

12. Examples Of Good Practice

12.1 Sheffield (Burngreave) – New Deal Police Team

The perception of Burngreave is of a ‘crime –ridden’, drugs hotspot, unsafe to walk around at night. Violence against the person is more than double and drugs offences nearly five times that of the rest of Sheffield. The community told BNDfC that they wanted **“For there to be peace and harmony – no violence, no drugs and little crime”**. Residents wanted to see more ‘bobbies’ on the beat but at the same time there was distrust of the police and fear of racism.

The BNDfC Police Team was set up in January 2002. The team comprises one sergeant and six constables. The team have set up a base in the heart of the New Deal area, at Andover St, just off Spital Hill. The base has an open door policy and there is also a telephone number residents can call to speak to a member of the team. BNDfC funds also provided an extra patrol car.

The New Deal Police Team hold regular surgeries around the area, organise Police & Community Forums, participate in public meetings called by residents and also attend the lively Community Safety Group. The team have worked on increasing trust in the police, attending events in school as well as having a stall at the popular Multi-Cultural Festival this summer.

The Police Team focus on community policing and ‘quality of life’ issues. The New Deal Police Team have put on pension day patrols at local post offices and sensitively tackled the problem of illegal parking at Spital Green after requests from residents. Many of the older residents are on first name terms with Sergeant Adrian Fox.

Unsightly abandoned cars had been a problem in Burngreave and made the area look ‘run down’. Since the team moved into area 175 cars have been removed. The Police Team has set up a scheme with Sheffield City Council where the majority of cars are removed within 48 hours.

What residents particularly value is having a consistent police presence in the area and building up a relationship of trust with individual officers. Residents have reported, **“feeling safer day and night”** since the New Deal Police Team came into the area.

12.2 BNDfC Apprenticeship Scheme: Regeneration Workers

Within five years BNDfC would like to see local residents employed at all levels within the New Deal for Communities programme in Burngreave.

A two-year apprenticeship scheme provides five local residents with paid employment, travel costs and childcare whilst they learn the skills of community development and regeneration. 20 local residents will benefit from this scheme over the lifetime of the programme.

Regeneration Workers within the apprenticeship scheme benefit from formal and informal learning. An introductory course within the nationally recognised Regeneration School programme provides a springboard for further learning. Regeneration Workers develop Individual Learning Plans so that the training they receive best meets their needs whether that is an MSc in Urban Regeneration or a short course in Action Research.

Regeneration Workers are placed with a Theme Manager on a six-month rotation. They will help develop projects and strategies around Health, Housing, Education, Employment, Environment, Crime as well as over-arching issues e.g. arts and culture. This allows apprentices an insight into the breadth of community regeneration as well as the opportunity to do some focused work on areas of interest. Informal learning by working closely with experienced staff is reinforced through a competency framework, which enables the apprentice to monitor their progress and build up a portfolio.

The 'apprenticeship experience' is full of variety; one day will be spent writing a £250,000 project or Theme Group minutes while the next day will be spent interviewing shopkeepers and traders or knocking on doors for the Partnership Board elections.

Learning is a 'two way street' and the experience of working alongside local people enriches the team and broadens the perspective of the programme.