

NDC NEWS



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

Welcome

In this edition, you will find the latest round-up of the news from the NDC National Evaluation. There are updates on the publication of administrative and household survey data; the forthcoming publication of new research reports; 'masterclasses' in the use of neighbourhood level information to influence investment and service delivery; studies of NDC work in the education and health themes; a survey of resident representatives on NDC Boards; and details of the timescales for completion of the evaluation and delivery of the final evaluation outputs.

New Reports due for publication in summer 2009

The NDC evaluation team has produced a number of new reports which are due for publication in summer 2009:

Transformational Change? - A Synthesis of New Evidence from the NDC Evaluation 2009. This report sets out the key findings and implications of evidence drawn from a range of evaluation activities carried out in 2008-09

Residential Mobility and Outcome Change in Deprived Areas: evidence from the NDC Programme. This report explores whether outcomes in NDC areas are influenced by the numbers of people moving within, in to, and out of, NDC areas.

Improving Outcomes: Engaging Communities in the NDC Programme. This report looks at NDC strategies for involving communities and the impact that this has had on the approaches of NDCs and partner agencies.

Understanding and Tackling Worklessness at the Neighbourhood Level: Vols 1 & 2 and Summary Report. This suite of reports addresses the theme of worklessness. Volume 1 reviews the nature and extent of worklessness in NDC areas. Volume 2 looks at the strategies and interventions that NDCs have used to address worklessness in their areas. A summary report is also available which pulls together the key findings from across the two volumes.

Raising educational attainment in deprived areas: the challenges of geography and residential mobility for area-based initiatives. Raising levels of educational attainment has presented particular challenges for NDCs in which there are high levels of pupil mobility and/or in which pupils attend schools outside of the NDC area. This report provides evidence in relation to patterns of attendance and mobility for pupils resident in NDC areas.

Four years of Change? Understanding the Experiences of the 2002-2006 NDC Panel. A key feature of the Ipsos Mori household survey is that it incorporates a sample of households whose views have been included at each wave. Because these

households have stayed in NDC areas throughout the lifetime of the Programme, their views and experiences are an important indicator of the impact of NDCs. This report looks at the experiences of those households who remained in NDC areas between 2002 and 2006.

Area-based change experienced in the NDC areas 2002-2008: An overview of change data. This report draws on Ipsos Mori household survey data to look at change across a range of key indicators for NDC areas between 2002 and 2008.

The NDC Programme: Outputs and Expenditure over the period 1999-2007. An assessment of how NDCs have used their funding.

The 2008 Partnership Survey. Results from a survey of all 39 NDCs addressing issues such as staffing, governance, and partnership working.

Key findings from these reports will be circulated in a subsequent newsletter.

All these reports will be published on the evaluation website: http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/ndc_reports_02.htm as well as on the CLG website

Publication of Data

Household Survey

All NDCs should by now have received their reports from the 2008 household survey including key indicators, topline and SPSS data set. Note that government restrictions on the use of unpublished data mean that NDCs cannot make public or share the aggregate data until results from the 2008 survey have been published. This will happen when the 2008 survey report is published in the summer. NDCs will be notified when this is the case.

Administrative Data

NDCs may be aware of the recent scares in relation to the security of government data. This has resulted in

stricter controls on the release of data from government agencies, making it difficult for the NDC evaluation team to obtain some administrative data sets. In addition, DWP have implemented some changes to the ways in which it collects benefits data which mean that the evaluation team needs to revise the worklessness indicators to make them comparable over time. All administrative data that is currently available is on the evaluation website <http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/> and additional indicators will be placed there as they become available.

SDRC's contracted involvement with the NDC evaluation has now officially ended. However, SDRC is hoping to supply a few further datasets to Partnerships so that the final phase of the Programme can benefit from the most complete evidence base possible. In addition to the outstanding worklessness indicators (as noted above), SDRC is hoping to deliver Key Stage, Higher Education and House Price indicators for the year 2008. These indicators will complete the time-series of administrative data that can be supplied to Partnerships by the national evaluation team. The CLG NDC Policy Team is currently considering how best to support NDCs and their successor bodies in obtaining appropriate management information in the future.

Survey of resident representatives on NDC Boards

Ipsos Mori has carried out a telephone survey of over 300 current and former resident representatives on NDC Boards. The results of the survey are currently being analysed and will provide valuable insights into the motivations and experiences of this unique group of volunteers. Results will be incorporated into the final evaluation reports, due in 2010.

Using evidence: Regional masterclasses

Shared Intelligence are organising a number of regional events, aimed at showcasing NDCs' use of local evidence to influence partners, budget holders and future neighbourhood activity. These events, to be held in Liverpool, Newcastle, Birmingham and London will appeal to NDCs, NMPs, local authorities, Government Offices and other key stakeholders.

If you would like to register to attend, please contact Jo Rycroft at Shared Intelligence:

Tel:

01904 567 381

Email:

joanne.rycroft@sharedintelligence.net

Liverpool

Friday 12th June
Liverpool City Hall

Newcastle

Tuesday 16th June
Centre for Life

Birmingham

Thursday 18th June
Austin Court

London

Wednesday 24th June
Goodenough College

Working towards final evaluation reports

The national evaluation is now entering its final phase. Two studies, looking at NDC interventions in education and health will be carried out between May and September 2009, meaning that the evaluation will have looked at all six thematic areas (including community engagement). In addition, we will be speaking to stakeholders in a number of NDCs to gather views from experienced practitioners about what they think are the key ingredients for successful neighbourhood renewal.

The remainder of this year will be spent analysing data and producing final evaluation reports. There will be a suite of seven reports in total. The content of these reports is still being finalised, but provisional titles are:

- i) **Achieving a neighbourhood focus for regeneration**
- ii) **Involving local people in regeneration**
- iii) **Making deprived areas better places to live**
- iv) **Improving outcomes for people**
- v) **Exploring and explaining change in regeneration schemes - the NDC experience**
- vi) **The NDC Programme - assessing impact and value for money**
- vii) **The NDC experience - a final assessment (summary report)**

An additional technical report will also contain information on data collection and methods of analysis as well as data for all 39 NDC areas.

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 at: <http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/>