



The One Elmbridge Partnership Elmbridge Borough Council



The local need

The St. John's Estate is a substantial area of housing within the Walton Ambleside area in Elmbridge, Surrey. Walton Ambleside had the highest Indices of Deprivation 2004 score (354) of all the Super Output Areas in Elmbridge. It also had the highest scoring area in four of the seven "domains" namely Employment, Health, Deprivation and Disability, Education, Skills and Training; and Income. It also appears in the top five scoring areas for the Crime and Disorder domain. In 2006 a Health Profile issued by the Department of Health showed that the Life Expectancy for Walton Ambleside was four years less than the highest wards in the borough.

The vision

The One Elmbridge Partnership is a multi-agency partnership based within Elmbridge Borough Council with a vision, "To work together to improve the quality of life for people living in designated areas of need within the borough of Elmbridge by supporting and strengthening community involvement and addressing health and social inequalities."

The Coordinator of the One Elmbridge Partnership, Stella Burgess, has supported the development of Residents' Associations which are ideally placed to drive forward such improvements, one such Association is STARS, the St. Johns Tenants and Residents' Association.

The challenge

The borough of Elmbridge is one of the wealthiest in the South East and as such is perceived as "without need" and ineligible for many funding streams. In Elmbridge social exclusion and deprivation is found in small neighbourhoods existing alongside areas of enormous wealth and as such, provides a powerful example of "relative deprivation".

Focus has been on the assets and strengths of the local community as well as their needs or deficiencies and solutions have been sought through the STARS Association, as a response to local circumstances rather than a "one size fits all" approach.

The results

Since its first meeting at the local Social Club in June 2005, STARS has organised activities on the St. Johns Estate including:

- > Supervised Halloween activities
- > Estate Clean Up Days in partnership with Elmbridge Council, Elmbridge Housing Trust and Surrey Police.
- > An Arts Festival during the school holidays in partnership with a local arts charity, RC Sherriff/Rosebriars Trust.
- > Free football coaching in partnership with Chelsea FC during school holidays in the local park.
- > Lobbying for a purpose built community centre to form an integral part of local housing developments.

Where next?

- > Barbara Cobbett nominated for RESPECT award by Stella Burgess, Coordinator of One Elmbridge Partnership and receives a Certificate of High Commendation, presented by the Mayor of Elmbridge in May 2007.
- > The purpose built Community Centre is due for completion in July 2007 with a full programme of activities to be devised in consultation with the local community for all age groups.
- > A pilot "Street Rugby" scheme in partnership with Harlequins RFC due to start mid June 2007.
- > The development of a Mentoring Scheme by members of successful residents' associations such as STARS to help other groups to form.

For more information >>

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