

# Action Plan for One Norbiton Housing Sub-Group

## Aims and Objectives

1. **Building partnerships** and channels to ensure **regular communication**, that build mutual understanding, improve services and ensure timely responses to queries from Norbiton residents
2. Influencing decisions regarding **new housing, improvements to council homes** and **improvement to public areas** in Norbiton
3. Supporting and setting up initiatives that tackle **poverty** and **homelessness** in Norbiton

## Future tasks

- Team challenge events to improve condition of public areas – following success of event carried out by volunteer team from St Peter’s e.g. with local businesses and youth groups
- Increasing resident involvement and building more community spirit through enabling people to get together, express their views, engage in dialogue, challenge constructively and participate in finding solutions or helping to achieve outcomes
- Setting up systems that enable resident engagement in the planned redevelopment of the Tadlow/Piper Hall area
- Facilitate community engagement in planning process
- Improving the outcomes for homeless people in Norbiton especially for those that do not meet the statutory criteria for support and young people
- Ensuring that sofa surfers have the information they need to access help and support.
- Empowering people living in or near poverty through creating opportunities to improve their situation.
- Links with improvement to play areas especially regarding location on Cambridge Road and / or Cambridge Gardens
- Identification of opportunities and promotion of for affordable nursery and pre-school provision in Norbiton

**Actions - Building partnerships** and channels to ensure **regular communication** that build mutual understanding, improve services and ensure timely responses to queries from Norbiton residents

|    | <b>Task</b>  | <b>People responsible</b>                           | <b>Timeline</b>   | <b>Progress to date</b>   |
|----|--|---|---|---|
| 1. | To develop regular communication channels between residents and service providers that meet the needs of both residents and professionals  | Tim Bell<br>Denise Parry                            | Progress report by end June 2012<br><br>Involvement of Engagement Sub Group defined by next Housing Sub Group meeting                     | Tim agreed to liaise with Engagement Sub Group regarding joint working on this task<br><br>Tim to initially focus on issues regarding upcoming benefit caps   |
| 2. | Ensuring budget transparency regarding the community budgets pilot   | Simon Oelman  | Progress report at every Housing sub group meeting  | Simon agreed to ensure this remained a priority at the professional working group meetings  |
| 3. | Consolidation of the expectations of the Local Integrated Services / Community Budgets partners by developing an understanding of the views of all community and professional stakeholders   | Simon Oelman  | Progress report at every Housing sub group meeting  | Simon agreed to ensure this remained a priority at the professional working group meetings  |
| 4. | Residents with greater understanding of Housing data, services, committees and grants for example through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with RBK Housing Staff to understand and promote measures to tackle fuel poverty especially for older people and families with children under 5 years</li> <li>Improving understanding amongst the Community Working Group of the grants, benefits, training opportunities and services available and creating mechanisms to pass this expertise on to local residents</li> <li>Encouraging residents to attend relevant meetings where their voice can be heard and they can influence decision making</li> </ul> | Sheila Griffin,<br>Rebecca Murphy &<br>Denise Parry | Progress report by end May 2012<br><br>Involvement of Income Maximisation and Engagement groups defined by next Housing Sub Group meeting | Agreed that fuel poverty should be a priority for this task<br><br>Sheila, Rebecca and Denise agreed to meet to discuss planning this task<br><br>Denise agreed to liaise with Income maximisation group (via Tony) and with Engagement Group |

**Actions** - Influencing decisions regarding **new housing, improvements to council homes** and **improvement to public areas** in Norbiton

|    | <b>Task</b>  | <b>People responsible</b>  | <b>Timeline</b>  | <b>Progress to date</b>  |
|----|--|--|--|--|
| 5. | Piloting expansion of the Management Agreements utilised by RBK to larger areas of Norbiton including non-council owned properties and involving more services (currently only agreements for estate management services on the Cambridge Road estate) | Tim Bell,<br>John Squire<br>& Simon<br>Oelman                              | Progress report by<br>end June 2012                      | Tim, John and Simon have already been working on this task on Cambridge Road and will now meet to discuss options for expansion of the work  |
| 6. | To ensure an increase in the supply of suitable Homes of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) accommodation for adults aged under 35 years   | Peter<br>Holmes,<br>Rebecca<br>Murphy,<br>Simon<br>Oelman &<br>Sue Fanadol | Progress report by<br>end May 2012                       | Rebecca agreed to request Sue Fernandez involvement with this task<br><br>Peter, Simon and Rebecca agreed to arrange an initial meeting (with Sue?).   |
| 7. | Researching the needs of people living in poverty and those just above the poverty line and addressing these needs through integrating services across departmental and organisational budgets.  | Denise Parry<br>& Rebecca<br>Murphy<br>Peter Holmes                        | Update at next<br>Housing sub group<br>meeting           | Agreed researching needs to be the initial priority for this task<br><br>SO to invite Nick Smith to next meeting   |
| 8. | Supporting resident engagement in the decision making processes for the £25,000 funding for environmental improvements to the public condition of Cambridge Gardens estate – aim that residents feel better about the estate                           | Tim Bell, Des<br>Gordon,<br>Denise Parry<br>& Eleanor<br>Jones             | Project to be<br>completed by end<br>June 2012           | Initial meeting to discuss plan of action held (23.03.2012) i.e. focus group, survey, focus group and public meeting.<br><br>Des agreed to write to residents and contact residents who have already expressed an interest in engagement<br><br>Des to book date for first focus group<br><br>Eleanor and Denise agreed to facilitate focus groups |
| 9. | Supporting resident engagement with improving Housing Stock (i.e. meeting decent homes standard) through Better Homes scheme   | Simon<br>Oelman  | Progress report at<br>every Housing sub<br>group meeting | Simon agreed to keep Housing sub group updated on progress and to ensure opportunities for resident involvement fully explored   |

**Actions** - Supporting and setting up initiatives that tackle **poverty** and **homelessness** in Norbiton

|    | <b>Task</b>   | <b>People responsible</b> | <b>Timeline</b>                                   | <b>Progress to date</b>                        |
|----|---|---------------------------|---|--|
| 10 | Lobbying for the Kingston Homelessness Forum to be set up ASAP. | Simon Oelman              | Progress report by next Housing Sub Group meeting | Simon agreed to contact relevant people in RBK |

## **ADENDUM**

### **Recommendations for action in the Norbiton Ward:**

1. We advocate support at every level wherever possible for the JOEL Community Trust based at St Peter’s Church, Norbiton which has the following vision
  - a) To secure a permanent night shelter for 14 people using St Peter’s Church Hall.
  - b) To provide a positive working environment for Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness (KCAH) as they work to provide advice, support and access care also on site at St Peter’s.
  - c) To provide an administrative hub on site at St Peter’s in order to secure a creative and engaging community and network responding to physical, emotional and spiritual needs, networking with other agents in the field, for all those who are homeless or are experiencing vulnerable transition periods in their lives.  
This project has received support through the Kingston Borough Housing Policy and Strategy Plan and has been given planning permission.
2. Act to release houses both in the public and private sectors to both the KCAH (preferably houses local to the Norbiton ward) and YMCA (houses more widely dispersed in the borough especially on the south side) for conversion to become well designed and proportioned Houses of Multiple Occupancy arranged as move on property for those who become homeless.
3. Support the release of brown sites for the work of the Y Cube action of the YMCA.
4. Encourage local builders, contractors and landlords to release a proportion of their accommodation units to secure suitable and sustainable accommodation for those faced with homelessness using the present structures and partners already active in the field. We would also ask that the Council uses its powers to get/deliver shared units as well as family homes.
5. Deliberately foster an attitude of care and improvement, enhancing the local environment, providing affordable physical, social, educational and pre-school child care provision, caring and spiritual meeting points so that people seek to move onto our estates and not want to be moving off them.
6. Press for an active Homelessness Forum in the Borough.
7. Central governmental policy and recent legislation has caused boroughs to become closed especially in regard to homelessness. We advocate a spirit of generosity that thinks beyond borough boundaries, that allows for cross fertilisation of ideas and encourages conversation and beneficial action across boundaries.
8. Ask the government and local authority to re-consider its cuts for those on benefits, and grants for supporting people and not to be looking for savings out of the area of homelessness but rather supporting creative ideas to tackle it.