



Social Care: Past and Present

Sheffield Health Action Zone

V/o:

Yvonne Wells has lived in the area all her life. Both Darnall and Tinsley qualify for help under the single regeneration budget. It's funded a number of new posts on community projects. Yvonne is one of the new appointees. She's based here at a local surgery.

Yvonne:

Darnall is part of a health action zone; it's what the government set up in areas that they consider highly deprived, either high unemployment, low income, areas as such. We help to get people interested in health issues through exercise, diet, things all related to health, but one of our main concerns is there's not a lot of spare money about, people can't afford to go to health clubs, so what we hope to do is set up health walks, they're free so there's going to be no cost, and it'll open exercise to everybody.

V/o:

The local park has been neglected but now there are moves to restore it. The park and the new ranger, Jason Gallagher, are key to Yvonne's scheme.

Yvonne:

I'm wondering if that's where we could actually where we could feed in.

Jason:

On Monday, May Day, we had the launch of the summer programme, so that's our big sort of ranger fun day, and we had sort of at least two or three hundred parents come along and in excess of sort of 500-600 kids, and we've had a really successful day, due to the weather, I mean it's a bit windy and that, but Monday was an excellent day, and hopefully that's got us off to a good start. One of the things we can do here, having events in the park and then liaising with the local schools, is to get kids from all sorts of ethnic backgrounds in, and the launch day was excellent for that 'cos, you know, there's an enormous number of sort of Asian kids, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, and basically everyone was in the park. It was good to see everyone in the park enjoying the same sort of activities that way, and it was just a really nice atmosphere, a really nice event, it worked really well.

V/o:

When there is regeneration money to spend, Yvonne knows care must be taken allocating resources to new projects. If it's assumed that some groups are getting more favourable treatment it can lead to difficulties. This is an issue that Yvonne has given some thought to.

Yvonne:

If you're living on the bottom of a ladder, or a bottom rung, you're very suspicious of anybody, you want the best, you're normal, you want to have what other people have, and if you see the money going to one group and that, you do start questioning why them and why not me? It's a natural, human reaction, that's where the problems are starting to build up, and that's why when we're doing any work we must be very careful where we do it, whereabouts we set clubs up, whereabouts we set facilities up, where we spend the money. At the end of the day we want a complete unit.

Woman:

To a certain degree it is, yes.

Yvonne:

I'm not an outsider that's coming in and saying yes, I know what you want. I can talk to the people from the area, and they'll respond and talk to me because I am local, I am known in

the area. I know the problems because I've lived the problems, so I've not learnt it from books. The job that I do was advertised in a local paper, and my mother actually spotted it, and I'd just finished university on an HND course and I wanted to be fixed in an area that I knew, that I thought I could make a difference, and where I like the people. So for me it was an ideal opportunity to give back some of the support that the local community has given me.