

A group of Westlea residents, staff and partner organisations put this together

They wanted to improve the quality of life for residents in neighbourhoods where Westlea has homes. Westlea had already identified that it wanted to expand its work within communities and recognised that beyond the bricks and mortar there are many other factors which impact on whether somewhere is a good place to live.

The group's mission is to work with the wider community to make sure that everyone is included, their views heard, and their needs understood. Working in partnership with other agencies, we want to make sure that community needs are met and are adequately funded, and that details of services available are properly communicated, along with any other information that residents require. We recognise that both the environment and the home itself are important to the well being of each individual and to their needs, and want to ensure that residents can attain their full potential by creating opportunities for their empowerment, helping to develop new skills and self esteem.

This summary sets out how residents, staff and our partners will focus on seven key areas – Health, Youth, Crime, Housing, Transport, Social Enterprise & Training and the Environment. We will work together to ensure we make a real difference to the people in the neighbourhoods where Westlea has homes.

If you would like to have any part of this document explained or translated, or in a different format such as larger print or on audio tape, please contact Westlea on 01249 465465 to discuss your needs.

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Westlea Housing

community
development

WHAT WE WILL DO

✓ HEALTH

- Develop a 'Health and Housing' partnership with the Health Service that would co-ordinate support for residents.
- Healthy Living projects – work with parents of young children to look at food nutrition, hygiene and parenting skills.
- Develop a 'meet and greet' scheme where health and housing workers visit new residents to check they have all the support they need.

✓ YOUTH

- Run 'Dreamscheme' projects where young people carry out supervised community and environmental work, earning points they can trade for leisure trips.
- Link with the existing youth and school councils in our area.
- Link to and promote existing youth projects run by the Youth Development Service (such as SPLASH).

✓ CRIME

- Set up an anti social behaviour (ASB) 'buddying' scheme to support victims of ASB.
- Set up adventure activities, arts and recycling projects in areas where there are ASB problems, supported by the Police, the District Council and other agencies.
- Develop local agreements with residents in areas where there are ASB problems.

✓ HOUSING

- Develop an 'Estate watch' to monitor and improve the quality of neighbourhoods.
- Develop a timetable of estate walkabouts with Neighbourhood Officers that local residents can participate in.

- Link the decisions made by both development and maintenance services to ensure sustainable development within communities and choice for residents.
- Set up a 'Responsive Repairs Service User Group' of staff and residents.
- Set up a Design Panel of residents for new homes.

✓ TRANSPORT

- Promote LINK schemes.
- Access SOLVE funding to assess gaps in transport provision.
- Explore a community minibus social enterprise.

✓ SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND TRAINING

- Set up DIY course for residents in partnership with a hardware retailer.
- Recruit and train a 'Handy Help' collective to deliver carpentry, plumbing and general minor repairs for residents.
- Promote social enterprise at local community venues, in partnership with Co-operative Futures.
- Provide access to IT courses for residents via Learning Curve, Westlea, Wiltshire College and skills-sharing schemes.
- Provide training for residents to become community champions and gain accreditation through 'Investors in Communities'.
- Recruit and train residents to deliver community development for Westlea and other organisations.
- Explore possible social enterprises in caretaking, childcare, catering for the elderly and disabled.
- Have a comprehensive resident training plan for those involved in tenant participation and community development activities.



PICTURED: Young people show off a mosaic street sign made with a local artist during a holiday project; communal composting at a Westlea sheltered housing scheme; and IT training for residents in Calne.

✓ ENVIRONMENT

- Participate in North Wiltshire District Council's major client group on refuse and recycling.
- Work with NWDC to promote recycling and resolve the issue of recycling where there are flats.
- Work in partnership with Wiltshire Wildlife to promote environmentally friendly projects such as composting.
- Look to install local recycling points in areas where there are Westlea properties.