

# NDC News



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

## Welcome!

Welcome to the February 08 edition of the NDC National Evaluation newsletter. This focuses on the lessons to be learned from the recently published programme wide overview. We also look at the implications that revisions to ONS population estimates have on NDCs. Finally, you will find information on the upcoming Ipsos MORI Household Survey 2008.

## Forthcoming reports

An annual report from 2006/07 has been just published:

- *New Deal for Communities: A Synthesis of New Programme-wide Evidence – 2006/07*

This report reviews the evidence on progress within the 39 NDC areas at achieving outcome change across the 36 key indicators and summarises learning from other strands of the research pertinent to understanding change.

[www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/676204](http://www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/676204)

Seven more will be published shortly:

- *The Six Case Studies – An Introduction*

A detailed analysis of the situation in the six case study areas aimed at setting the context for the programme of case study analysis that will be undertaken in these areas

- *Delivering Safer Neighbourhoods*

Evidence from the NDC Areas - case study research looking in-depth at the achievements, experiences and challenges in the six case study areas in relation to tackling crime and fear of crime

- *Displacement of Crime or Diffusion of Benefit – Evidence from the New Deal for Communities Programme*

A report setting out the evidence from detailed statistical analysis of the impact of NDC activity on the incidence of crime in surrounding areas

- *Devising and Delivering Masterplanning at Neighbourhood Level: Some Lessons from the NDC Programme*

The report identifies some of the main issues and learning points for NDCs from their involvement in masterplanning, focusing in particular on four case study areas.

- *Community Engagement: Some Lessons from the NDC Experience*

A report looking at the experience of four NDC partnerships in relation to community engagement

- *Communications: Some Lessons from the NDC Experience*

This report explores how four of NDC partnerships have communicated their messages to different audiences and presenting the lessons learnt in a form that is of use to other neighbourhood based regeneration initiatives and regeneration partners

- *Working with Local Strategic Partnerships and Local Area Agreements: Some lessons from the New Deal for Communities National Evaluation*

The study explores the relationship between four NDC partnerships and their LSP, and what impact it has on the Local Area Agreement (LAA)

All of these reports will be published on the evaluation website: [http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/ndc\\_reports\\_02.htm](http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/ndc_reports_02.htm).

## Current research

There are a number of research strands underway at the moment. In addition to the fourth **MORI Household Survey** (see over) and secondary **administrative data analysis**, qualitative work is being undertaken in NDC case study areas exploring both **community engagement** and **population turnover**, or churn. There are also a number of 'Practice Studies', focused on **worklessness**, the **youth advisors** programme, **community elections** and NDC **succession strategies**, each of which is looking at examples from a range of different NDCs.

## Programme wide overview 2006/07

**Paul Lawless**, Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research

Communities and Local Government has published an overview of new evidence collected during 2006/07. Referring to NDCs three main lessons can be drawn from survey and administrative data for the four year period 2001/2 to 2005/6.

**First, most indicators continue to move in a positive direction.** There have been some remarkable changes: a 20 percentage point fall in burglary and a 24 point rise in those thinking the NDC had improved the area. In broad terms there has tended to be more change for place based themes (crime, environment, housing and community) rather than for people based outcomes (education, health and worklessness).

**Second, there is evidence that more positive change occurred between 2002 and 2004 than in the following two year period.** However, in practice it is probably not possible continuously to improve scores across some indicators: there is bound to be something of a plateau effect.

**Third, change in NDC areas is broadly similar to that occurring elsewhere.** There tends to be marginally more change in NDC areas than in the similarly deprived comparator areas. But for most indicators NDCs changed at more or less the same rates as their parent local authorities.

A number of key lessons can be drawn from this new evidence which will be of particular importance as local authorities and their partners come to implement proposals for the new Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

First, different data sets are now consistently showing relationships between Partnership level spend and change for people based outcomes as a whole (health, education and jobs). **There is now positive evidence to show that the more a Partnership spends on people based outcomes, the more change occurs: persistence pays.**

Second, the more any NDC area has other overlapping Area Based Initiatives such as Sure Start, Drug Action Teams or Youth Inclusion Programmes, the more likely it is that positive change will occur. At least in some NDC neighbourhoods there is a sense that mutually supportive relationships across ABIs can create additional synergistic benefits for the area as a whole. This has clear implications for policy makers facing the perennial dilemma between spreading or 'nesting' resources: **focusing intervention in a small group of areas may be the best way of achieving real and sustainable outcome change.**

Third, there are strong, positive and persistent statistical relationships across place based outcomes: crime, fear of crime, satisfaction with the area and the local environment, thinking the area has improved, and so on. Improvements in one outcome area are associated with positive change in another. **This density of inter-relationships provides support for the notion of holistic, cross-outcome renewal programmes.**

And fourth, it has often been assumed that ABIs simply displace problems to surrounding areas. Crime is perhaps the best example of this assumed effect. However, work by the SDRC on police recorded crime data shows that where crime falls in NDC areas, it is also likely to fall, not rise, in surrounding neighbourhoods. **ABIs can have a positive halo effect on surrounding localities.**

New Deal for Communities: A synthesis of new programme-wide evidence – 2006-07 [www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/publications.asp?did=1930](http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/publications.asp?did=1930)

## Revisions to ONS population estimates: implications for the NDC Programme

In September 2007 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) revised its Local Authority level mid-year population estimates for the years 2002 to 2005. In parallel, ONS also revised sub-local authority population estimates for the years 2001 to 2005. These revisions have major implications for all administrative data indicators produced by the NDC National Evaluation Team (NET) which utilise population denominators.

Given the magnitude of the ONS revisions and the importance of ensuring the most accurate evidence base for Partnerships and the NET, it has been decided to revise the NDC population estimates and all those indicators which utilise these estimates. These forced revisions offer the opportunity to make improvements to the way NDC population data is collected. In effect, almost all administrative data indicators will be revised to provide the most up-to-date and accurate evidence base possible for the concluding phase of the NDC Programme.

ONS have kindly agreed to supply a new time series of population estimates to the NET for use in the NDC evaluation. The timetable for releasing the revised administrative data indicators is provisional at the moment but it is anticipated that revised datasets will be provided to Partnerships in April 2008.

Population estimates also inform weights used in the Ipsos MORI Household Survey. The full series of household survey data will also need to be revised accordingly. This will happen at the point of the release of new data from the 2008 survey data, which will occur in late 2008.

## MORI Household Survey 2008

You should now have been contacted by your dedicated Ipsos MORI contact regarding this years household survey (please contact details below if not).

The survey in 2008 is designed to measure change since the 2006 survey and includes:

- as many follow-up interviews as possible with those NDC residents who were contacted in the previous survey to track changes in their attitudes and circumstances;
- interviews with new respondents at the original address where the original respondent has moved or died; and
- additional interviews with residents from a newly drawn random sample of addresses.

The sample size will consist of 400 interviews in each NDC area (giving a total of 15,600 interviews across all areas).

**Sampling** will take place in January/February. The team will contact you to see whether there have been any significant changes in the housing stock in your area.

**Partnership specific questions** which you can add to the end of the survey will be designed between January and March with help from Ipsos MORI. Partnerships will have the opportunity to purchase an additional five minutes worth of interviewing. An additional five minutes will cost around £8,000, but this will depend on the number and type of questions included. For those who are interested, Ipsos MORI will be available to provide help and guidance on questionnaire design throughout February.

**Fieldwork** will take between May and November, with first results available to you by December (final data delivery dates TBC). A more detailed delivery timetable will be provided in due course.

The Ipsos MORI survey team would be happy to respond to any queries on the survey. Contact Leon Page (0207 347 3152): [leon.page@ipsos-mori.com](mailto:leon.page@ipsos-mori.com).

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](mailto:p.l.lawless@shu.ac.uk)

Further information on the evaluation, including reports, resources, contacts and previous newsletters can be found on the evaluation website: <http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/>