

Measuring progress

The partnership will monitor and report the progress made within this action plan by:

- reviewing the plan every three months and once a year;
- considering evidence of the resulting effect of the actions against the needs of the district; and
- appointing a 'champion' to make sure that the priorities under each theme are carried out and to lead on both reviews.

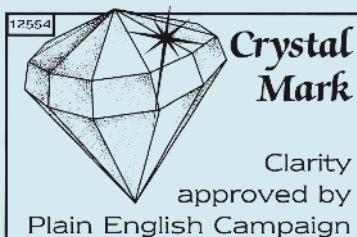
The role of the South Leeds District Partnership will be to monitor the review process and to take a view on overall progress against the plan and any changes needed to the plan over the following three and 12 months.



Photographs

Page

- 1 Street scene, Beeston
- 2 Leeds Construction and Training Academy (LCATA) trainees working on a Lovell Construction site on the Westwood Estate, Middleton
- 3 Rothwell Country Park, where a wide range of habitats have been created on the site of the former Rothwell Colliery (top)
- 3 Amateur football in Cross Flatts Park, Beeston (left)
- 3 An event organised by Beeston Hill Sure Start at Dewsbury Road library to promote reading among young children
- 4 A hairdressing student taking part in a practical session at Joseph Priestley College (left)
- 4 Beeston Hill Sure Start event at Dewsbury Road library
- 5 Street scene, Beeston



South Leeds
making things happen

South Leeds District Partnership

Dewsbury Road One Stop Centre

190 Dewsbury Road

Leeds, LS11 6PF

E-mail: nhd.southareacomm@leeds.gov.uk

Phone: 0113 224 3040

the Leeds Initiative

Local partnerships making things happen



South Leeds District Partnership Action Plan 2005 to 2008

Context

Leeds is undoubtedly a huge success as a city. But the south of Leeds is home to some of the greatest areas of deprivation and poverty in the city. The area can be divided into the inner and outer parts of south Leeds.

The inner south area is made up of the wards of Beeston and Holbeck, City and Hunslet, and Middleton Park. It has a population of 65,500 living in over 29,000 households, at least half of which are rented. 11.3% of the residents are from black and ethnic-minority communities (higher than the Leeds average) mainly living in Beeston Hill and Holbeck. The residential areas vary and include some owner-occupied homes as well as large social housing estates in Belle Isle and Middleton. Beeston Hill and Holbeck have dense back-to-back housing. There are various focal points for commercial and retail activity, for example, along Dewsbury Road and the Beeston Ring Road (White Rose shopping centre). Areas identified for major regeneration include Holbeck Urban Village and the Aire Valley, which covers Hunslet and Stourton. There are also some new private housing developments, for example, in the Heritage Village and Stourton Grange.

Important issues within the inner south area are the levels of deprivation. It has:

- 25 neighbourhoods among the 10% most deprived in the country;
- a 6% unemployment rate in the City and Hunslet and Middleton Park wards, despite an overall rate above the city average and a higher-than-average take-up of benefits; and
- a percentage of households without central heating that is higher than the city average, with City and Hunslet having the highest rate of empty properties.

Health problems such as coronary heart disease, a shorter life expectancy and low birth weight are also higher than average city rates. Local residents are also concerned about the environment, with poor pavements, graffiti, fly-posting (putting up adverts without permission) and weeds being high on their list of priorities to tackle. Community safety and young people are also matters for concern.

The outer south area is home to the two towns of Morley and Rothwell. Both towns are now connected to Leeds as a result of the city spreading into outlying areas. At the time of the 2001 Census, there were 81,984 people living in 34,258 households in the outer south area, of which 2,961 people were from black and ethnic-minority communities (3.6% compared with 8.13% in Leeds as a whole). Information from the Census showed that 74.79% of the households are owner-occupied, 17.16% are rented from the council or from a housing association (or other social landlord) and 8.03% were privately rented or rented from an employer.

Similar to the inner south of Leeds, the most important issues are the levels of deprivation, although there are fewer areas of concern. The outer south area is one of significant contrast, with some wealthy residential neighbourhoods next to areas where deprivation levels are high.

Outer south Leeds has:

- seven areas in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally, in which 18% of the houses have no central heating;
- generally low unemployment levels with a few exceptions where unemployment is well above the Leeds and national levels;
- a higher-than-average rate of poor basic skills and number of people with no qualifications right across the area; and
- vehicle crime in Rothwell, and Ardsley and Robin Hood, that is higher than the city average, as well as high numbers of young people involved in antisocial behaviour.

There are also concerns across the area about environmental issues, ranging from litter in and around town centres, to fly-tipping (dumping rubbish illegally) on green spaces, and overgrown and poorly-maintained gardens.

Our plan is the result of a great deal of debate between residents' agencies and local organisations. In July 2004, an initial consultation event was held at South Leeds Stadium to discuss the issues concerned. The partnership then organised an away day in February 2005 to focus and shape the action plan.





Priorities

In the early stages of developing the action plan, the partnership decided to concentrate on:

- tackling antisocial behaviour;
- prioritising neighbourhoods in need;
- supporting the emerging extended school agenda – where schools provide learning for the whole community; and
- promoting learning and skills development for 14- to 19-year-olds and helping them to get jobs.

Actions

The South Leeds District Partnership will carry out the following actions to help achieve one of the main aims of the city's long-term plan for the future – Vision for Leeds 2004 to 2020 – to narrow the gap between the most disadvantaged people and communities and the rest of the city.

Culture

We will:

- develop a cultural strategy with clear priorities, as part of Celebrate Leeds 2007;
- offer leisure opportunities to local people at the South Leeds Stadium and promote the international pool complex; and
- record and promote the range of cultural and sporting opportunities available.

Enterprise and economy

We will:

- set up a pilot vocational training scheme to help 14- to 19-year-olds get jobs, including a range of projects to encourage, support and promote young people's achievements;
- develop a town-centre management approach and unemployment strategy in Rothwell and Morley; and
- support community-based organisations to become social enterprises – businesses that use their resources to help local communities.

Environment

We will:

- carry out a community study to develop ways to promote greater use of parks and green spaces;
- improve methods for assessing, targeting and improving environmental hot spots; and
- develop a horticultural training programme for 14- to 19-year-olds to benefit young people, organisations and community groups.

Harmonious communities

We will:

- carry out an in-depth research project to look at antisocial behaviour and fear of crime in south Leeds and the best way to tackle it within different communities;
- work with partners to support areas with the highest incidence of antisocial behaviour through projects such as Operation CAVA, which tackles crime and grime;
- help local people to influence decision-making and tell them what decisions have been made and why; and
- work with our partners when consulting local people.

Health

We will:

- consider ways to add value to a co-ordinated programme designed to improve health and tackle inequalities; and
- look at joining up the NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust agenda with other planned projects.

Learning

We will:

- support the extended school programme based on existing good practice by initially working with two school groups; and
- create new vocational training for students aged 14 to 19 to tackle underachievement in South Leeds High School.

Transport

We will:

- carry out two studies to identify options for:
 - promoting transport links through Holbeck Moor underpass; and
 - improving access for young people and leisure users to South Leeds School; and
- hold talks with the Highways Agency on closing junction 2A of the M621.

Thriving places

We will:

- develop a long-term and wide-ranging regeneration scheme for south Leeds to promote economic, environmental and health benefits for local people;
- improve Rothwell and Morley district centres;
- set up a neighbourhood standard for all our partners which can be measured locally; and
- promote and influence extending the city centre to Holbeck and Hunslet.

