

Darlaston Local Neighbourhood Partnership – 24th July 2006

Locality Commissioning Project

Portfolio: Safer Stronger Communities, Partnerships and Vision 2021
Service Area: Neighbourhood Services
Wards: Bentley & Darlaston North Ward
Darlaston South Ward

Summary of report

The purpose of the report is to inform the Local Neighbourhood Partnership of this pilot project that will seek to foster engagement to influence the Health commissioning agenda for the Darlaston LNP locality.

A virtual team will be created between the tPCT and LNP team to 'drive' a pilot initiative in locality commissioning. The aim of the initiative will be to create strong links between the local GPs (who will be undertaking Practice Based Commissioning), the local community, the LNP and local voluntary sector organisations delivering health care services. The views and support of this group of people will be sought to use a small allocation of NRF funding to commission local services that local people want, giving clear feedback to statutory agencies regarding the modifications to services that local people require and commissioning new service to fill the gaps where required. The primary focus will be on services that treat people as close to home as possible, mobilising community resources and tailoring services to meet the needs of the individual. This may include using local service deliverers to deliver new services or seeking to develop a stronger volunteer network in the area.

Methodology

Darlaston is the chosen area which this initiative will take place. The decision was taken using the following criteria:

- It should be an area designated among the 10-20% most deprived in Walsall
- It should be an area that does not already have a lot of external funding stream money being spent in it.
- It should be an area where the GPs delivering Practice Based Commissioning have a fairly well defined geographical focus.
- It should be an area where the Local Neighbourhood Partnership, the local health professionals, the local GPs and the community are keen to get involved in this initiative and have pledged their support.

This project will promote localised health analysis and solutions in one LNP area by binding together the emerging Practice Based Commissioning initiative within the tPCT and the LNPs.

This is an innovative project, combining the expertise of health professionals, council officers and local people. If successful it will provide a showcase for other councils.

The Way Forward

It is proposed that:

- A conference / seminar / health event for the Darlaston LNP is organised in the autumn to discuss health priorities for the area with community members and health professionals. This event will be held on 27th September and the LNP is asked to promote the event amongst local people.
- Following the health event, a number of Darlaston residents will be offered the opportunity to receive training in research techniques – ‘participatory appraisal’ – and then spend a period of time interviewing other local residents and the local GPs and other primary care staff to gain further insight into the issues and health priorities originally identified at the health event. A report produced as a result of this research will provide clarity for the commissions/service level agreement modifications that will follow.

Resource Considerations

In order to make a meaningful and measurable impact on the way in which services are commissioned and the innovative nature of those services then it is envisaged that an ‘incentive’ fund of £55,000 should be made available this year and approximately £50,000 in 2006-07. This funding will be sourced from Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF)

Recommendations

1. The LNP to note the details of this project
2. Note that a Health Conference will be held on 27th September
3. The LNP to offer their support and encourage local people to get involved and share their views about health priorities in Darlaston.

Contact Officers

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