

# Listening to You

## Huddersfield South

Venue: DRAM Centre

Date: 6 November 2007

Attendance: 44

Facilitators: Rob Vincent and Cliff Stewart



Following suggestions from the last series of “Listening to You” events we invited front line workers from partner organisations including, Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing, Kirklees Active Leisure, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, West Yorkshire Police and Kirklees Primary Care Trust.

### Key points from discussions

1. Anti-social behaviour was highlighted as a problem and the lack of facilities for young people in this area. There is one youth club in Rawthorpe that runs twice a week. Young people hang around in street gangs and are not interested in doing anything constructive. They want to hang out and do nothing.

Large (50+) groups of youths congregate outside takeaways and act aggressively. There are also named gangs who compete with neighbouring gangs – youth on youth crime.

2. Few crimes/incidents are reported possibly due to people not knowing how to report them. For example bus shelters smashed, large gangs. There is also a fear to report crime/incidents for fear of retaliation. Also highlighted a fear of shooting – even under 5s are asking for help and protection.
3. Community cohesion was highlighted as people from different cultures don't seem to mix as they feel they have no common focus due to their diversity.
4. High levels of domestic violence are reported to health visitors in this locality. It was also highlighted that more families have now got three to four generations of drug and alcohol abuse.
5. Door step lenders and loan sharks are an issue in this locality
6. Hot Spots is currently being used in Kirklees. As Warm Zone is going to every home with a significant number of referrals to West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service for fire safety checks. We are using the Hot Spots card differently to other local authorities in West Yorkshire. In Kirklees the Fire Service are screening any homes where they carry out non-Warm Zone fire safety checks and if homes are assessed as high risk

they can be referred into Warm Zone outside of the ward using the Hot Spots card.

Other partner agencies have also been concerned about capturing highly vulnerable households ahead of ward order and with other agencies consulted through the Affordable Warmth Strategy process we have developed a single priority referral mechanism to Warm Zone based on exceptional health need. This is being used by the Primary Care Trust, benefit agencies and Adult Services are also keen to use it.

7. Health walks run by Park Wardens were quite successful