

Special points of interest:

- Local Area Neighbourhood Arrangements
- Common Assessment Training & Update
- Housing Needs Study 2007

This monthly update is intended to let you know what happens at a strategic level so that you are aware of things that may affect you in the future, or things that you may want to find out more about. If you have any concerns or suggestions that you wish to be fed into this process please contact Sally Perks at YOW on 01902 771163.



October 2007

Local Area Neighbourhood Arrangements

The Wolverhampton Community Plan sets out the Wolverhampton Partnerships commitment to ensuring that services meet the needs of people in their communities and that communities are involved in local decision making. To achieve this Local Area Neighbourhood Arrangements (LANA) have been endorsed by the Wolverhampton Partnership as the principle means through which public agencies will work at the neighbourhood level.

LANA now has full city coverage with 15 geographical LANA areas. Each of these areas has established a Local Neighbourhood Partnership (LNP) to drive forward service improvement. Each LNP includes representation from resident/community groups; elected members and key service providers.



Each LNP has now produced a Neighbourhood Action Plan as a vehicle for service improvement at a Neighbourhood level. The Action Plans have been developed and agreed city wide and will be formally launched on the 4th October. Each Action Plan incorporates the key community priorities (based upon extensive consultation) and priorities from the Local Area Agreement and Community Plan.

The Action Plan has highlighted some key and consistent issues across the city as this table shows;

Community Priority – Across City	% of the 15 Action Plans that raised this as a priority.
Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, Community Safety	85%
Youth provision/ activities	85%
Traffic, parking & public transport	71%
Environmental	64%
Housing (private rented)	50%
Learning skills & employment	50%
Health	43%

In terms of the key issues for children and young peoples services, the specific issues varied by area but included, improved access to sporting/exercise facilities, extended youth provision, new play and after school provision, support for local people that volunteer with young people, increased diversionary activities, opportunities for accreditation, reviewing current provision and identifying the gaps, ensuring young people are engaged in decision making and bringing together young people and families together from different cultures.



LNP's will have a key role in overseeing their Neighbourhood Action Plans and working proactively with service providers to ensure delivery.

Common Assessment Training & Update

The Common Assessment Framework is a standardised approach to conducting assessments of a child's unmet needs and deciding how these should be met. The CAF will promote more effective and earlier identification of unmet needs, particularly in universal services.

Training to support practitioners implement CAF continues, if you have not attended a CAF training session, please contact the Partnership Manager to do so. The CAF is now live in the North East locality of the city; Bushbury, Low Hill, The Scotlands and Underhill, Oxley, Wednesfield, Long Knowle and Fallings Park. If you work in one of these areas you may be asked to attend a multi-agency meeting when a CAF has been initiated or to take the role of Lead professional.

We aim to have implemented CAF across the city by the end of March 2008, the South East area of the city will go live, 7 January 2008 and the South West area will go live, 31 March 2008. We are offering additional support to practitioners regarding the Lead Professional role and there will be a support session held 18 October, 9am-1pm (lunch provided) 2007 at YMCA, Temple Street. **Please note this session is only available to practitioners who have completed the Full day CAF training.**

If you have any question about CAF please do not hesitate to contact the Partnership Manager on the details below.

Ersuline Whittle Partnership Manager 01902 558090 ersuline.whittle@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Liann Howe Integrated Working Support Officer 01902 558073

Liann.howe@wolverhampton.gov.uk

The Housing Needs Study 2007



Wolverhampton Councils strategic housing and planning teams have jointly commissioned independent researchers DCA (David Couttie Associates) to undertake a new Housing Needs Study. The last one was undertaken in 2002, and it showed an unmet need (after taking account of the number of Council and Housing Association properties likely to be available for re-letting) for 216 units of new affordable housing annually. This was reviewed in 2004 where the need had risen by 51% to 342 units.

The figure for 2007 has risen by a further 105% and now stands at an unmet need, for new affordable homes, of 702 units a year for each of the next five years. The figure takes into account the needs of existing households and concealed households. Concealed households tend to be young people currently living with parents who are looking to move out, within the next 3 years, to form their own households.

The Housing Needs Study estimates that some 6,267 concealed households are planning to form in the next three years and that many of these will probably be unable to buy a home, due to rising house prices and interest rates. It is also estimated that 75 % of those concealed households would be unable to afford a rent of more than £60.00 per week (or £260.00 per month).

This information will be used by the Council and its partners, over the next five years, to develop a new City wide Housing Strategy, and in negotiations with private developers on the number of affordable homes to be provided on development sites.

The document will be finalised in the next few weeks and will then be available to view on the Council website (www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/housing/strategy) shortly.

