



Yorkshire & Humber Regional Development Agency



DARFIELD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



WORKING WITH LOCAL PEOPLE



**COMMUNITY
ACTION PLAN**



Version: 4

11th MAY 2004

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Local Action Plan forms a commitment to action to meet the needs of the communities of Darfield. The commitment is made by the communities themselves to act together with other service providers, to evaluate the impact of activities together and to take joint responsibility for ensuring targets are met.

Darfield is one of the target areas for Priority 4A of the South Yorkshire Objective 1 Programme. This Priority is intended to deliver activities which entail **supporting community economic development**. This local action plan provides a position statement about current conditions in the local area, it considers these and provides aims and objectives to be achieved through Objective 1 funded, and other activity.

Central to **this plan** are proposals from residents to deliver improvements in local conditions and services. However, the importance of working within the framework of mainstream and other grant funded provision is also recognised. We remain clear that difficulties in reconciling the “top-down” direction of mainstream services with the “grass roots” perspective of the community must be resolved. Both inputs are necessary to ensure the overall achievement of the aims of the Objective 1 Single Programming Document and the Barnsley Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy as expressed in the Barnsley Community Plan.

1.1 Supporting Community Economic Development

The core aim of Objective 1 support for Community Economic Development is:

“To increase income and employment by releasing skills and creativity of women and men in those communities which are the most disadvantaged and re-connecting them to economic renewal.”

The objectives of this support are, in broad terms:

- To improve access to jobs and training by dismantling those barriers to social and economic inclusion which are related to poor public transport provision and mobility.
- To build opportunities for job creation through local employment and development initiatives by creating and implementing community led strategies.
- To open up opportunities in the information society by increasing ICT skills provision in local communities and improving access to information, networking and the sharing of good practice.
- To strengthen the capacity of local communities to be the key agents of social and economic inclusion.

1.2 Living in Darfield

Darfield village lies to the east of Barnsley. It is a coherent village settlement, although there are recognisable areas within the village:

- The Rose Avenue / Bellbrooke Avenue area is largely social rented housing with, overall, the worst social deprivation conditions within the village.
- The old village area forms a ribbon development from the settlement of Low Valley in the south west through to the church older in the east. Housing is mostly older terraced housing, of which 19% is in private rented occupation. This area contains most of the commercial and business premises in Darfield.
- Joining these two identifiable areas is an unnamed area of housing stock which was, for the most part, originally local authority rented. We have called this area the "Main Estate".
- Millhouses is to the east of main village, physically separated by the River Dearne. Consisting mostly of varied older private housing, housing and leisure issues are to the fore in this area.
- Between Millhouses and the Main Estate lies an area of older terraced housing and more recent social housing either side of School Street. This area contains most of the communal leisure and recreation facilities.
- Low Valley is a small and previously separate settlement to the south of Darfield.
- The Italian and Upperwood Estates consist of largely privately owned semi-detached and detached residences built in the 1960s and 1970s. They form the western part of the village.
- In the south of the village, more recent development of privately owned property has occurred around the Doveside estate. At the time of writing, development is still underway in this area.

Key Issues:

- 8,000 people live in Darfield village.
- Darfield is ranked in the 8% most deprived wards nationally for employment.
- Economic activity rates are 8% behind the English average.
- 40% of job seekers allowance claimants are aged under 25 years.
- 20% of the workforce is work deprived.
- Educational achievement at Key Stage 2 is marginally above the average for England, with 27.6 points per pupil in Darfield compared to 27.4 nationally.
- Educational achievement at age 16 and above and post 16 staying on rates are much lower than the English average.
- Darfield is ranked in the 5% most deprived wards for health.
- Life expectancy at birth for women is 82.9 years – higher than the 80.1 years for England.
- Life expectancy for men is 74.8 years – higher than for Barnsley but lower than England (75.2 years).
- Teenage conception rates at 58 per 1,000 women under 18 years are higher than England (46);
- Standardised mortality rates at 150 per 100,000 people are higher for both circulatory diseases and cancer than for England (128 and 134 per 100,000 respectively)
- Darfield is ranked in the 18% of most deprived wards for both income and child poverty factors.

1.3 This Plan

This plan represents the latest stage of a process that promotes the aspirations and participation of local people. It will provide for additional services managed and delivered by the community. It will also enable the local community to have a greater influence in the modernisation of public services. The plans represent a work in progress and will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis through the Darfield Community Association.

The plan provides:

- Vision and objectives;
- Evidence of the current position;
- The way forward, a statement of what needs to be achieved locally;
- Thematic issues and action plans;
- Proposals for a monitoring and evaluation mechanism – how to measure achievement.

The issues and actions presented here target Darfield. However, some activity is part of a Borough-wide response to issues of poverty and social exclusion which are widespread in the Barnsley area and require action at both the strategic and neighbourhood level.

Equally, the Plan does not attempt to provide comprehensive coverage of all mainstream services. Rather, we have focused upon those existing and developing services and initiatives which relate to community economic development and priority neighbourhood renewal needs.

The Plan is owned and managed by the Darfield Community Association. We are a group of local residents who aim to improve Darfield. Legally, we are an independent Sub Group of the Villages Four Community Partnership.

Membership of Darfield Community Association is open to anyone who shares our Vision (see page 4) and lives or works in Darfield. We aim to include and represent all parts of the community of our village. For more information about membership, please contact our Secretary via {office address}.

2. VISION & OBJECTIVES

Our vision for Darfield is:

***To improve the quality of life and equality of opportunity
for all people living and working in Darfield.***

In order to deliver this Vision, we have identified the seven key objectives below. These objectives tackle the key issues as identified by:

- residents' perception of what is required;
- a review of the available statistical information.

Our objectives are to:

- A. To improve access to employment opportunities and local services by improving transport, promotion, skills, support services and benefits by 2007.
- B. To increase the participation of adults in education to 30% of the 16-64 year age group by December 2006.
- C. Reach the top 50% of educational standards by 2009 at Key Stage 4 (GCSE level) whilst maintaining standards at Key Stage 2.
- D. By 2009, to improve four open spaces for new recreation and leisure uses as defined by residents.
- E. By 2006, to promote Darfield as an area of conservation and leisure linked to education and business.
- F. By 2005, to promote good health, especially among young people, by improving access to information and services, especially with regards to drugs and smoking services.
- G. To increase household incomes by 10% over the Barnsley average by 2007.
- H. By 2006, to have established the Darfield Community Association as the sustainable and respected facilitator of community activity in Darfield.

3. THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Introduction

We present the evidence based upon four main and complementary sources¹:

- Official statistics;
- Statistical information from a community survey undertaken in 2003;
- The views of the community based on community events and questionnaires,
- The views of the service providers based on consultations, workshops and strategic plans.

For coherence, we have organised the information under a structure which follows our objectives. The evidence is presented and then briefly commented upon.

3.2 Employment and Employability

Key data from official statistics includes:

- The estimated workforce of the **ward** is 4,320 people with 5005 people of working age living in the village.
- The 2001 Census showed an activity rate for 16-74 year olds of 59% - similar to Barnsley but lower than the 67% for England. The differences are permanently sick / disabled (5%) and retired (3%) people. Other Census data includes.
 - Less than 48% of people are in employment in the Saltersbrook and main estate areas, compared to more than 58% in Millhouses and the Doveside / Italian estates.
 - "Unemployment" is as high as 11% in the Darfield village centre and Snape Hill Road – compared to 4% across Darfield.
 - 12% are looking after home and family in Saltersbrook – compared to 7% across Darfield.
 - 54% of women are employed compared to 61% of men;
 - 26% of men describe themselves as retired or permanently sick / disabled, as do 28% of women.
- In June 2003, 161 people registered as unemployed Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants.
- 24% of JSA claimants had been unemployed for over 6 months.
- 40% of JSA claimants are aged 18-24 years.
- 15.1% of the working age population is estimated to be on some form of long term sickness benefit or leave – similar to Barnsley as a whole.
- 20.6% or 1,280 individuals are estimated to be deprived of work - 840 on incapacity benefit. 540 of these are male and 465 are aged 50 years or over.
- Opportunities for local work are limited with only 900 employee jobs in 1998 and only 120 VAT registered businesses in 2000.
- 27% of Darfield workers are in high level occupations, compared to 40% for England.
- 28% of Darfield workers are in elementary occupations, compared to 20% for England.
- Darfield people are over-represented in 'at risk' industries such as manufacturing (19%) and construction (12%), but under-represented in business services (10%) – The English average rates are 17%, 7% and 17% respectively.
- Women are less likely than men to work in both elemental and higher level occupations.
- 30% of Pioneer area residents are in elemental occupations.

Key data from the community survey shows significant differences within the Darfield population:

- men aged 16-64 years are more than twice as likely as women to be in full time employment (47% against 22%) but far less likely to be in part time employment (3% against 22%).
- 9% of men are self employed – compared to 1% of women.

¹ The majority of the data presented here has been abstracted from the Darfield Community Audit, copies of which are available from the Darfield Community Association Office. Data not found in the audit is separately referenced.

- In comparison to owner occupiers, tenants are:
 - Twice as likely to be unemployed;
 - Two and a half times more likely to be limited by long term illness;
 - Three times as likely to be house persons;
 - 40% more likely to be retired.
- Travel to work times for residents are, on average, longer than those shown in the Labour Force Survey.
- 15% do not know where to go for advice on jobs.
- 34% would have trouble getting to a job at the Manvers site.

The community itself is largely silent on employment issues. Local businesses note that few applicants are trained in service sector work and that there is a need for new business premises to bring more work into the village and thus support their retail activities. An expressed need for support with childcare was also noted.

Interviewed agencies generally expressed the view that Darfield had no notable unemployment problem and the relevant agencies provide no specific services or promotion to residents within the village.

Addressing the issues of qualifications and long term worklessness is key to sustaining the future of Darfield as a viable community. Clearly, a key requirement is to change the perceptions of agencies so that they react to the very real employability issues which affect a significant proportion of Darfield residents.

The evidence implies that low participation in the labour market and high unemployment are a product of the jobs on offer and educational achievement. For example, at a Darfield level, we can see the correlation between low qualifications and low pay.

For those not in work – who are more likely to be tenants and/or women – getting back into a sustainable job will be difficult. Out of work interviewees are far more likely not to have qualifications, to have had an elemental occupation as their last paid job and to have been employed in a declining industry. The labour market has left them behind and yet we offer little bespoke or easily accessible provision.

3.3 Education

Darfield ward is in the most deprived third of the Index of Education Deprivation. Within this overall position, key issues are:

- Attainment of 11 year olds in school at Key Stage 2 is very variable between the three local schools, but above the England average overall except at English.
- The local Foulstone Secondary School performance at GCSEs in 2002 was showing steady improvement but remained below the Barnsley and national averages.
 - 32% of pupils gained 5 or more GCSEs at Grade C or above, compared 51.6% nationally.
 - 11% of Foulstone pupils gained no qualifications, compared to 5.4% nationally.
 - 60% of pupils went onto school or college at age 16, compared to 72% nationally.
 - 13% went into unemployment at age 16, compared to 7% nationally.
- 0.63% of residents were living away at college, compared to 0.99% nationally.
- 45% of residents aged 16-74 years have no qualifications, compared to 31% nationally;
- 36% are qualified at level 2, compared to 51% nationally;
- 17% are qualified at level 3, compared to 30% nationally.

To complement these official statistics, the community survey found (in the 16-64 year age group):

- Unemployed residents were twice as likely to be unqualified (36% against 18%).
- Other economically inactive people are even less well qualified.
- 34% of 16-25 year olds were not qualified to level 2, compared to 24% of the 25-44 year old cohort.
- Men are better qualified than women (69% at level 2 and 38% at level 3 compared to 62% and 28% respectively).
- Tenants are least well qualified (only 48% achieving a level 2 or above).
- 28% want to undertake a course – higher than the average for Barnsley.....
- But only 16% currently study – lower than the Barnsley average.
- 79% of students study outside of Darfield and 65% go further than Wombwell;
- Residents wish to undertake a wide variety of courses at all levels from pre-level 1 to post graduate.
- Better computer skills are demanded by 39%.
- 33% of those aged under 25 want help with reading and numeracy skills.
- 50% of men feel confident using a PC – compared to 41% of women.
- 54% of tenants have never used a PC – compared to 26% of homeowners;
- 58% of inactive and 53% of unemployed people have never used a PC – compared to 12% of employed people

Education and skills is also a low profile issue among residents in general. Such comments as have been made at community events have been requests for parenting skills and PC courses. However, the work of the education development project is demonstrating that there is demand for entry level and pre-entry level learning.

However, young people clearly expressed the viewpoint that the educational system lets them down and fails to provide them with the necessary inputs to achieve their aspirations. They especially want more options for study at school.

Education also failed to appear on the list of local priorities cited by most of our agency consultees in one to one interviews. The main references were praise for the local secondary school (in contradiction of young people's own opinions). However, several agency representatives suggested developments concerned with providing additional learning for young people.

At the agency consultation workshop, education was discussed in some depth. Access to services, local services and better school community links emerged here as priorities.

3.4 Environment and Housing

Official data on the environment is limited. However, official data for housing shows that Darfield village included 3,374 households in 2001.

- Tenure in the village reflects the Barnsley average;
- Social housing is high at 25% compared to 19% in England;
- Only two in five houses in the main former Council estates remain in Council ownership.
- The Pioneer area has the lowest proportion of owner occupation of any defined geography.
- Private renting in the central area covers almost one in four houses.
- At £40,000 the median average house price in 2001 was 20% below the Barnsley median of £45,000.
- Only 2% of Darfield housing is without central heating, compared to 4% in Barnsley and 9% nationally.
- Darfield homes are less likely to be vacant than Barnsley as a whole, **but more likely to be vacant in the older housing of the Pioneer area, Central Darfield and Millhouses.**
- Darfield homes are less likely to be terraced housing / flats, again except at Millhouses, Central and School Street.

The community survey did not deal with housing in depth, but identified issues in terms of repairs services and allocations within the local authority stock. Almost 40% of dwellings are estimated to be at risk of low demand by the Centre for Urban Regeneration Studies (CURS) – very similar to the Barnsley average. One in 20 dwellings is empty – again very similar to Barnsley's average.

Environment came through strongly as the most important perceived issue in survey and other qualitative work with residents. There are five dominant issues:

- Safe play and recreational spaces (for children in particular);
- Litter and general grubbiness around the town centre in particular;
- Darfield Park;
- Sporting facilities;
- Footpath safety.

In terms of play and recreational space, the main areas for favoured development include:

- Longbow playing fields;
- Darfield Park;
- Recreational ground from Verona Rise to Ferrara Close;
- Balkley Lane recreation area;
- Doveside recreation area.

People wish to see better play equipment for all ages, footpath improvements, access denied to off road vehicles and a variety of 'leisure landscaping' such as skate parks, more sports fields and quad cycle tracks. Current defined use is largely restricted to walking, football and outmoded play equipment.

Litter is an issue which features strongly in the consultations and the community events. A large number of people clearly feel that more needs to be done on this issue. Consultees have seen improvements through Neighbourhood Pride but want more action.

Issues around the town centre include lack of parking which causes problems for pedestrians and the lack of repair to private premises, pavements and public areas.

Darfield Park features high on people's priorities for action, being the top priority among the projects specifically suggested to residents. Several people suggested that the park be moved to the Longbow fields in order to provide better security and greater scope for development.

Requests for footpath improvements are concentrated around the recreation grounds, but also include Pinfold Lane and Little Houghton Lane.

Our consultations with agencies also demonstrate the importance of action on the environment and private housing. However, we surmise that, with the exception of Darfield Park, improvement to these facilities is off the agenda of all organisations except for a few community groups.

3.5 Health

Official data on health shows that:

- Darfield is ranked in the 5% most deprived wards for health.
- Life expectancy at birth for women is 82.9 years – higher than the 80.1 years for England.
- Life expectancy for men is 74.8 years – higher than for Barnsley but lower than England (75.2 years).
- Teenage conception rates at 58 per 1,000 women under 18 years are higher than England (46).
- Standardised mortality rates at 150 per 100,000 people are higher for both circulatory diseases and cancer than for England (128 and 134 per 100,000 respectively).
- Standardised mortality rates for respiratory diseases are high at 54 per 100,000 people, compared to 46 per 100,000 for Barnsley.
- 7.8% of residents claim disability living allowance (compared to 6.8% for Barnsley).
- 8.4% claim incapacity benefit (compared to 7.9% for Barnsley).
- 26% of residents (including 21% of working age) are limited by long term illness, compared to 18% and 13% respectively in England.
- Highest rates of limiting long term illness are in the main estate (32%) and school street (28%) – although only in the main estate is there a significant difference among the working age population (26% viz 21%).
- 14% described their health as ‘not good’, compared to 9% in England.

The community survey looked at health risk factors. It identified that:

- 32% of people smoke, (compared to 29% in Barnsley) including 44% of those under 25 years and 35% of those aged 25-44 years.
- Women (34%), unemployed people (47%), the economically inactive (37%) and tenants (54%) are most likely to smoke.
- Women are much more at risk of mental health problems than men in Darfield, judged on all factors.
- Tenants show much higher risk factor levels for mental health problems than owner occupiers (as, to a lesser degree, do Pioneer area residents compared to other residents).
- Vigorous exercise on a daily basis is undertaken by 31% of residents.
- The economically inactive, people aged over 65 years, tenants and women are least likely to engage in vigorous exercise.
- A quarter of parents say they would use increased family support services.
- Demand for family support services is centred around:
 - Access to childcare, leisure and play facilities;
 - Access to advice support and information, pre-school groups.

Residents’ qualitative responses have drawn our attention to specific service issues such as doctor’s surgery waiting times, hospital waiting lists and poor hospital facilities. Young people reported a desire for health education around drugs and other health issues. Residents do express a desire for more leisure opportunities, but this appears to be connected more to a desire for young people to have alternatives than a desire to utilise facilities themselves.

Agency consultees have clearly prioritised health and family support in Darfield as an issue being, and to be, addressed. They drew our attention to the Social Capital Survey. This found that, compared to eight other former Coal communities, Darfield residents were among the least likely to suffer from long standing illness, limited mobility, limited self care and limited activities. They were, however, much more likely to report ongoing anxieties and depression within a general context of better than average mental health.

3.6 Poverty and Income

Darfield is within the most deprived 18% of wards for both income deprivation and child poverty.

- Darfield ward has a smaller proportion of people claiming Income Support than the Barnsley average (8% against 8.5%).
- It also had a marginally smaller percentage classed as income deprived in 1998 (29.1% compared to 29.5% for Barnsley).
- The 2002 New Earnings Survey showed gross average weekly wages for men in Barnsley as only 83% of the average for England (£406.10 as against £490.87).
- For women, the differential is slightly greater (£317.26 in Barnsley compared to £392.01 in England).

The community survey found that:

- Average household income is £20,800.
- Average weekly earnings equate to £383 per week for men and £214 for women.
- 16% of Pioneer residents are on income support compared to 7% in the rest of Darfield.
- 16% of residents are on housing benefit – 20% in the Pioneer area;
- 3% of residents admit to debts that they are unable to pay – primarily from house repossessions and catalogue shopping.

Income, like employability, does not emerge as a priority in residents' qualitative responses. However, it is clearly an issue for the community activists in the area.

Income was also unmentioned throughout our agency consultations.

3.7 Community Capacity

The community audit identified 34 community groups which are active within the village. The South Yorkshire Coalfields Social Capital Survey also asked about community based activity. It found that Darfield residents were more likely than average to be integrated into informal social support networks. Residents reported the lowest ability of ten Coalfield communities to influence decisions affecting their neighbourhood by combined action.

Key information on current community involvement includes:

- 25% of both men and women are currently involved in community activity.
- Another 12% have previously been involved.
- 25% of women and 18% of men wish to become more active in their community – especially around work with young people, elderly people, environment, education and training..
- 42% have heard of the Darfield Community Association.

Community owned resources consist of a Museum with meeting room and four church halls. There is also a Council owned community centre which is proposed for transfer to community management. Issues around ownership, specialised usage, access for people with disabilities and overall capacity to house existing groups are likely to become even more acute if additional community space is not made available.

4. ACTIVITY AND PROPOSALS

4.1 Introduction

In this section, we concentrate on action needed to address the issues identified in section 3. For each of the topic areas, we identify:

- Key strategies influencing delivery;
- Key existing resources in terms of services, buildings and people;
- Current proposals for projects and new resources.
- New proposals for projects within this action plan

More information on projects which relate to our objectives is included within the tables in section 5.

4.2 Employment and Employability

The over-arching responsibility for employment and employability lies with the Government's Job Centre Plus service. They operate the mainstream Job Centre and benefits services as well as a series of special programmes designed to get the most disadvantaged back into work. Key national initiatives include:

- New Deal for 18-24 year olds.
- New Deal for 25+.
- New Deal for Older workers.
- New Deal for lone parents.
- New Deal for People with Disabilities.
- Job Seeker Direct advice line.

Within South Yorkshire, Job Centre Plus support and co-finance a range of more specialist support for disadvantaged groups. This is delivered through a range of agents including:

- Support for people from black and minority ethnic communities (delivered by REMA).
- Support for Lone Parents (delivered by Scoop Aid in Sheffield).
- Support for ex-offenders (delivered by SOVA).
- Support for people with disabilities (delivered by IMBY).

The Learning and Skills Council has the strategic function for post 16 education and training. It provides contracts for Lifetime Careers Limited to deliver outreach careers advice and guidance through the Opportunity Network. However, no base has been established in Darfield. Job search advice from Barnsley Council is available in Wombwell.

The Barnsley Development Agency (BDA) has a role in developing employment opportunities. Current initiatives of the BDA include support for community enterprise start up and Intermediate Labour Market Initiatives. At this point in time, no provision is made within Darfield.

Barnsley Choices, the early year's development and childcare partnership, is currently developing a programme of neighbourhood nurseries. Funding has been allocated for a 30 place centre in Darfield, but a suitable site has yet to be found.

There are six 'community' buildings within the village. None of these are suitable for interviewing a wide range of people or for offering training courses. Five are unable to offer sub leases which give security of availability and one has recently closed. Finding space from which to offer new services is therefore a priority.

Our proposed action plan takes account of these opportunities through a mixture of:

- Actions to 'capture' wider initiatives not currently provided in Darfield, for example, the Opportunity Network;
- Activity to encourage and enable residents to access available services;
- Development of new entry level employment opportunities for young people.
- Development of a new community centre from which services can be offered on a coherent basis.

This will contribute directly to the Barnsley Community Plan strategic priority for joined up action around working age education and skills as well as the Wealth Creation Goal objective of developing community enterprises.

We will also ensure that other activities in education, health and the environment contribute to local employment and employability.

4.3 Education

The importance of education and skills is shown in the Barnsley Community Plan for 2003/04. The top two priorities are:

- Supporting young people to increase their attainment, concentrating on ages 13-19;
- Supporting communities to re-engage with work , supporting skills and workforce development including basic skills and using positive role models to help change the culture.

The educational context for school age children is set in the 2003/04 Education Development Plan. This identifies Borough wide priorities as being, by 2007:

- LEA aggregated standards will be the same as the national averages across all key stages.
- All Barnsley secondary schools will achieve a minimum of 38% 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at grade C or above.
- At 16+, 90% of pupils will achieve a GCSE or equivalent in ICT. 60% of pupils will achieve a Grade C or above at GCSE or equivalent in ICT.
- Achieve zero difference in standards between boys and girls across the age range.
- All Barnsley schools will provide a minimum of good quality provision across all aspects measured by the OFSTED inspection framework.
- Standards of behaviour in all schools will be above the norm as measured by benchmarks in the OFSTED framework.
- Attendance at all schools will be in line with the national average.

Individual schools also have their own development plans.

For post 16 education, and for the 14-19 year curriculum, the context is further set in the Learning and Skills Council Action Plan and Yorkshire Forward's Skills Action Plan. Regional priorities for the current year include:

- To promote a learning culture and demonstrate that work pays;
- Improve the qualifications and employability of labour market entrants;
- Raise the skills of the workforce;
- Support higher level skills development;
- Increase the usefulness and effective use of regional skills and labour market intelligence.

Priorities for pre-school education are now set jointly between the health service and education. At a local level, the Barnsley Choices Strategic Plan sets out the framework which includes strategic objectives to provide:

- Universal nursery education for 3 year olds;
- New childcare places;
- New out of school childcare places;
- Neighbourhood nursery, out of school and childminding provision;

- Training for childcare practitioners;
- Quality assurance;
- Area Special Education needs Co-ordinators.

There are three primary, three nursery and one secondary school within Darfield. Adult education classes take place in one community and one church building. At pre-school level, there are mother and toddler groups at Low Valley Chapel, Darfield Church, Darfield Wesleyan Church and the Centre 17 youth club.

The key initiative at a Darfield level is designation of the Foulstone School, located in the centre of the village, as the site for a **City Learning Centre** to open in 2004. This involves equipping new space with computers and other ICT equipment for use by children and the community. In addition, **Low Valley School** is to be completely rebuilt under the Barnsley schools private finance initiative. This is expected to occur in 2004/05.

Provision of adult education has been sparse within Darfield. For example, there were only three weekly courses in July 2003. The Workers Educational Association has more recently appointed a **Community Education Facilitator** as part of a national pilot to increase adult educational participation in Darfield and this is beginning to increase the provision and take up of adult education. However, this part time post is clearly inadequate to deal with the full range of activity needed to bring participation rates in education up to the required level.

The community led **Bluebells Pre-school Playgroup** is currently seeking premises from which to operate.

The Barnsley Children and Young Peoples' Trust is seeking to integrate services for families, children and young people under their **Family Support Strategy**. Darfield is the pilot area for an approach which seeks to implement new ways of working around a customer led process. Related to this, Darfield is to be allocated a new **Children's Centre**, where residents will be able to access services from late in 2004.

Within the context of these developments, we propose to introduce new projects which will:

- Increase promotion and support increased access to educational facilities, with an early emphasis on the City Learning Centre;
- Improve co-ordination of existing agencies to increase local delivery of adult education;
- Develop new learning opportunities for skills and work based learning;
- Provide out of school learning opportunities for young adults and older children.

4.4 Environment and Housing

The over-arching strategy for the environment is the Unitary Development Plan. This is still at a draft stage (check), but it is anticipated that no major expansion of residential settlement or business premises will be proposed for Darfield. However, of more immediate importance to this plan is the draft Active Recreation Strategy (sic).

The Borough Housing Strategy provides the main background to housing issues. It has a key aim of ensuring that housing stock is "fit for purpose".

At a neighbourhood level, there are a number of projects proposed for improving leisure facilities and use of the existing environment. These include an **All Weather Sports Pitch** linked to the school (which is also to see changing rooms) and general **Environmental Improvements** within the park to provide facilities such as a youth shelter. Finance is being made available for some work in the park under the Transforming Your Space initiative. Proposals for development of a **Darfield Community Lake** for anglers, including people with a disability, are at funding application stage.

A **Sports Development Worker** is currently employed to June 2004. This is a key resource in establishing the requirements for further recreation facilities in the village.

Previous work on tourism and heritage has included development of the Maurice Dobson Museum and a Millennium Heritage Trail by local groups, especially the Darfield Area Amenity Society. The Society currently has applications being developed to refurbish an additional building as an interpretation centre and store for the **Maurice Dobson Museum**.

We will seek to build upon this work by developing additional actions which support the priorities of the Objective 1 Programme and the Barnsley Community Plan:

- a proper open space and recreation strategy to act as the basis for additional outdoor leisure facilities;
- a management package to provide additional employment and to open up the new leisure facilities at the school to community use;
- support the Darfield Amenity Society's efforts to increase community and visitor facilities at the Maurice Dobson Museum.
- promotional activities that emphasis the cultural and historic heritage of Darfield.;
- develop and implement an Arts Action plan for Darfield.

4.5 Health

“Promoting participation in healthy lifestyles and pursuing a preventative and aggressive approach in our work with families and children” is one of five priorities for joined up working in the Barnsley Community Plan 2003-2004. Specific Borough wide priorities for action for the current year include:

- Healthier lifestyle promotion;
- Primary care enhancements through more GPs etc;
- Secondary care enhancements;
- Meeting the social care needs of vulnerable groups;
- Reducing crime and disorder;
- Improving rehabilitation and support to reduce substance misuse;
- Community development programmes;
- Sports arts and culture programmes.

Darfield is to be the scene of significant local improvements to health services. The new **Darfield Health Centre** is set to open in 2004, providing a new doctor's surgery and wider range of health services for residents.

A **Healthy Living Centre Project** employs the first of two outreach health workers. It aims to empower local people to address their own health needs and increase access to services. A finalised action plan for this project is imminent.

We propose to further increase and develop health services through support for specific actions within the Healthy Living Centre Action Plan for Darfield. This will involve:

- Health awareness events on a monthly and quarterly basis;
- Support for self help groups around healthy lifestyle issues;
- Work with doctors to encourage the referral of individuals to self help groups;
- Specific awareness sessions / classes around lifestyle issues;
- Monthly drop in advice sessions for residents.

4.6 Poverty and Income

There is no specific strategy for addressing poverty within the Borough and within Darfield in particular.

The main activity within Darfield to date has been the institution, by Little Dearne Credit Union Ltd., of a **credit union collection point**.

We propose to address poverty and agree benefit take up through the provision of a new welfare rights worker in the village.

4.7 Community Involvement

Community involvement is promoted through many of the projects described above. In order to facilitate additional involvement, Darfield Community Association has employed a **community participation worker and assistant**. Their role is to assist ourselves and other local groups to identify opportunities for community action and to work with residents to undertake these actions.

In this action plan, we propose to develop this work further through:

- A full blown participation project;
- Bringing together future community projects under one organisational structure to provide better coherence, synergy and responsiveness to the community;
- Bring existing buildings into community control as a means of meeting urgent needs for additional community space;
- Examining and addressing a perceived long term need for additional community buildings and community facilities;
- Increasing the amount of information on services and volunteering opportunities open to Darfield residents.

5. THE ACTION PLAN

5.1 Description of the Tables

Two sets of tables are provided in the action plan. The first set details key data in relation to each of the objectives, including baselines and anticipated measures of success. The second set of tables detail basic information about the projects which are important to the delivery of the Action Plan. The layout is intended to allow for annual updating without significant change being required to the main body of text.

5.2 Project Prioritisation

The projects proposed arise from a variety of agencies working together. Within the tables, we have included a column headed "Priority".

Existing projects which are fully funded are given the priority code E. Projects which are undertaken by partners and where funding is committed or probable are also labelled with the priority code E.

The remaining unfunded projects are given a number, with number "1" indicating the highest priority, "2" the second highest priority and so on. The suffix letter A indicates a project which will seek Objective 1 funding.

Below, we show the priority which Darfield Community Association accord to the projects where they are expected to take a lead. This prioritisation is therefore offered to provide clarity regarding the Darfield Community Association's own development plans only:

High Priority

- H1 Community Buildings – Strategy and Feasibility Study
- H2 Community Participation Team
- D4 Sports Development Worker
- G1 Welfare Rights And In Work Benefits Advisor
- C3 Youth Education Worker
- D1 Community Led Renewal of Darfield Park
- D3 Multi Sports Areas
- D5 Sports and Recreation Strategy and Public Space Masterplan

Medium Priority

- A1 Job Search and College Promotion
- A2 Attract Opportunities Network and Provide Local Drop In Base for Other Agencies
- A3 Travel Working Group
- B1b Community Learning Net Extension
- B4 Basic Skills Drop In and Community Learning Ambassadors
- C6 Youth Worker Recruitment and Training
- B6 Bridge The Gap
- E2 Darfield and Wombwell Community Arts Festival
- E3 Local Arts and Heritage Directory

5.3 Relationship To The Objective 1, Priority 4a Programme

Objectives

Underpinning our plan, and dominating this first phase of action, is actions to strengthen the capacity of the local community as the key agents of social and economic inclusion.

Our proposals will directly improve access to jobs and training. We will address the key barriers to inclusion by working with public transport and facilitating localised delivery of a range of local services to overcome barriers to employment and higher wages.

Many of our proposals for addressing barriers to jobs and training can be clearly seen in the projects, but some of our most important activities are 'mainstreamed into our core programme, i.e.

- The existing community participation project is currently taking on an ILM placement, and extended opportunities for this type of collaboration are anticipated in our larger participation project;
- The new partnership for education working group proposed as part of project B1b will be established by one of our senior workers in advance of that project;
- Our programme of training for volunteers and informal encouragement will continue.

Our community led strategy includes a number of opportunities for job creation within the community sector and local projects managed by our partners.

We will work closely with the City Learning Centre to encourage the take up of opportunities within the Information Society. We will also work with Mediac Limited to develop an information website containing information of local utility and opportunities for networking of community activity.

Description

Our plan meets the specification of Priority 4 A for delivery of a holistic and sustainable approach to tackling social and economic exclusion:

- Projects include specific support for the development of community led regeneration structures and processes.
- Our approach is strategic, examining the contributions proposed by agency partners and working with them to achieve relevant outcomes, whilst providing our own projects to join up action on the ground and fill gaps of local significance.
- We will improve access to publicly funded facilities, through specific projects and through the promotion of use of the Information Society.
- We are seeking to encourage the sustainable development of better transport connections with new areas of job creation by engaging constructively with public transport providers.
- Development of social capital is the main driver of our own proposed projects, and we will seek to increase both the quality and quantity of volunteering within Darfield.
- We include projects through which we intend to commission innovative training and development opportunities for local people.

Targeting

Our first target area is the village of Darfield. However, within this, we recognise that there is a need to target specific disadvantaged groups as identified in the 2003 Darfield Community Audit. These include, particularly:

- Residents of the Rose Avenue / Bellbrooke Avenue area;
- People living in rented homes;
- Young people;
- Women.

More detail on addressing the needs of these groups is given in section 5.4.

Baselines and Key Outputs (p410)

Table 5.1 below shows how we ‘fit’ against the current baselines for Objective 1, Priority 4A, and the quantitative added value we aim to bring to the programme by 2010:

Table 5.1: Baselines for the priority

Priority 4A Objective	Indicator (source)	Indicator value	2010 Target
To build opportunities for job creation through local employment and development initiatives by creating community led strategies	Economic activity rate (Census 2001)	59%	61% (2001 England Average)
To increase ICT skills in local communities	Residents confident in using internet (Community Audit 2003)	34%	60%
To strengthen local communities to be the key agents of social and economic inclusion through increasing local networks between target communities.	Nos of community groups (Community Audit 2003)	34	40 (5 per 1,000 population)
	Networks participated in (Community Audit 2003)	2 (Pioneer Network, Arts Forum)	12

The contribution of this action plan to the total outputs, results and impacts of the Objective 1 Priority 4A programme are shown in Table 5.2. At this stage, the outputs relate purely to the proposed Objective 1 funded projects in order to clarify additionality and potential double counting issues.

Table 5.2: Contribution to Priority Level Outputs, Impacts and Results

Priority 4A Objective	Forecast Outcome
Anticipated Total Spend	£480,000
Anticipated EU Support	£240,000
CED residents provided with a means of access to employment and training	24
Organisations participating in Community Economic Development Capacity Building	2
Numbers helped to access e-learning / internet	100
Numbers of accesses to mobile services	239
Numbers of CED plans being implemented	1
Numbers securing employment (net of deadweight)	TBA
Numbers achieving a minimum of NVQ2 ICT competency	50

5.4 Cross Cutting Themes

The Objective 1 Programme has rightly required us to look at our proposals with regard to six cross cutting themes:

- Environmental protection and sustainability.
- Gender mainstreaming.
- Promoting equal opportunities.
- The Information Society.
- Employability.
- Social inclusion.

Our long term proposals include a number of projects for physical development, with master planning and feasibility work being proposed at this stage. From inception, ensuring and promoting **environmental protection and sustainability** will be a key part of the design and feasibility briefs. In our proposals for open space we will seek to promote bio-diversity, tackle wasteland and brownfield sites as a priority and create ecologies and habitats which will increase the stock of local wildlife and native species. These open space proposals will be developed with the community, providing residents with awareness, skills and training in environmental sustainability.

Our action plan has specific proposals to both maximise the provision and use of sustainable transport. This has two main dimensions:

- working with private bus providers.
- defining, improving and developing pathways, cycleways and bridleways within and as access to improved open space

Section 3 highlights clear differences in economic activity rates and work structure for men and women. Tackling gender imbalances and promoting **gender mainstreaming** are a key part of our proposals to make the people of Darfield into a modern workforce. We will adopt a gender mainstreaming angle as part of our new equal opportunities policy, relating to the recruitment and deployment of both staff and volunteers. We will establish a relationship with SCOOP Aid and our information campaigns will emphasise the opportunities available to both sexes, challenging gender stereotypes wherever possible.

Our work on **promoting equal opportunities** will commence with an overhaul of our existing, outdated and inadequate equal opportunities policy. In measuring ourselves against the South Yorkshire CED Framework, we identified a group strength in our attempts to address barriers to people with diverse needs, but a weakness is our limited understanding of exactly WHOSE needs we need to respond to and HOW we can best respond to them. For this reason, we propose to have a full scale workshop to update this policy.

Data shows that age, disability and gender are the issues we need to tackle in quantity. However, we also need to develop awareness, sensitivity and good practice in relationship to hidden and small scale discrimination along lines of religion, ethnicity, sexuality and moral belief.

We will monitor our activities to ensure equal access to our services and equal outcomes from our services and activity. Our own membership is deficient in terms of involvement by young people and we have specific project proposals which will help us to address this issue. Our information services will break local tradition to emphasise our need for more diversity in our decision making.

Our Action Plan is predicated upon the assumption that the new City Learning Centre (CLC) will address the key skills, access and business issues in the Information Society. Nevertheless, we recognise that we have a support role to play. In the short term, we see this as being to:

- advocate, support and publicise the benefits of using the CLC and other options such as Learn Direct;
- use it ourselves in order to demonstrate our belief in the facility;

- through the education working group, establish new informal pathways for people to be drawn into the CLC and other education provision;
- use the CLC as a key venue for a range of relevant activities for the Youth Education Worker e.g. robot building, multi-media arts work.

In the medium term, our proposals for “Pods in Pubs” and Community Learning Ambassadors will provide a network of advocates and taster sites to attract people into more rigorous learning environments.

Sustainable development is the underpinning rationale for this action plan. Without the actions contained in this plan, poor educational achievement and low economic activity will be a significant drag on employment and economic growth. Without our own proposed actions to involve, energise and encourage people towards self development, cultural factors will remain significant barriers to educational achievement. Equally, our proposals to increase service access and participation in decision making are key aspects of ensuring that social progress across the sub-region can meet the needs of all Darfield residents.

Promoting Employability is the underlying imperative behind three of our Objectives. In the first part of this section we ‘set out our stall’ for work on promoting employability and increasing education. Our first step has to be ensuring that, through partnership, mainstream provision recognises and deals with the needs of Darfield residents. We are particularly concerned that employability is low in our rented housing estates and will concentrate our activities here.

Our own capacity is limited at the present time and we cannot deliver all of our project proposals immediately. Therefore our approach to promoting employability is a staged programme working onward from existing activities and strengths :-

- Information to ensure all residents know the opportunities open to them;
- Partnership advocacy – to ensure that mainstream and Objective funded employability services are available to residents in the village, over the telephone and over the internet.
- Partnership facilitation – to ensure that residents get the greatest benefit and access from the network of provision;
- New projects – to efficiently fill the remaining gaps.

5.5 Forward Strategy

The Forward Strategy has two main dimensions:

- Specific projects;
- The Darfield Community Association, including fulfilling our overall aims and objectives.

Sustainability of **specific projects** will depend upon continued funding. We are not yet at a stage where we can build up the assets necessary to function as a community business. Therefore, our strategy is based upon:

- Developing a track record as a competent and high value provider capable of attracting further grant and (under the new Localism agenda) mainstream residents to continue;
- Ensuring project design allows flexibility for further development and flexibility to respond to funding opportunities;
- Ensuring project design enables community led activity to continue on much lower levels of income should further grant not be forthcoming;
- Provision of a central team to support projects in this specialist function;
- Opportunistic development of income streams, wherever possible.

The **Darfield Community Association** is sustainable without income, as we have demonstrated through several externally induced difficulties. The issue is therefore one of sustaining high levels of development activity. We propose to employ a core team to enable us to build our capacity, to develop new projects from our proposals and to gain the wider support of mainstream agencies. We anticipate that a developing portfolio of projects will make contributions which will pay for these core services over time.

6.1 The Tables

Objective A: To improve access to employment opportunities and local services by improving transport, promotion, skills, support services and benefits by 2007.

The Problems	The Causes	Key Data	Success Criteria	Proposed / Existing Projects
Low economic activity rate	Poor skills High incapacity rates Cultural acceptability		Economic activity rate discrepancy with England reduced to 5%	
High youth unemployment	Continuing poor school performance Low staying on rates Few opportunities to access later education		Youth unemployment reduced to 20%	
Low female economic activity	Poor skills Cultural pressures High caring burden Poor access to childcare		Female employment raised to within 2% of male employment	
Residents over-represented in low paid and 'at risk' occupations and industries	Poor skills Local employment opportunities limited Poor transport / accessibility		33% of Darfield workers to be in high level occupations	

Objective B: To increase to 30% the participation of adults in education by December 2006.

Objective C: To reach the Top 50% of educational standards at Key Stage 4 whilst maintaining standards at Key Stage 2

The Problems	The Causes	Key Data	Success Criteria	Proposed / Existing Projects
Low participation in adult education	Local delivery options very restricted. Low awareness of link between accreditation and pay. Poor public transport to local colleges Restricted study menu at local colleges Low take up of work based training by employers Cost of meaningful qualifications Poor integration of skills demands and college provision Restricted role model availability.		30% of adults participating in study	
Key stage 4 performance at less than two thirds the national average	Poor facilities Cultural factors (EDP reasons)		Pupils attaining the average UK GCSE profile or better	
Availability of pre school education limited to school nurseries	Lack of premises Lack of agency support for community solutions from Barnsley Choices		Every child offered a place in pre school facility before the age of 3 years.	

Objective D: By 2009, to improve four open spaces for new recreation and leisure uses as defined by residents

The Problems	The Causes	Key Data	Success Criteria	Proposed / Existing Projects
<p>Existing recreation space is under-utilised</p> <p>The health benefits of walking and informal exercise are not being realised by residents</p>	<p>Original designs are uninspired open grassland with limited play equipment and no added value</p> <p>Poor access arrangements</p> <p>Low level but long term vandalism (incl. dog fouling)</p> <p>Demand from residents for better facilities lacks a coherent design concept</p> <p>Poor lighting creates fear of crime</p> <p>Lack of an organisation driving forward progress</p> <p>Lack of worker to develop usage</p> <p>Long term neglect</p>		<p>Numbers of open spaces improved</p> <p>Numbers of people using open spaces for active exercise</p>	
<p>Young people are at risk of causing nuisance and offending</p>	<p>No informal provision made in open space beyond three youth shelters of poor design</p> <p>No lighting</p> <p>Local neighbour opposition when facilities are proposed</p> <p>Lack of a driver</p> <p>Lack of worker to develop usage</p>		<p>Number of young people using safe open spaces</p>	

Objective E: By 2006, to promote Darfield as an area of conservation and leisure linked to education and business

The Problems	The Causes	Key Data	Success Criteria	Proposed / Existing Projects
<p>Participation by local people in heritage and arts interest groups is high, but resources to develop projects and extend participation are extremely limited</p> <p>Low investment in nurturing of young talent.</p> <p>Poor marketing of cultural wealth in the area</p>	<p>Low priority politically</p> <p>Lack of investment</p> <p>Low recognition of regeneration value</p> <p>National curriculum</p>		<p>More people involved in cultural pursuits</p> <p>Greater awareness across Barnsley of Darfield's key heritage features</p>	

Objective F: By 2005, to promote good health, especially among young people, by improving access to information and services, especially with regards to drugs and smoking services

The Problems	The Causes	Key Data	Success Criteria	Proposed / Existing Projects
<p>High mortality rates from preventable deaths</p> <p>High incidences of incapacity and disability among all age groups</p>	<p>High smoking rates</p> <p>Effects of employment in heavy industries</p> <p>Presumed high alcohol intake</p> <p>Presumed high drugs intake</p> <p>Inadequate exercise levels</p> <p>High levels of manual work</p> <p>Discrimination against women</p> <p>Distance from hospital services</p> <p>Presumed poor diets</p>		<p>Smoking reduced to national average</p> <p>50% of residents take part in daily vigorous exercise</p> <p>All elderly people able to access at least one luncheon club in their neighbourhood</p> <p>Reduced incapacity and disability claimants among the age group under 50 years</p>	
<p>High teenage conception rates</p>	<p>Low levels of self esteem</p> <p>Gender stereotyping culture</p> <p>Low qualification levels</p> <p>Poor work options</p> <p>Cultural acceptability</p> <p>Alcohol / drug misuse</p>		<p>(Use Barnsley wide criteria)</p>	

Objective G: To increase household incomes by 10% over the Barnsley average by 2007

The Problems	The Causes	Key Data	Success Criteria	Proposed / Existing Projects
Household incomes are below the average for Barnsley and the country	Perceived low benefit take up Low wages High numbers of people who are work deprived		Difference in household income between Darfield and England to have reduced by 30%	

Objective H: By 2006, to have established the Darfield Community Association as the sustainable and respected facilitator of community activity in Darfield

The Problems	The Causes	Key Data	Success Criteria	Proposed / Existing Projects
Of ten communities surveyed, Darfield residents feel least able to affect decisions regarding their own area No group with an established and legitimised role for leadership on community development in Darfield. (However, it is noted that a number of groups have been active).	Community infrastructure dominated by church and sports focused groups Poor results from representatives to authorities Low participation rates Inadequate resources for community development Lack of space for renewal focused groups History of exclusion from targeted area funds Historic failure to recognise pockets of deprivation		Nos of community groups Nos of people involved in community groups Increased %age of people stating that they can affect decisions regarding their locality	

6.2 What We will Do

Objective A: To improve access to employment opportunities and local services by improving transport, promotion, skills, support services and benefits by 2007

Priority	Name / Description	Target Area	Who Will Be Responsible	Milestones	Resources	
	<p>A1 Job Search and College Promotion This first project will provide additional information about available opportunities to get help with skills and employment through a web based directory, paper leaflets and posters plus word of mouth advertising.</p>	All Darfield	<p>DCA (Participation Worker) Job centre Plus BDA WEA Barnsley College Dearne Valley College Northern College Mediac UK Berneslai Homes PCT Health Visitors</p>	<p>12/03 1/04 2/04 2/04 3/04</p>	<p>NLDC Application Information gathering Establish website / layout NLDC Decision Newspaper / radio launch</p> <p>Regular annual updates</p>	£6k NLDC
	<p>A2 Attract Opportunities Network & Provide Local Drop In Base for Other Agencies</p>	All Darfield	<p>DCA (Participation Worker) Job Centre Plus BDA WEA Barnsley College Dearne Valley College Northern College</p>	<p>1/04 2/04 5/04</p>	<p>Identify potential building space Enter into detailed discussions with providers First service delivered in Darfield</p>	Existing Participation Worker

Priority	Name / Description	Target Area	Who Will Be Responsible	Milestones	Resources	Priority
	A3 Travel Working Group A new sub group will be established to meet bus providers and the SYPTTE to present specific evidence and enter into a dialogue for the improvement of bus services	All Darfield	DCA (Participation Worker) BMBC Transportation SYPTTE Yorkshire Traction BDARCT	3/04 6/04 8/04	Enter into next round of discussions with providers and transportation people. Agree community representatives. Calling notice for first meeting. First meeting.	NA However, there may be a requirement for existing Obj.1 Measure 19 projects to bend activity into Darfield
E	A4 Neighbourhood Nursery A 30 place daycare facility to be sited in Darfield.	All Darfield	Barnsley Choices	Ongoing	Site to be identified.	NNIF

Objective B: To increase to 30% the participation of adults in education by December 2006

Priority	Name / Description	Target Area	Who Will Be Responsible	Milestones		Resources
E	<p>B1a Community Education Facilitator</p> <p>Continuation of the role of the existing community education facilitator role (more from Amanda)</p>	Darfield and the Houghtons	WEA V4 Partnership DCA Education and training providers			Esme Fairburn Trust NLDC for enhancement.
	<p>B1b Community Learning Net Extension</p> <p>Additional worker to develop access to mainstream facilities and provide promotional material. Budget to provide for bursaries, scooter hire, co-ordination of a new education working group, identify skills demands at a South Yorkshire level and a local business audit.</p>	Darfield	DCA Barnsley Learning Partnership Foulstone school WEA	1/04 2/04 4/04 5/04 9/04 11/04	Start detailed discussions with providers Celebrate opening of CLC Establish commitment of individual partners First meeting of partners Detailed requirements for additional work defined First draft business plan ready for consultations	Neighbourhood Learning Net money??
	<p>B2a Develop New Sports Facilities</p> <p>This project is focused upon existing proposals for the park area, including new changing rooms and an all weather pitch.</p>	Darfield	Foulstone School DCA BMBC	2/04	Clarity on Sports Lottery availability	Sports council NOF Transforming Your Space
	<p>B2b Managing New Sports Facilities</p> <p>This project will establish a new community business to manage and deliver the new sports facilities outside of school hours</p>	Darfield	Foulstone School DCA BMBC	2/04	Clarity on Sports Lottery availability	Obj 1 M16 / M18 and SRB6 via SYCON? Or SRB6 / Obj 1 M20 via Darfield AP
	B3. Promotion – See project A1	Darfield				

Priority	Name / Description	Target Area	Who Will Be Responsible	Milestones	Resources	Priority
E	<p>B4. Basic Skills Drop in & Community Learning Ambassadors</p> <p>Residents will be trained to identify basic skills needs and advise individuals to seek training. The project will include provision for a basic skills tutor to offer drop in support within Darfield.</p>	Darfield	<p>DCA / WEA (Community Education Facilitator)</p> <p>Move On Partnership Rotherham College Barnsley College BMBC Basic Skills</p>	<p>5/04</p> <p>9/04</p> <p>9/04</p> <p>6/05</p>	<p>Basic skills assessment tool session for existing activists</p> <p>Training for existing activists under 'move on' network</p> <p>Detailed project requirement considered by education working group</p> <p>Neighbourhood Learning Net Manager in place allows step change by early 2006</p>	<p>Obj 1 M16 Community Fund Coalfields Regeneration trust</p> <p>Community Fund if linked in with B6 as the adult element of volunteering</p>
	<p>B5. Pods In Pubs</p> <p>The Learn Direct hub will be persuaded (we hope) to provide local access points in pubs and other facilities. On site locals will be persuaded to attend project B4 training so that they can assist individuals using the pods.</p>	Darfield outlying areas	<p>Learn Direct Hub</p> <p>DCA Move on Partnership</p>	<p>1/04</p> <p>1/05</p>	<p>Initial discussion with Barnsley College on the proposal</p> <p>Detailed requirements considered by education working group</p>	BARD Partnership
	<p>B6: Bridge The Gap</p> <p>A project encouraging young people aged 14+ to volunteer as learning mentors, providers of elderly social clubs / luncheon clubs</p>	Darfield	<p>DCA Youth Group</p> <p>City Learning Centre PODS Age Concern</p>	<p>1/05</p> <p>4/05</p>	<p>Project feasibility study commissioned</p> <p>Feasibility study reports</p>	Community Fund? Age Concern

Objective C: To reach the top 50% of educational standards by 2009 at Key Stage 4 (GCSE Level) whilst maintaining standards at Key Stage 2

Priority	Name / Description	Target Area	Who Will Be Responsible	Milestones		Resources
E	C1 City Learning Centre A new centre to provide ICT and related media training in Darfield, based at The Foulstone School	West Barnsley; located in Darfield	Excellence in Cities Partnership The Foulstone School	1/04 4/04	Centre opens New courses for adults started	EICP Obj 1 M14 LSC
	C3 Youth Education Worker Appointment of a worker to develop a range of educational out of school clubs for secondary school age children. These may include technology clubs, craft clubs and youth arts projects, 'net wars', visits to employers etc	Darfield	DCA Youth Group BMBC Youth Service VAB	6/04 1/05 4/05 6/05	Applications developed / submitted Approval to application Worker recruited First session	CRT Charities Board Obj 1 M20
	C4 Pre School Playgroup Development of a new pre school playgroup offering up to 60 part time places.	Darfield	Bluebell Preschool Group Barnsley PPA Building owners	3/04	Identify premises	NOF Global grants
E	C5 Study Support Project Continuation of the existing study support project based at Darfield Library.	Darfield	BMBC Education BMBC Libraries Foulstone School		CONTINUING	Barnsley Education MBC

Priority	Name / Description	Target Area	Who Will Be Responsible	Milestones	Resources	
	C6 Youth Worker Recruitment and Training Promotional campaign to recruit more youth leaders from within the village. Joint working with BMBC to ensure that training is provided and individuals placed locally. NOTE Need to see where BDA are up to with their proposal.	Darfield	DCA Community Participation Worker BMBC Youth Service BDA	6/04	Confirm feasibility by working with Kendray Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder	Obj 1 M20 SRB6
E	C7 New School For Low Valley	Low Valley	BMBC Education Low Valley school	9/04	Potential date for start on site	BMBC LEA DFES Grant

Objective D: By 2009, to improve four open spaces for new recreation and leisure uses as defined by residents

Priority	Name / Description	Target Area	Who Will Be Responsible	Milestones		Resources
E	D1 Community Led Renewal of Darfield Park The project will see Darfield Park improved as a leisure facility for local people.	Darfield Centre	DCA Foulstone School BMBC Leisure BMBC Area Forum	2/04	DCA to be accepted as community lead organisation for the project	Transforming Your Space NOF
	D2 Darfield Community Fishing Lake An existing area of meadow will be turned into a fishing lake especially suited for use by people with a disability.	Millhouses	Villages 4 Partnership Environment Agency	3/04	Response received to funding applications	Sport England NL Sports Fund
	D3 Multi Sports Areas An early priority is to complete work to design, and then to establish, at least three multi sports areas around Darfield.	Darfield – various	DCA BMBC Leisure Local sports groups Barnsley Community Build?	2/04 5/04 7/04	Re-involvement of People United Against crime Council agreement Funding applications submitted	NOF, CRT,
	D4 Sports Development Worker A priority for this objective and for Objective C is to maintain the existing post of sports development worker.	Darfield	DCA BMBC Leisure	1/04 4/04 9/06	Funding bids Funding approval Existing contract ends, extended contract offered	Sport England Fit for the Future???? Obj 1/ SRB6
	D5 Sports and Recreation Strategy and Public Space Masterplan Developing more specific proposals for individual sites requires the development of a sports and recreation strategy linked to a Masterplan for development of the open spaces to support these uses.		DCA BMBC Leisure PCT Sports Groups	4/04 5/04 9/04 1/05	Establish partnership development group Develop investigation brief and seek funding Tenders invited Strategy / Masterplan consultancy starts Strategy and Masterplan complete	Obj 1 / SRB6 NOF Fit for the Future

Objective E: By 2006, to promote Darfield as an area of conservation and leisure linked to education and *business*

Priority	Name / Description	Target Area	Who Will Be Responsible	Milestones		Resources
	E1 A New Interpretation Centre Construction of a new community classroom to support the local museum. The building will be available for wider community classroom use when the museum is closed	Darfield	DCA WEA	?/04	Applications submitted	Heritage Lottery English Heritage
	E2 Darfield and Wombwell Community Arts Festival Proposal will build upon existing events to provide a high profile festival.	Darfield	DCA	5/04	Pull together partnership to plan for 2005 Festival	Awards for All YHA Grants via BMBC
	E3 Local Arts and Heritage Directory Development of a booklet highlighting the arts and cultural opportunities in the area. Probably collaborative with WJHCP.	Darfield	DCA Mediac Ltd	2/04 5/04 1/06	Directory partnership formed to work with Mediac Draft directory developed for internet dissemination Paper based directory published	Awards for All YHA Grants via BMBC

Objective F: By 2005, to promote good health, especially among young people, by improving access to information and services, especially with regard to drugs and smoking services

Priority	Name / Description	Target Area	Who Will Be Responsible	Milestones		Resources
E	F1: Darfield Healthy Living Project Employment of a worker to improve healthy lifestyles within Darfield and provide signposting sessions. Specific project work to be agreed on an ongoing basis following health needs assessment.		Villages 4 Partnership DCA Barnsley PCT	12/03	Action Plan draft delivered & health needs assessment complete	NOF, SRB6, CRT
				1/04 x/xx	Action plan approved Project completion	
E	F2 Darfield Health Centre New health centre providing additional space for health care within Darfield	Darfield	Dr Sics & Partners Barnsley PCT	3/04	Health centre opens	Private; PCT
E	F3 Health Events Various quarterly and monthly events programmed to promote health awareness as part of project F1	Darfield	Villages 4 Partnership DCA Barnsley PCT	1/04	Continue ongoing programme of events	NOF, SRB6, CRT
E	F4 Development of Health Self Help Activities Ongoing and responsive programme spinning out of project F1. Activities expected to cover smoking, nutrition, alcohol and exercise.	Darfield	Villages 4 Partnership DCA Barnsley PCT	4/04	First group established (date to be confirmed).	NOF, SRB6, CRT

Objective G: To increase household incomes by 10% in comparison with the Barnsley average

Priority	Name / Description	Target Area	Who Will Be Responsible	Milestones		Resources
	G1 Welfare rights and In Work Benefits Advisor		DCA Barnsley CAB BMBC Environment	5/04 12/04 4/05	Community Fund Application submitted Decision Worker in post	Community Fund CRT Total requirement for a full time worker approx £111k

Objective H: By 2006, to have established the Darfield Community Association as the sustainable and respected facilitator of community activity in Darfield

Priority	Name / Description	Target Area	Who Will Be Responsible	Milestones	Resources	
	<p>H1 Community Buildings – Strategy and Feasibility Study An investigation into the use of community buildings to identify priorities and the feasibility of a new community building in central Darfield together with community houses in Rose Avenue / Tempest Avenue / Bellbrooke Avenue and Millhouses.</p>	Key areas of deprivation	<p>DCA (Participation Worker) Existing community centre operators BMBC Area Forum Darfield Scouts Other community groups Other services</p>	1/04 2/04 6/04 9/04	Tender brief agreed Application for funding Consultancy starts Consultancy ends	£15k Global grants
	<p>H2 Community Participation Team <i>To add latest when business plan available</i></p>	Darfield P4A Area	DCA Voluntary Action Barnsley	1/04 3/04 4/04 4/07	Application Approval Project start Project completion	Obj. 1 / SRB6
	<p>H3 Evaluation of Activity <i>To add latest when business plan available</i></p>	Darfield P4A Area	DCA Voluntary Action Barnsley	11/05 2/06 6/06 12/06	Applications for funding Tender Process Commences Evaluation Commences Evaluation Complete	Obj. 1 / SRB6

6. DELIVERY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In this section, we consider four practical issues which are key to the delivery of the Action Plan. These are:

- Commitment – are the partners committed to supporting the action plan and their specified involvement in the projects.
- Capacity – will the Darfield Community Association and other community groups within Darfield be in a position to deliver the proposed action plan.
- Monitoring – what information will we gather, and how, in order that we can tell whether our Action Plan is making good progress.
- Evaluation – on what basis will we judge success, and how will we assess the monitoring data to find out whether we have achieved success.

6.1 Commitment

For the delivery of the Community Action Plan a process will be used that:

- Ensures that Darfield people and local service providers are involved in the process of assessing project proposals.
- Ensures that strategic linkages are made between the range of initiatives
- Ensures that the implementation plan is reviewed regularly
- Minimises local paperwork and bureaucracy
- Ensures the independence of local projects at the same time providing a local delivery framework
- Provides match funding to projects from SRB on key projects;
- Minimises the need for complicated financial and administrative arrangements.

In practical terms this will mean that the Darfield Community Association will take responsibility for:

- Agreeing the Implementation Plan
- Appraising project proposals
- Securing match funding (where needed and following successful Appraisal)
- Monitoring the implementation plan over time
- Reviewing progress
- Amending the implementation plan in the light of need and progress.

Individual Project Sponsors will take responsibility for:

- Providing relevant project specific information for the completion of the Implementation Plan.
- Completing for 'Appraisal', the relevant ERDF, SRB etc application forms.
- Entering into relevant funding agreements and contracts directly with the funders.
- Completing relevant monitoring and claim procedures with the funders.
- Negotiating agreements with relevant bodies for the provision of services necessary for the implementation of the project (i.e. pay-roll services, finance services, bank-roll facilities) if required.

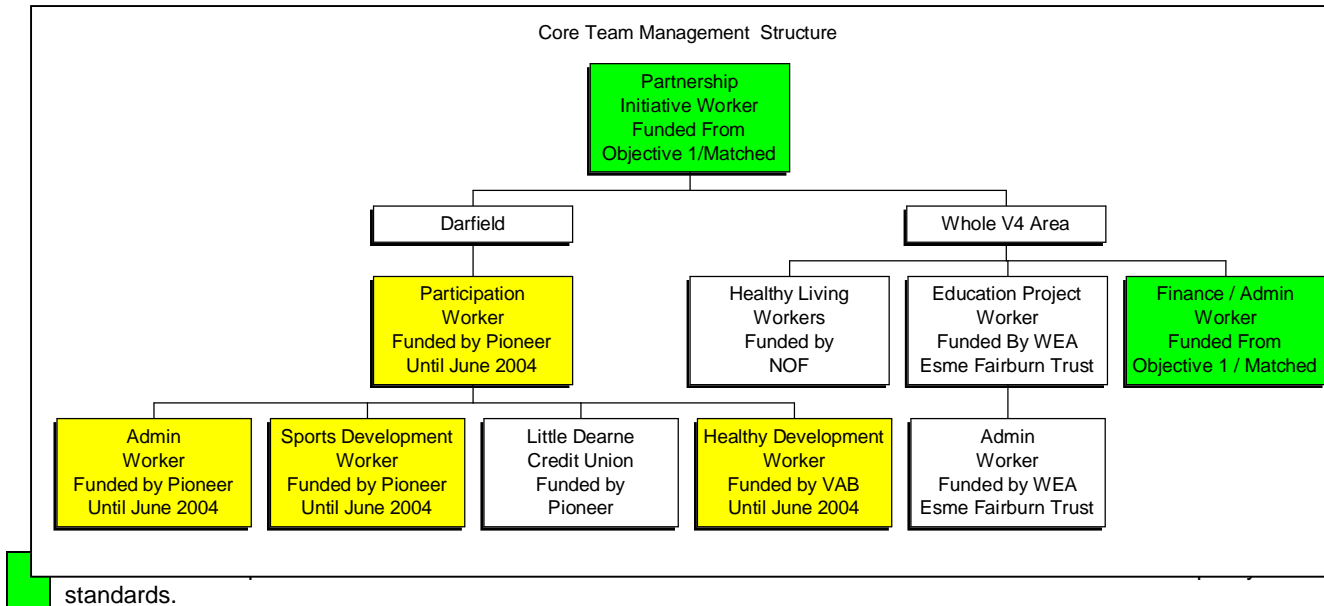
The Accountable Body (who is???) will be asked to:

- Consider and if appropriate agree to the implementation plan and delegate responsibility to the Darfield Community Association for monitoring and reviewing progress on behalf of the Council and the local Community
- Enter into appropriate arrangements with individual projects included within the Implementation Plan for required support and/or services.

6.2 Capacity

Underneath this community management structure is a team of project and development staff. Figure 6.1 below shows this team.

Figure 6.1 Existing Staff Structure



These are existing posts which are currently funded through the Pioneer area funding. This funding runs until June 2004. These posts will require reviewing in line with the Darfield Community Action plan for potential extension.

Policies

We have recently undertaken an organisation benchmarking review against the South Yorkshire CED Framework. This clearly identified us as being at Level 1 on each of the seven competencies, except in Building Strategy and Building Social Inclusion, where we are at Level 2.

This exercise also allowed us to identify some of the key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of our current position, as shown in Table 6.1 below. In preparing this table, we are struck by the amount of work ahead of us to address weaknesses and threats. Nevertheless, the extent to which our work over the last year has created new strengths and new opportunities renews our commitment to moving forward and encourages us to believe that the Pioneer funding has provided clear added value in terms of our capacity.

Table 6.1: SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Specific projects to widen involvement: e.g. healthy living centre, Xmas fair. Increasing and more diverse people involved. Our commitment. Some active delivery partnerships e.g. WEA, PCT. Community audit provides need and feasibility information. Group provided training. Workers in post as a resource for implementing ideas. Financial and management systems.</p>	<p>No inclusivity strategy Needs of young people, elders and tenants not directly addressed. Not sure we know all perspectives. FORMAL accountability structures still being developed. Need closer ties to other local community groups. Policies e.g. equal opps, staff and volunteer development plans. Asset development is not actively encouraged by Council. Lack of community space Poor awareness about information exchange and available networks.</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Groups talk to each other Our organisational capacity is low but clear progress made in 2003. Embryonic links to education and employability providers via Action planning process. Action plan has identified who we need to work with. Available finance from Objective 1 and SRB6. Collaboration around resources starting to happen.</p>	<p>People are frightened of change. Not enough people involved. Too much talking – not enough action. Need more attention to workers and management group working together. Silo mentalities. Lack of skills and self belief among activists. Must not lose touch with community needs. Attempted political interference.</p>

All finance functions will be undertaken directly by individual project sponsors in partnership with their funders.

6.3 Monitoring

We will measure the progress of our plan for action in Darfield against three key dimensions:

- Our delivery of community economic development activity;
- Improvements in public services;
- Involving more people in mainstream activity.

This approach will involve us in three specific types of monitoring activity at the action plan level:

- An annual review of the contribution of individual interventions against financial, output and qualitative measures;
- Monitoring revision to partnership and strategies based on our Action Plan;
- Measuring the impact of the full range of activity in the local area.

6.4 Evaluation

We propose to undertake a full evaluation of our action plan after three years. This will be undertaken independently and will concentrate upon:

- The effectiveness of Darfield Community Association in terms of the extent to which it provides:
 - A focal point for vision, strategy and sharing resources and action in a common agenda;
 - Long term commitment, confidence and trust among stakeholders;
 - Mutual understanding between community and service delivery partners;
 - Representative structures and transparent decision making.
 -
- The extent to which new and previously excluded individuals become involved in community *activity*.