

The EXCHANGE

the newsletter of Regeneration Exchange

May 2004

In this edition:

THIS PAGE

Joe Montgomery, NRU Director addresses Annual Review

INSIDE

ICT update: broadband and the NE

REACH - family support centre

Diary

Share resources with the Can Do Exchange

Housing regeneration - Stockton, Gateshead

Tales of South Tyneside - new look museum

Community Trusts - report on Cruddas Park, Newcastle

The Northern Way - comment

Postgrad courses in Urban Regeneration

Newsletter for North Benwell

AOL Innovators in Community awards

ASBOs and crime

Regeneration - French style

Jobs drive for Gateshead

Funds for your web project

The Virtual University?

Community Champs: cash awards

Joe Montgomery addresses Annual Review

Time for evidence, says NRU Chief

It's now time for gathering the evidence that local strategic partnerships are having an effect, according to Joe Montgomery, Director of the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (pictured).

Joe was addressing the Regeneration Annual Review earlier this year.

He stressed that partnerships, especially LSPs, were now out of their start-up period and had moved into the delivery phase of their work. Evidence of impact is now essential, he said.

New information and tools now available to help deliver change include

- the new Index of Multiple Deprivation which will be more accurate, giving information below ward level in Super Output areas
- neighbourhood statistics with information on health, crime and housing
- new software: Floor Targets Interactive will manage delivery, performance and progress

He outlined the work that the NRU and the Joint Strategy Unit were currently doing on reviewing the overall neighbourhood renewal strategy and talked about the 2006-2009 Spending Review - he said spending decisions needed to be informed by data from activity on the ground.

The Tackling Disadvantage Group, formed within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, will bring together the NRU and the Social Exclusion Unit to focus on the most vulnerable in our society.

Questions from the floor included whether the term "deprived communities" actually stigmatised neighbourhoods and if we should avoid it. Joe said he preferred to describe such areas as "under-served markets" .

He was also asked how neighbourhood management could work without the financial investment available to the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Partnerships. In his reply, Joe pointed to how other agencies such as Housing Associations were investing in neighbourhood management, and the use of NRF by local authorities in Liverpool and Wolverhampton for neighbourhood management work. He agreed very few were funded by mainstream budgets. Post 2006, funding was dependent on the Spending Review - again, evidence from practice on what works was needed to inform these decisions.



Info Service

The Exchange is the newsletter of Regeneration Exchange. Regeneration Exchange promotes communication and networking between regeneration partnerships, partner agencies and groups in the North East. The project is steered by a management group made up of practitioners from initiatives across the region.

Regeneration Exchange can:

- support and arrange conferences
- facilitate visits between projects
- provide a help desk and signposting service for regeneration practitioners
- refer to other relevant agencies and contacts for resources and information

If you would like to contribute to *The Exchange*, or if you have ideas for us, please contact Betty Weallans, Karen Gillard or Neil Tait at

Regeneration Exchange
Unit 25
Pennywell Business Centre
Portsmouth Road
Sunderland
SR4 9AR

Telephone
0191-534 1155

email
regeneration.exchange@sunderland.gov.uk



**REGENERATION
EXCHANGE**

South Tyneside museum re-opens

South Shields Museum and Art Gallery, closed since October 2002, has re-opened after a £1.4 million redevelopment - and council chiefs predict it will play a part in the ongoing regeneration and transformation of the town centre. The new-look museum was officially opened by David Miliband MP.

It's the most popular heritage attraction in the borough and the re-modelled museum features Tales of South Tyneside (pictured), including a new presentation of the life and work of local author Catherine Cookson.

Art Adventure takes a new look at the museum's collection with hands-on displays, and the popular Land, River and Sea gallery has had a facelift.

David Slater, Executive Director of Corporate Development at South Tyneside Council, said, 'more jobs and investment come to attractive places where people like to live. A really first-class museum is a big asset for any place.'

Councillor Ron Reynolds, Lead Member for Lifelong Learning and Leisure with

South Tyneside Council, says, 'South Shields Museum is one of our key cultural assets, together with the Roman Fort of Arbeia, Bede's World and the Customs House. It provides a platform for increased cultural activity particularly aimed at attracting young people.'



Time, skills, resources: spares and swaps!

New online marketplace for communities

Community groups and organisations have a new way of accessing resources, information, skills and services - and of offering their own spare capacity to others.

Thanks to the recently-launched Can Do Exchange website, there should be less duplication of services, and, says Steven Knight, less 're-inventing the wheel.'

Steven is director of support services for the Scarman Trust, the organisation behind the Can Do Exchange. The Exchange has been developed following research with small community groups into missing support needs, and draws on many of the principles that saw the development of LETS and Time Banks in the 1990s.

'Now there is greater access, and just as important, fast access, to the internet, the ideas can be developed to reach more people and more organisations,' says Steven.

The website acts as an online notice board, where needs can be matched with providers. 'Just recently, we had a training day in Sunderland,' reports Steven. 'A community group in the morning session needed some transport, and staff from a school who attended the afternoon session had a minibus which was underused. They were only a couple of miles from each other and they were the perfect match.'

Community organisations can join the Can Do Exchange for a small fee based on turnover. The plan is for it to expand to cover the needs of many thousands of organisations, but it starts being useful with just small numbers, says Steven Knight.

More information:
www.candoexchange.org or call
Servane Mouazan on 0207 713 9501 or
Fabien Bernard on 0870 420 7976 .
E-mail: info@candoexchange.org

ICT update: broadband and the NE

A round-up of IT-related news and views

Since September 2001, the North East region has headed the overall national league in the growth of broadband, says RDA One North East, and until just recently, we've been ahead of the pack in the adoption of cable, satellite and radio broadband.

According to a new report, Realisation of e-potential, this gives the region the chance to 'leapfrog other regions in terms of gross value added and become a more prosperous region.' You can read the whole report at <http://www.onenortheast.co.uk>

Initial help

Do you know your TIFFs from your GIFs? There's an acronym buster available for download from <http://www.n-e-life.com> - useful as a quick exercise for ICT training, or just to check the trainers know what they're talking about!

North East ahead in ICT

Earlier this year, n-e-life.com commissioned a survey to see how the north east compared with other regions when it comes to being ICT-savvy.

Turns out that 26 per cent of senior management are 'savvy' and that compares with just 18 per cent in the rest of Britain.

At the same time, we do have more IT 'Luddites' - 17 per cent - than the rest of Britain (15 per cent) - the sort who get an assistant to open and print out their email before they can read it, or who maybe don't yet use email at all.

As you'd expect, older people are less comfortable with IT and are more likely to be one of the less willing to use it. Sole traders tended to be less IT literate than companies with employees. Out ahead are the Finance, Business and Professional Services area, with the highest level of IT literacy. The whole report is available at the n-e-life website.

Just launched: n-e-commerce....

....a new one stop gateway to online business for all SMEs in the region. Go to <http://www.n-e-commerce.com>.

Build-your-own site - free!

Community groups and non-profit-making organisations can get help to promote themselves and improve communications on the web with the new Community Website Builder, operated by BT Volunteering and ik.com limited. It's free of charge and best of all, it's easy to do in just a few minutes. Find out more at <http://www.communitykit.ik.com>.

One stop support for families

The government's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund is currently supporting a 'one stop' centre for families in County Durham.

The project is called REACH, standing for Regenerating Education and Community Health, and is based at Greenfield School, Newton Aycliffe. The grant of £44,000 is for two years, with further awards from the Standards Fund for Social Inclusion, and the DfES Pathfinder grant for extended schools.

The school now houses a centre with an educational welfare officer, a counsellor, nurse, two advisers, a family support worker and a student support worker, all permanently on site to help students and their families.

Based on a pioneering American programme which began in the 1980s, it aims to provide integrated health, education and social services to families in disadvantaged areas. Research into the programme in the US and in Scotland where similar projects have been developed show that schools enjoy improved attendance rates, parenting skills improve, there are higher staying-on rates for the post-16s, and there are fewer exclusions and fewer referrals to social services.

Newton Aycliffe has high levels of social deprivation. Head teacher Mike Thornton said, 'many children find themselves struggling to cope in a vicious circle of low expectation, limited horizon and poor aspiration. We hope to turn this around, giving pupils the specialist support they need to encourage them to thrive and achieve their full potential.'

Pathfinder cash for NewcastleGateshead housing

NewcastleGateshead have been awarded £69 million in Pathfinder cash, one of the largest ever pots of regeneration funding in the North East.

The money will be used for investment in areas with abandoned or empty housing, to revitalise neighbourhoods and reverse decline.

Research by the University of Birmingham's Centre for Urban and Regional Studies showed that 57,000 properties in Newcastle and Gateshead were at risk of low demand - with a consequent risk to the viability of communities.

* The NewcastleGateshead Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder is a 15 year project covering 77,000 homes. Over the next fifteen years Pathfinder will deliver a greater choice of housing that meets people's needs and aspirations;

improvements to homes and improvements to the local environment; community safety and neighbourhood management; better standards in the private rented sector. Details: <http://www.newcastlegatesheadpathfinder.co.uk/>

Your views wanted

Inside this issue of The Exchange, you'll find a questionnaire for your views and ideas. It should only take a few minutes to complete and then return in the stamped addressed envelope supplied. We need to know what you're thinking, in order to improve and develop our services. Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedules!

Ask the Expert:

Each issue we'll pose a question to one of the many specialists, activists and workers in our region.

Last February, deputy prime minister John Prescott launched his Sustainable Communities Plan statement, **Making it Happen: the Northern Way**.

This was published a year after the publication of the Sustainable Communities Plan: Building for the Future, which set out an action plan to build successful communities where people want to live.

Links to copies of the 'Northern Way' statement and the additional text for the North East Region are available on the Government office for the North East website <http://www.go-ne.gov.uk>.

Principal Policy Officer for the North East Regional Assembly Andrew De'ath is our expert this issue, and he answers our question on this crucial aspect of government planning for the region.

Q. What do you predict will be the long-lasting impact of the Northern Way for us here in the North East?

A. The Northern Way initiative is really an introduction to a new way of thinking for regional policy making and spending. The Government hopes that the Northern Way will help lift the productivity of the three northern regions and bring the jobs, investment and quality housing that can create sustainable communities. The initiative emphasises a 'Northern Growth Corridor' containing major conurbations and transport infrastructure as drivers for economic growth.

A response to the Deputy Prime Minister's proposal is being prepared to a tight timescale and currently involves some high-level decision makers throughout the Northern region, together with influential government representatives.

So what might it mean for regeneration? Well, it may not immediately bring new resources to the Northern region. However, it should demonstrate that the three northern regional development agencies (One North East, North West Development Agency and Yorkshire Forward) can collaborate and work with their partners towards a vision of the North as an area 'of exceptional opportunity'. One important result of this that would affect us all could be better links between the three regions on raising the quality and availability of housing within the North.

Urban regeneration: the French experience

The University of Durham's Stockton campus hosted the third Urban Futures/RSA seminar earlier this year, with Professor Patrick Le Gales, from Maison des Sciences des Hommes, in Paris.

The event was sponsored by the International Centre for Regional Regeneration and Development Studies, University of Durham, The Social Futures Institute, University of Teesside, and Tees Valley Partnership.

We can email you a full report of this interesting and illuminating seminar - just ask.

The Virtual University?

Redcar and Cleveland Learning Partnership are supporting a multimedia-rich e-learning resource development, accessed through the Technology House website, by learners aged 14 - 19. Teens accessing computers at home or in village learning centres throughout East Cleveland will be able to keep up to date with their studies outside of school at weekends and in the holidays. For more details: <http://www.TechnologyHouse.info>

ASBOs: raising awareness

Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) - introduced to prevent communities being intimidated by persistent nuisance behaviour - are highlighted in a new leaflet being delivered to homes in the Cowgate area of Newcastle. The Newcastle Community Safety Partnership have produced it to rally support for the police and the council's efforts in curbing antisocial behaviour. The leaflet explains the range of strategies available to deal with this behaviour - and explains how a breach of an ASBO can lead to a prison sentence.

The tale of a trust

Diary

For 10 years, the Cruddas Park Community Trust operated in the West End of Newcastle. It was an early example of partnership working between the private, statutory and community sectors. It began as a flagship project of the Newcastle Initiative, itself a private sector organisation concerned with regeneration.

In 1999, the Trust was formally wound up, following a number of years in which it 'struggled to survive', according to Jayne Mills former chief executive, now from Praxis, community development consultancy.

Ms Mills identified several factors that combined to contribute to the ending of the Trust.

For example, the Trust supported the beginnings of a number of community businesses. In fact, the aim was that the proceeds from these would fund the Trust's infrastructure - but the local economy simply could not sustain these small businesses in the long term. Other funding - primarily European - was 'cumbersome' and time-consuming to manage. That in itself led to serious cash-flow problems and short-termism. Initiatives came and went, and key partner agencies moved their allegiance and their priorities.

Ms Mills also identified problems with accountability, and with relationships between the city council and local councillors.

Her report is available in full from jm.praxis@btopenworld.com

Postgrad programmes

Newcastle University's Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies offers a brace of postgraduate programmes in regional development.

Both MA programmes are designed to connect with the emerging regional agenda of changes in administrative and governance structures. For more information and details of the courses: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/curds>

When? May 5
What? The Balance of Housing in Social Exclusion and Regeneration (part of the Urban Futures Series 2003-04).
Where? Centre for Enterprise, University of Teesside
Run by? International Centre for Regional Regeneration and Development
Contact? c.a.stephenson@durham.ac.uk or 0191 3340454

When? May 6
What? Regeneration Exchange Programme Issues Group. A quarterly meeting for regeneration programme officers to raise and discuss issues of programme management.
Where? One North East, Newcastle
Run by? Regeneration Exchange
Contact? regeneration.exchange@sunderland.gov.uk

When? May 12
What? REACH Volunteers Event. A lunchtime event aimed at raising the profile of volunteers and how organisations can benefit from their skills.
Where? The Thistle Hotel, Middlesbrough
Run by? REACH / Middlesbrough VDA
Contact? christine.crawford@mvdauk.org.uk

When? May 12-13
What? Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. Two one-day conferences looking to explore the most effective approaches to anti-social behaviour.
Where? London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre
Run by? ROOM
Contact? mary.murphy@rtpi.org.uk or 0207 9299488

When? May 13-14
What? South Yorkshire: Exploring the Wealth of Opportunities. A 2-day programme with study visits to share best practice examples of what has been achieved and how it may be applied across the UK.
Where? Moat House, Doncaster
Run by? BURA
Contact? info@bura.org or 0800 0181260

When? May 14
What? BURA Regeneration Training: Partnerships and Engagement. One of a series of training units aimed at urban regeneration practitioners.
Where? Coventry University Techno Centre
Run by? BURA
Contact? info@bura.org or 0800 0181260

When? May 15
What? Asylum, Refuge & Community: Integration & Poverty Issues. A one day conference with speakers from the grassroots and with direct experience.
Where? University of Teesside, Middlesbrough
Run by? Teesside Church Action on Poverty & Diocese of Middlesbrough
Contact? Carol Cross (01642 891793)

When? May 20
What? Just the Business: Housing Associations' Role in Neighbourhood Renewal. A conference aimed at bringing together senior practitioners from housing & regeneration to understand and exploit opportunities presented by social landlords.
Where? TUC Congress Centre, London
Run by? National Housing Federation/New Start
Contact? bss@housing.org.uk or 0870 0107676

When? June 11
What? BURA Regeneration Training: Programmes and Projects. One of a series of training units aimed at urban regeneration practitioners.
Where? JJB Wigan
Run by? BURA
Contact? info@bura.org or 0800 0181260

When? June 15-18
What? Chartered Institute of Housing Conference & Exhibition. Overview and analysis for LAs with strategic responsibility, Board Members, Tenants & Partners.
Where? Harrogate International Centre
Run by? Chartered Institute of Housing
Contact? www.cih-housing.co.uk or 02476571111

When? June 18
What? The NE Social Enterprise Awards with a Trade Fair and Workshop programme.
Where? Durham County Cricket Club
Run by? NESEP
Contact? 01207 588534

When? June 22-24
What? Nature Enhanced. A three day conference for practitioners and academics involved with the design, planning and management of ecologically inspired landscapes in urban spaces.
Where? University of Sheffield
Run by? University of Sheffield
Contact? denise.hall2@sheffield.ac.uk

When? June 24
What? A Decade of Change: Lottery Monitor Annual Conference London. Lottery Monitor's 8th annual conference celebrating 10 years of the National Lottery in the UK.
Run by? Lottery Monitor
Contact? carla@lottery-monitor.com or 0207 2516545

When? July 13 - 15
What? Fifth National Regeneration Convention UMIST Manchester National Convention for those involved in local regeneration partnerships - themes include knowledge and power and connecting communities with cities, regions and countries. Bursaries available
Run by? ROOM at RTPi, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, ODPM and partners
Contact? emma.tozer@rtpi.org.uk

For a regularly updated list of events please log on to www.regenerationexchange.org

Gateshead jobs drive

STEPHEN MILLER 23, ASSISTANT WEB DEVELOPER - GATESHEAD HEALTH NHS TRUST

achieving
goals



gateshead is a place where goals can be realised.

Get on with your career click on www.getonwithgateshead.org.uk

gateshead
live • work • enjoy

The Gateshead Partnership - Gateshead Health NHS Trust, Gateshead Council and Gateshead Primary Care Trust - are plugging gaps in public sector recruitment with a campaign to throw the spotlight on careers in the health service.

'In today's environment, we all face challenges in recruiting skilled staff to fulfil an ever increasing range of jobs and functions,' explains Chris Reed, chief executive at Gateshead Health NHS Trust.

The 'G' campaign is being fronted by six workers from the organisations involved, all currently seeing their faces on giant posters and billboards across the region.

North Benwell newsletter

Newcastle's North Benwell neighbourhood now has its own colourful newsletter. 'Newsround', published by the Neighbourhood Management Partnership, has been delivered to all residents to keep locals up to date with support services, activities and progress in the area.

Tees Valley housing regeneration: Stockton finds the money

Housing redevelopment and market restructuring is taking place in Stockton through a new project which partners Stockton Borough Council with Nomad Housing Group, Endeavour Housing Association and the private sector.

The Tees Valley region missed out on a share of Pathfinder cash (see Pathfinder story) for housing renewal, and with no prospect of further money becoming available, the Council have started the new scheme with their partners, focussing on two large estates, Mandale and Hardwick.

Funds for a web project

The AOL Innovation in the Community Awards 2004 are now open for applications - if you represent a UK community group or charity needing cash for an Internet project, you can either download the application form from <http://www.aol.co.uk/innovation> or call the awards hotline on 020 7348 8390 or email ukinnovation@aol.com to request an application form. The closing date for the awards is 11 June 2004.

Community Champs: cash awards

The Community Champions Fund, backed by the Department for Education and Skills, recognises the work done by key individuals. Regeneration Exchange is one of the North East's intermediaries working with Government Office North East, and we can help advise you on supporting an application. More information: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/communitychampions>

City of
SUNDERLAND

