

Lessons from the Social Inclusion Partnerships in Scotland

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Overview of Presentation

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 - Choice of areas and thematic groups
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1. Introduction

- Social Inclusion Partnerships (SIPs)
 - Area-based (34) or thematic (14)
 - Holistic regeneration – physical, social and economic
 - Partnerships involving the local community, voluntary organisations, businesses, public sector agencies and local authorities
 - Cover populations of between 4,000 and 40,000
 - Funding of £60 million (c. €90 million) in 2003/04
 - Funding for up to 10 years
 - Majority in urban areas – but small number in rural areas

2. Policy Context for SIPs

- Rationale for establishing SIPs
 - Build on successes of previous area-based regeneration approaches in Scotland
 - New Life for Urban Scotland
 - Priority Partnership Areas/Regeneration Partnerships
 - Establishment of Scottish Executive
 - Major policy focus on 'social justice'
 - Reflect increasing focus on bending mainstream funding towards disadvantaged areas or groups

2. Policy Context for SIPs (cont.)

- Choice of areas and thematic groups
 - Existing PPAs/RPs
 - Challenge funding
 - Need (councils containing 10% 'most deprived' enumeration districts eligible to apply)
 - Potential (applications included a draft strategy)
 - Thematic areas – growing consensus of need for partnership approach to address issues of concern

3. Approaches taken by SIPs

- Focus on co-operation, prevention and innovation
 - Partnership approaches
 - Community participation
 - Bending mainstream funding/joining-up services
 - Fund projects to fill gaps in services
 - Links with other programmes/initiatives (e.g. New Deal)
 - Importance of outcomes (monitoring and evaluation)

3. Approaches taken by SIPs (cont.)

- Bending Mainstream Spending
 - Limited success in bending mainstream spend
 - More emphasis placed on innovation and acting as a catalyst
 - Lack of clarity and urgency around objective
 - Not included in annual reporting mechanisms
 - Some agencies have undergone major structural changes
 - Little analysis of service provision by SIPs
 - Little involvement in project design
 - Partners not motivated to or not willing to bend resources

3. Approaches taken by SIPs (cont.)

- Links with other programmes/initiatives
 - Barriers include programme characteristics; information flows, organisational issues and monitoring structures
 - Main benefit of integration is enhanced range and quality of services for community
 - Actions to promote more joined-up working include:
 - facilitating information sharing
 - promoting overlapping board membership
 - bringing operational staff together
 - providing incentives for joint working
 - building capacity for partnership working

4. Links with National Strategies

- SIPs pre-date 'Social Justice...a Scotland Where Everyone Matters'
- Amended strategies in line with Social Justice milestones
- Limited links to other strategies e.g. housing, employment, etc.
- 'Better Communities in Scotland: Closing the Gap'

5. Issues to date

- Lack of clarity about purpose and priorities
- Setting objectives, monitoring and evaluation were all inhibited by poor baseline data
- Targets set were linked to national objectives - not all targets were relevant for all SIPs
- Ensuring full engagement of key partner agencies
- Engaging the community in a meaningful way

6. Looking to the future

- Community Planning Partnerships will take over responsibility for SIPs in 2004
- Building on experience of SIPs in engaging communities in decision making
- Continued or enhanced focus on communities, both geographic and thematic that need resources most
- Expected that SIP funds will be more focused on national priorities

7. Lessons for Targeted Interventions

- By promoting a 'bottom-up' approach, challenge funding can improve the quality of and commitment to area-based approaches
- Regeneration works best when it is holistic – physical, economic and social regeneration
- Area-based approaches (partnership, joined-up working, bending mainstream spend) can also work for thematic groups
- Long term funding is essential

7. Lessons for Targeted Interventions (cont.)

- Set clear and concise objectives with reference to established baselines
- Importance of linking local partnership objectives to national strategies – but care needs to be taken in setting appropriate targets
- Provides incentives for the main agencies to work in partnership to look at 'bending' the spend to promote social inclusion
- Importance of building in appropriate monitoring and evaluation from beginning
- Need clear exit strategy from early stage