

NDC News



A regular update on the national evaluation of the NRU's New Deal for Communities Programme

Phase 2 of the National Evaluation

The Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University and its partners have been commissioned by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (NRU) to continue the national evaluation of the NDC Programme through to early spring 2009.

The evaluation team is delighted at being involved in this second phase of the evaluation. NDC is such an important renewal programme. Findings from Phase 2 will be critical in helping us all to understand and disseminate evidence in relation to the 'hows' and 'whys' of effective neighbourhood renewal.

Virtually all of the partners now involved in the Phase 2 were also members of the team which undertook the 2001-2005 Phase 1 of the national evaluation. The key results from that first phase are now available as Research Report 17 on the NRU's web site: <http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/>

Many other findings from the first 2001-2005 Phase are also available on the national evaluation team's own web site: <http://ndcevaluation.adc.shu.ac.uk/ndcevaluation/Home.asp>

During early 2006 in conjunction with GOs, the national evaluation team will be organising a **series of dissemination events** focusing on key results from Phase 1 of the evaluation. Details of this programme will be made available shortly. This will be an opportunity for NDCs and their partners to discuss key findings from Phase 1. These sessions will also help inform the details of Phase 2.

The evaluation team has drawn up broad plans for the next three years. Some decisions are relatively firm, others need further thought:

- **2006 and 2008 MORI/NOP household surveys:** we are aware that many NDCs found results from the 2002 and 2004 of particular value; there are to be two further surveys in this Phase of the evaluation in 2006 and 2008; MORI will be in touch shortly with all Partnerships to discuss details.
- **Secondary/administrative data:** as was the case in Phase 1, the Social Disadvantage Research Centre will be providing all NDC Partnerships with regular and customised admin data; this can be especially useful for NDCs in seeing how they are performing compared with their local authority and the country as a whole

- **Annual Overviews/ reports:** there will be regular Programme wide overviews; these will draw on all of the evidence available to the evaluation team including that contained within the Performance Management framework, System K, etc
- **Case studies and policy studies:** annual Partnership level reports will no longer be produced; however the intention is that a small number of NDCs will be asked if they would like to become **case studies**; one of the key tasks in Phase 2 will be to understand how everything comes together at the neighbourhood scale; it is clearly not possible to do this everywhere, so we will be looking to do more detailed work in perhaps five or six NDCs; we will also be picking up emerging **policy issues** using evidence drawn from a sample of NDCs
- **Supporting and learning from local evaluation:** during Phase 2 an emphasis will be placed on the national evaluation team both helping to support local evaluation activities, but also learning from the evaluation evidence produced by NDCs and their local partners
- **Collective learning and dissemination:** the evaluation team is especially keen to work with NDCs and other partners to maximise our collective learning in order to disseminate findings from the evaluation to as wide an audience as possible; at the moment we are thinking of a variety of learning and synthesis events, action learning sets, and other activities; but we welcome other ideas

How can NDCs and other partners contribute to detailed thinking around Phase 2 tasks?

We welcome comments and ideas. At this stage there are two ways Partnerships can contribute:

- There will be opportunities for comments on how Phase 2 might pan out at the NDC 1 dissemination events referred to above
- Contact Paul Lawless the Director of the evaluation directly either on 0114 225 3529 or via p.l.lawless@shu.ac.uk

This is the first 'NDC 2' newsletter. We will be producing these relatively regularly. If NDCs or partners wish to raise any issues regarding their future content, distribution, frequency, and so on... again please contact Paul Lawless in the first instance.