

# Listening to You



## Spenn Valley

Venue: Whitcliffe Mount Sports Centre

Date: 14 May 2008

Attendance: 31

Facilitators: Alison O'Sullivan

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. Highlighted a lack of free sports facilities for young people, such as youth clubs, which would create positive lifestyle and promote health options. It was felt that the Vision does not capture enough plans for young people.
2. It was also felt there is a lack of free facilities for elderly people, which would have a positive impact on their mental and physical well-being. People mentioned that the plan seems to have a lack of focus for the ageing population

There is also a feeling by residents of being seen as 'poor relations' in comparison to other areas in Kirklees.

3. It was highlighted there is a lack of affordable housing for families and adequate elderly accommodation.
4. Highlighted a lack of public transport as there is no rail link and no bus station in Heckmondwike. This is felt to be a major barrier to older people and people with disabilities accessing provision to combat social isolation.
5. The input into the town centres was raised as a positive point and noted that Spenn Guardian and Heckmondwike Herald are important for keeping communities informed.
6. The M62 is felt to be a division within the locality. Highlighted a need to make better links with Bradford
7. More work is needed to bring groups together (including voluntary groups) to share skills, network and take forward issues.
8. It was felt the local economy lacks an employment focus following the loss of local manufacturing.