

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Inner North-West Community Strategy 2007-2012

Update 2010

	Actions	Update 2010
A1.	Develop a communications plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A joint communications plan is still under development but is expected to be steered by the recent waste management research.</li> </ul>
A2.	Establish an internal community and housing steering group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversee the implementation of the strategy and action plan</li> <li>• To steer and guide the work of the Community Policy Officer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CHSG has met 8 times in the last 12 months.</li> <li>• Key achievements include developing a multi-agency plan for improving community relations around Devonshire Hall, enhanced strategic relationship with the Council and a response to Leeds City Council's Core Strategy Development Plan.</li> </ul>
A3.	Establish an annual Community and Housing Forum. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on the progress of the strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2010 Community and Housing Forum will follow a similar model and it is anticipated that there will be wider attendance from key strategic partners.</li> </ul>
A4.	Hold an annual meeting with local councillors to discuss emerging issues and priorities for the local community and steer the development of new projects to address these.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All local councillor meetings have taken place. Councillors have been informed of progress and new priorities set for each ward.</li> <li>• Area Management meetings have continued and we are feeding into the Area Delivery Plan.</li> <li>• Meetings have continued with the Environmental Services Divisional Leadership Team. Following on from the focus on waste management, discussions now include community safety, noise and Woodhouse Moor.</li> <li>• Two pieces of research were undertaken this year in partnership with the Council to identify the barriers to effect waste management in student populated areas. The first, undertaken by Leeds University Union, highlighted the motivation and willingness of our students to recycle; but that the infrastructure is inadequate for their needs (92% recycle sometimes and 50% reported that they did not have a wheelie bin).</li> <li>• Wider research was commissioned by the Council and involved a number of focus groups with students and non-students, including key community representatives.</li> <li>• The findings are currently being interpreted into an action plan to be delivered from this academic year. A communications plan is to be drafted alongside to ensure that our students are aware of how to correctly use the waste services in Leeds.</li> </ul>
A5.	Ensure staff and student representation and contribution to key stakeholder groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collectively address issues and negative perceptions of students</li> <li>• Increased student engagement in local democratic processes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The University's Community Policy Officer continues to attend key community forums and meetings.</li> <li>• Continued University representation on strategic groups, including the Private Rented Sector Strategy Group and the Harmonious Leeds group.</li> <li>• University continued representation at the Councils senior Environmental Services Leadership Team.</li> <li>• University Community Reps continued in 2009/10.</li> <li>• University leading a consultation exercise with our students as part of the new Vision for Leeds.</li> </ul>

A6.	Share best practice with other HEIs through existing Networks (e.g. Student Volunteering England, Russell Group, West Yorkshire HEIs, Yorkshire Universities, Universities UK).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UUK community relations group continues to share best practice on key issues including noise, waste, transport and policing.</li> <li>• The Russell Group for Community Engagement has reformed to inform national policy.</li> <li>• The joint NUS and UUK report, Living Together, Working Together, has recently been published as a best practice guide for the Higher Education sector in managing community relations and collaborative partnerships between universities and student unions. We are pleased to be cited as best practice for our Community Strategy, Community and Housing Steering Group and the Leave Leeds Tidy campaign. The report highlights our strategic approach and commitment to strong and mutually beneficial partnership between the University and Union and an integrated approach to our local communities.</li> <li>• The University is represented at national volunteering events and conferences to share best practice and shape policy in the sector.</li> </ul>
A7.	Develop the University's community webpages. Increased public awareness and attendance at events, concerts, lectures and seminars, exhibitions, discussion and reading groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The University's new web site has been developed. A 12 month programme has been instigated to update all community relations pages.</li> </ul>
A8.	Publish a community e- zine (4 circulations per annum).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two community ezines have been sent out covering housing developments, volunteering and the waste research.</li> </ul>
A9.	Annual web-based update on the University's community engagement and progress of strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report available May 09</li> </ul>
A10.	Develop a Public Engagement Strategy to steer the University's research, teaching and outreach activity through consultation with the broader public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The University is actively engaged with the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public engagement through a research programme into the barriers to volunteering.</li> <li>• The University is working with the Pathways to Participation Research with the National Centre for Voluntary Organisations to identify and increase individuals' participation in communities.</li> </ul>
B1.	Consider the establishment of a University interfaith steering group to promote understanding and tolerance.	The University's Vinvolve Team have supported a number of interfaith projects this year, including: the Involve Centre's alternative education scheme, Woodsley Road Centre out of school clubs and Concord's interfaith programme.
B2.	Develop a University policy on charitable giving and fundraising.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proceeds from the staff festival were donated to Walk for Life.</li> </ul>
B3.	Work with LUU to develop a community guide to provide advice and guidance to students about living in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This year the Community Guide is being developed as an online resource to communicate with all our students key neighbourhood messages about living in Leeds.</li> <li>• Existing communication channels, including the student portal, The Gist, emails and student newspaper, will be utilised through the year to highlight key messages including noise, waste, travel and getting actively involved in local communities.</li> </ul>
B4.	Support Unipol and LUU Student Advice Centre production of a community directory to enable students to make informed decisions about where to live in the private rented sector (i.e. social, cultural and economic).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The University has again contributed to the Unipol tabloid articles about living in the community.</li> </ul>
B5.	Maintain and increase awareness of the Neighbourhood Helpline, including the production of a Code of Standard to clearly define the University's role and responsibility with regards to students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness of the Helpline continues to be widened with more calls being received than the previous academic year.</li> <li>• The partnership between the Universities, Police and Council continues to develop. Several joint visits have been undertaken this year to collectively address local concerns regarding noise</li> </ul>

	living in non-University accommodation.	<p>and waste. Further joint communications have been developed by the partnership to raise student's awareness of local issues including Noise Action Week 26-30<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Further communication and campaigns are being developed for the new intake in October.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leeds Trinity, Leeds City College and Leeds College of Music are now involved to ensure that the Helpline is addressing as many of the complaints received as possible.</li> <li>• The University has worked closely this year with local Councillors, residents, Police and Council to address noise and antisocial behaviour issues around Devonshire Hall. Two public meetings were held to look at solutions including the proposal to introduce a 'Quiet Zone' around Devonshire to remind our students to travel to and from their accommodation quietly.</li> <li>• The Helpline report will be available on the University's web pages in September.</li> </ul>
B6.	Investigate the potential to offer first year students a module on citizenship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of academic schools and departments run elective modules which enable our students to be active participants in local communities as part of their studies. Modules require a substantial time-commitment, ranging from 20 to 60 hours school contact (depending on the subject). Each module varies in content but all involve working as a classroom assistant (or coach, in the case of sports) and preparing a project or teaching resources for the school in which students are placed.</li> </ul>
B7.	Work with West Yorkshire Police, other Leeds HEIs and Unipol to address crime and student safety through the Leeds Universities Crime Reduction Partnership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Leeds Communities Crime Reduction Partnership has continued with its work to reduce crime issues within inner North-West Leeds. Addressing the number of burglaries, particularly insecure burglaries, has been a priority issue this year for the University and West Yorkshire Police.</li> <li>• The Home Office funding has now ended, but has offered the partnership the opportunity to develop the Knowledge Campaign and deliver a number of successful activities which together have shown a 10% reduction this year in burglaries against students, with the rate of insecure burglaries on student properties falling by nearly 30% compared with 2008/09.</li> <li>• Key deliverables included: 600 households received home safety packs, production of 3 short films and virals which were viewed by over 5000 households, and 500 households were visited and given crime prevention advice as part of Operation Balloon.</li> <li>• Twelve Neighbourhood Watch Student Co-ordinators were recruited in September 2009, to undertake activity to prevent other students from being victims of crime. This year they have recruited over 50 volunteers to support them in their area, visited over 600 properties to speak to residents about their concerns and give out crime statistics, give out 300 pieces of home safety equipment and were involved with 5 Operation Balloon sessions.</li> <li>• Funding is currently being sought by the partnership for the continuation of the Knowledge Campaign and the Student Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Scheme.</li> </ul>
B8.	Work with Leeds Primary Care Trust to promote student health and well-being.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Leeds Parkrun continues to be popular activity with staff, students and our local community and all come together each Saturday morning at Woodhouse Moor to enjoy this shared community space and get physically active.</li> <li>• The University's flagship fitness, sport and wellbeing facility, The Edge, opened on the 4th May offering student, staff and community members access to some of the best facilities in Leeds, including: Leeds' largest indoor sports halls with performance sports floors and lighting, a 25m 8 lane swimming</li> </ul>

		<p>pool, the largest fitness suite of any UK university with state-of-the-art equipment, 3 dedicated class studios, a performance strength and conditioning facility, squash courts, climbing wall, and a whole range of additional facilities for members to enjoy 52 weeks of the year. For details of our competitive membership rates visit <a href="http://sport.leeds.ac.uk/">http://sport.leeds.ac.uk/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The University's launched its Mini Gryphon Athletics Club, in October 2009 and brings local children each week to campus to introduce and develop their athletic skills. Supervised by qualified coaches, activities include standing long jump, indoor foam javelin, shuttle runs &amp; speed bounce.</li> <li>• In the build-up to London 2012, it is our vision to deliver an inspirational Olympic programme which contributes to the transformation of our University and the wider community through its projects. Our programme includes an Olympic Sports Scholarship to ensure we support our athlete scholars to fulfil their potential, work with over 300 school partners to help educate children on the Olympic philosophy, raise awareness of London 2012 and the core messages of wider cultural awareness and participation in HE, and our 'Celebrating The Games' public lecture series to reflect on the Olympic &amp; Paralympic movements and the cultural, media and sporting impact of the Games. For more information on the University's Olympic programme visit <a href="http://olympics.leeds.ac.uk/">http://olympics.leeds.ac.uk/</a></li> <li>• The Bardon Grange project continues to involve students and the local community how to grow their own organic fruit and vegetables at the University's plant nurseries at Oxley Hall. New members are currently being sought.</li> </ul>
B9.	Work with LUU to remove barriers to students engaging in local political processes (e.g. voting registering).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LUU run a campaign this year to raise our student's awareness of their voting rights in the local and national elections and encourage them to participate.</li> <li>• LUU undertook a democracy review to ensure decision making at the Union benefits all of its members. Three forums will be created, Better University, Better Union and Better Leeds, to encourage a more local focus of Union activity and ensure activity is relevant to current students.</li> </ul>
B10.	Work with LUU and the North-West Leeds Area Management Team to facilitate the arrival and departure of students to the city.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LUU have again secured Well-Being Funding from Area Management to run the Leave Leeds Tidy and Green Streets Campaigns. This year funding includes the cost of an independent researcher to evaluate the success and impact of the project. A team of 50 student volunteers are involved with this year's Green Streets initiative and are set to shift more than the record 21 tones of unwanted items they moved from the Headingley and Hyde Park areas during last year's initiative. Leave Leeds Tidy has again been awarded funding by Area Management. This year the leaflet and website have been redesigned to be more appealing to our students and local residents.</li> <li>• This year the items collected by Green Streets will be redistributed through freeshops held within the local community, including Ash Green Community Primary School, Hawksworth Wood Children's Centre, Hunslet Community Project, The Involve Learning Centre, Woodhouse Community Centre, Swarthmore Education Centre and Burley Lodge Centre</li> <li>• Leave Leeds Tidy was cited as best practice for the sector in the recent joint NUS and UUK report, Living Together, Working Together.</li> <li>• Green Streets won Project of the Year at the University's Leeds for Life Citizenship Awards.</li> </ul>

B11.	Seek funding to continue the successful Leeds University Community Initiative (LUCI).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LUCI has been subsumed within the Leeds for Life programme. Grants are made available to students who wish to make a positive contribution to society from local to international.</li> <li>• Leeds for Life is also funding services and faculties to create opportunities for students to benefit wider society</li> <li>• The Leeds for Life Foundation has awarded funding to 38 student-led projects which will help students to develop their skills, broaden their life experience and benefit others.</li> <li>• Projects from students in 15 schools, will operate in 16 countries and include such challenging aims as building schools in Uganda, documenting the lives of street children in India, organising a theatre festival in San Francisco and running activities weekends for disadvantaged teenagers in Leeds.</li> </ul>
B12.	Continue to support the Up Your Street umbrella project.  DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See B10 for an update on the Leave Leeds Tidy Campaign.</li> <li>• The Holbourn Estate was selected this year to benefit from the University's Social Responsibility in Practice project. Volunteers from the University and business partners spent a day working on improving the visual appearance of the estate.</li> <li>• Since the introduction of our travel Plan the University has proudly been able to achieve: single occupancy car journeys have been reduced by 24% for staff and 14% for students, walking among staff has increased by 40%, and 24% more staff use public transport as a commuting mode.</li> <li>• The travel survey of our accommodation sites has indicated that only six per cent of first year students in University accommodation bring cars to Leeds, and of this, only 0.5 per cent of our students use a car for commuting to the main campus.</li> </ul>
B13.	Continue to support the regeneration of the most deprived communities of Leeds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This year's statistics are currently being compiled, but indicate another good year for University engagement in the local community.</li> <li>• This year the Vinvolve team at the University have brokered 737 volunteers to over 39 different projects. Of these, 339 had never volunteered before.</li> </ul>
C1.	Conduct an audit of facilities and resources available to the public and make details available on the University's website. (e.g. sports venues and services, libraries, lectures and surplus equipment).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The University and Marks and Spencer public lecture series began on the 16<sup>th</sup> September with an inaugural lecture from Sir Stuart Rose tracing the history of the business, followed by a lecture which focused on the growth and development of the international business of M&amp;S. In addition, 5 lectures have been held covering global markets, fashion and marketing.</li> <li>• The Marks in Time exhibition has now opened in the University's Centenary Gallery, Parkinson Court and is free to visit Mon-Sat. The exhibition tracks the journey from market stall to penny bazaar to international retailer; showcasing how M&amp;S is woven into the fabric of UK life - from the clothes we wear and the food we eat, to the high moral and ethical standards we expect from businesses and employers today. See rare documents, artefacts, merchandise, film and photographs re-creating the M&amp;S we all know and love - a remarkable national treasure.</li> </ul> <p>The University has successfully received Heritage Lottery funding to work on a joint project with Marks and Spencer and Leeds City Council to stimulate learning and interest in the Marks &amp; Spencer archive. The project will work with primary and secondary schools, parents/carers, and community groups in the most socially and economically deprived communities of Leeds characterised by a tradition of non-engagement with heritage. The project will further open up Marks in Time, City Museum, Lotherton Hall and University as a resource to local schools, families and the broader community and help people to</p>

		<p>understand the value of heritage initiatives and develop a clearer understanding of the benefits of engaging with our past, present and future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The University will again be opening up the campus as part of our contribution to the City's Light Night celebrations in October.</li> <li>• The University's flagship fitness, sport and wellbeing facility, The Edge, opened on the 4th May offering access to some of the best facilities in Leeds to our students, staff and community members.</li> </ul>
C2.	Work with LUU to support student activities in the local community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This year the Vinvolve team at the University have brokered 737 volunteers to over 39 different projects. Of these, 339 had never volunteered before.</li> <li>• This year's Volunteering Awards, now known as the Leeds For Life Citizenship Awards, involved around 150 guests, including students, staff representatives from voluntary, public and private sector partners who came together to celebrate and recognise student volunteers' commitment and involvement with local and international communities.</li> <li>• Each year the University and Leeds University Union collectively support more than 2000 students to engage in voluntary work or accredited placements</li> <li>• Professor Vivien Jones, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Teaching, said: "I am enormously proud of the scale and breadth of our students' contribution to society; from supporting our local communities and applied community-based research to international volunteering activities, all of which help promote our University's shared values of community, integrity and inclusiveness.</li> <li>• This year's winners included a project in which a student ran workshops for young people with cancer, a programme to educate young people about sex and relationships and a scheme to tidy and upkeep the Woodhouse Ridge area of Leeds.</li> <li>• The University is involved with the Council's Year of the Volunteer programme to encourage more of our students to engage in volunteering activity. The B V Bus will be returning to campus in November to inspire and sign up more of our students to engage in volunteering activity.</li> </ul>
C3.	Produce a list of local facilities and resources available to University staff and students (e.g. community resources and events).	Details of community facilities and events will be included in our new Community Guide website.
C4.	Work with the University's stakeholders to identify and support initiatives which respond to emerging local priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This year the Vinvolve team at the University have brokered 737 volunteers to over 39 different projects. Of these, 339 had never volunteered before.</li> <li>• Projects include: placing student volunteers to support the young people at EastMoor Secure Children's Unit, making a visually attractive outside space at the Involve young people's Centre in Hunslet, Lifeforce Productions, Leeds Play Network</li> <li>• The VTeam also supported and promoted volunteering opportunities for the Leeds Teaching Hospitals and Sick Children's Trust Appeals in order to raise the funds required to move the children's cancer centre from St James to the LGI and supported the work of Fem Soc to meet the national and local priority of raising awareness of violence against women.</li> </ul>
C5.	Work with faculties to link student research modules to research needs in the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Faculty of Arts has been awarded a Leeds for Life grant to pilot a research program where four groups of students will undertake research from those provided by four community organisations including Leeds Black Elders, and the conservation charity BTCV.</li> <li>• Student volunteers have been recruited and placed with local</li> </ul>

		community research projects including: working with the Prison Service to look into their visiting systems and volunteering with Starts in the Sky to research how their friendship/dating service has affected mental health and well being of its service users.
C6.	Work with Director of Well-being, Safety and Health to enhance the opportunities for staff to further engage in volunteering activity within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconfiguration of volunteering is underway and staff volunteering will be considered as part of this exercise</li> <li>• The Faculty of Arts are working on the development of a staff volunteering programme with the support of ACE, Careers, Alumni and Leeds for Life.</li> </ul>
C7.	Work with faculties to create links with businesses in the city and give students first-hand knowledge of the Corporate Social Responsibility agenda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Holbourn Estate was selected this year to benefit from the University's Social Responsibility in Practice project. The volunteering day was hosted by Groundwork and West North West Homes to rejuvenate the Holborn's Estate in Woodhouse. Students and private partners worked together to undertake tasks including shrub clearance, fence painting and litter picking.</li> </ul>