

NDC News



An update on the national evaluation of the New Deal for Communities programme

Welcome!

It has been a busy year for the National Evaluation Team. Ipsos MORI conducted its third, 2006, Household Survey, interviewing almost 16,000 people in the 39 NDC areas. Work is well underway in the six NDC case study areas. SDRC has continued to source key administrative statistics, which it has provided to NDCs in regular data 'bundles'. And the Evaluation Team has held a number of learning and dissemination events, providing opportunities for Partnerships, Government and others to learn important lessons from the NDC Programme. All of this work is helping to provide insights into why and how changes occur at the local level and to answer the core questions of the evaluation:

- Has the NDC Programme been successful?
- What is the added value of the NDC community based partnership approach to neighbourhood renewal?
- What is the most effective way to plan for neighbourhood renewal over 10 years?

Forthcoming reports

Two evaluation reports have already been produced this year

- *New Deal for Communities National Evaluation: An Overview of Change Data: 2006* www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/publications.asp?did=1898
- *The Moving Escalator? Patterns of Residential Mobility in New Deal for Communities areas* www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/publications.asp?did=1899

Several more will be published shortly, notably:

- *A 2006/07 Programme wide overview*
- *An overview of the case study areas*
- *Delivering safer neighbourhoods: experience from the NDC Programme.*
- *Exploring Displacement of Crime or Diffusion of Benefit*

In addition, drawing on experience across the Programme, members of the Evaluation Team have produced four practice studies which will be made available through renewal.net:

- *Masterplanning in NDCs*
- *Community Engagement Strategies in NDCs*
- *Communication Strategies in NDCs*
- *Working with LSPs and LAAs*

All of these reports will be published in due course on the evaluation website:

http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/ndc_reports_02.htm

Evaluation update

The period up to April 2008 will see the Evaluation Team continuing to pursue a number of key themes including (but not limited to):

Community engagement and involvement: this strand will explore how and why communities are being engaged and involved in local activities and to what ends. What can realistically be achieved in terms of levels of involvement and how does this impact on delivery and outcomes? The evaluation will also focus on NDC elections – what can we learn from the Programme in relation to wider discussions on democratic renewal?

Population turnover: high rates of population turnover, or churn, have been identified in a number of NDC areas. This can pose challenges for NDCs and service providers. Work will be undertaken primarily in the six case study NDCs to explore how churn impacts on service delivery.

The cost-benefit balance: a strand of activity is being carried out across the Programme looking at impact and value for money. This work will focus on spend across different types of activities and leverage of match funding. Critically this work will also help assess the effectiveness of the Programme as a whole from a cost-benefit perspective. Findings will be important in making the case for 'selling' NDC approaches locally.

Other themes include **succession planning, community ownership of assets, and youth involvement.** All of these will be explored through a range of outputs, including Programme Wide data analysis and policy reports, case studies and practice reviews. Work will also continue on the collection and analysis of administrative data, preparation for the Ipsos MORI 2008 Household Survey, and the holding of learning and dissemination events.

REMINDER!!! The Ipsos MORI Extranet is online

The NDC extranet site is now online, giving NDC Partnerships access to a rich source of data from the 2002, 2004 and 2006 Household Surveys. The site allows you to download and manipulate data and documents relating to all three

surveys, including SPSS data and research design notes. The Extranet enables visitors to carry out on-line analysis of survey results, thus enabling Partnerships to draw out findings on particular themes and to compare results with those for other NDCs.

For any questions on the Ipsos MORI Extranet, contact Jessica Vince, Research Manager: 020 7347 3148, jessica.vince@ipsos-mori.com

NDC administrative data

The Social Disadvantage Research Centre (SDRC) at the University of Oxford continues to collate and analyse administrative data. This data is of considerable value to individual Partnerships in that indicators for each NDC area, parent local authorities, Government Offices for the Regions, and England are released as data bundles, as far as possible, on a quarterly basis.

Partnerships should note that the end of July release has had to be postponed until the end of August. Subject to data suppliers delivering on time, the next release will contain 2006 worklessness counts, 05/06 rates of entry into higher education, and 2006 house prices.

As well as being sent directly to Partnerships, all data is hosted on the National Evaluation Website at http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/ndc_data.htm

If you have any queries regarding the administrative data, or would like to receive the data bundles contact sdrc.queries@socres.ox.ac.uk

Learning and Dissemination

As part of its commitment to delivering shared learning, the evaluation consortium has been coordinating a range of learning and dissemination events aimed at NDCs, their local partners, government departments, and others. Learning and dissemination events provide opportunities to interrogate and synthesise findings from the Programme. Two events have been held recently.

First, an afternoon seminar on Community Engagement brought together researchers from the Evaluation Team with other academics in the field, to focus on the core issue of community involvement in regeneration. Participants debated differences that community involvement had made to the NDC Programme, looking at when and how resident engagement added most value and the implications this held for sustaining regeneration into the future.

Second, an event was held at Coventry NDC looking at masterplanning in NDC areas. Like a number of other Partnerships, Coventry has embarked on a major programme of renewal which will transform the housing and physical infrastructure of the local area in the coming years. This event provided a valuable opportunity for NDCs to learn from Coventry's approach to working with partners, developers and local communities. The visit also highlighted lessons from across the NDC Programme, drawing on the upcoming Practice Study on Masterplanning.

Presentations and papers from both of these events can be found on the National Evaluation website: http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/ndc_presentations.htm

Evaluation Reference Group – new recruits needed!

The Reference Group plays an important role in that it provides an opportunity for NDC research and evaluation staff to engage with, and inform, the evaluation and also to shape opportunities for learning and dissemination. The Group has met on a number of occasions and has been instrumental in planning learning and dissemination activities as well as engaging in conversations about how the National Evaluation should handle issues such as typologies of NDCs and churn in the 39 areas.

The next meet of the Reference Group will be taking place this autumn in London. As a number of previous members of the Group have now moved on we would welcome new recruits. If you would like to participate or find out more, or if you would like to suggest possible topics for the reference group to look at, please contact jamie.robinson@sharedintelligence.net or 020 7756 7607.

Further details on the Reference Group can be found on the evaluation website at: http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/ndc_local_evaluation_rg.htm

Local evaluations available on the website

As part of its research, the National Evaluation Team aims to support evaluation and research locally. In addition to hosting reports and data from the National Evaluation Team, the website also provides an opportunity for Partnerships to share findings from local research projects. A number of reports have already been uploaded on the website, which can be viewed at: http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/ndc_local_evaluation_la.htm. You can also add your research via the website.

National Evaluation back catalogue

If you are new to the NDC Programme you might not be aware of the depth of evidence collected in the first 2001 to 2005 phase of the evaluation. Research reports and data analysis from this phase are available on the website: <http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc>

We welcome comments and ideas about any aspect of the National Evaluation. In the first instance please contact the Director of the Evaluation, Paul Lawless: 0114 225 3529 or p.l.lawless@shu.ac.uk

Further information on the evaluation, including reports, resources, contacts and previous newsletters can be found on the evaluation website: <http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/>