

Rural Services Network
Deprivation & Inequalities Seminar
Group Discussion Notes

21 May 2013

Teesside University Darlington
Campus

Group Discussion Notes - AM

- The morning presentations considered how poverty, inequality and deprivation are inextricably linked to wider issues around health, well-being and economic development.
- **Where are there opportunities at a local level to do things differently?**

- Community Agents
- Volunteers v Social Enterprises
- Sources of support ?
for Social Enterprises to enter Commissioning process
[^{eg.} Teesdale Action Partnership]
- Marketisation & disadvantaged regions risks
- Abandonment of planning
- market driven
- GP v ^{too many} specialists v ^{11 best} agents
- Rural Health Network - RSN

- Rural Economy Geographies?
- Food & Farming prominence in Adonis / LEP's?
- Tees V ^{productive} Collaboration with LEP & Humbar Investment Strategies
- Hidden Economy urban/rural distinction?
- Importance of ^{Rural} Networks & influencing policy
#EconomicReport.
- New ways of producing strategies innovation

Group Discussion Notes - PM

- The afternoon presentations provided practical examples of how rural residents can be supported – if they are living in fuel poverty, are old or young.
- **Are collective purchasing schemes ‘a solution or a sticking plaster’ in tackling fuel poverty?**
- **If we had a Minister for Young People what could he/she do to support children growing up in rural England?**

FM

- Northern Community Power
- Identity of fuel supply companies
- lack of real competition.
- Large estates record on
energy efficiencies?
- Coal buying group - N. Pennines?
LPG?
- Community transport schemes in
Kingston & Northumberland
(social enterprises)

- Use of secondary schools' capacity for arranging apprenticeships
- Neighbourhood Plans as mechanism for addressing rural issues — ^{affordable} housing especially
- Eco-hamlets model = social cohesion
- Mentoring Scheme to facilitate 3rd sector initiatives needed — RCUK Research?
- FE College role in training / skills apprenticeships & suitable courses
- ESK Valley Care — employment of young people as additional benefit