Community Action Scheme
Spennymoor
22 January to 31 March 2018

Background
The Community Action Team (CAT) tackled a range of housing and environmental problems in Spennymoor in an area covering 590 properties from 22 January to 31 March 2018.

Community Engagement
At the start of the project the CAT spoke with residents, landlords and community organisations in the area.

Residents were encouraged to come along to two drop-in sessions at Spennymoor Leisure Centre to share their concerns about the area and speak about the project.

All houses in the target area were leafleted and posters displayed in local shops. Surveys were left in local venues.
Priorities

Priorities were set after the community engagement events took place. From the information gathered, partners chose the following priorities for action:

- Rubbish that has been dumped in gardens, on streets and on waste ground
- Identifying and taking action against dog fouling in yards and the wider community
- Improving housing standards and management of private rented property
- Dealing with empty properties

Evaluation

At the end of the scheme, an evaluation process was implemented, seeking feedback from residents and people who attended drop-in sessions, as well as producing an exit plan to continue to deal with any identified issues.

Activities carried out included:

- Weekly walkabouts – identified over 150 issues of concern 39 legal notices served
- New stickers put up to encourage the use of dog fouling bins
- Wardens carried out additional patrols at dog fouling hotspots and investigated fly tipping in the back lanes
- 26 households had their bins marked with house numbers
- 37 households received information about preventing dampness in their home
- A missing gate survey was carried out. 12 property owners were recommended to reinstate gates
- The Fire Service carried out 40 Safe and Wellbeing visits highlighting rubbish in rear yards that can cause fires and assisted in identifying properties with accumulations
- 2 resident drop-in sessions were held. 24 people received Age UK call blocker advice
- Community litter picks took place on 15 February and 4 April
- Groundwork are working with the local schools to talk to children and families about littering and dog fouling.
- The green areas within the terraces have been looked at and it is planned to remove some of the bushes to prevent litter being trapped in them. Nearby residents will be consulted before removal.

Community engagement

First partner walkabout

Community litter pick

Bin marking sessions
Although the CAT has moved onto another area, the residual council services and partner agencies will continue to operate in Spennymoor.

**Further information**

For information on what and where the CAT is working currently, please visit our Community Action Scheme - current project webpage.

You can also find out what work the CAT has carried out in other areas of the county by visiting our Community Action Scheme webpage.

**Contact us**

For further information on the CAT, or to report any issues of concern in your area, please e-mail us at CommunityActionTeam@durham.gov.uk or call the team on 03000 261 016.