

Aims

Cross-cutting, broad and clearly focused. The aims are to affect the culture of the local community in terms of the NRF Floor Targets and to raise the achievements and aspirations of the communities using the school.

Location

The initiative is delivered across the Easington District Council area with an administrative base at Shotton Hall School in Peterlee.

The Easington District Council area has a predominance of small ex-coal mining villages with a single industry focus.

Peterlee is a 1950s new town with a light/ service industry focus which has had to diversify its employment base in recent years through the closure of some of its larger employers.

The Intervention Strategy

Staffing

The scheme currently employs one manager, five theme co-ordinators, seven initiative workers and some administrators. Initially all were in the voluntary sector some staff are now mainstreamed within the school.

Funding

A package of NRF, European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund, Coalfield Regeneration Trust, JobCentre Plus funding, Primary Care Trust (PCT) and assorted charities.

The value of NRF is that its criteria in addressing floor targets is broader than other funders enabling 'gaps' to be filled. NRF has enabled the purchase of capital equipment ineligible for funding from other providers.

Operating method

The initiative operates from a community resource with Shotton Hall School. In terms of operation there are two main arms i) Shotton Hall School ii) East Durham Partnership (Voluntary Sector). The rationale behind this approach is to provide a range of operations and have 'two strings to the bow' in terms of funding application, intervention delivery and practice delivery. The school leads on applications for capital income whilst the voluntary sector can apply for, and manage the revenue elements of initiatives.

Planning is informed by a steering group drawn from the whole community and membership includes:

Community Action Network (CAN), East Durham Partnership, Shotton Hall Family of Schools, Education Action Zone, Durham University, Primary Care Trust, Shotton IT Partnership, Durham Local Education Authority, Connexions, Youth Offending Team, Out of School Hours, Sunderland AFC and Greenworks UK.

The initiative has a number of strands which have developed over time.

In April 2002 East Durham Partnership relocated to Shotton Hall School with its UK Online Centre and 200 local adult learners as well as its voluntary sector network.

Family Learning provision was established in September 2002 with a group of Year 8 pupils (identified as under-achieving) and their parents.

Evening and Saturday morning accredited IT classes are utilized by adult members of the local community who work alongside pupils who use the IT for curriculum support.

Initiative participants are able to access and engage in learning and enterprise in a supportive environment.

Family learning, community enterprise, job creation, provision for literacy and numeracy support, activities for disaffected young people, community arts, parenting support, healthy living centre, employability programmes, capacity building and involvement and collaboration with regional health projects are elements of the initiative.

With regards to NRF health related issues there are a range of approaches utilised, including:

- ◆ A 'Teenage Referral and Advice Centre' (TRAC) will offer a range of health related services (including GP referral, family planning, counseling, anti-bullying advice, drug misuse advice etc.) The centre is run and used by young people in a 'teacher free' area of the school grounds and detached from other adults so privacy and confidentiality is maintained.
- ◆ A sex education roadshow is regularly delivered on the school campus. Informal advice is delivered via games, role-play and challenging and exciting activities.
- ◆ A partnership with the Healthy Living Centre has been established.

The Health Promotion Service has established a sexual health resource centre to serve the local community. 'Electronic babies' are used to educate young people as to the demands and needs of infants. These are a part of a purpose designed parenting programme available to young people through Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) in the school's Health and Social Care Courses and where appropriate through community initiatives.

The initiative brings together and integrates existing successful projects which were seeking funding to sustain jobs and outcomes and gives added value to these projects by integrating them with new initiatives. The overall effect is to raise self-esteem and attainment.

In collaboration with Shotton Hall School the initiative is making available to the wider community a community dance studio, community library, technology village, vocational training, transport and a range of performing arts programmes and courses accessed at a subsidized or zero cost. The collaboration has enabled the school to diversify and engage in greater community outreach than would have been otherwise previously possible.

Free transport and carer provision is available to facilitate wider access.

Shotton Hall School is one of the few state schools in the country to have Community Action Network (CAN) Academy School status.

Achievements of the Intervention

Main achievements

- ◆ More than 300 individuals have been trained, 72 receiving accreditation,
- ◆ individuals placed into training,
- ◆ 25 new jobs created, jobs safeguarded,
- ◆ 3 Community Enterprises developed,
- ◆ a Young Persons Centre established
- ◆ and community resources developed.

With regard to the NRF Education Floor Targets in 2001 Shotton Hall School had 25% 5 GCSE's at A* to C grade, in 2002 this rose to 38% 5 GCSE's at A* to C grade.

There has been an impact on a significant number of young people at risk of substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and general disaffection



District of **easington.**

Positive Pathways

Contact:

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NRF Priority:

Education/Employment/Health

NRF Authority:

Easington

NRF Funding Level:

Medium

PTO for additional information

Lead Agent:

East Durham Partnership and
Shotton Hall School

Main Partners:

Peterlee Education Action Zone (EAZ), Primary
School Sector, Youth Offending Team, Durham
University, Durham New College, Education in
the Community, Aim High, Primary Care Trust
(PCT), Durham LEA, Sunderland AFC,
Community Action Network (CAN), Greenworks
UK, Easington Action Team for Jobs,
Sunderland College.

Location:

Administrative Centre at Shotton Hall School,
Peterlee, County

Durham. Service delivery at the Administrative
Centre and across the Easington District area

Main achievements:

300+ individuals trained with 72 receiving
accreditation

Individuals placed into training

25 new jobs created

Jobs safeguarded

3 Community Enterprises developed

Young Persons Centre established

Community Resources established

Mainstreaming Strategy

Some staff from the initiative are now incorporated into the school.

Shotton Hall School has, as a result of widely expanded community involvement restructured and moved towards a faculty structure. A Faculty of Entrepreneurial Education and Community Development has been established and located within the school Resource Centre, this is unique within the district.

The school has achieved 'Pathfinder' status and is an Enterprise Grant recipient.

The Department for Education & Skills (DfES) Innovation Unit has commissioned DEMOS to visit and research the initiative (this could be used to fund applications to other Government Departments) as the DfES is seeking out innovative approaches/practices in schools. The Head of the DfES Innovation Unit visited the initiative and Ivan Lewis MP (when Minister with 14-19 Education responsibility) was 'gobsmacked' with the initiative.

Initiative members and some of the young people they work with were invited to 10 Downing Street.

Durham County Partnership cites the initiative as an example of 'good practice' and will be showcasing the initiative in the near future.

The Learning Curve

The success of the initiative to date has relied on the recruitment of appropriately skilled staff who have a commitment to and belief in the philosophy of community education/development. Effective communication between staff and partner organisations has enabled the growth and productivity of the initiative.

The school was featured on BBC Radio 4 'Changing Places' in March 2003.

A factsheet is currently available from:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/beyond/factsheets/changing5_prog2.shtml

Key Lessons

The initiative is widely representative and truly collaborative in nature. Political (and external organization) support is important. Locally the initiative has support at District and LEA level (Director of Education) and local political support (John Cummings MP). The Community Action Network (CAN) assisted and were involved in the forging of links into Government Departments especially the Home Office and the DfES.

In allowing Shotton Hall School to adopt innovative methods it was necessary to establish more flexible systems and procedures within the LEA, this proved time consuming and led to a slow start for the initiative but has proved to be beneficial to everyone concerned.

Smaller initiatives require specialist help with regard to the marketing and promotion of the services and facilities which they offer.

The initiative has recently been successful through the District of Easington in accessing Liveability Fund monies to further develop the Enterprise initiatives and will be expanding its geographical operation utilizing Urban 2 funding.

Contact Details

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