

23 September 2008

Dear Colleague

**RE: Consultation- The Future of Barnardos work in the South West Coalfield area of Sunderland 2008**

I have pleasure in enclosing an executive summary report of the above consultation exercise

The consultation asked key questions regarding the future work of Barnardos in the South West Coalfield Area.

The key questions asked were

- Did you agree with Moorsley which was identified in the previous consultation exercise carried out in 2004. If not, which area within the South West Coalfield would benefit from the community development approach used by Barnardos the Hive. And what issue/s were of the most concern to locally run groups and faith based organisations, local elected members and agencies offering services in the Coalfield Area?
- What are the options for the No 49 Allotment Project to continue or not?

The results of which are as follows;

In relation to the area-

- The Moorsley area (which includes Peat Carr) was favoured as the area that would benefit from Barnardo's The Hive Community Development approach to working in communities.
- The issues of most importance were the involvement of residents in decision making about their community, youth issues, alcohol and drugs, the need for a community building, work with children and access to services.

In relation to the allotment-

- Options two and three were favoured for the allotment, which are to keep the lease and look for partners to explore other possibilities e.g. further funding, different management.

We will be presenting these findings to meetings of Coalfield Forum, Coalfield Area Committee and Hetton Town Council which will give you an opportunity to ask questions. However, we will be 'kick starting' the process of undertaking initial development work (action research) in the Moorsley area recommended from the findings contained in the report.

In relation to the allotment discussions are in the early stages with a community group who has expressed an interest in continuing the support of the allotment as a community resource.

If you would like to speak to someone about the findings or would like a full copy of the report then please contact Marian McGuinness or myself.

Yours sincerely

Audrey Bewick  
Deputy Children's Services Manager