

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access & Performance)

Report to Outer West Area Committee

Date: 30th October 2013

Subject: Area Update Report

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Farnley and Wortley, Calverley and Farsley, Pudsey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This report informs the Area Committee of progress against the Area Support Team work programme for Outer West Leeds and local contributions to Council priorities.

Recommendations

1. Members are asked to:
 - Note the contents of the report, comment on any matters raised and suggest items for inclusion in future area update reports.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of progress against the Area Support Team's work programme and local priorities.

2 Background information

- 2.1 An Area Committee update report is submitted at every cycle of Area Committee meetings. Partners contribute collectively on projects and provide service updates.

3 Main issues

Environment Sub Group

- 3.1 The Outer West Environmental Sub Group continues to meet to monitor the Service Level Agreement and identify relevant environmental issues. Leaf clearing will be the main priority for the remainder of the year and work would be undertaken with Continental Landscapes.

Forum Update

- 3.2 There has been one forum held since the last Area Committee. The Pudsey forum saw an increase in the number of residents attending. Areas for discussion included community safety, recycling, highways and libraries. The Neighbourhood policing team provided an update for the area including the areas crime statistics. A presentation was received by residents regarding recycling and information on alternate bin collections. Highways reported that Leeds City Council would be progressing various 20mph programmes and concentrating these around schools in the first instance. There are two phases of this programme already in operation covering 16 schools and preparing a third phase for delivery which covers a further 25 zones.

Area Leads

- 3.3 The new Area Lead member roles have now met with the appropriate Executive Board member and Council Services. The sessions took place between September and October and included an introduction to the issues within each of the portfolio theme and the opportunity for Area Lead members to raise the local challenges which they would like to explore. Area Lead members will now be meeting with the local service representatives to agree a programme of work for each theme.
- 3.4 It is proposed to use existing sub-group arrangements, and where no local group exists the Area Support Team will work with Council Departments to ensure that Area Lead members have appropriate support arrangements in place locally. It is the intention of Executive Board members to meet with Area Lead members over the year. Area Committee Chairs will agree local arrangements to ensure Area Lead members have the opportunity report back to the Area Committee on key pieces of work.

Community Development Worker

- 3.5 As previously reported, the Outer West Area Committee, agreed to employ a jointly-funded community development worker with the Inner North West Area Committee. The post will work directly with individuals and community groups to provide practical advice to develop their capacity to deliver projects and represent the needs of local communities. This will create a new opportunity for Area Committees to directly respond to the needs of local groups, who may have the aspiration to do more in their community, but require some help and advice to organise their activities and access funding.
- 3.6 The Area Committees have now undertaken a tender process to select a VCFS organisation to deliver the community development project on their behalf and have appointed Better Leeds Communities (BLC) as the VCFS partner to deliver targeted Community Development Work in Inner North West and Outer West. BLC are now in the process of recruiting to the post of Community Development Worker.

Swinnow Community Centre

- 3.7 A group of local volunteers have come together to form a committee at the Swinnow Community Centre and it has been agreed that the Area Support Team will continue to support the Committee in taking over the management of the centre. The group had a grand re-opening on the 5th October which was a free event that saw a great turnout from the local community. Local councillors, MP's and businesses were invited to the event which hosted a free buffet, silent auction and a discussion on planned events for the centre. A number of events are scheduled to raise funds to support the running of the centre.

Welfare Reform Update

- 3.8 Partners have been working collectively to deliver Opportunity Knox events. These are market style events for members of the public. The primary objective being to tackle and raise awareness about illegal money lending, with a further raft of partners from advice services, health services, financial services, employability partners and emergency services in attendance.
- 3.9 Public Health are developing a money management/ budgeting course toolkit to enable practitioners to deliver sessions in community centres across the WNW.
- 3.10 Frontline worker training sessions are being organised in Outer West by Public Health and Trading Standards to raise awareness around illegal money lending, high interest loans and debt prevention.
- 3.11 West North West Homes Leeds (WNWhL) is continuing work through the Illegal Money Lending Team to look at tackle loan sharks and scams. Staff briefings have been undertaken on loan sharks and scams, particularly focusing on the elderly and vulnerable. Further campaigns are planned, including a week of action in October. The last campaign led to the arrest of two people from West Leeds in connection with illegal money lending.

3.12 The WNWhL Financial Inclusion officer has been promoting free school meals, budgeting skills and reducing utility bills to all customers, targeted towards those on a low income. In addition to facilitating two locally based, free financial advice surgeries one of which being an on-going project in Cow Close Community Corner. By the year end, the number of free financial advice surgeries will increase to four in total.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Elected members have been consulted on the contents of this report

4.1.2 Community forums are held in Pudsey & Swinnow and Tyersal every quarter within Outer West Leeds to inform communities.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 This section is not applicable to this report.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The Area Committee Functions and Priority Advisory Functions were approved by the Executive Board in June 2009, this approval was rolled forward to 2012/13 with amendments only to environmental delegations.

4.3.2 The Area Functions are included in the Council's Constitution (Part 3, section 3C).

4.3.3 Area Management's work programme contributes at a local level to the themes contained in the:

- Vision for Leeds
- Leeds Strategic Plan
- Health and Wellbeing City Priorities Plan
- Children and Young People's Plan
- Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
- Regeneration City Priority Plan

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 Programmes of work outlined in this report are resourced in the main by Area Support Team staff and where relevant their partners which in turn provides value for money.

4.4.2 In order to meet the Area Committee's functions (see Council's Constitution Part 3, section 3C), funding is available via Well Being budgets and the Community Centres Budget.

4.4.3 In order to meet the Area Committee's roles, funding is in the main supplied by other Leeds City Council Departments main stream budgets, and external partner agencies e.g. the Police and Primary Care Trust, which is in turn reflected in the fact that the Area Committee's role here is only to influence, develop and consult. However, on occasion, wellbeing funding has resourced some projects related to its roles, e.g. community engagement, area based regeneration schemes and conservation area reviews.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 This report is the report of the Area Leader for West North West Leeds who has delegated responsibility to action decisions in accordance with Area Management's work programme in accordance with part 3 of the Council's Constitution in relation to Area Committee Functions.

4.5.2 This report is not confidential, neither is it, or part of it exempt.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no significant risks identified in this report.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 In conclusion, the Area Progress report is in line with the functions and role of the Area Committee which are:

- Improve the quality and value for money of Council service delivery
- Improve the quality of democracy and find new ways to facilitate citizen participation in local government through the development of links between Ward Members and their communities
- To co-ordinate policy and service delivery between the local service providers.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 The Outer West Area Committee members are invited to:

- i. Note that the contents of the report and to comment on any aspect of the matters raised.

Background documents¹

None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.