

2007-2008 Annual Review

A Service Delivery Report for the North of England



Engaging Communities in Planning



In January 2008, Planning Aid North produced an Annual Review, reflecting on service delivery in the North of England during 2007. We have also produced Annual Reviews on each of our 5 main externally funded projects. This Annual Review considers our performance during the fourth full year of the Delivery Programme of the Planning Aid Service.

15,661 members of northern communities have benefitted from our Advice Helpline, and our proactive Community Planning and Project Activities.

We continue to take a national lead with our **Planning Education for Young People**. This work was further acknowledged when we received the RTPI North East Regional Planning Achievement Award for 2007. 11,417 young people benefitted during the year from our support.

This information sheet reflects on our progress during 2007-2008.

Planning Aid North reviews significant community support in North of England

Introduction to Review

Planning Aid North can be very proud of its achievements during 2007-2008. We acknowledge the support of all staff, volunteers, stakeholders and communities as we reflect on our success. During the year, we have outreached to 15,661 members of the community through our core services (Case Work and Community Planning) and funded projects. We have potentially introduced 82,699 people to the Service through the distribution of our CD Roms, DVDs, leaflets, electronic newsletters and our successful media campaign.

Advice and Support (Case Work)

We have achieved a 21.6% increase of enquiries during 2007-2008 with potential help to 1,502 members of the community from our Advice and Support Service. During the year, this support has been provided to 352 individuals and 75 community groups. Our volunteers have supported our Caseworker on 10% of a diverse range of planning cases.

We have 62% of the local authority districts ranked within the top 100 most disadvantaged areas, according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

Community Planning

3,794 members of the community have directly benefited, from our proactive Community Planning programme, through 154 individual events. We have raised awareness at 35 events ranging from planning forums, faith and residents' group meetings to regeneration schemes, which have led to 5 community training events. PAN has continued to be extremely innovative in Planning Education for Young People. We have developed 5 new community planning projects, which have contributed to a record 107 individual events.

Regional Innovations

Planning Aid North has now secured nearly £0.34M additional funding in the region. 10,365 additional members of local communities have benefitted through 221 events. We have also participated in 81 project planning meetings.

Community Empowerment is at the heart of our project work and we are supporting communities affected by the new planning system or major regeneration.

Planning Aid North

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Learning and Volunteer Support

Learning Support Programme

Planning Aid North continues to take a national lead with its **Planning Education for Young People** programme. This programme supports the curriculum and encourages young people to constructively contribute to the future of their local neighbourhoods.

We are delivering schemes of lessons and running challenge days for primary and secondary schools. 58 Schemes of Work, which include Lesson Plans, Supporting Resources and powerpoint presentations, for primary and secondary schools have been developed. All of these are linked to the QCA Schemes and Units of Work.

We have supported 11,417 young people through 247 core and project events and lessons. Details of our activities can be found on our various communication products, including DVDs.

Planning Aid North is currently finalising a series of new learning products embracing planning and urban design, and their impact on conservation, development and regeneration. We will be shortly launching a complementary programme, **Planning Education for Adult Learners**.

Volunteers

Our network of professional planners continue to positively support the activities of Planning Aid North. During the last year, we have attracted 16 new volunteers and are encouraged by the continued high level of student volunteers. The annual target for new volunteers is 11.

In 2007-2008, we will held 3 Induction Events for 6 new volunteers. We also held 4 training sessions for 21 volunteers.

During 2007-2008, we are planning more regular induction and training events. We are also considering the merits of establishing some associated volunteers to support our expanding project programme of community empowerment.

Planning Aid North Information Leaflets

We have a range of information leaflets on our advice service, communications, community planning, education initiatives, progress and resources, good practice, learning resources, planning knowledge, seminars, topical task sheets and volunteers.

Planning Aid North is having a real impact in the North of England

Regional Innovations

Gateshead Neighbourhood Area Action is a support project in partnership with Gateshead Council to support communities affected by major neighbourhood renewal.

We have been delivering an awareness and learning support programme to promote the value of good urban design. One reference group is currently participating in a neighbourhood audit. 508 local people have participated in 29 events.

Green Corridor Masterplan project is an education support programme in South Stanley, County Durham.

448 young people have contributed to the future of their neighbourhood through 14 events.

Newcastle Regeneration Community Support project is supporting elderly and faith groups affected by regeneration in the East and West Ends of Newcastle, as well as giving the wider communities help during engagement events. Planning Aid North is also delivering an education programme for young people on planning and regeneration studies.

We have supported 8,007 people through 141 events, as well as participating in 49 project planning meetings. 6,719 young people have been helped through 90 activities and lessons.

Planning and Young People project is delivering an education support for young people in County Durham.

Planning Aid North has developed 14 Schemes of Work for primary and secondary schools on a range of topics associated with Local Development Frameworks. We have supported 1,399 young people through 35 activities and lessons.

Communication and Promotion

Good and effective communications are essential to support the delivery of and promote the planning aid service. 82,699 potential members of the community have been introduced to our service. Our tools include:

Annual Reviews - 5 reviews to 99 people

CD Roms - 8 products to 624 people

DVD Films - 4 films to 51 people

Electronic News - 5 editions to 5,700 people

Information Sheets - 359 developed and

76,193 issued

Promotional Leaflet - 232 distributed

We have maintained an effective media campaign. 109 known articles have been published in the local and national media, as well as external web sites.

Planning Aid North is maintaining regular communications with regional MPs.