

Listening to You



Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw

Venue: St Mary's Parochial Hall

Date: 13 May 2008

Attendance: 46

Facilitator: Janet Russell

Front line workers from Kirklees Council services and partner organisations including Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing, Kirklees Active Leisure, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, West Yorkshire Police and Kirklees Primary Care Trust were invited to this series of "Listening to You" events.

Key points from discussions

1. Safer stronger communities

It was highlighted that links between Police Community Support Officers and Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing are good.

Mentioned it would be useful for services to know where to access funding as they currently face the problem of having to go to lots of different places.

2. Children and young people

A number of issues were highlighted mainly around the need for more places for young people to meet. There is a big link between young people and being safe. We need to provide activities that interest young people for example a project that took young people to a gym.

3. Economy and enterprise

It was felt that we need to change the image/perceptions and raise confidence of residents investing in their environment. We could do this through positive media as good stories are rarely covered.

It was highlighted that more businesses should be encouraged to settle/set up in the area. Also a one hour parking restriction is too short in town centres such as Birstall.

4. Healthier communities

There is a problem of people drinking alcohol on the streets in Batley which has been displaced from Dewsbury.

General comments

- It is important for people to take ownership of tasks within their own service and feedback on referrals to other agencies. It would help if staff have an understanding of each others roles to enable better partnership working.
- It was highlighted that policy can get in the way of effective service delivery.