

**Report of the Assistant Director (Citizens & Communities)**

**Report to South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee**

**Date: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014**

**Subject: Summary of Key Work**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	Ardsley and Robin Hood Morley North Morley South Rothwell	
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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

**Summary of main issues**

This report presents an update on the key work taking place within the Outer South Leeds area, not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**Recommendations**

The Area Committee is asked to:

- a) note the contents of the report and make comment as appropriate;
- b) sign off the Business Plan Priorities & Actions for 2013/14 and consider new priorities for 2014/15 to be included for further consideration at the first meeting of the new municipal year
- c) consider and agree on a place based name for the new community committee.

## **1.0 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To bring to Members' attention, a summary of key work which the Area Support Team are engaged in based on priorities identified by the Area Committee, that are not covered elsewhere on this agenda. It provides opportunities for further questioning or the opportunity to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

## **2.0 Background information**

- 2.2 Members will recall at the July 2011 Area Committee, a revised title and format for this report was introduced based on proposed changes to the Leeds Initiative partnership and planning framework for the city in an effort to be more focused on current priorities.

## **3.0 Main Issues**

### **3.1 Area Chairs Forum**

- 3.1.1 The minutes of the meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014 are attached at **Appendix 1A and 1B respectively**. The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014 will be presented to a future Area Committee. The next Area Chairs Forum is on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014.

## **4.0 Updates by theme: Children's Services Lead Member: Cllr Robert Gettings**

### **4.1 Children & Young People's Working Group**

- 4.1.1 The Children & Young People's Working Group was put on hold pending the outcome of the Activities Fund Steering Group.
- 4.1.2 Following the development of the Activities Fund Steering Group it has been agreed to reactivate a programme of Children & Young People's Working Group meetings. The last meeting took place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March and minutes will be presented to a future Area Committee.

## **5.0 Updates by Theme: Employment, Skills & Welfare Lead Member: Cllr Neil Dawson**

### **5.1 South East Welfare Reform Working Group**

- 5.1.1 The South East Welfare Reform Group continues to meet bringing partners together to develop joint working around this issue.

- 5.1.2 At the February meeting updates were received from partners on:

- High Cost Lending Action Plan
- Fuel poverty – Winter Warmth, Green Deal, Wrap Up Leeds Eco
- South Leeds Debt Forum

- 5.1.3 The minutes from the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014 are available on request.

## 5.2 South East Leeds Debt Forum

- 5.2.1 The January meeting of the South Leeds Debt Forum was well attended drawing in partners from across the locality
- 5.2.2 Housing Leeds and Leeds Federated Housing gave an overview of the role of their respective financial inclusion teams. They provide targeted assistance to tenants around money management, budgeting and debt. Interventions were normally triggered by rent arrears.
- 5.2.3 Kirsty White, DWP, gave an update on the role of the new Social Justice Community Work team. A new team of 14 staff to will provide additional specialist support to people in receipt of DWP benefits. The clients they will support would have additional needs for example, debt problems, drug / alcohol dependency, ex-offenders or people at risk of becoming homeless.
- 5.2.4 Debt Forum Website – A brief was drawn up for a website to support the work of the debt forum. The website will include links to sources of help for people struggling with debt and showcase preventative measures that support people to better manage their money. A first draft will be presented to the next Debt Forum meeting.
- 5.2.5 Minutes of the Debt forum meeting are available on request. The **next meeting of the South Leeds Debt Forum will take place at 10.00 am on 1<sup>st</sup> April at St Georges Centre.**

## 5.3 Financial Fitness Project

- 5.3.1 In July 2013 Area Committee approved wellbeing funding for a Financial Fitness Project to be delivered in Outer South. West Yorkshire Trading Standards will provide a detailed summary on the project at the June 2014 Area Committee.

## 6.0 **Updates by theme: Environment & Community Safety** **Lead Member: Cllr Karen Bruce**

### Outer South Environmental Sub Group

- 6.1 The Outer South Environmental Sub Group met on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at St Gabriel's Community Centre and minutes are attached at **Appendix 2**. The next meeting is scheduled for 4.00 pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2014 at Rothwell One Stop Centre.

## 6.2 **Community Safety**

### Partnership and priorities

- 6.2.1 The Safer Leeds Executive priorities for 2013/14 are as follows:
  - Strengthening the partnership approach to support a reduction in **domestic abuse**.
  - Continued focus on reducing domestic **burglary** and its impact across Leeds.
  - Effectively tackle and reduce **ASB** in our communities
  - Improve our understanding of and approach to deal with **Child Sexual Exploitation**
  - Reduce **re-offending**

- Deal with increased use of **legal highs and cannabis** in the city

- 6.2.2 The South Leeds Community Safety and Environmental Partnership met on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014. The Partnership reviewed the action plan with a focus on new environmental priorities. The Partnership also agreed to progress actions to reduce the harm caused by substance misuse in communities. It also commenced a debate to prevent potential increases in crime in neighbourhoods.
- 6.2.3 **Preventing violent extremism:** a workshop was held during January to raise awareness of radicalisation. It was well attended by a range of services from across Inner and Outer South Leeds. Councillors have been invited to a workshop on 7<sup>th</sup> March that will brief on the international, national and local situation in relation to counter terrorism and preventing violent extremism.
- 6.2.4 **Child Sexual Exploitation:** South Leeds Academy hosted an information session for parents of Year 7 pupils. The session included presentations from specialist services and an opportunity for parents to ask questions. The session will be reviewed at the next meeting of the South CSE Practitioner's Forum. The forum is also in the process of arranging a Level one awareness briefing for services. Members will be invited to attend.
- 6.2.5 The Community Safety annual report is presented to the Area Committee elsewhere on this agenda.

## **7.0 Updates by theme: Health and Wellbeing**

### **Area Lead: Cllr Shirley Varley**

#### South East Area Health and Wellbeing Partnership Forum

- 7.1 A workshop event took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at the John Charles Centre for Sport and notes are attached at **Appendix 3**. There was good representation from statutory sector, partners and the voluntary sector. Feedback has been really positive with all acknowledging the need for continued high quality conversations. There was a positive commitment and willingness from partners to engage with the wellbeing agenda locally. A number of suggestions were made by participants on the need for a future workshop to focus on mental wellbeing as something that would bring all agencies together and support addressing health inequalities agenda.
- 7.2 The annual Area Public Health report is included elsewhere on the agenda.

## **8.0 Updates by theme: Adult Social Care**

### **Area Lead: Cllr Karen Renshaw**

### **8.2 International Day of Older People**

- 8.2.1 In 2013 Outer South Area Committee commissioned Morley Elderly Action and Rothwell & District Live at Home Scheme to deliver events which took place on the annual International Day of Older People, 1<sup>st</sup> October.
- 8.2.2 South East Area Support Team is working with partners to develop similar events that will take place in 2014.

## 9.0 Integrated Locality working

### 9.1 Community Committees

9.1.1 As part of the Area Working Review, the council's Executive Board received a paper in December 2013 on discussions held at the Area Committee Chair's Forum to develop new principles to replace Area Committees with 'Community Committees' alongside a refreshed approach to community engagement.

9.1.2 This approach is intended to support greater resident involvement in decision making going forward and is part of the broader Citizens@Leeds approach that has been developed to ensure focus on inclusive, locally provided citizen-based services.

9.1.3 The four propositions underpinning this new Citizens@ Leeds approach are:

- The need to **provide accessible and integrated services**;
- The need to **help people out of financial hardship**;
- The need to **help people into work**;
- The need to be **responsive to needs of local communities**.

9.1.4 Within this context Elected Members have been involved in a number of conversations on the future direction of Area Committees in the form of briefings and workshop sessions. This engagement with Members will continue, providing an update on progress and to ensure Members are given the opportunity to influence the format and priorities of the Community Committees.

9.1.5 Members are also asked to consider and agree on a place-based name for the new community committee, so that the new committees can be formally constituted at the council's AGM on 9 June 2014. Having consulted with the Chair of the Area Committee the following suggestions have been made to stimulate discussion:

- Outer South Community Committee, with a tag line, supporting communities of Ardsley & Robin Hood, Morley & Rothwell
- Community Committee for Outer South Leeds
- Outer South Leeds Area Committee
- Community Committee for South Leeds (Outer)
- Community Committee for Ardsley & Robin Hood, Morley & Rothwell

9.1.6 Members are asked to consider and agree on a place based name for the new community committee.

### 9.2 Community Centres Sub Committee

9.2.1 The Community Centres Sub Committee last met on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and minutes are attached at **Appendix 4**. The next meeting is scheduled for 10.00 am on 7<sup>th</sup> May at Morley Town Hall.

### Morley North Children's Centre

9.2.2 The children's centre base at St Mary's in the Wood URC is currently under review and exploratory talks have begun for this provision to be based in or around Morley Town Centre. Recent conversations are focusing on use of space in Morley Town Hall. Local Councillors are being consulted.

### 9.3 Conservation Audits

- 9.3.1 Following a further round of public consultation that ran from January to March 2012, all consultation responses are being reviewed and considered and amendments made to the appraisal and proposed boundary as appropriate. The project was discussed at Planning Board on 29 November 2012. The appraisal and boundary review may also be considered by Executive Board. If approved, the revised boundary will be designated and the appraisal will be adopted as a material consideration in the planning process.

### 9.4 **Strengthening Relationships between Town and Parish Councils**

- 9.4.1 At the July 2013 Area Committee meeting Members agreed to establish a working group to agree options for strengthening links and report back to Area Committee. The first meeting of the group took place on 11th October 2013 and an Action Plan was developed and approved at the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 Area Committee.
- 9.4.2 The Working Group met again on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 to review and revise the Action Plan attached at **Appendix 5**. It is envisaged that links with Town and Parish Councils will be further strengthened with the new Community Committees. It was agreed that one further meeting will take place in the Autumn of 2014.
- 9.4.3 The Area Leader attended Morley Town Council on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and Drighlington Parish Council on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014.
- 9.4.4 Members and local residents raised issues of concern and importance to the local area and explored how a community council approach might help in tackling these issues. Both Councils welcomed the engagement and accepted the offer to support the development of a community council approach.
- 9.4.5 Councillors were also supportive of an engagement plan that includes parish and town councils as an integral part of the local leadership in an area.
- 9.4.6 Attendance at Guildersome Parish Council is scheduled for Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014 and an update will be provided at a future Area Committee.

### 9.5 **Outer South Area Committee Business Plan Priorities and Actions 2013-14**

- 9.5.1 The completed 2013/14 Area Committee Business Plan Priorities and Actions is attached at **Appendix 6**. The Plan includes priorities agreed by Area Committee in September 2013; Area Committee Lead Members elected in 2013; and a framework for community engagement.
- 9.5.2 The Plan details actions, programmes of work and projects delivered locally to address the identified priorities.
- 9.5.3 Area Committee is asked to sign off the business plan Priorities and Actions for 2013/14 and consider new priorities for 2014/15. Priorities will also be informed via the Elected Member Area Leads.

## **9.6 Outer South Celebration Event**

### Community Heroes Event

- 9.6.1 Following the success of the Community Heroes event held at Blackburn Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> April, Members agreed to support an event for 2014. Area Support team is working with partners to plan a similar event for 2014. Details are:

Event date: 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014  
Location: Morley Town Hall  
Timing: 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm

- 9.6.2 Invitations have been sent to partners and community groups and arrangements for the event are progressing. Area Committee will continue to receive updates.
- 9.6.3 Members are asked to
- a) note the date in their diaries
  - b) provide details of any groups they would like to invite to the event.

## **10 Localism**

### **10.1 Community First Grants**

- 10.1.1 Community First Grants are summarised at **Appendix 7**.

## **11.0 Corporate Considerations**

### **11.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 11.1.1 Projects are developed to address priorities in the Area Committee Business Plan. The production of this plan is informed by Local Councillors and local residents. All projects developed are in consultation with Elected Members and local communities. Approval for any contribution from the Well being budget is received at the Area Committee.

### **11.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 11.2.1 Community groups submitting a project proposal requesting funding from the Well being budget have an equal opportunities policy and as part of the application process, complete a section outlining which equality groups the project will work with and how equality and cohesion issues have been considered.
- 11.2.2 Internal and statutory partners are committed to equality and cohesion and all projects they are involved with will have considered these issues.
- 11.2.3 A light touch Equality Impact Assessments is carried out for all projects.

### **11.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

- 11.3.1 The projects outlined in this report contribute to targets and priorities set out in the following council policies:
- Vision For Leeds
  - Children and Young Peoples Plan

- Health and Well being City Priority Plan
- Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
- Regeneration City Priority Plan

#### **11.4 Resources and Value for Money**

11.4.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

#### **11.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

11.5.1 All decisions taken by the Area Committee in relation to the delegated functions from Executive Board are not eligible for Call In.

11.5.2 There are no key or major decisions being made that would be eligible for Call In.

11.5.3 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

#### **11.6 Risk Management**

11.6.1 This report provides an update on work in the Outer South and therefore no risks are identifiable. Any projects funded through Wellbeing budget complete a section identifying risks and solutions as part of the application process.

#### **12.0 Conclusions**

12.1 The report provides up to date information on key areas of work for the Area Committee.

#### **13.0 Recommendations**

13.1 The Area Committee is asked to:

- a) note the contents of the report and make comment as appropriate;
- b) agree to the Children & Families Sub Group and the delegation of the Youth Activities Fund;
- c) sign off the Business Plan Priorities & Actions for 2013/14 and consider new priorities for 2014/15 to be included for further consideration at the first meeting of the new municipal year
- d) consider and agree on a place based name for the new community committee.

#### **Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

There are no background documents associated with this paper.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.