

Great Yarmouth is receiving nearly £8.5 million Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) over the five years to March 2006. NRF is all about meeting the needs of people in the most deprived neighbourhoods in the country and ensuring that no-one is disadvantaged by where they live.

The Government has set various targets for public services to ensure that basic minimum standards are met -there are targets around teenage pregnancy and burglary, to name just two. The aim of NRF is to give public services in the most deprived neighbourhoods a helping hand to

meeting these 'Floor Targets', as they are called. This may be by allowing a public service to look at a new way of doing things or by enabling it to work with voluntary services to deliver improvements. An important part of Neighbourhood Renewal is that the communities in these neighbourhoods should become more actively involved.

The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), which consists of organisations from the voluntary, public and business sectors, has overall responsibility for NRF spending; Great Yarmouth Borough Council administers the fund.

NRF PROJECTS

Norfolk's Partners Against Crime Taskforce (PACT) have been working in Great Yarmouth to reduce crime by installing security equipment for free. PACT's carpenters, who are trained in crime-prevention by the police, visited properties and completed surveys to identify where security was required. Any work needed was immediately carried out, with equipment such as locks, door chains and eye viewers being fitted.

Nationally, victims of domestic burglary are twice more likely to experience a repeat break-in, therefore investigating police officers in Great Yarmouth routinely referred victims to PACT. This not only helped prevent a second burglary but also helped victims regain a sense of security in their own homes - in the words of one victim 'it was the first proper night's sleep I have had since the burglary'. Police figures indicate that so far, in these properties there have been no repeat break-ins.

In the last financial year PACT carried out work in 476 properties in the priority neighbourhoods. NRF funding ended in March this year and the scheme is being evaluated and reviewed.



One of PACT's carpenters at work

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NRF PROJECTS cont...

The new **Cobholm and Lichfield Health and Resource Centre** was officially opened on 24th February. The centre is already bustling with activity and many more services are planned for the near future.

The OFSTED approved nursery can accommodate up to 30 children. As well as fully qualified nursery nurses the centre employs locally recruited support workers working towards their NVQ's in childcare. The Community Liaison and Information Point is up and running, staffed by two part time Community Development Workers. The rooms available for hire are seeing heavy demand.



Nurse led clinics, based in the centre, provide a convenient place to have dressings changed (upon GP referral) Health services planned for the future include continence advice, speech therapy, family planning, child and family services and mental health services. NRF has contributed to building costs and will provide some on going running costs over the next two years.



The ranger's tiny CCTV cameras

The Environmental Rangers respond to complaints from the public and deal with issues such as abandoned vehicles, fly tipping, dog fouling and defective street lighting.

Key to the work is promoting ownership of the local environment, which has been encouraged through initiatives such as Community Clean-ups and the 'Jellicoe Bridge Art Project' run in partnership with Community Connections, which involved local school children painting murals which are now in place around the bridge.

An innovative approach to enforcement is the use of miniscule CCTV cameras to catch fly-tippers on film. Local 'Litter Watchers' living in fly-tipping hotspots have the tiny cameras concealed in their homes or gardens. The cameras are triggered by movement so can be left unattended for long periods.

The rangers have also been involved with promoting and allocating the NRF funded Community Initiative Awards, small grants for schools, community groups and individuals for environmentally focussed projects.

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To find out more go to the LSP website at www.gylsp.org.uk

New NRF Projects

The final round of bidding for NRF 2004 - 2006 came to an end with the February meeting of the 2020 Forum. Well over a hundred projects applied for funding - thirty-six were successful in getting through the final round.

Crime Reduction:

NRF is being used to tackle the issue of crime in the Priority Policing Area of Regent Ward through several projects:- the funding of a dedicated community-focussed, police team; the purchase of a relocatable CCTV camera to provide coverage of car crime hot spots; and the Alleygating Scheme which funds the installation of self-locking gates at the end of alleyways to reduce burglary and provide safer areas for children to play. NRF is to continue to fund six Police Community Support Officers, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Officer post and the Town Centre Street Wardens for a further six months.



The first Alleygate in Regent Ward is installed

Economic:

A feasibility study will be carried out for a Community Resource Centre in the Claydon / Magdalen West area. The focus of the centre will be community economic development, for example, the provision of training seminars, advice sessions, ICT access and managed workspace. NRF will continue to fund Acorn Grants in Great Yarmouth.

Health:

A new outreach worker at Home-Start will support families who are experiencing severe difficulties. Norfolk Mental Health Care Trust will be researching how to best meet the mental health needs of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrant Workers. NRF has been allocated to the Disability Resource

Centre to be built at the Beacon Innovation Park and to a town-centre based Young People's Health Centre. Among other things, will offer a drop-in information point supported by Connexions, the 'Sorted' Counselling Service and the Sexual Health Clinic.

Education:

Funding has been awarded for the refurbishment of a Family Room at St Georges First and Nursery School and the construction of a Parents' Room at Northgate St Andrews First School. NRF continues to support the innovative work of Education Action Zone (EAZ) by funding five projects: Share, Out of School Hours Learning, Campus Yarmouth, Nurture Groups and Full Service School. The Rights & Responsibilities Awareness project, managed by Great Yarmouth Citizens Advice Bureau, will enable the provision of rights awareness training to community groups.

Housing:

Two new Domestic Violence Project Workers, employed by Leeway, will develop support for victims of domestic violence and manage the development of the new refuge planned for Great Yarmouth. A Housing Advice Solicitor at Shelter will provide specialist advice on all aspects of housing and the Homelessness Prevention Scheme at the Borough Council will work proactively to prevent homelessness. Eighty-six properties in the Magdalen College area will also benefit from having coal fires replaced by gas central heating.

Environmental

The Recycling and Re-use initiative run by First Move involves the repairing and recycling of white goods and the development of courses in re-use and recycling in collaboration with the College in the Community. The Domestic Home Energy Conservation project will raise awareness of available grants to means tested benefit claimants.

Cleanliness in the priority neighbourhoods should be improved by the purchase of Graffiti Removal Equipment which will be used by the Town Centre Partnership for the removal of graffiti, chewing gum and pigeon droppings and will be available for use by other groups/organisations.

On a larger scale, the Street Scene Improvement Project will fund an environmental 'Hit Squad' that will work systematically through the priority neighbourhoods, after consultation with local representatives, to thoroughly clean and carry out environmental maintenance. Children and young people in the Magdalen area will benefit from a new Play and Basketball area.

Community

NRF continues to enable the Community Empowerment Framework to build on its valuable work by funding three Community Development Workers, providing some financial support for the six Community Liaison and Information Points (CLIPs) and contributing to the running costs of Community Connections.

New premises for Rethink

Rethink will shortly be moving its mental health drop-in centre from its current, rather dingy premises on George Street, to the ground floor of a building being renovated on Greyfriars Way. The new premises are being carefully planned to allow the development of both new and existing services and the 50-60 regular attendees have been consulted about the move.

The new premises will house a reception area, smoking room with ventilation, kitchen and large dining area with snack bar. Rethink will also continue to offer group Sunday lunches, which are prepared by staff and centre users who have gained a Hygiene Certificate. There will be private space to enable Rethink provide additional services with external agencies such as benefits advice and sessions with Norfolk Mental Health Advocacy. A chill-out room is planned, which it is hoped will have a massage chair, light box and aromatherapy; full spectrum lighting will be installed throughout the building.

Family Planning

Funding for the NRF Family Planning Lead Nurse post has been picked up by the Primary Care Trust from April this year. The post-holder, Isabel Haysom has consolidated the family planning services in Great Yarmouth and introduced improvements such as more accessible hours and outreach family planning in schools. The outreach service is well attended by both girls and boys and deals with queries about sexual health, contraception and general health issues (which can be a way into the service for some young people). The staff deal with family planning in a holistic way by talking to the young people about wider issues such as relationships.

NRF will be helping Isabel expand the outreach service this year to cover a further two schools and provide drop-in sessions at Cobholm & Lichfield Health & Resource Centre. The clinic will also be moving to the new Young People's Health Centre (see above) which will enable the delivery of a broader and more accessible service.



Liam Dickson, Drop-in Service Manager for Rethink



New NRF project leaders at a workshop

To find out more go to the LSP website at www.gylsp.org.uk