



## Supporting Evidence for Local Delivery (SELD) South West

[www.seldsw.org.uk](http://www.seldsw.org.uk)

### Progress update (March 2006)

*“If we are to become more effective in delivering sustainable community, environmental and economic solutions for our neighbourhoods we need to learn how to deliver those solutions more effectively. Evidence is the key to that learning.”*

## The story so far...

You may have heard the name 'SELD' recently, but what is it? Who's it for? What's it doing? Well the answers are all here, so read on...

## Background

Supporting Evidence for Local Delivery (SELD) is a pilot initiative which aims to improve the delivery of Neighbourhood Renewal through enhancing the quality and use of evidence at a local level throughout the Neighbourhood Renewal process.

SELD activities are characterised by doing, learning and sharing. In addition to directly supporting partnerships, organisations and individuals, we gather learning about good practice and obstacles to the effective use of evidence. We then share this learning around the region and feed it back to other agencies and partners nationally.

SELD is funded by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (NRU) in Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and is operating in four regions across England. Here in the South West SELD is supported by the regeneration networks of creating:excellence and the intelligence networks of the south west observatory

SELD South West has now been fully operational for just over six months. In that time the staff team, has been engaged in various activities across the region which are summarised on the following pages.

With two dedicated staff in place, the team operates from its base in Taunton and around the region. The pilot is currently set to run until July 2006, during which time, the need for further support around effective evidence use to support local delivery, will be reviewed.

**As you read on, can you think of ways in which SELD could help you, your teams or others working in your area to improve what they do?**

**Please circulate this update to colleagues and make them aware of our website [www.seldsw.org.uk](http://www.seldsw.org.uk).**

## What has SELD been doing?

### Enquiry Service

SELD offers a free enquiry service which has been receiving an increasing number of enquires about evidence use in local delivery as word spreads about the service. Typical enquires have included:

- Help locating data on **specific themes**  
(e.g. “Where can I find data about local businesses?”)
- Help locating data about **specific groups** of people  
(e.g. “How do I locate older people who have trouble accessing services?”)
- Guidance on **research methods**  
(e.g. “What do I need to consider when conducting a survey of service users?”)
- Advice on **evaluation**  
(e.g. “Where can I find basic guidance on evaluation to give to our projects?”)
- Finding evidence specific to **programme requirements**  
(e.g. “How do I identify if our area is in the 3% most deprived in England?”)
- Enquiries from **funding advisers**  
(e.g. “How do I profile our area to support a project funding bid”)
- Enquiries from **community development** workers  
(e.g. “How do I identify the neighbourhoods in our area where most ethnic minority residents live?”)
- Enquiries from **Local Strategic Partnerships**  
(e.g. “How do we best use evidence in our Neighbourhood Renewal delivery planning?”)

Most enquiries can and have been dealt with directly by the team. Where SELD cannot help directly, enquirers are put in touch with other contacts locally, regionally or nationally who can. **Perhaps we can help you or your colleagues and partners with these or similar questions?**

### Assignments

In addition to fielding enquiries around finding and using evidence more effectively, SELD has begun engaging with various partnerships on a short term assignment basis. The object of these assignments is not to ‘do the work’ but to provide advice, recommend good practice and to act as a ‘critical friend’ to partnerships to help them use local evidence more effectively to improve their delivery of Neighbourhood Renewal. Below are summaries of some of the involvement SELD has had so far.

#### **Bristol Partnership**

In Bristol, SELD has been supporting the Bristol Partnership (LSP) to develop a set of indicators for targeting, evaluating and performance managing its Neighbourhood Renewal and Neighbourhood Management delivery. This has

involved working closely with LSP analysts and partners to identify and procure data, facilitate data-sharing and advise on effective analysis and presentation of data.

### **North Somerset Partnership**

In North Somerset, SELD has been supporting the North Somerset Partnership (LSP) in its preparations for Neighbourhood Renewal funding. SELD has facilitated the systematic review of qualitative evidence (consultations, research, evaluations) relating to the ward in Weston-Super-Mare which recently qualified for Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) and will shortly become a Neighbourhood Management area. SELD is also working to assist North Somerset in identifying and sourcing appropriate data for targeting, monitoring, evaluating and performance managing delivery.

### **I-Gather**

SELD has been working with the South West intelligence community, the ODPM and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in the development of a new online data tool which will soon make it much easier for practitioners to source regular data for the specific areas in which they work. Initially designed for the purpose of carrying out Sustainability Appraisals, SELD has been contributing to the project to ensure that indicators useful for Neighbourhood Renewal and Local Area Agreements delivery are incorporated. The tool is currently on target to be ready in a beta format sometime in the summer/autumn 2006.

## **Events**

---

Following two launch events which ran in Bristol and Plymouth (summer 2005), over the past six months SELD has run three learning and networking events on various themes which have been well attended by analytical, policy-makers and practitioners from across the region. In total over 140 delegates participated, representing over 100 organisations and agencies from across the region.

- Rural Deprivation (Sept 2005)
- Older People and regeneration (Oct 2005)
- Crime & Liveability (Nov 2005)

Event reports and presentations (along with details of forthcoming events) are available to download from <http://www.creatingexcellence.org.uk/regeneration-renewal-article120-p1.html>.

SELD has also been contributing to a number of other events across the region including presentations and workshops about evidence for GOSW, creating:excellence, and the ChangeUp programme.

## Networking

---

SELD has been acting as an ambassador for the south west intelligence community, raising awareness of what they have to offer and encouraging regeneration practitioners to make use of this established source of expertise.

Maintaining good communication with ODPM and the three other SELD pilots in the North East, North West and West Midlands has enabled us here in SELDSW to continually share useful resources, contacts and examples of good practice from across the country with practitioners here in the south west.

Similarly, through our learning and networking events we have brought together practitioners who are working on common or similar issues, which has encouraged an increase in dialogue and exchange of learning within the region.

## Resources

---

**SELD SW web site** – It's not fancy, but it does contain a steadily growing collection of useful content ([www.seldsw.org.uk](http://www.seldsw.org.uk)) and has now been developed to include resources reflecting some of the 'needs and wants' we've identified from partnerships and practitioners across the region. Regular evidence-related news updates are added on the front page every week.



**Data4NR Web site** - SELD contributed to the development of [www.data4nr.net](http://www.data4nr.net) which is a data signposting tool to help locate data to support the delivery of Neighbourhood Renewal in your area. Resources are organised into themes and can be specified by sub-district level, regularly updated, age, gender and ethnic group. It provides comprehensive descriptions of data and links to their source.



**Neighbourhood Renewal Themed Evidence Guides** - Following the various events SELD has run and contributed to, five dedicated resource guides have been produced around specific Neighbourhood Renewal delivery themes. These are available to download from the website <http://www.creatingexcellence.org.uk/regeneration-renewal-article141-p1.html>.

**Good Practice Examples** - A series of case studies are currently being written. These exemplify good practice in the use of evidence from across the region. These will soon be published on the website <http://www.creatingexcellence.org.uk/regeneration-renewal-article200-p1.html> to complement other sources of good practice examples from across the country.

**Evaluation Resource Guide** - In response to many enquiries around evaluation, we have produced an evaluation resource guide which signposts some of the most useful resources recommended by practitioners in the region. <http://www.creatingexcellence.org.uk/regeneration-renewal-article150-p1.html>

**E-Bulletins Guide** - Following consultation with the region's intelligence community, we have gathered together a collection of useful links to online and email bulletins. The idea behind this is to enable practitioners and policy-makers to keep up to date with the latest issues and ideas from across the country.  
<http://www.creatingexcellence.org.uk/regeneration-renewal-article160-p1.html>

## What is SELD doing next?

As a pilot, SELD is learning as it goes - if something isn't working, we try something else, if it is, we do it more. Following the interim national evaluation of SELD and discussions between the four regional pilots and the NRU, we have reviewed our activities for the coming six months to reflect the current and forthcoming needs of partnerships and practitioners in the South West.

- **Developing indicator guidance for Local Area Agreements (LAAs)** focussing on the development of 'Liveability' indicators (guidance for the other mandatory NR themes are being produced by the other SELD pilots) which will form a set of national indicator guidance.
- **Exploring data sharing** – identifying obstacles to, and examples of good practice in, the sharing of data at a local level.
- **Harnessing neighbourhood data** – identifying and sharing good practice in the effective use of evidence at a local level in areas such as baselining, targeting, monitoring and improving service delivery.
- **Evidence stocktakes/reviews** – developing a diagnostic checklist to work through with partnerships to enable them to identify areas they can improve their use of evidence to improve delivery.
- **Evidence enquiry service** – continue the evidence enquiry service responding to short enquires by phone and e-mail.
- **Learning and networking events** – more events are planned and underway, refer to [www.seldsw.org.uk](http://www.seldsw.org.uk) for details.
- **Assignments** – Continuing existing and commencing further assignments with partnerships across the region.
- **Evidence Handbook** – working with the other SELD pilots and a team of NRU researchers to develop a national evidence handbook.

## What do you think of it so far?

With the emergence of new models and agendas in the governance of our neighbourhoods, towns, cities and regions, the need to more effectively find, share and use evidence effectively has become more important than ever.

Perhaps there are ways we can help you or your colleagues as we already have for a growing number of practitioners across the region.

*"I wish we had had things like this 10 years ago"*

**(County Council Research Manager)**

*"Thank you for the contacts which are new and really helpful and we will follow up"*

**(LSP Manager)**

*"Many thanks for this info, and wow getting it out to us so quickly! We often find that info gets to us long after we have forgotten about it, so it is very much appreciated!"*

**(Neighbourhood Management Street Coordinator)**

*"This resource is really useful and I hope to thieve some of it when I produce a local directory of resources later this year"*

**(Local Intelligence Network Coordinator)**

*"Thanks for locating and putting us in touch with a similar group to ours in the midlands, it's not always easy to tell if the way you're doing things in the best way and we've learned some really useful ideas by discussing the structure, content and funding of our work with someone working for an LSP in another city"*

**(LSP evaluation group coordinator)**

*"Thanks for producing such an excellent resource; many people will find this invaluable for their work"*

**(Government Office South West)**

## The SELD team



**Nick Harrison** (*Senior Analyst*)  
01823 447397 (office) 07814 387095 (mobile)  
[nick.harrison@swo.org.uk](mailto:nick.harrison@swo.org.uk)

Nick joined the team from Bristol City Councils' chief executive's department where he was responsible for the creation of the State of the Neighbourhoods (SON) intelligence database. Nick coordinates delivery of the SELD pilot here in the South West.



**Brian Nute** (*Analyst*)  
01823 447392  
[brian.nute@swo.org.uk](mailto:brian.nute@swo.org.uk)

Brian joined the team following recent retirement from Devon County Council where he worked for 25 years as Head of Corporate Information Services and managed the Devon Local Intelligence Network. Brian supports the delivery of the SELD pilot here in the South West.



**Dominic Murphy** (*Adviser*)  
[dmurphy@creatingexcellence.org.uk](mailto:dmurphy@creatingexcellence.org.uk)

Dominic is the Executive Director of Creating:excellence ([www.creatingexcellence.org.uk](http://www.creatingexcellence.org.uk)) and along with his team, he supports the work of SELD by advising on matters relating to regeneration and sustainable communities.



**Dr Pip Tucker** (*Adviser*)  
[pip.tucker@swo.org.uk](mailto:pip.tucker@swo.org.uk)

Pip is the Director of the South West Observatory Core Unit ([www.swo.org.uk](http://www.swo.org.uk)) and along with his team, supports the work of SELD by advising on matters relating to evidence and intelligence.

Nationally, SELD is steered from the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (NRU) and is supported by a team of evaluators who reflect and advise as we go along. We also share and learn from the experiences of the other three pilots operating across England.

In the region, SELD is advised and supported by teams in the Government Office for the South West (GOSW) and by a regional advisory group made up of partners from across the region.