

Report of: The West North West Area Leader (Citizens and Communities)

Report to: to Inner West Community Committee (Armley, Bramley & Stanningley and Kirkstall)

Report author: Sarah Geary (3367872)

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To note

Community Committee Update Report

Purpose of report

1. This report updates the Community Committee on the work of the three sub groups of the Committee: General Purposes, Children and Young People and Environment.
2. This report updates the Committee on new pieces of work and partnership working that has taken place in the area since the last meeting.

Main issues

3. **General Purpose Sub Group** - The first meeting of the new Inner West General Purposes Sub Group was held on 8th September. Key issues that were discussed are:
 - Priority Neighbourhoods Update – Following detailed discussion at the General Purposes sub group, a review of current neighbourhood improvement arrangements has begun to determine the partnership infrastructure that best supports the work in our priority neighborhoods. The following neighbourhoods are being considered; New Wortley, Wythers, Fairfields, Broadleas and Hawskworth Wood. At the time of writing, discussions are underway/pending to consider the potential to widen the scope of the Inner West Neighbourhood Improvement Board. The Outer West Community Committee has also expressed a need to explore programmes of work to support neighbourhood

improvement in Farnley and Wortley and there may be scope to incorporate this under the umbrella of the Inner West Neighbourhood Improvement Board.

- Families First Data – Michael Richardson, the Families First Data and Intelligence Manager explained that to date there had been no requirement from the Government under the terms of the payment by results contract to collect ethnicity data for families. The new contract does have that requirement and a new database is being rolled out to log and store the information. It was agreed that the Committee would be kept updated on when this data will be collected for the area.
- Wellbeing Fund 2015/16 – A discussion was had on the process for administering the Wellbeing Fund for next year. Also on whether the funding should be separated on a ward basis or kept as a whole. Full details are included at 3.20 in the Wellbeing report.

4. **Children & Young People Sub Group** – The first meeting of the Inner West Children & Young People Sub Group was held on 26th August. Key issues that were discussed are:

- Geographically targeted youth work – An update was provided on the work that has been carried out in the area. Some concerns were raised about the categorisation of the targeted work and a discussion was had about data recording, numbers of young people being worked with and quality of provision.
- Youth Partnership Board – Cllr Gruen noted that there still had not been a board established in the area and asked that Voice and Influence team Officers be asked to progress this work immediately. Suggestions were made to introduce a stepped approach programme to involve young people in establishing a fully functioning Board.
- Youth Activities Fund – A report on the summer activities that were funded will be provided at the next sub group. There is funding remaining to be spent this year. Details are included in full in the Wellbeing report.

5. **Environment Sub Group** – The Inner West Environment Sub Group met on 25th September and discussed the following:

- Forestry Service Tree Management

Members requested information on how maintenance requests are prioritised, and advice on how to deal with resident complaints on non-priority issues such as excessive shade or interference with television or satellite signals.

The Natural Environment Manager outlined the maintenance policy and advised that if the council declines a request for service because it does not fit the priority criteria, a householder can pay for the work to be done, provided it is through an approved contractor. Housing Leeds have provided a budget to the Forestry Service to carry out maintenance work on trees that cause excessive shade or interference to their customers that would not otherwise have been carried out.

The council receives a number of complaints relating to tree issues on private land between neighbours. The council's powers are very limited as there is only

legislation relating to leylandii hedges. The council does not get involved in any other disputes and would encourage residents to speak to each other to resolve their issues.

- Locality Environment Team:

The former Housing Leeds estate caretaking service is now part of the Locality Team, which is now undergoing a restructure to standardise job descriptions for a more flexible workforce. Although there will be a reduction in the number of management posts, there will be no reduction in the front line service, and an increase in supervisory roles.

Following the restructure, the service will be split into multi-skilled 'zonal' teams that will include de-littering staff, an environmental enforcement officer and bulky waste / fly tipping collectors. This approach will provide a more specialised service that is flexible enough to cover absences without the need for costly overtime. It is proposed that there will be one team for Armley, and another, larger team covering Bramley and Stanningley and Kirkstall wards.

- Parks and Countryside

The Bereavement Services Manager attended to discuss an ongoing project to identify more burial sites across the city. A report with further information will be presented to the Executive Board in the coming months.

The service also reported that three parks in the Inner West have now passed the Quality Parks Assessment, and these are Armley, Bramley and Rodley parks. The sub group was provided with the current investment plan that includes work on Dunkirk Hill, Armley Gotts Park, Stanningley Park and Armley Park.

6. **Wythers Hate Crime Working Group** – Following a hate crime incident last year in the Wythers a multi-agency task and finish working group was established in July and has been meeting monthly since then. General levels of crime have now reduced and the group has held its last meeting. There has been many positive differences made as a result of this group as detailed below;

- 9 formal warnings issued
- 2 ASBO warnings issued
- 2 Housing Cautions served
- 4 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts signed
- 2 Notices of Seeking Possession served (one of these is currently in the court system for possession)
- 1 referral for benefit fraud
- Numerous support referrals have also been made and there has been some excellent joint working with Signpost.

Environmental improvements to the area have also been made including removal of graffiti from the private properties which adjoin the Wythers estate, 58 untidy gardens have been identified and action taken and as a result 56 of these gardens have now been cleared. New fencing for front gardens on Wyther Park Hill has been installed.

- 7 **Broadleas Fun Day** – The third annual Broadleas funday was held on Friday 22nd August, and following consultation with local young people, a seaside theme was chosen. Children and their families enjoyed traditional fairground games, arts and crafts and even a donkey ride. The event was a success with a range of services taking the opportunity to speak to local residents about life on the estate as part of the Broadleas Challenge engagement project.
8. **Street Drinking Armley** – There has been an increase in street drinking on Armley Town Street. The drinkers are a mix of local people and eastern Europeans. A piece of work is underway with Barca to find out whether these individuals are receiving any support and if not can be signposted to services and support structures. The Committee will be kept updated on progress with this work.
9. **Kirkstall Town & District Centre Scheme** – A consultation event was held on 24th September at Kirkstall Leisure Centre which outlined the draft proposals for improvement works to the area in front of the leisure centre. Around 100 people attended and provided comments and feedback and over 800 people have accessed the scheme information through the Committees Facebook site. Work will now progress to develop a detailed scheme design.

Corporate

- a. **Consultation and engagement** - Local priorities were set through the Area Business Plan process.
- b. **Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration** - The Business Planning process takes into account equality, diversity, cohesion and integration issues.
- c. **Council policies and city priorities** - The themes in the Business Plan mirror the themes and priority outcomes at a city wide level and also reflect the delegated functions and priority advisory functions.
- d. **Resources and value for money** – There are no resource or value for money considerations in this report.
- e. **Legal implications, access to information and call in** - There are no legal implications as a result of this report, and there are no key or major decisions being made that would be eligible for Call In.
- f. **Risk management** – Risk management is carried out on a project by project basis. There are no risk implications in this report.

Conclusion

10. The work of the sub groups will be essential in the delivery of the Community Committee priorities. The Area Support Team continues to look at opportunities to

develop projects and promote new ways of working to achieve the objectives outlined in the Business Plan.

Recommendations

11. To note the report including the key outcomes from the sub groups.

Background information

- None