

Earlesfield Community Team

The team includes the SKDC Estate Warden, Community Beat Officer, Police Community Support Officer, SKDC Estate Housing Officer, Children's Fund workers and Educational Welfare Officer but link closely with the many organisations and community groups that operate on the estate.

The idea is that all agencies, residents and community groups can exchange information quickly and problem-solving measures put into place.

The team has been involved in a number of projects since it's formation in early 2003 and some of these are highlighted below:

Youth projects

Recording studio

An old air raid shelter in grounds of Earl of Dysart School was about to be demolished but this has now been converted into a recording studio. The building was refurbished with the help of TDG on Trent road who provided all the paint, soundproofing material etc. The Children's fund provided musical instruments and the police provided money for an electric drum kit and recording/mixing desk.

The studio is now used by a number of children and adults from the estate and weekly guitar and drumming lessons are held here. Several talented musicians have been 'discovered' at the sessions and the first band - The Sprogs are playing gigs all around the County.

Junior Street Wardens

The Junior Wardens are a group of 12 young people from the estate who meet weekly during the summer and fortnightly during the winter. They have been given training in First Aid, Good Citizenship, Health and Safety and written their own code of conduct. We carry out litter picks, visit other organisations such as the Fire Brigade, Police Station etc. Money has been provided by the Children' Fund and the Police to buy a video camera and fund excursions. Several other Counties have looked at the scheme and a buddy scheme has been set up with Northumbria.

Mentoring Reading Groups

These have been set up in the Earl of Dysart and Spittlegate schools where Steve, Stuart and Sandra carry out weekly reading sessions with generally under-achievers with

regard to reading. Since the scheme started about a year ago the results for reading have dramatically improved.

Schools

The team is involved with all schools on the estate and carry out visits, talks etc

Photography Studio

The studio, which is still under construction, will be held in a portakabin and used by schools, youth groups and other young people to develop black and white photographs. Several projects are in the pipeline to work with Grantham Museum and the Earlesfield Community Forum to involve young people and the elderly in a whole estate photography project.

Drop - In Centres

Weekly 'drop-in' centres are held in St Hugh's school. When this started the numbers were fairly small but now in excess of 30 children attend the sessions to discuss any subject they want.

Play Park

The play park committee consisted of the Earlesfield Community Forum, Police, Wardens, SKDC, BBC Voices, Surestart. The £53,000 was raised from contributions from the above and local businesses. Again the young people decided the design.

Youth Shelter

The shelter was constructed with money from SKDC and the police and the design and location chosen by the young people. The Wardens took the young people on visits to other shelters and to the construction factory. The opening was featured live on BBC East Midlands Today.

Cycle Repair Workshop

Sandra and Steve Orridge went on a 3-week City and Guild course for cycle repair. An old shed in Ambergate School has been converted and equipment supplied by the Children's Fund and police. All bikes for repair are donated from the police (unclaimed found/stolen) and will be repaired and given to community groups charity groups and an orphanage in Cyprus we have established links with.

Road Safety Week

An annual event where the team carries out school visits with the Road Safety Partnership. Radar gun used at various times during the week - offenders not fined but made to explain to groups of children why they are speeding. Mobile speed trailer used on the estate.

Security/Crime matters

Shop-Link Radios

All shops on the estate have been provided with a shop-link radio to link them in with the town centre shop-watch and CCTV system. Money provided by SKDC and the police.

CCTV

Police have arranged for Costcutter's to install lighting on their roof to aid CCTV coverage. Also arranged for the camera next to the pub to be lifted up 2 metres again to aid coverage.

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

Police have obtained 2 very successful ASBO's on ringleaders of the 'Earsey Crew'. Several more of these ASBO's are being progressed.

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts

These are joint Police/SKDC contracts that are placed on families with unruly children (or adults) and are the first step towards eviction procedure. Over 15 carried out so far and 90% success rate.

Physical Obstacles

To reduce problems caused by youths gathering several practical measures taken including: removal of bus shelter, cutting down 'crab apple' trees (apples used to assault shoppers and police) removal of unsightly bushes,

Family EventsParty on the planet 2003

This was the first music festival held on the estate and involved many local bands and groups of children from the estate playing on the stage. Hundreds of pounds raised for future children's projects. Cast members from ITV's 'The Bill' attended.

Party on the Planet 2004

The second festival was on a much larger scale and two stages were used for 12 live bands. Again members of the Bill attended. The Headline act was 'Roland Gift and the Fine Young Cannibals' who appeared for free but normally charge over£8,000. Large amount of money raised for charities and future projects.

Visitors

Estate 'visitors' during 2003/04 include: Roberta Taylor (Insp. Gina Gold from the Bill), Peter Guinness (actor), Tony Lake (Lincs police Chief Cons), Chris Chittle (Eric pollard from emmerdale), Les Chappel (musician, record producer - David Bowie etc), Mr Leigh Lewis (Home Office - perm secretary crime and terrorism), Lisa Maxwell (DS Samantha Nixon from The Bill), Lloyd Courtney (drummer - The Shadows, Baron Nights, Roy Orbison etc), Carol Hinds/Quentin Raynor/Lisa Dransfield/Dominic Heale (BBC East Midlands Today), Roland Gift & The Fine Young Cannibals (80's - 04 rock band).

Environmental Issues

Arranged for extra street cleaning, a fast track service for removal of abandoned cars and refuse collection.

Schemes set up with the Fire Brigade to carry out fire checks and reduce arson attacks.

Environmental days being arranged for 2005 with youth club. (canal cleaning, litter picks etc)

Community Groups

Residents Association set up on Beeden park estate. Very successful, now have web site, full committee etc

Residents Association in process of being set up on Hillingford Way.

More residents associations to be set up and link in directly with the Neighbourhood Panel.

Multi-Agency Problem Solving

The old police office in the stadium is not open to the public but now used as a joint SKDC Warden/Police office. It is used as a multi-agency 'drop-in' centre. Joint agency group meetings are held here weekly.