

# Community involvement

The North-West Leeds District Partnership has an important role on behalf of the Leeds Initiative to make sure that:

- we involve more of the community more effectively as an essential part of all partners' plans and activities; and
- there is better co-ordination between partners on community involvement in the district.

A major task for the partnership between 2005 and 2006 is to build a strategic district-wide approach to community involvement and to make sure that any action needed to continue that approach is included in future versions of this plan. We will make sure that community involvement meets standards of best practice and delivers real outcomes for communities by strengthening the practice, co-ordination and effect of community involvement in the north-west Leeds district.

In particular, during 2005 to 2006, the North-West Leeds District Partnership will develop a community involvement plan for 2006 onwards to develop a view on the issues and priorities of the communities in the north-west district. To develop the plan, we will:

- use the census and other information;
- identify any gaps, for example, communities which are not yet involved but who we need to consult; and
- make it clear how communities can get involved with the district partnership and develop methods to involve the general public and targeted groups as appropriate.



# Measuring progress

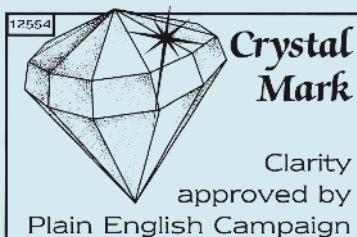
The district partnership will review the plan every three months and once a year. The reviews will identify any problems and new issues which need to be tackled as part of the action plan. The partnership will review the plan to check progress against each of the actions in the themes and to consider any evidence of the effect of the actions against the needs of the district and any

changes that are needed. The partnership will identify a 'champion' to make sure that the priorities under each theme are carried out and to lead on both reviews for each theme.

## Photographs

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- 1 Students outside the University of Leeds
- 2 War veterans share their experiences with pupils from local schools at a workshop organised by the University of Leeds as part of Black History Month
- 3 Otley Chevin (left)
- 3 Members of Yeadon Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society take a break from rehearsals at Yeadon Town Hall (top right)
- 3 Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs) in Tinshill
- 4 Leeds Bradford International Airport
- 5 Holt Park District Centre (left)
- 5 Women at a workshop run by Skippko Arts at Rosebank Primary School, Burley



**North-West Leeds**  
*making things happen*

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### **the Leeds Initiative**

*Local partnerships making things happen*



# North-West Leeds District Partnership Action Plan 2005 to 2008

## Context

The north-west district runs from Little London near the city centre out to Otley. It stretches from the inner Leeds areas of Little London and Little Woodhouse, through Hyde Park and Headingley, Kirkstall and Weetwood to the outer Leeds areas of Horsforth, Guiseley, Rawdon, Otley, Yeadon, Adel and Wharfedale. The population of the district is 169,900 (2001 Census).

The North-West Leeds District Partnership wants to make a lasting improvement to the quality of life for all people in the district, focusing on improving the quality of life for people living in deprived areas. No-one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live. This means that we need to make sure there is less unemployment and crime, improved health, increased skills, better housing and physical environments.



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## Priorities

The main priorities of the plan are to:

- increase the availability of affordable housing;
- improve the transport system and make sure that public transport is well-connected;
- reduce crime and the fear of crime, and improve community safety;
- work together as a partnership to help improve deprived neighbourhoods;
- make the most of the major planned physical developments in the district;
- promote more co-ordinated work by agencies to meet the needs of communities in north-west Leeds;
- help make best use of the investment in services in the area and promote further service improvement; and
- make sure there is meaningful community involvement in the district partnership.

## Actions

The North-West 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:

- increase pride in north-west Leeds by developing a district cultural, promotional and marketing strategy and complete a study of the 'left-bank' cultural project;
- increase the use of the improved visitor facilities at Kirkstall Abbey, local independent cinemas, theatres, school facilities and the West Park Community Resource Centre; and
- promote community-based sporting opportunities available to residents by developing a district programme, including activities at the Headingley Stadium and the universities.

## Enterprise and economy

We will:

- make the most of employment opportunities for local people by developing local job initiatives, particularly in the major building developments planned in the district;
- increase the number of businesses working with schools by developing more employer-led training schemes and links to sectors of the economy where we expect more jobs to be available, including administration, call centres and retail; and
- improve the economic development of district centres and market towns.





## Environment

We will:

- set up a district-wide environment partnership to co-ordinate environmental action;
- improve the amount and quality of green space for health and recreational purposes, including developing Kirkstall Valley Park, completing the Yeadon to Guiseley pedestrian and cycle route, and increasing the numbers of small green areas;
- develop a strategy to give advice and support to residents, and put into effect enforcement measures in neighbourhoods which have a mix of rented and privately-owned homes;
- research the possibility of renewable energy sources in local communities; and
- set up two new environmental action teams dedicated to north-west Leeds to improve the local environment.

## Harmonious communities

We will:

- develop two new neighbourhood policing teams, supported by extra police community support officers and wardens to patrol neighbourhoods and parks;
- review the facilities available for young people of different age groups;
- develop an alcohol-related crime action plan, including an anti-binge-drinking campaign;
- put into practice the Shared Housing Action Plan to tackle the problems of student and shared housing;
- reduce the number of noise complaints;
- reduce crime and the harm caused by illegal drugs, alcohol and antisocial behaviour by sharing information between agencies;
- develop a plan to improve relations in the community, particularly between students, older people, and black and ethnic-minority communities; and
- deliver a programme of multi-agency action in 'crime and grime' hot spots (Operation Apollo) with six major programmes a year throughout the district.

## Health and wellbeing

We will:

- tackle the main issues which affect health, including poverty, employment and housing;
- improve primary care and community services through the investment which the NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust will bring;
- improve energy efficiency in all types of housing and take action to make sure all people can afford to heat their home;
- support people with long-term health conditions by developing personalised and organised approaches to managing patients, including using community matrons;
- increase the range of healthy living activities available in partnership with Leeds City Council's Leisure Services; and
- develop a partnership approach to putting into practice the Public Health White Paper 'Choosing Health'.

## Learning

We will:

- set up a learning and skills partnership to co-ordinate and plan action on providing jobs and skills across sectors;
- develop a local action plan to improve children's services in Leeds, meeting the Government's aim for better children's services set out in the Children Act 2004;
- make the most of the Government's extended schools programme, where schools provide learning for the whole community – our initial work includes a joint review of partners' existing plans for local, long-term investment in facilities;
- improve learning and achievement in schools for all;
- support children most at risk of being excluded from education by carrying out projects such as the specialist inclusive learning centres;
- make sure communities are involved with schools; and
- increase the number of people who go on to further and higher education, specifically people from the most disadvantaged communities.

## Transport

We will:

- develop a strategy for the A6120 outer ring road;
- make sure our public transport is well-connected by investing in new buses, bus shelters and 'real-time' information to help passengers on the A65 and Burley Road – known as 'quality bus initiatives';
- promote the role of the airport in the district;
- make sure that public transport is well-connected by carrying out studies into possible new local rail stations, quality bus initiatives and improved green transport initiatives, such as walking and cycling;
- explore the potential of 'park and ride' opportunities on the A65 and A660 corridors;
- review road-safety standards across the district; and
- look into improving community transport for older people in outer north-west Leeds.

## Thriving places

We will:

- put into practice a strategy for increasing affordable housing for local people;
- carry out a targeted programme of heating improvements through GP referrals;
- invest in council-owned housing to provide decent homes and improve standards of housing-management services;
- develop neighbourhood-based service-improvement programmes for priority neighbourhoods, including a pilot programme for Little London;
- help progress physical investment in the area, including Kirkstall Forge, Kirkstall Road, Burley Road, Holt Park, High Royds and Leeds Bradford International Airport; and
- develop a joint approach to involving the community in north-west Leeds.

