

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens & Communities)

Report to Outer West Area Committee

Date: 29th January 2014

Subject: Area Update Report

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| 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

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

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 will be undertaken with Continental Landscapes.

Forum Update

There have been two forums held since the last Area Committee. The Pudsey & Swinnow forum saw an increase in the number of residents attending and Tyersal Forum has continued to develop. Areas for discussion included Private Sector Housing, Planning and Sustainable Development, and an update from Parks & Countryside. The Neighbourhood Policing Team provided an update including the areas crime statistics.

Community Hubs

- 3.2 A key objective for the Council through the Citizens@Leeds agenda is to deliver local solutions within communities that truly integrate council and partner service delivery to help individuals and their families address increasingly more complex issues simply and effectively.
- 3.3 To deliver this a network of Community Hubs is being developed that will make a real difference to citizens and communities. Community Hubs will deliver a more integrated approach to service delivery and maximise the use of the assets and service points that exist across the city e.g. joint service centres, one stop centres, housing management offices, libraries, children's centres etc. They will support the delivery of pop-up (e.g. in supermarkets and GP surgeries) and mobile provision to ensure that we can reach all priority communities across the city. This work will be supported through the delivery of more on-line provision to enable those that wish to self-serve to be able to do so, thereby freeing up time of our customer services officers to advise those most in need or those requiring more detailed or intense support
- 3.4 To get us started, Executive Board agreed in November to pilot the community hub concept in three locations across the city, to help develop our thinking on the approach and identify the best form of provision for delivering truly integrated face-to-face services. This will be done working closely with all services and partners

affected to ensure all issues are appropriately and fully considered. It is proposed to utilise the existing one-stop-centre provision at the Compton Centre in Harehills, the St George's Centre in Middleton and the One Stop Centre in Armley as the sites for the three pilots.

3.5 The rationale for choosing these sites is as follows:

- To have one pilot in each of the three administrative areas of the city;
- To place the pilots in areas of the city where financial hardship and deprivation are significant issues facing citizens;
- To focus the pilots on those sites where there is already significant co-location of services;
- To ensure that the pilots have a focus on partnership working and exploit further the co-location and integration between council and partner services existing at these sites.

Community Development Worker

3.6 The Outer West Area Committee, agreed to employ a jointly-funded community development worker with the Inner North West Area Committee. The post was to 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 was to 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.

3.7 The Area Committees had undertaken a tender process to select a VCFS organisation to deliver the community development project on their behalf and had appointed Better Leeds Communities (BLC) as the VCFS partner to deliver targeted community development work in Inner North West and Outer West. BLC have successfully recruited an officer for the Inner North West Area however there have been some problems recruiting to the Outer West.

Only one Community Organiser from Leeds applied for the 2 vacancies. The position had to be re-advertised to recruit from all Community Organisers eligible to draw down additional funding from the central government. However this again was not successful and was not a position BLC had anticipated. This now means there is no additional match funding available from central government as there has been no takers for the position in Outer West.

Swinnow Community Centre

3.8 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

- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 Public Health are developing a money management/ budgeting course toolkit to enable practitioners to deliver sessions in community centres across the WNW.
- 3.11 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.
- 3.12 West North West Homes Leeds (WNWhL) is continuing work through the Illegal Money Lending Team to look at tackling loan sharks and scams. Staff briefings have been undertaken on loan sharks and scams, particularly focusing on the elderly and vulnerable. The last campaign led to the arrest of two people from West Leeds in connection with illegal money lending.
- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 The Area Support Team are also working with partners to expedite welfare reform related projects in the Outer West Area.

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.