

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

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

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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 Inner West General Purposes Sub Group was held on 10th November at Elland Road Police Station and included a tour of the site and custody suite prior to the meeting. Key issues that were discussed are:

Domestic Violence

A discussion was had on domestic violence issues across the Inner West with Armley Ward having the 3rd highest level of reported incidents across the City, Bramley & Stanningley Wards being 7th highest and Kirkstall 13th. Work that is taking place in the area is a mixture of preventative work and responsive, with each case being different. Members were keen that the Community Committee should have domestic violence as one of its themes at a future meeting and asked how they can support work to tackle the

levels of domestic violence in the area. A request was also made for training for Members on practical things they can do and look out for whilst they are engaging with residents in their areas.

Town & District Centre Committee Topic

A paper was circulated on the July Community Committee theme of Town & District Centres. The paper surmises the challenges, opportunities and drivers in the three centres of Armley, Bramley and Kirkstall. It also includes summaries of the discussions had at the workshop tables at the meeting. Members were supportive of the more user friendly format of the report. A discussion was had on how best the Committee could be kept updated on actions that were agreed for each topic.

Communications & Media

Kim Regan, Senior Communications Officer, presented the meeting with information on the corporate branding that is being used for Community Committees including the Citizens@ brand. A discussion was also had on social media and how that can be best used to engage with local people. The Inner West Facebook page has around 100 'likes' which is a good start but more can be done. Posts are made regularly advertising community events and information.

4. Children & Young People Sub Group

The Children and Young People sub group met on 23rd October and the following issues were discussed:

Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation

Members asked service providers for an overview of work to identify and target potential victims.

A co-ordinated approach is being taken in the inner West involving the police, youth work providers and clusters.

Engaging Children & Young People

It was agreed that a new approach would be taken to establish a Children and Young People's Board for the inner West supported by local youth work providers.

Summary of geographically targeted youth work

Representatives from Barca and the Youth Service outlined their delivery and reported on how they had changed the focus of some sessions following feedback from the last sub group meeting.

5. Environment Sub Group

The Inner West Environment Sub Group met on 27th November and discussed the following:

Dog fouling

It was agreed that a 'Dog Watch' pilot will be launched in the new year to recruit dog walkers to report crime and anti-social behaviour.

Leeds Neighbourhood Approach

Officers updated the committee on the project to tackle poor quality rented accommodation on the Edinburghs in Armley. In six months 83 inspections have been carried out with 46 re-inspections and 33 legal notices have been served where landlords have not co-operated on improvements required. The team are also inspecting the flats above the shops on Town Street where 50 properties were visited resulting in 15 legal notices served.

Locality Team Update

The new zonal teams will be operational from 1st January which will provide a more flexible, localised service. The team have also responded to complaints regarding the former Burley Sports Bar with a legal notice served on the owners to remove fly tipping and secure the premises.

6. Armley Helping Hands Winter Warmer Launch

Armley Helping Hands launched their Community Committee sponsored winter warmth campaign on Thursday 30th October at an event at their base in Strawberry Lane Community Centre. Dozens of older people were treated to a light lunch and given a free 'Winter Warmer Pack' which included thermal socks, a thermometer, a fleece blanket and flask among other items aimed at helping older people stay warm over the winter. A range of agencies also attended the event to provide advice on energy saving, staying safe in the home and crime prevention.

Bramley Elderly Action have also been provided with packs by the Community Committee which they will distribute to vulnerable older people through their 'keep in touch' winter visits.

7. Armley Christmas Lights Switch On

The popular Christmas light switch on event this year was held on Saturday 29th November. Armley Town Street was closed and the crowd was entertained by a variety of acts on stage including local young people.

8. Bramley Christmas Lights Switch On

Bramley Christmas lights switch on event was on Friday 28th November at Bramley Shopping Centre. The event included entertainment from local schools as well as other acts and a santas grotto and was well supported by the local community.

9. Armley Lazer Centre

A working group Chaired by Cllr McKenna has been meeting since the summer looking at future plans for the Lazer Centre. The facility is run by Leeds City Council's Youth Service and provides a range of facilities including a climbing tower, off road motor biking, multi-use games area and a camp site. This year the funding provided to the centre has been significantly reduced and from April 2015 there will be no funding from Leeds City Council. This provides a significant challenge to raise the additional income

required to keep the site open. A number of options are being investigated including daytime usage of some of the classroom and office space for organisations to rent, improved marketing of the site including looking at what has worked well at other similar facilities and reducing the costs of running the site.

Key to this work is the desire to keep the facility open to local young people to experience outdoor facilities close to the inner City.

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