

## Case Study - Temple Hill Healthy Living Project

Temple Hill is an area of Council housing built in the 1950s. Today around 50 per cent of the properties are owner occupied.

Temple Hill covers the two wards of Joyce Green and Littlebrook. Joyce Green was identified in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2000) as being within the 10% most deprived wards within the country.

The community is well established and stable but is now facing significant changes in its structure and surroundings. A key development within the community is the St Edmunds Centre Project which involves the demolition of the Parish Church and creation of an integrated Church, health, community and social housing centre. The Healthy Living Project, launched in March 2003, will eventually be based there.

The Healthy Living project was developed following consultation with the community and focuses on five key groups:-

- Under 5s,
- Young People,
- Isolated Elderly
- Economic Need
- Mental Health

Funding comes from Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Primary Care Trust and Dartford Borough Council. A Healthy Living Project Coordinator was appointed in August 2002 reporting to the Temple Hill Community Forum.

Currently based in the old doctor's surgery in Temple Hill Square, the project is already providing a focus for the Temple Hill community. It will transfer to the new St Edmunds Centre later this year.

Limited funding means the project relies on links with existing groups, for instance the under 5s work is carried out through the SureStart Initiative and some of the issues around young people have been dealt with through the Children's Fund project "Don't Sit - Get Fit" and also the Positive Futures Programme.

The Steering Group is made up of statutory and voluntary agency representative as well as residents.

The project is an excellent example of partnership involving not only the Church and the Council but also the North Kent Gateway Partnership (the SRB Board for North Kent), Groundwork Kent Thames-side, the Primary Care Trust and most importantly the people who live on Temple Hill. It is also a key part of the work of the Dartford Health Action Team (HAT) a group chaired by the Council with representation from statutory, voluntary and community organisations.

HAT's aims are to address the health needs of the locality; to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and responsiveness of services across agencies; develop partnerships for improving health and social well-being.

HAT, in conjunction with Gravesham Health Action Group, has proved useful in securing external funding for health related projects.

In addition to the £100,000 committed by the Council and Primary Care Trust to fund the Project Coordinator for five years, a further £140,000 has been committed in kind from statutory, voluntary and business partners. A number of projects have also been successful in gaining external funding for example the Teen shelter.