

Throston

Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP)



Draft for Consultation - March 2009

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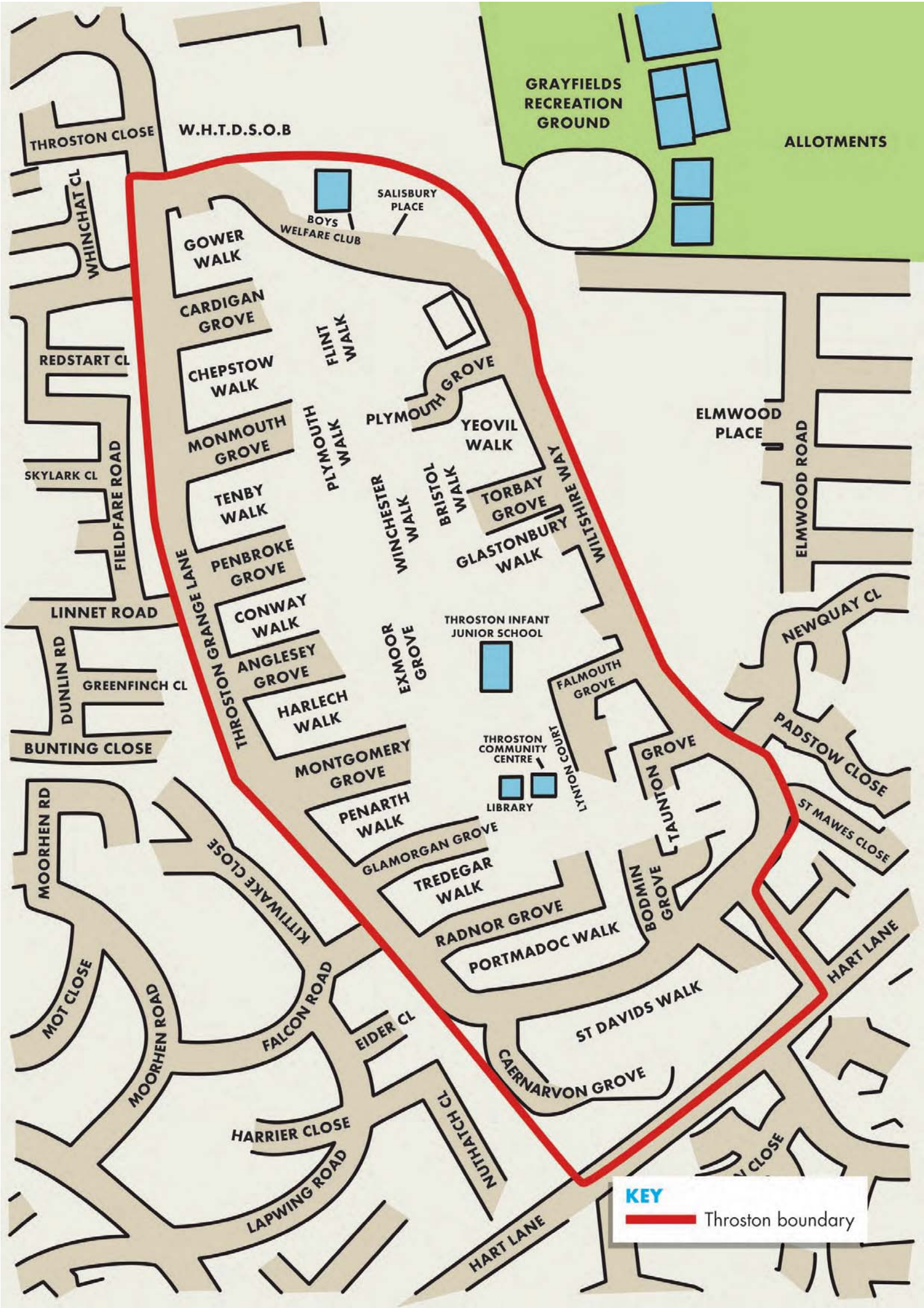
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W.H.T.D.S.O.B

GRAYFIELDS RECREATION GROUND

ALLOTMENTS

BOYS WELFARE CLUB

SALISBURY PLACE

GOWER WALK

CARDIGAN GROVE

CHEPSTOW WALK

MONMOUTH GROVE

TENBY WALK

PENBROOKE GROVE

CONWAY WALK

ANGLESEY GROVE

HARLECH WALK

MONTGOMERY GROVE

PENARTH WALK

GLAMORGAN GROVE

TREDEGAR WALK

RADNOR GROVE

PORTMADOC WALK

ST DAVIDS WALK

CAERNARVON GROVE

FLINT WALK

PLYMOUTH WALK

PLYMOUTH GROVE

YEOVIL WALK

TORBAY GROVE

GLASTONBURY WALK

EXMOOR GROVE

THROSTON INFANT JUNIOR SCHOOL

THROSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

LIBRARY

LYNCH COURT

FALMOUTH GROVE

GROVE

TAUNTON GROVE

BODMIN GROVE

NEWQUAY CL

PADSTOW CLOSE

ST MAWES CLOSE

HART LANE

KEY

Throston boundary

Foreword

The information presented in this Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) provides a real understanding of the issues affecting the quality of life of residents in the Throston area. It also looks at what action needs to be taken to improve the neighbourhood and, provides a clear vision of what Throston will look like in the future.

In order to develop the Plan, a substantial amount of work with local people, Ward Councillors, community/voluntary organisations and service providers has been undertaken to establish the needs and priorities of the community. The information reflected in the document has been obtained through a range of consultation sessions which have been held recently including a Fun Day which took place in September 2008. The Fun Day marked the launch of the NAP for Throston.

This is the first draft of the Plan which takes into account the information that we have received so far, from all partners involved. Further consultation sessions are to be arranged shortly to provide everyone with the opportunity to share their views on the draft document. These opportunities will be widely advertised in the community.

This is only the beginning of the process, we want to encourage all residents, from the Throston NAP area and the surrounding area, to come forward and get involved as local people are the key driving force in taking forward the Throston NAP. We need to build on existing strengths in the community to tackle issues and concerns raised by local residents.

Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager (North), Hartlepool Borough Council.

Introduction

What is a Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP)?

A Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) sets out the key issues and priorities of a neighbourhood which are established and agreed through working with residents including children and young people, Ward Councillors, community/voluntary organisations and service providers.

NAPs are important in encouraging service providers to work together with local people to inform and improve local service provision, ensuring the delivery of high quality services which are responsive to the needs of the local community.

Neighbourhood Action Plans in Context

Hartlepool's Community Strategy describes a long term vision of Hartlepool's ambition and aspirations for the future:

“Hartlepool will be an ambitious, healthy, respectful, inclusive, thriving and outward looking community, in an attractive and safe environment, where everyone is able to realise their potential”

Hartlepool's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, which forms part of the Community Strategy, sets out to reduce inequalities in the most disadvantaged communities and tackle social and economic exclusion. NAPs are used to deliver the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy at a local level and follow the same eight Themes of the Community Strategy: Jobs and the Economy; Lifelong Learning and Skills; Health and Wellbeing; Community Safety; Environment; Housing; Culture and Leisure and Strengthening Communities.

About the Throston neighbourhood

Throston is located in the north of the Borough. The neighbourhood is encircled by Throston Grange Lane and Wiltshire Way and extends to the west to include St David's Walk and Caernarvon Grove and to the east to include Salisbury Place. The neighbourhood is directly adjacent to Grayfields Recreational Ground.

The Throston neighbourhood is a close knit community. There is a resident population of approximately 2,005 people living in 900 households. The housing stock is made up of 47.7% owner occupied, 44.4% socially rented including sheltered accommodation (owned by Housing Hartlepool, Tees Valley Housing Group and Anchor Trust) and 7.3% privately rented which includes Throston Grange Nursing Home (Census, 2001). The age profile of the population is 18% under 15 years, 57% between 16 and retirement age and 25% over retirement age (Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit, 2008).

The Throston area has a good range of local facilities including a local shopping parade at the top of Wiltshire Way and community facilities such as Throston Library, Throston Community Centre, Throston Youth Project, Throston Grange Primary School and Springwell School. A doctors surgery and a dental practice are also located within the neighbourhood.

How have local people been involved in developing the Plan?

The Throston NAP has been developed through a range of consultation sessions with local residents including children and young people, community/voluntary organisations, Ward Councillors and service providers who deliver services to the Throston area (e.g. Cleveland Police, Hartlepool Borough Council and Housing Hartlepool). A Family Fun Day was held in September 2008 at West Hartlepool Technical Day School Old Boys Rugby Union Football Club and Throston Youth Project on Wiltshire Way. This event was very successful with over 300 local residents in attendance. Local people had the option to feed their thoughts about the area in to the NAP development process by completing surveys, noting down their comments on the graffiti walls, recording their views in the Big Brother Diary Room and through the Vox Pops, as well as making arts and crafts with Scribbly Artz and participating in painting a tile.

A Household Survey has also been undertaken with over 200 residents responding. This was used as another method of identifying the key problems and issues facing residents in the Throston area. Two Community Conference events were also held in October and December 2008 which were crucial in identifying the community's priorities.

The comments received have been incorporated into this draft Plan. The Throston NAP will be used to influence the future allocation of resources by service providers and will aim to ensure improved co-ordination and the delivery of services in the area.

While consultation with residents was ongoing, service providers through their Theme Partnership were asked to prepare a Theme Assessment to inform the development of the NAP, alongside the information received from local people. Theme Partnerships utilised neighbourhood statistics (e.g. Ipsos MORI, 2008) and sought to involve as many partners as possible in developing the assessment for their Theme. Each Theme Assessment set out to gain a broad understanding of existing local service provision, to establish gaps in current provision from the service provider's perspective, to identify what service providers feel are the key priorities for the Throston neighbourhood and to highlight any opportunities for future development. Additional information such as the TellUs3 Survey has also been used to inform the NAP document.

Progress to date

Work on tackling some of the priorities identified by local people has commenced. The area has already benefited from Operation Cleansweep which took to the streets in January 2009. The decision to target Throston stemmed from the initial findings of the NAP consultation, in which local people indicated that addressing environmental issues were of high priority. Work on tackling some of these issues, along with looking at improving community safety, took place during a week long blitz of the area.

Local people may have noticed the improvement works across the estate as pot holes were repaired, gullies cleansed, road markings re-painted and pavements mechanically swept where access could be gained.

Teesside Probation Service brought in their Community Payback Team to tidy up the grass verges throughout the estate whilst Work Routes Environmental Task Force, funded through the Safer Hartlepool Partnership, cut back trees and shrubs in and around the area.

Parking enforcement and environmental officers were out on patrol, particularly out of hours, targeting irresponsible dog owners, fly-tippers and people who drop litter.

During the week, residents took advantage of free crime prevention advice and equipment from Hartlepool Borough Council's Community Safety Team and the Neighbourhood Policing Team at a Community Safety event held in Throston Library. The Fire Brigade were also on hand at the event to offer advice and provide residents with the opportunity to sign up for a free Home Fire Safety Check.

Alongside this, a number of schemes were implemented which have been supported by the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, monies allocated to the NAP to respond to some of the community priorities. These schemes included the installation of additional litter bins and dog litter bins on Flint Walk, the replacement of bollards throughout the estate, the resurfacing of existing parking areas in Bodmin Grove and Plymouth Walk, upgrading and replanting of raised flower beds and planting trees. In addition to these environmental improvements, work has begun in bringing local service providers together to look at what improvements need to be made in relation to youth provision in the neighbourhood.

Delivering a low footprint future for Throston

This Plan sets out how we can work together to make Throston a better place to live. In making these improvements we need to be sure that we are making changes that will last and that do not damage our environment.



All of us affect the environment in many different ways. The water we use, the food we eat, the buildings we live in, the energy we consume, the waste we produce, the way we travel and the distance we go all add up. The overall effect of our lifestyles can be described as a footprint. And the more resources we use, the larger our footprint.

For each of the NAP's eight Themes there is a section that sets out how we could work together to deliver a low footprint future for Throston.

Jobs and the Economy

To successfully deliver the Jobs and the Economy Theme within Hartlepool's Neighbourhood Renewal Area there are a number of challenges that need to be addressed. These include poor transport to employment opportunities and personal barriers for residents to overcome to enter employment or set up their own business.



Unemployment within Hartlepool and within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area remains higher than the National average. More than 10% of the working age population are in receipt of Incapacity Benefit and within Throston this figure rises to 15% (Department of Work and Pensions, Feb 2008).

A key aim of the Hartlepool Partnership is to create more employment opportunities for local people.

Within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area partners are working to:

- Remove the barriers residents may face when going into employment and training;
- Provide more opportunities for residents to access jobs;
- Provide further opportunities for residents to take up training and develop their skills; and
- Provide advice and support for residents wanting to go into self-employment.

What you told us

- People who work in the area are helpful and friendly, particularly those employed in local shops.
- Cathie's Corner is very popular.
- The proximity of the local shopping parade and the services available are convenient for many residents.

What action you think is needed to improve the neighbourhood

- Further services should be provided to overcome gaps in current provision.
- Support with IT, job searching and creating and developing CVs should be delivered from local venues.
- Existing services and opportunities need to be promoted to residents, particularly in relation to adult education courses/training and job searching.
- Further shopping provision across the estate would be welcomed as the existing local shopping parade is inaccessible for some residents due to its locality at the opposite end of the estate.

What service providers say

Statistics

- 65% of the population are in paid work compared to 44% in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area, 51% in the Borough and 60% Nationally (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- A significant proportion of the population are retired. From the Ipsos MORI Survey in 2008, 28% of respondents were retired, as opposed to 24% in the Borough whilst for all household members 31% were retired compared to 25% in the Borough.
- There are however, high levels of the population classed as economically inactive - 46% compared to the Borough average of 42% and 36% Nationally (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- There are slightly higher levels of people with long-term limiting illness - 31% in Throston compared to 29% in the Borough and only 19% Nationally (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- There is low car ownership in the Throston area reference?.
- There is a high proportion of older people who have financial needs reference?.

Resources

- There are a number of services being delivered to address the issues of unemployment however, more can be done to improve accessibility and availability of these services in the Throston neighbourhood.

What service providers know about jobs and the economy for children and young people

Statistics

- There are very few young people who are not in education, employment or training.

What action service providers think would improve the neighbourhood

- Further improve links to Jobcentre Plus, Connexions and the wider Jobsmart Consortium to ensure joined up services, avoiding duplication.
- Utilise key community venues including the Throston Library, Throston Community Centre and Throston Youth Project to provide services such as employment and training advisors at times that are flexible to residents.
- Develop a Job Club to provide jobsearch facilities, confidence building classes and Information, Advice and Guidance services.
- Provide self-employment workshops and one-to-one support for residents looking to start up their own business or a social enterprise.
- Promote the employment and training services available through events and promotional materials.
- Develop further volunteering opportunities, with incentives.

What service providers think should be done to improve jobs and the economy for children and young people

- Increase information and support to assist children and young people to choose subject options and plan for their future e.g. help from a teacher or careers advisor to choose subject options and think about jobs and careers.

Our aim is that within Throston

- Support is available within the neighbourhood to assist residents into education, employment, training and self-employment opportunities and residents are aware how to access them.
- Opportunities for volunteering are actively promoted within the neighbourhood.
- Shopping provision is accessible to all residents.
- Older people can access the financial services they require.

Sustainability Footprint

How do you travel to work? Car sharing or cycling can really save you money and reduce your carbon footprint. Find out if your employer has signed up to the Government's Cycle to Work initiative. It's a brilliant programme where everyone wins - employees make big savings on new bikes, employers get a healthier workforce and save money too! Many residents in Throston don't have access to a car and we have a great network of cycle routes so schemes like this can really help break down barriers to people gaining employment.



If you work in a local shop or business you could encourage your employer to improve recycling facilities. If you offer refreshments, tea or coffee to customers, is it fairtrade? Simple tasks like turning off all lights and office equipment when you're not using it, setting printers to print double sided, reducing water consumption by fixing any drips and asking suppliers about take-back schemes for unused products can all save money, waste and energy. National research shows that more than a third of consumers would favour a product that has been designed with low environmental impact, minimal packaging or recyclability in mind, so being good to the environment can also be good for business.

Throston has a Residents Association, a number of youth projects and community/voluntary organisations that are always on the look out for equipment. If your business is updating its IT facilities or buying new office furniture, could you pass on your unwanted equipment to a community group?

Lifelong Learning and Skills

The Lifelong Learning and Skills Theme covers early years, school, Further Education, Higher Education, skills development and community learning. This is an important Theme for the Neighbourhood Renewal Area as poor educational attainment and low skill levels impact on the ability of residents to gain employment.



A key aim of the Hartlepool Partnership is to increase the skills and academic achievement of residents in Hartlepool.

Within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area partners are working to:

- Raise the achievement of pupils, students and learners and improve the attainment of all children;
- Develop the skill levels and qualifications of residents to meet the needs of the labour market; and
- Improve the skill levels of residents of all ages, particularly in literacy, numeracy and ICT.

What you told us

- Local primary schools serving the Throston area have a really good reputation within the community, especially in relation to their community roles and specific initiatives such as after school clubs.

What action you think is needed to improve the neighbourhood

- Need to increase and promote learning provision locally, for both young people and adults, using local venues.
- For a small minority of children and young people there are a number of specific issues at local schools which need to be addressed.
- Facilities on school sites need to be improved.



What service providers say

Statistics

- 54% of people in Throston aged 16-74 have a level 2 qualification and 33% have a level 3 qualification. These are better than the averages for the Borough (Learning and Skills Council, 2008).
- 73 adults from Throston took part in Further Education programmes in 2007/8 with half going to Hartlepool College of Further Education. However, this is fewer than in the previous year (Learning and Skills Council, 2008).

- 25 residents from Throston have started on a level 2 programme through Train to Gain in the last 2 years which is less than is expected (Learning and Skills Council, 2008).
- 26% of residents from Throston have identified that they need to improve their Maths skills which is 10% above the Borough average (Ipsos MORI, 2008).

Knowledge

- There is very little learning provision actually delivered within the Throston area however, this does not seem to be a barrier as above average levels of residents are taking part in learning and training.
- Hartlepool Adult Education service has delivered courses at Springwell School and Throston Primary School. Courses have included craft, family literacy, play and language and Healthy Snacks. Residents from Throston have also accessed Adult Education Provision elsewhere in the town.

What service providers know about lifelong learning and skills for children and young people

Statistics

- High levels of young people from Throston progress from school into employment or training at 16 (Learning and Skills Council, 2008).
- There is above average participation of 16-18 year olds from Throston in Further Education, apprenticeship programmes and entry to employment programmes (Learning and Skills Council, 2008).
- At Key Stage 3 the percentage of pupils achieving the national expectation of Level 5, or higher was greater than the Borough average in all three core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. 64% of the Throston pupils achieved the higher level 6+ in Maths, which is above both the Borough and National average of 57%. However, only 16% achieved level 6 or higher in English which is less than both the Borough (25.3%) and National average (33%).
- In comparison to the Borough as a whole, the population of Throston have fewer qualifications such as O Levels and GCSE's, A and AS Levels, NVQ's and degree level qualifications (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- 24.6% of Throston children are registered as having a Special Educational Need (SEN) which is slightly higher than the Borough average of 22% (HBC Children's Services, 2008).



Resources

- The Throston Library provides a weekly homework club.

What action service providers think would improve the neighbourhood

- Promote the adult Careers Information and Advice Service.
- Support the delivery of Adult Education within the neighbourhood.
- Promote the Train to Gain programme to residents who are already employed.
- Promote the availability of free level 2 and 3 qualifications at local colleges.

- Support the development of the Children’s Centre at Throston Primary School.

What service providers think should be done to improve lifelong learning and skills for children and young people

- Increase provision of homework clubs where a tutor is on hand to offer assistance/quiet space to do homework.

Our aim is that within Throston

- Learning provision is delivered locally, is responsive to the needs of the community and is widely advertised to ensure local residents take part.
- Support is provided within the neighbourhood to encourage young people into education, employment or training.
- Further Education opportunities, apprenticeship and entry to employment programmes are actively promoted in the neighbourhood.
- There is a successful Children’s Centre at Throston Primary School.
- Support is available to ensure a greater number of pupils within the neighbourhood achieve 5 or more A*-C Grade passes at GCSE or equivalent.



Sustainability Footprint

It’s important that children and young people in Throston grow up safely and with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. For many children and young people, care for the environment is high on their list of concerns. Some of Hartlepool’s schools are working to become sustainable schools – a school that through its teaching, fabric and its day-to-day practices encourages students, governors and teachers to care for:

- oneself (our health and well-being);
- each other (across cultures, distances and generations); and
- the environment (both locally and globally).



There’s lots of information available online, in newspapers and in schools and libraries about reducing our carbon footprint and doing our bit for the environment. Sometimes it’s difficult to know where to start. Why not visit the library and see what you can find out? Or see if local training providers could put on learning opportunities on composting, gardening, visits to Saltholme nature reserve or even understanding your gas or electricity bill!

Health and Wellbeing

Although improving, Hartlepool residents suffer from more ill health and disability, higher death rates from diseases such as cancer and respiratory disease and live shorter lives than most other parts of the country. In 2007 the Throston neighbourhood was within the worst 10% nationally for the health of its residents.



Key aims of the Hartlepool Partnership include improved health for the people of the Borough and easier access to health services.

Within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area partners are working to:

- Protect and improve health;
- Target neighbourhoods with screening and support services for heart disease, strokes and cancers;
- Encourage residents to adopt healthy lifestyles;
- Reduce smoking, alcohol, drugs and solvent abuse;
- Reduce teenage conceptions and improve sexual health; and
- Improve mental wellbeing.

What you told us

- Amenities, including a dental practice and doctors surgery, are within the neighbourhood.
- Local people like the close proximity of the hospital however, there are concerns regarding its closure.
- Weight loss and weight management groups such as Slimming World run sessions in Throston Community Centre.
- Throston Grange Residents' Association provide a Fruit and Veg Scheme on Wednesday and Friday mornings from their premises on Flint Walk.
- Throston has an active Allotment Association.

What action you think is needed to improve the neighbourhood

- People need to be encouraged to take more exercise.
- Provision of sport/leisure/play facilities and activities, particularly for young people, need to be increased.
- Information needs to be available to educate the community of the dangers associated with dog fouling and litter.
- Education around the dangers of smoking is required.
- Levels of alcohol/drug consumption/dependency need to be reduced.
- Local shopping parades need to be improved in relation to range/variety of produce and, an increase in shopping provision across the area is required.
- Underage drinking needs to be tackled.

What service providers say

Statistics

- Almost 30% of residents report that they eat 5 portions of fruit or vegetables a day. This is much higher than the Borough average of 18% (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- The Throston neighbourhood is however one of the 10% most health deprived neighbourhoods in England (Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2007).
- 23% of residents describe their health as “not good” in the last 12 months compared to the 20% Borough average and 12% National average (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- 31% of the Throston population have a long standing limiting illness compared to 29% for the Borough and 19% Nationally (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- 30% of Throston residents smoke, which is comparable to the Borough average, but much higher than National smoking rates of 22% (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- Although many Throston residents do regular exercise there are still increasing number of residents who are overweight reference?.
- 22% of residents have problems with anxiety, problems with nerves, depression or stress compared to the Borough average of 20% (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- 9% of residents report feeling lonely or isolated which is higher than both the Neighbourhood Renewal Area (7%) and Borough (6%) averages (Ipsos MORI, 2008).



Knowledge

- Throston Primary School has been awarded Healthy School Status.
- 446 adults use community care services in the neighbourhood comparison? (HBC Adult and Community Services, 2008).
- Over 750 patients visit the Hospital’s Accident and Emergency department every year with sprains, fractures, cuts, respiratory and circulatory problems and abdominal pains. The majority of patients are discharged without an overnight stay comparison? (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust, 2008).
- People want to have health and care services provided closer to home.

What service providers know about children and young people’s health and wellbeing

Statistics

- 15% of Throston pupils are eligible for free school meals. This is lower than the Borough average of 20% reference?.
- An increasing number of children and young people are overweight reference?.
- Young people show more risk taking behaviours in Hartlepool, demonstrated by high rates of under 18 conceptions and sexually transmitted infections reference?.



Knowledge

- The more prepared children and young people are to cope with a wide range of pressures the more likely their outcomes will improve.

Resources

- Grayfields Recreation Ground hosts a football foundation project that provides a range of coaching opportunities for the over 10s. The FAST project provides 3 a side football for under 12s, under 14s and under 16s.
- The Youth Centre, known locally as The Welly, is well used and has a regular badminton club.

What action service providers think would improve the neighbourhood

- Help people to stop smoking so that everyone who smokes can easily find the support they need to stop, close to where they live or work.
- Ensure those residents with long term conditions maintain their own health and lead independent lives
- Ensure easy access to fresh fruit and vegetables and healthy eating initiatives.
- Increase take up of screening opportunities.
- Extend awareness raising programmes relating to living healthier lifestyles to ensure that parents have access to the same information as their children.
- Engage Health Trainers to offer advice and guidance on healthy eating, diabetes awareness, weight management and smoking cessation. This could be delivered from Throston Community Centre.
- Investigate hosting a luncheon club in the community centre to bring people together and provide a healthy meal.

What service providers think should be done to improve children and young people's health and wellbeing

- Improve access to information and advice around healthy eating, alcohol, smoking, drugs, sex and relationships.
- Help young people not to want to smoke and support those who want to stop smoking.
- Support young people to improve their diet and increase their uptake of exercise.
- Seek to provide one to one support for those children and young people who want to lose weight.
- Ensure that children and young people, particularly those aged 11-15 are ready to cope with the stresses that modern day life can place upon them.
- Control underage sales of alcohol and tobacco.
- Encourage establishments to provide healthier options on menus in community centres, cafes, restaurants and takeaways.
- Ensure that all parents have the information that they require to support their children to make healthy choices.
- Provide more opportunities for children and young people to take part in sport and active recreation, including gym facilities and sports clubs.



Our aim is that within Throston

- Locally based health services and facilities are provided which are convenient, accessible, co-ordinated and of high quality.
- Healthy lifestyle choices are available and actively promoted within the neighbourhood.
- Information, advice and guidance is available to support local people to improve their overall health and wellbeing.

Sustainability Footprint

Leading a healthy lifestyle can also lead to a healthy planet. Eating fresh, local, unprocessed food that is in season significantly reduces our effect on the environment. Choosing food that has travelled a shorter distance will help to reduce congestion and transport emissions that contribute to climate change. National research shows that the healthier the community, the lower its carbon footprint.



Throwing away food unnecessarily costs the average family £420 a year. By planning meals, making shopping lists and being creative with our leftovers we can save money and reduce food waste.

If you're not a member already, why not join the Fruit and Veg Scheme that the Throston Grange Residents' Association runs at their premises on Flint Walk and take advantage of the emerging opportunities with Throston Grange Allotment Association?.

Community Safety

Community Safety is one of the highest community priorities. Whilst there have been recent improvements in reducing crimes such as burglary and vehicle crime, reducing the fear of crime and the need for public reassurance remains a high priority.

70% of incidents of Anti Social Behaviour reported to the Police are from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area, with many of these incidents being alcohol related.



Key aims of the Hartlepool Partnership are to improve neighbourhood safety, and reduce Anti Social Behaviour and the fear of crime.

Within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area partners are working to:

- Maintain and increase the visibility of uniform presence within neighbourhoods;
- Reduce Anti Social Behaviour;
- Target underage drinking;
- Provide a range of diversionary activities for young people within local neighbourhoods;
- Engage with parents, guardians and families to prevent youth offending and Anti Social Behaviour;
- Tackle the problem of drug misuse; and
- Improve the appearance of neighbourhoods by tackling vandalism, graffiti and fly tipping.

What you told us

- Access to the Ringmaster Neighbourhood Watch initiative provides residents with up-to-date information about crime issues affecting the neighbourhood, as well as community safety advice.
- The dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Team is an asset to the community.
- Local people generally feel that the neighbourhood is a safe place to live.

What action you think is needed to improve the neighbourhood

- Further action needs to be taken to reduce incidents of criminal damage especially car crime, vandalism and graffiti.
- More visible police patrols are required throughout the area, including raising the profile of the area based Neighbourhood Policing Team further.
- Relationships between residents and the Neighbourhood Policing Team need to be strengthened.
- Need to reduce the fear of crime that is perceived by some residents in the area.
- Further diversionary activities and facilities are needed to reduce 'gangs' hanging around the estate particularly around the shopping parade and underneath 'flying' bedrooms.
- Motorbikes on footpaths are a problem which needs to be resolved.

- There has been a few reported incidents when drug related litter has been found, these have however been in 'hotspot' areas and once reported have been removed. Need to continue to encourage people to report any further incidents in the future.
- Need to make available security measures to residential properties including target hardening measures, particularly to vulnerable homes and residents.

What service providers say

Statistics

- 6% of households on the Throston estate are signed up to the 'Ringmaster' scheme comparison? (HBC Community Safety, 2008).
- 45% of Throston residents identify car crime as a problem which is higher than both the Neighbourhood Renewal Area (35%) and Borough (31%) averages (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- 72% of Throston residents see teenagers hanging around as a problem which is higher than both the Neighbourhood Renewal Area (58%) and Borough (51%) averages (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- 35% of Throston residents are dissatisfied with the service provided by the Police which is significantly higher than the Neighbourhood Renewal Area average of 19% (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- 50% of Throston residents identify disturbance from crowds and gangs or hooliganism as a problem which is significantly higher than the Neighbourhood Renewal Area average of 36% (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- 52% of Throston residents feel unsafe walking alone in or around the area after dark compared to the Neighbourhood Renewal Area average of 45% and the Borough average of 37% (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- Criminal damage accounts for almost a quarter of all crimes within the Throston neighbourhood with vehicle related crime accounting for over a third of all criminal activity. Also, the trend shows that this is increasing.
- Criminal activity peaks on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 12.00am and 1.00am with Anti Social Behaviour most commonly occurring on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 4.00pm and 10.00pm. The majority of the Anti Social Behaviour is identified as rowdy behaviour.



What service providers know about community safety for children and young people

Resources

- Around 40 young people from the neighbourhood attend the Throston Youth Project. The Throston Youth Project is delivered from the former Boys Welfare Centre and runs 5 evenings a week (Sunday to Thursday).

What action service providers think would improve the neighbourhood

- Increase the number of residents who are signed up to the Ringmaster scheme.

- Agree community safety 'hot spots' within the area and investigate potential solutions.

What service providers think should be done to improve community safety for children and young people

- Build stronger links between Officers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team and young people.

Our aim is that within Throston

- Anti Social Behaviour including rowdy and nuisance behaviour, misuse of motorbikes and criminal damage in particular vehicle related crime, graffiti and vandalism is deterred.
- Neighbourhood safety and public confidence is high and fear of crime is low.
- Information, advice and guidance relating to community safety issues is readily available.
- Residential properties are secure, particularly vulnerable homes and those belonging to vulnerable residents.

Sustainability Footprint

Good outdoor lighting can put off or draw attention to a burglar. The most appropriate form of lighting to use is high-efficiency low-energy lighting, controlled by a dusk-to-dawn switch so that it comes on only when it's dark. This provides a constant and uniform level of light. It costs very little to run and helps to create a more reassuring environment.

All Hartlepool schools have school travel plans. These set out practical steps for improving children's safety on the journey to and from school.



Environment

The environment in which we live plays an important role in the quality of life of residents within a neighbourhood. Access to open spaces with play areas and sports facilities, quiet areas, and the natural environment are all important factors in achieving the type of community in which people enjoy living.

Key aims of the Hartlepool Partnership include the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environments and the provision of an improved and accessible transport system.

Within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area partners are working to:

- Increase the environmental quality of all public open spaces;
- Ensure that neighbourhoods have access to good quality public transport; and
- Provide safe and convenient access for pedestrians and cyclists.

What you told us

- There is easy access to the A19 and the Town Centre.
- Generally the Throston area is a clean, attractive environment with lots of trees, shrubs and green open spaces plus Grayfields Recreational Ground, including the beck, and Ward Jackson Park are in close proximity.
- In general, the area is served by a reliable public transport system.
- Many residents have access to parking provision.

What action you think is needed to improve the neighbourhood

- Implement measures to address speeding traffic throughout the area, particularly on Throston Grange Lane, the roads surrounding Throston Primary School and Throston Community Centre.
- Address dog fouling issues, especially on Flint Walk and around Throston Community Centre.
- Footpaths, parking areas, lay-by's and roads across the neighbourhood are in a poor state of repair and need improving.
- Pedestrian crossing provision needs to be improved on Throston Grange Lane.
- Litter, including chewing gum, broken glass and debris from recycling collections is a problem, particularly in areas where access is difficult for street cleansing to be undertaken.
- Grass cuttings are not collected which makes the area untidy and can cause footpaths to become slippery in wet weather.
- Improvements need to be made to the street lighting across the area, in particular Tenby Walk, near to the bungalows, and the path adjacent to the allotments.
- Street signs need to be upgraded.
- Car parking issues/provision need to be addressed in some areas, especially in relation to the development of the Children's Centre at Throston Primary School, as the surrounding area suffers from traffic congestion at school pick-up and drop-off times already.
- The general appearance of the area and the surrounding environment could be enhanced.

- Although the area is served by a reliable public transport system there is a need for an improved bus service on Wiltshire Way.
- Local shopping parades need to be improved in relation to appearance.

What service providers say

Statistics

- 32% of Throston residents identify dogs causing nuisance and mess as a problem, which is the same as the Borough average and much lower than the Neighbourhood Renewal Area average (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- Graffiti problems continue in some specific areas within the neighbourhood. 42% of Throston residents view vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property as a problem, which is similar to the Neighbourhood Renewal Area average of 43% and is much higher than the Borough average of 33% (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- 55% of Throston residents view litter and rubbish in the streets as a problem compared to the Neighbourhood Renewal Area average of 61% (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- 29% of Throston residents say that the speed and volume of traffic in the area is a problem which is much lower than the Neighbourhood Renewal Area (46%) and Borough (43%) averages (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- However, overall 94% of Throston residents are satisfied with the area as a place to live, which is significantly higher than the Neighbourhood Renewal Area (78%) and Borough (86%) averages (Ipsos MORI, 2008).

Knowledge

- The quality of resident car parking is of concern, as is the low level of street lighting in these areas.
- Street lighting levels across the wider estate are also considered to be poor.
- The number of trees within the area is only of a moderate level with the access to the wider countryside being poor other than by road.

What service providers know about children and young people's environment

- No information available.

What action service providers think would improve the neighbourhood

- Dog Wardens to regularly visit area and issue Fixed Penalty Notices when appropriate.
- Provide additional dog bins where necessary.
- Develop a programme to improve the general level of lighting around the neighbourhood.
- Provide additional tree planting and beautification within the areas of open space, including the grounds of both schools.
- Investigate ways in which access to the local countryside can be improved.

What service providers think should be done to improve children and young people's environment

- Work with Throston Primary School on the problems of dog fouling.
- Create a cleaner, safer, more attractive environment.
- Work with local schools on the benefits of improving the environment including the potential to develop some tree planting schemes within the school grounds.

Our aim is that within Throston

- The local environment is enhanced and the general appearance of the area has been upgraded.
- Pedestrians, cyclists and motorists can access the neighbourhood safely.
- Residents take pride in their neighbourhood and assist in creating a high quality environment.
- Local shopping parades are attractive and accessible.

Sustainability Footprint

There are lots of different ways that we can work together to reduce the impact that the Throston neighbourhood has on the environment. Within homes and buildings using energy efficient bulbs will produce less CO₂ and save up to £60 in electricity over the lifetime of each bulb.

In the garden, collecting rainwater in water butts and use it for watering your garden saves valuable resources. Hartlepool's Home Compost Scheme encourages residents to compost all their garden and kitchen waste at home. By transforming this good waste into compost you can improve the health of your plants and flowers and reduce the amount of rubbish that is being put out for collection. You can find out more about composting by visiting www.recyclenow.com/compost



Much of what we throw away is in perfect working order but is discarded because it is out of date or no longer needed. Repair and reuse is often cheaper and is certainly a much better option for the environment than recycling or disposal. Throston residents could come together and match people who have things they want to get rid of with people who can use them. Freecycle is a network that promotes this activity. Find out more about them by visiting <http://uk.freecycle.org/>

Housing

The majority of residents within Hartlepool are satisfied with their accommodation. The changing housing market has however, led to increased demands for social housing. The condition of social housing stock has increased markedly resulting in low vacancy rates and long waiting lists. There is increasing need for support and appropriate housing for vulnerable people, especially with an increasingly elderly population.

The key aims of the Hartlepool Partnership are to ensure that there is access to a choice of good quality housing across all tenures, improve the quality of existing housing and to meet the housing needs of vulnerable people.



Within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area partners are working to:

- Achieve decent homes standards for social housing and private housing occupied by vulnerable groups;
- Provide support to vulnerable households so they can live as independently as possible; and
- Address the issue of fuel poverty.

What you told us

- The range of housing types within the area meets the diverse needs of local people.
- Significant improvements have been made to Housing Hartlepool properties throughout the area which have enhanced the area as a place to live and improved the homes of local people.

What action you think is needed to improve the neighbourhood

- Look to resolve issues in relation to 'flying' bedrooms which can contribute to anti-social behaviour.
- Existing homes and accommodation need to be improved to meet and exceed 'decent homes standard', especially Springwell Flats.
- Improve the availability of (affordable) housing and bungalows.
- Further support is required to assist the elderly population to live independently and neighbourhood accessibility needs to be improved for the elderly and disabled.

What service providers say

Statistics

- 47.7% of properties on the estate are owner-occupied, 7.3% are privately rented and 44.4% are rented from social landlords with Housing Hartlepool being the biggest provider of social rented properties in the neighbourhood (Census, 2001).

- 42% of Housing Hartlepool residents in the neighbourhood are elderly and a number of these have stated that they have mobility difficulties (Housing Hartlepool, 2008).
- A Housing Hartlepool survey has highlighted issues with Anti Social Behaviour which stem from the layout of the estate (Housing Hartlepool, 2008).
- 98% of Throston residents are satisfied with their accommodation compared with a Borough average of 93% and Neighbourhood Renewal Area average of 90% (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- 47% of the neighbourhood are single person households and 71% have lived in the area for 20 years or more which is high compared with the Borough (47%) and Neighbourhood Renewal Area (41%) averages (Ipsos MORI, 2008).

Knowledge

- There are no significant housing issues in the Throston neighbourhood.
- All Housing Hartlepool properties have had improvements to take them above the Government's decent standard level.
- The average house price in Throston is below the Borough and National averages. However, the value of property in the neighbourhood has increased significantly over the last few years.
- In addition to Housing Hartlepool, Anchor Housing and Tees Valley Housing also provide social housing in the neighbourhood.

Resources

- There is a private nursing home within the neighbourhood; Throston Grange Nursing Home.

What service providers know about housing for children and young people

- No information available.

What action service providers think would improve the neighbourhood

- Entrances to communal blocks to be improved in full consultation with residents of the blocks effected.
- A further scheme to improve the outside of all Housing Hartlepool properties is to be drawn up. This will see improved fencing etc. over the next 5 years.
- Housing Hartlepool continue to work to agreed Service Standards which include a weekly visit to the neighbourhood, neighbourhood inspections every 12 weeks, removal of offensive graffiti within 12 working hours and non-offensive graffiti within 28 days of being reported amongst others.



What service providers think should be done to improve housing for children and young people

- No information available.

Our aim is that within Throston

- Social housing and accommodation meet and exceed 'decent homes standard'.
- People have access to good quality affordable housing.

Sustainability Footprint

The easiest way to make your home energy efficient is by having loft and cavity wall insulation. For information on grants and discounts for such work (even if you do not claim benefits), please call Central Midlands Energy Efficiency Advice Centre free on 0800 512 012 or visit their website www.saveenergy.org



When shopping for new appliances don't just think about the cost of buying an item, but look at how expensive it is going to be to run. Everything from light bulbs to fridge freezers now have energy saving "Recommended" label showing how much energy they use. Some tell you how much water they use too. Call the Act on CO₂ advice line on 0800 512 012 for advice on saving energy and money in your home.

Culture and Leisure

Culture and Leisure are key elements to regeneration with access to high quality museums, libraries and sport and physical activities all vital to improved quality of life for local residents.

Key aims of the Hartlepool Partnership are to strengthen communities and improve the places where people live through the enjoyment of leisure, culture and sport.

Within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area partners are working to:

- Develop concessionary schemes to increase access to arts and sports;
- Increase the use of community facilities;
- Develop youth provision; and
- Protect and enhance children's play areas, open spaces and parks.



What you told us

- Amenities, including Throston Community Centre and Throston Library, are ideally located in the community.
- Throston Library is well used and has a range of activities available.
- There is a variety of things to do in the area for young people, but they are not widely publicised.
- Throston Youth Project ('the Welly') provides a place for young people to socialise with friends, take part in activities and access support when required.
- A number of activities are provided from Throston Community Centre.
- Lots of green open space, including the field at Throston Primary School, which provides areas for children and young people to play.
- The Throston area is in close proximity to Grayfields Recreational Ground, including the skate park and the beck, Throston Grange Allotments, High Throston Golf Club, Ward Jackson Park, the Wacky Warehouse and Hart reservoirs which provide opportunities for local people.

What action you think is needed to improve the neighbourhood

- Access to further sport/leisure facilities and meeting spaces is required and existing facilities need to be improved.
- The programme of activities, available throughout the school holidays, needs to be expanded and publicised.
- Need to increase the provision of sustainable activities for people of all ages, at local venues, to address the gaps in amenity provision, specifically for young people and the elderly.
- Need to address the gap in youth service provision for young people aged between 11 and 12 years of age.
- Existing activities and facilities need to be promoted to encourage maximum use, especially Throston Community Centre. Any barriers to access need to be overcome.
- Access to nearby activities and facilities needs to be improved including organised outings/trips.

What service providers say

Statistics

- 54% of Throston residents are dissatisfied with children's play areas which is much higher than both the Neighbourhood Renewal Area (44%) and Borough (32%) averages (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- 28% of Throston residents are dissatisfied with parks and open spaces which is lower than the Neighbourhood Renewal Area average of 33% but higher than the Borough average of 23% (Ipsos MORI, 2008).

Knowledge

- Throston Library is very well used and is the second busiest branch library in the town.
- A longer term vision for the library is to develop the grass space at the front of the library as a community garden.

Resources

- The Throston Library and Throston Community Centre are in the centre of the neighbourhood.
- The library offers public access to computers, internet, e-mail and printing facilities.
- The Community Centre offers a range of activities to residents however, usage has dropped over the previous two years.
- Throston has a thriving Allotment Association.
- The neighbourhood is adjacent to Grayfields Recreation Ground.

What service providers know about children and young people's culture and leisure

Resources

- Around 40 young people from the neighbourhood attend the Throston Youth Project. The Throston Youth Project is delivered from the former Boys Welfare Centre and runs 5 evenings a week (Sunday to Thursday).
- The Throston Library provides a weekly homework club, board books for babies, a Children's library, special needs books, a Bookstart programme and story times.

What action service providers think would improve the neighbourhood

- Provide a service from the library which assists job seekers in developing and writing CV's.
- Look to work with the Allotment Association and local residents to develop a community garden within Throston.
- Promote the Sports and Recreation service within the community to increase participation in healthy activities.
- Promote and publicise the facilities available within the Community Centre and work with local people to increase uptake on services available.
- Utilise Throston Community Centre as a venue for keep fit/aerobics classes in conjunction with Hartlepool Borough Council's Sports Development Team.

- Increase the number of Adult Education courses available at the Community Centre.

What service providers think should be done to improve children and young people's culture and leisure

- Improve access to art, craft, dance, music and film/video-making sessions and classes.
- Provide organised outings/trips to nearby facilities such as the cinema, theatre, swimming pools (outside of school lessons) etc.
- Improve activities and facilities at Throston Library for children and young people.
- Access to safe play areas/playgrounds is required.
- Better activities for children and young people overall, including access to further sport/leisure facilities.



Our aim is that within Throston

- A range of culture and leisure activities are available locally, including those for the elderly and young people.
- Community facilities and play areas are available locally, with good access to nearby facilities.
- Public access to I.T. facilities including internet, e-mail and printing facilities are available within local venues and are well publicised.

Sustainability Footprint

You might not know it, but the choices we make buying food and consumables has a big impact on the environment. When you're out shopping stop and think about purchasing products that generate less waste and reduce environmental impacts. Televisions are consuming a greater share of our household energy bills as we move to new display screen technology, select larger screen sizes and leave televisions and other equipment on 'standby' which still uses energy. So if you are replacing an old television make sure you select an energy efficient model with an appropriate screen size.



In general the more we spend on food; the greater our impact on the environment. So whether it's alcoholic drinks, meals out or our weekly shop it all adds up. We also make a big impact with unused food we throw away. Try to cut your food waste by making a shopping list, storing food properly and being creative with leftovers.

Strengthening Communities

Strengthening and valuing communities are at the heart of Neighbourhood Renewal. Empowering individuals and groups and increasing the involvement of citizens in all decisions that affect their lives is fundamental to the process of the improvement of local neighbourhoods.

The key aims of the Hartlepool Partnership are to ensure that people feel that they have a greater influence over the decisions that effect their local neighbourhood and the wider community, that local voluntary and community groups are fully valued, and to increase community cohesion within Hartlepool.

Within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area partners are working to:

- Develop and support Residents Associations to enable local people to make their views and aspirations known;
- Develop networks from the neighbourhood level to feed into the Hartlepool Partnership; and
- Provide support to all diverse sections of the community.

What you told us

- Throston Grange Residents' Association, Throston Grange Allotment Association and Throston Parents Forum operate within the local community.
- Throston Community Centre and Throston Library are ideally located in the community.
- There is a diverse community.
- The majority of local people are friendly, including individuals who work in the area.
- Throston has a stable community with friends and family tending to live nearby.
- There is a good community spirit.



What action you think is needed to improve the neighbourhood

- Intergenerational activities are required to assist in overcoming barriers between young people and older generations.
- Need to provide more community events.
- Local venues and community activities need to be promoted further to encourage use by the local community, particularly Throston Community Centre. Any barriers to access need to be addressed.
- Need to further establish relationships/links with residents from the Bishop Cuthbert area.
- Need further opportunities for local people to be consulted and informed of what is going on in the area.
- Young people from Throston Youth Project would like to establish links with Throston Grange Residents' Association.

What service providers say

Statistics

- Only 17% of Throston residents feel that they can influence decisions in their local area which is low in comparison with the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and Borough averages of 23% and 21% respectively (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- However, 48% feel that there is a lot of community spirit in the neighbourhood which is higher than both the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and Borough averages of 44% and 40% respectively (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- Similarly, only 12% do not feel part of the local community compared to 19% in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and 15% in the Borough (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- 71% have lived in the area for 20 years or more which is high compared with the Borough (47%) and Neighbourhood Renewal Area (41%) averages (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- 98% of Throston residents are satisfied with their accommodation compared with a Borough average of 93% and Neighbourhood Renewal Area average of 90% (Ipsos MORI, 2008).
- Only 5% of Throston residents have been involved in a local organisation on a voluntary basis over the last 3 years compared with 11% in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and 10% in the Borough (Ipsos MORI, 2008).

Resources

- Throston Grange Residents' Association operates within the neighbourhood however membership has declined and the range of activities held by the Association have reduced in recent years.
- A number of local groups are working with residents from the Throston neighbourhood.

What service providers know about strengthening communities for children and young people

Resources

- Around 40 young people from the neighbourhood attend the Throston Youth Project. The Throston Youth Project is delivered from the former Boys Welfare Centre and runs 5 evenings a week (Sunday to Thursday).



What action service providers think would improve the neighbourhood

- Provide support to Throston Grange Residents' Association to help them to work with more people in the area and bring in new members.
- Encourage and support groups to work together when planning community activities.
- Improve communication between all groups and residents through the joint production of a community newsletter.

What service providers think should be done to improve strengthening communities for children and young people

- Develop an intergenerational project through Throston Youth Project
- Develop further volunteering opportunities for young people.
- Work with young people to develop a newsletter.
- Throston Allotment Association to work with young people in a developing Youth allotment.
- Increase space available e.g. youth centre/café for children and young people to meet, spend time/socialise with friends (with few or no organised activities).
- Provide opportunities/assist children and young people to make a positive contribution, ensuring their views are listened to in decisions about the local area.

Our aim is that within Throston

- Local groups and organisations have access to support and guidance to assist them in the delivery of their services.
- Opportunities are available for residents to influence decisions that affect their area and play a larger role in helping to improve their neighbourhood.
- Support is available to enable all residents to feel part of the wider community.
- Activities are held regularly to encourage people of all ages to get on well together.
- There is a thriving community/voluntary sector.

Sustainability Footprint

By working together, community/voluntary organisations in Throston can make a real difference to reducing the neighbourhood's carbon footprint. One of the best ways is to set up a network of re-use schemes. Think about how you might start a local furniture re-use schemes that redistributes refurbished furniture. How about a community-run paint reuse project? If you're a member of the Allotments Association is there more you could do to re-use equipment? Is there a notice board in the area where you can advertise to swap clothes and toys?



Implementing the Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP)

Annual Action Plans will be prepared each year to take forward this Neighbourhood Action Plan. The first of these for 2009/10 will be prepared in consultation with residents, Ward Councillors and local community/voluntary organisations. The Action Plan will identify priorities from the NAP to be tackled in that year.

The implementation of this Action Plan will be overseen by Hartlepool Borough Council's North Neighbourhood Manager, who will work with service providers and existing local groups to develop specific schemes that will help to improve the quality of life of residents in the Throston neighbourhood.

The Action Plan will be monitored locally and progress will be reported to the Hartlepool Partnership's Performance Management Group and Theme Partnerships.

Glossary of Terms

Aim: Ambition or objective. In relation to the Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) it is what we would like to see the neighbourhood look like in the future.

Beautification: Beautification is a term used to describe the process in which an area's aesthetic image is enhanced by environmental improvements.

Children's Centres: service hubs where children under five years old and their families can receive seamless integrated services and information. Services available might include early education and childcare, support for parents, child and family health services and activities to help parents into work.

Community Strategy: a strategy that sets out the overall strategic direction and long term vision for the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of an area. Hartlepool's Community Strategy is called Hartlepool's Ambition.

Extended Schools: schools that offer access to a range of services for children, young people, their families and communities often beyond the school day. Extended services include childcare provided on the school site, activities such as homework clubs and study support, sport, music tuition, special interest clubs and volunteering, parenting and family support and providing wider community access to ICT, sports and arts facilities, including adult learning.

Hartlepool Partnership: the Local Strategic Partnership for Hartlepool, the partnership responsible for implementing the Community Strategy.

Fair Trade: Fair trade is a trading partnership which aims to achieve sustainable development for excluded and disadvantaged producers. It seeks to do this by providing better trading conditions, by awareness raising and by campaigning.

Local Strategic Partnership: a collection of organisations and representatives coming together voluntarily to work in partnership. The Local Strategic Partnership for Hartlepool is the Hartlepool Partnership.

Neighbourhood Policing: teams that work with local people and partners to deliver solutions to issues which people say make them feel unsafe in their neighbourhood. These can include crime, anti-social behaviour, disorder, speeding and environmental issues such as street lighting.

Neighbourhood Renewal: activity to reduce inequalities in the most disadvantaged communities and to tackle social and economic exclusion by lowering worklessness and crime and improving health, skills, housing and the physical environment.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy: the part of the Community Strategy that sets out how Neighbourhood Renewal will be delivered in Hartlepool.

Social Enterprise: A Social Enterprise is a service or business that is owned and managed by the community they serve and that operates primarily for the benefit of the wider community, re-investing any benefits that have been achieved.

Sustainability: Sustainability is a characteristic of a process or state that can be maintained at a certain level indefinitely.

Sustainable Development: Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Theme Partnership: The Theme Partnerships bring together key service providers under the Local Strategic Partnership to manage performance in their respective theme areas.

The Theme Partnerships are The Economic Forum (Jobs and Economy), Skills Partnership (Lifelong Learning and Skills), Health and Wellbeing (Health and Care), Safer Hartlepool Partnership (Community Safety), Environment Partnership (Environment), Housing Partnership (Housing), Culture, Leisure and Community Learning Partnership (Culture and Leisure), Hartlepool Community Network (Strengthening Communities) and Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

Voluntary/Community Sector: includes voluntary and community organisations, social enterprises, charities, cooperatives and mutuals.