general, there are fewer areas within the Borough that fall within the most deprived 10 per cent in 2007 compared to 2004. This has had a real impact on specific areas across the Borough; the Norton South ward had an 87 per cent improvement in terms of its ranking and specifically the area of Albany that falls within this ward is no longer in the 10 per cent most deprived areas nationally. Noticeable improvements have also been made within the Hardwick ward (47 per cent) and Billingham Central (31 per cent) ward.
- 6.4 NRF has acted as a mechanism to pilot interventions and create a foundation on which to build national policy initiatives. Improvements in key areas such as unemployment levels speak volumes. For example in the Neighbourhood Renewal areas, the highest rates of JSA claimants in 2001 have recorded the largest percentage decreases to 2006, the gap reducing by seven per cent from 13.6 per cent to 6.7 per cent.
- 6.5 An assessment of the Community Strategy 2005-08 showed there has been improvements in performance in relation to 21 of the 40 quality of life indicators (53 per cent) and therefore the gap has narrowed both in terms of across the most deprived and affluent parts of the community but also between the Borough and the national averages. The performance management framework ‘Green’ ratings in 2005/06 also demonstrate both the

strong commitment to partnership working and real progress in tackling deprivation in areas most of need.

- 6.6 Mainstreaming over the years has been successful and challenging and has resulted in a wide array of innovative schemes being introduced across the Borough. Mainstreaming has not just been about replacing funding, it has also been about changing spending patterns to target the most deprived areas.
- 6.7 Stockton has a good record on mainstreaming NRF interventions e.g. £2,063,636 of NRF interventions from Round 3 (2005-6) were mainstreamed by the Primary Care Trust. A further 71 per cent of NRF Round 4 of Health Package projects have also been mainstreamed in 2008/09.
- 6.8 The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and its principles have encouraged stronger partnership working arrangements with a host of different agencies and sectors. For example in the last round of funding 47 per cent of the programme was delivered by the Voluntary and Community Sector, some of the crime projects worked closely with Cleveland Police and conducted joint operations to tackle anti-social behaviour in the Borough. Also the move towards commissioning of services has also strengthened links with the PCT and their joint commissioning arrangements with the Council's Children, Education and Social Care service.
- 6.9 Partnership working has also been strengthened in the Borough, in particular with the Voluntary & Community Sector. We need to continually build this capacity to empower and further develop networks in local communities to ensure inclusively and continue to skill up the local community. One example of this is through the Community Empowerment Network which has engaged the local community and enabled them to participate in the decision making process which impacts on services delivered within their neighbourhoods.
- 6.10 In terms of key challenges ahead for Stockton we need to continue to work with both strong leadership and champions through the LSP and thematic partnerships. We will also need to develop clear community empowerment and involvement plans, based on a sharper understanding of the range of opportunities for involvement, particularly in local shaping and decision-making.
- 6.11 We will also need to continue to focus on our commissioning, particularly through joint commissioning, which has the potential to create major change in service delivery. This has already been demonstrated through the Worklessness and Health packages and aspects of the Children & Young People package in the programme. This will also further support opportunities for the Voluntary & Community Sector.
- 6.12 The Communities Fund which is being lead by the Employability Consortium and the Economic Regeneration & Transport Partnership will also need to ensure that the fund is used to both target those most in need and address the targets in the LAA.
- 6.13 Neighbourhood Renewal in Stockton to date has developed a strong base for continuing to work to improve the quality of life for residents of the most deprived areas. We have learnt from 'what has worked' and 'what has not' and need to continue to take forward the strong principles and values which have changed how we deliver mainstream services to those in the more deprived areas.

- 6.14 The real impact of NRF has been on the lives of the residents of the Borough Kevin Pitt a resident of Billingham (and the Northern Area Partnership Manager) explains in his own words on the DVD the impact of one of the interventions, the Multi Usage Games Area has had in their area:

“It’s allowed the local community to make decisions and actually feel part of the regeneration...Its about actually having the vision to take that forward. We’ve had the fire brigade...(and) youth outreach workers who come here and talk to young people, but actually the people who put it here were the local residents and it’s by engaging local residents. We’ve even had some local residents actually go on coaching courses so they can come here and coach ... that wouldn’t have happened if the NRF hadn’t funded it, if we hadn’t been able to use NRF money to lever other money in this would never have happened - and the main thing is it’s the community its happened through and its with Stockton Borough Council’s help and with the Officers that work there, that help with the NRF, this has enabled these projects to go ahead not just here but throughout the Borough”

Appendix 1

National Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Targets

Department for Education & Skills
To sustain improvement in primary education by raising standards in English and maths so that by 2004, 85 per cent of 11 year olds achieve level 4 or above, and, by 2006, the number of schools in which fewer than 65 per cent of pupils achieve level 4 or above is significantly reduced. (PSA1)
Transform secondary education by raising standards in English, maths, ICT and Science in Secondary Education so that by 2004 75 per cent of 14 year olds achieve level 5 or above in English, maths and ICT (70 per cent in science) nationally and by 2007 85 per cent (80 per cent in science), and by 2007, the number of schools where fewer than 60 per cent of 14 year olds achieve level 5 or above is significantly reduced; (PSA2)
Between 2002 and 2006 the proportion of those aged 16 who get qualifications equivalent to 5 GCSEs at grades A* to C rises by 2 percentage points each year on average and in all schools at least 20 per cent of pupils achieve this standard by 2004 rising to 25 per cent by 2006 (PSA5)
Increase the percentage of pupils obtaining five or more GCSEs at A*-C, with at least 38 per cent to achieve this standard in every local education authority (LEA) by 2004.
Department for Health
Improve life chances for children, including by reducing the under-18 conception rate by 50 per cent by 2010. (PSA9)
By 2010 reduce inequalities in health outcomes by 10 per cent as measured by infant mortality and life expectancy at birth. (PSA11)
Department for Transport
Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in Great Britain in road accidents by 40 per cent, and the number of children killed or seriously injured by 50 per cent, by 2010 compared with the average for 1994-98, tackling the significantly higher incidence in disadvantaged communities. <i>(SR2000 target rolled forward with new floor component)</i> (PSA5)
Office Deputy Prime Minister
Work with the full range of Government departments and policies to raise the levels of social inclusion, neighbourhood renewal and regional prosperity to promote better policy integration nationally, regionally and locally; in particular to work with departments to help them meet their PSA floor targets for neighbourhood renewal and social inclusion. <i>(New PSA)</i> (PSA1)
Make sustainable improvements in the economic performance of all English regions and over the long persistent gap in growth rates between the regions, defining measures to improve performance and report against these measures by 2006. (Joint Target with HM Treasury and DTI.) <i>(SR2000 target rolled forward amended)</i> (PSA2)
By 2010, bring all social housing into decent condition with most of this improvement taking place in deprived areas, and increase the proportion of private housing in decent condition occupied by vulnerable groups. <i>(SR2000 target rolled forward and amended)</i> (PSA7)
Home Office
Reduce crime and the fear of crime; improve performance overall, including by reducing the gap between the highest crime Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership areas and the best comparable areas; and reduce: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vehicle crime by 30 per cent from 1998-99 to 2004; • domestic burglary by 25 per cent from 1998-99 to 2005; • robbery in the Ten Street Crime Initiative areas by 14 per cent from 1999-2000 to 2005; and maintain that level. (PSA1)
Department Trade & Industry
Help to build an enterprise society in which small firms of all kinds thrive and achieve their potential, with (i) an increase in the number of people considering going into business, (ii) an improvement in

the overall productivity of small firms, and (iii) more enterprise in disadvantaged communities. (PSA6)
Make sustainable improvements in the economic performance of all English regions and over the long term reduce the persistent gap in growth rates between the regions, defining measures to improve performance and reporting progress against these measures by 2006. <i>(Joint Target with ODPM and HM Treasury.)</i> (PSA7)
In the three years to 2006, taking account of the economic cycle, increase the employment rate and significantly reduce the difference between the overall employment rate and the employment rate of ethnic minorities. <i>(Joint Target with DWP.)</i> (PSA10)
DEFRA
Reduce the gap in productivity between the least well performing quartile of rural areas and the English median by 2006, and improve the accessibility of services for rural people. <i>(New target)</i> (PSA4)
DWP
Over the three years to Spring 2006, increase the employment rates of disadvantaged areas and groups, taking account of the economic cycle – lone parents, ethnic minorities, people aged 50 and over, those with the lowest qualifications, and the 30 local authority districts with the poorest initial labour market position, and significantly reduce the difference between their employment rates and the overall rate. <i>(ethnic minorities part shared with DTI)</i> (PSA4)
HMT
Make sustainable improvements in the economic performance of all English regions and over the long term reduce the persistent gap in growth rates between the regions, defining measures to improve performance and reporting progress against these measures by 2006. <i>(Joint Target with ODPM and DTI.) (SR2000 target rolled forward and amended)</i> (PSA6)

Appendix 2

References

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- 6. From Exclusion to Inclusion - SRB report, 2005**
- 7. Neighbourhood Renewal Performance Management Framework 2005/06**

