
Supporting evidence for: An early Progress Report on the New Deal for Communities Programme

NAO survey questions

to key local service delivery agents, (local authorities; the police; primary care trusts; education authorities; job centre plus), in New Deal for Community partnerships

REPORT BY THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL
HC 309 Session 2003-2004: 11 February 2004

Part 1: General overview

Q1 In general, and based on your experiences of working with NDC Partnership(s) to date, to what extent would you agree /disagree with the following statements. (Please tick one box only per statement)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
My Authority has been actively supportive of the work of the NDC partnership	56.4%	41.0%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%
My Authority has actively contributed to the development of the NDC's plans and priorities	43.6%	50.4%	5.1%	0.9%	0.0%
My Authority has been appropriately consulted by the NDC Partnership on relevant matters	20.5%	62.4%	14.5%	1.7%	0.9%
The NDC Partnership priorities and projects strongly reflect the neighbourhood's needs	29.1%	55.6%	11.1%	0.0%	2.6%
Decision making that significantly influences the community has been devolved to the Partnership	23.1%	44.4%	23.1%	0.0%	8.5%
The NDC has been effective at encouraging community participation	21.4%	50.4%	23.1%	2.6%	2.6%
The NDC has been effective at encouraging the participation of ethnic minority community members	15.4%	49.6%	16.2%	2.6%	16.2%
We have actively supported developing the capacity of the community to address Crime/education etc.	22.2%	65.0%	7.7%	0.0%	4.3%
The NDC's working practices and processes promote effective, open and accountable decision making	20.5%	41.9%	25.6%	6.8%	5.1%
The NDC Partnership has been effective at communicating with the community it serves	11.1%	56.4%	24.8%	1.7%	5.1%

N= 116

Part 2: The effect of the New Deal for Community programme on your Authority's strategic plans relating to the neighbourhood

Q2 Since its introduction, what impact has the NDC partnership had on your strategic plan(s) for that neighbourhood? (Please tick one box)	No change to plan(s)	5.1%
	Small changes	56.4%
	Major changes	35.9%
	Complete change of plan(s)	0.9%

N= 115

Q3 In your view, how influential have the following bodies/factors been in shaping your strategic plans for the NDC neighbourhood? (Please tick)

	Not very	Quite	Very	Extremely
Government Departments eg Home Office, Dept of Health etc	23.9%	32.5%	31.6%	9.4%
Your Authority's local policies and rolling programmes and budgets etc	11.1%	30.8%	47.0%	8.5%
Regional Development Agencies	65.8%	23.1%	4.3%	0.9%
The Local Strategic Partnership	37.6%	38.5%	16.2%	3.4%
Other Area Based Initiatives	33.3%	43.6%	17.1%	0.0%
NDC Partnership(s)	12.8%	43.6%	25.6%	16.2%
Other local groups	23.1%	43.6%	16.2%	1.7%

N= 114

Q4 Where you have participated in the NDC programme, has this required the Authority to co-operate more extensively with other organisations, both public and private (Please tick)

	Yes	No
For strategic planning purposes?	56.4%	42.7%
To meet service delivery requirements?	61.5%	36.8%

N= 116

Part 3: The working relationship between yourselves and the NDC Board and neighbourhood.

Q5 Are there sound processes that you feel demonstrate accountability between yourselves and the NDC partnership? (Please tick)	Yes	70.1%
	No	25.6%

N= 112

Q6 In general, how much influence do you feel you have in determining the priorities and projects being pursued by the NDC partnership in your area of expertise (eg, crime, health, education, worklessness, environment etc). (Please tick)	Little influence	5.1%
	Some	44.4%
	Strong	30.8%
	Considerable influence	17.1%

N= 114

Q7 Do you think it would be more appropriate if you had more influence in the activities of the NDC	Yes	32.5%
	No	65.0%

N= 114

Q8 Do you evaluate the cost effectiveness of NDC Partnership proposals and projects in your specialist area (eg crime, health, education etc)....(Please tick)

	Yes	No
In your capacity as a member of the NDC Board or relevant steering group?	62.4%	29.9%
As a potential service provider?	61.5%	30.8%

N= 108

Q9 Based on your working relationship with the NDC partnership, how would you score the relative strengths of the NDC partnership in the following areas (1 High and 5 Low)

	1. High	2.	3	4	5 Low
1. General Management skills	16.2%	27.4%	34.2%	15.4%	5.1%
2. Technical skills	8.5%	26.5%	44.4%	14.5%	1.7%
3. Project management skills	10.3%	37.6%	33.3%	12.0%	4.3%
4. Communication skills	12.0%	30.8%	32.5%	17.1%	5.1%
5. Staff retention	12.8%	34.2%	26.5%	9.4%	8.5%
6. Engagement with the community	18.8%	29.1%	32.5%	15.4%	0.9%
7. Co-operation between different community groups	12.0%	29.9%	32.5%	16.2%	6.8%

N= 115

Part 4: The impact of NDC funding on your budget allocations for the NDC neighbourhood

Q10 The additional funding received via the NDC partnership has been used to?(please tick all the boxes that apply)

A) increase the existing services already supplied to the NDC neighbourhood	66.7%
B) bring forward projects planned by the Authority for the neighbourhood	30.8%
C) deliver additional projects identified by the NDC Partnership	76.9%
D) substitute for actual/proposed Authority funding in this area	6.0%

N= 107

Q11 Since the start of the NDC initiative have you had to find additional finance to enable you to promote/ deliver NDC projects from(Please tick)

	Yes	No
A) elsewhere in your budget?	38.5%	47.9%
B) other Central Government funding/initiatives?	40.2%	41.0%

N= 101

Part 5: Lessons you have learned from the NDC programme so far and your overall conclusions to date

Q12 In your view, how effective has the NDC initiative been to date in helping to address [Crime /health etc] in your area

Extremely effective	6.0%
Very effective	14.5%
Quite effective	65.0%
Not at all effective	9.4%

N= 101