

**Report of: Inner North East Community Committee Citizens and Communities.**

**Area Lead: Jane Maxwell**

**Report to: Inner North East Community Committee**

**Report author: Kathryn Wood - Neighbourhood Manager for Inner North East Leeds**  
**Telephone Number: 0113 3367634**

**Date 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015 to note**

**Title: Neighbourhood Improvement update report for Inner North East Leeds**

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### **Purpose of report**

1. This report provides an update on key pieces of work undertaken by the Inner North East Neighbourhood Manager. Ward areas covered include Chapel Allerton, Moortown and Roundhay. Specifically the geographical areas covered in this report are: Chapeltown, Meanwood, Queenshills and Brackenwood.

### **Main issues: challenges & achievements**

#### **2. Crime & anti-social behavior**

Tackling and preventing crime and anti-social behavior continues to be a key priority. Under the new structure, put in to place in April, a combination of tasking and anti-social behaviour partnership meetings take place covering the Meanwood, Moortown, Chapeltown and Roundhay ward areas every three weeks. The Neighbourhood Manager co-chairs tasking meetings with West Yorkshire police. Several action days and operation champions have been coordinated via the neighbourhood manager. For example in May an action day successfully took place on the Beckhills estate. In July a large operation champion, covering Meanwood, Moortown, Roundhay and Chapel Allerton wards, was undertaken. Here there was an excellent turnout from our various partner agencies and very positive feedback was received. Successful outcomes of the operation champion meeting included: 14 visits being carried out at licensed premises with one landlord issued with a notice for a breach of conditions, civilian warrant officers recovered £1,310, vehicle checkpoints to target unlicensed waste carriers were set up in Stainbeck Road and Princess Avenue. In all 17 vehicles were stopped and eight legal notices issued. Youth Services have delivered mobile/detached youth provision over the last six months around the Sholebroskes and Stonegates areas to reduce anti-social behavior (ASB). The outcome of this was that young people were referred to youth provision in the locality, for example Meanwood community Centre and health and fitness sessions at Carr Manor School.

#### **3. Environmental Issues**

There are still a number of environmental issues associated with refuse and recycling collection on the Beckhills estate in Meanwood. The Neighbourhood Manager is working with the locality team and housing Leeds housing officer for the area to put in place actions to tackle these issues. Actions agreed and put in place include: a pilot of freestanding communal bins on Beckhill Approach and Beckhill Fold; this was in response to repeated fly tipping and customer complaints. The use of these is being monitored by the locality team and the neighbourhood manager is consulting with residents and partner agencies from the area to receive feedback on

their perspective on awareness of this initiative. There was a significant reduction in fly tipping within a few weeks of their installation. At present the bins are being emptied twice a week until precise capacity requirements are established. Recycling provision and how appropriately this is being used by local residents on the estate is also being considered. New signage to encourage residents to use this service more effectively was put in place by the locality team in November 2014. The Neighbourhood Manager is working with CLT members in the area to continue to hold clean up action days and training sessions to maximise participation of residents in improving the environment of their estate.

Progress is being made to reach firm conclusions on the environmental and highways issues in the Chapel Road and Oak Road area of Chapeltown. The Neighbourhood Manager has been working with all relevant officers in the council and at Leeds and Yorkshire housing Association to establish facts and a way forward to deal with concerns. It is clear from police evidence that there have not been any real problems with anti-social behaviour in the area for the last six months. The police have agreed to monitor the situation and respond appropriately in the event that problems re-occur. The locality team have agreed to clear up the environment in the area on a regular basis, in order to minimise stress to local residents

Thorough investigations have revealed that legal ownership and thus responsibility for repairs to the damaged road and wall lays with local residents not the council. Due to the high financial cost to carry out the required work it would not be feasible for the council to undertake this work in default and realistically expect to be able to claim this money back from local residents. A written response went out to residents in October, explaining the position. The response outlines to residents that they may wish to apply for external community funding to pay for the work. Since the written response was sent to residents there has been no reply or further complaints on these issues.

The Neighbourhood Manager is also working with the enforcement officer in the locality team to undertake work and improve environmental issues of concern in the Chapeltown area. Focused work is in progress in the following areas: Granges, Hamilton's, Spencer place Hill, Crests and Francis Street. Meetings have been held with some local residents who are keen to be pro-active in addressing fly tipping and rubbish dumping. The Neighbourhood Manager is working with the environmental enforcement officer, housing partners and residents in the area. Two action days successfully took place held between October and December; there was a good turn out from local residents.

#### **4. Children & Young People**

Partnership work continues to enable statutory and voluntary youth service providers to provide a good range of activities –all focussed upon young people. Funding was achieved from the Well-being fund and Families First to deliver the summer projects. Over the summer two hundred and forty young people attended the Youth Service summer project. These included babysitting courses, a sign Language course as well as a food health and hygiene course. Eleven young people have successfully completed the motorbike course and gained an accredited bumpy award. As part of this course young people learnt about the health and safety aspects of riding motorbikes, legality and associated practical skills. The Youth Service continues to promote our ideals to a diverse range of young people. This has had some success in young people from various backgrounds integrating in our sessions. Up to one hundred people per week attended the Meanwood Mini Olympics over the summer period. The Neighbourhood Manager assisted with gaining funding for this activity, attended to support this and helped with the prize giving to young people alongside Fabian Hamilton and a local celebrity. Interact continue to hold youth work sessions at Stainbeck Church every Monday evening. Young people from the Meanwood, Chapeltown area and beyond attend these sessions. It was identified via the Meanwood partnership meeting that there are some resource issues and the Neighbourhood Manager is working with Interact and the staff at CHESS and NETWORKS, in order to support Interact to keep this valuable service so that they can provide maximum outcomes for young people. The Neighbourhood Manager has re-established a user group for the Prince Phillip centre. The aim of this group is to maximise effective use of the centre by all agencies in the delivery of activities for young people. The storage and lettings of the building are being reviewed and there are long term plans to decorate the centre to give it a fresh look. The next meeting is to be held in late January to progress this work.

The Neighbourhood Manager worked with partners to co-ordinate diversionary activities for young people on bonfire night to prevent anti-social behaviour. An application for funding was submitted by the Neighbourhood Manager to the Youth Activities Fund on behalf of the voluntary sector partners. As a result of funding achieved and effective planning two diversionary activities were run successfully during the week around bonfire night by the voluntary sector, there was a good turn out from young people. Out-reach work was also successfully carried out during this period by the statutory youth service and Children's Services.

## **5. Employability and training**

The partnership group that the Neighbourhood Manager set up to maximise employment and training for young people continues to meet every term. Clear actions have been identified and are being worked on from here. For example the Neighbourhood manager is conducting research on what further support can be provided for vulnerable groups of young people at a local level, this includes those with disabilities. Connexions are now running a job shop on Tuesday lunch time at the Reginald Centre for young people. The group are also tracking destinations at a local level. The work of this group is evolving and now includes tackling employment issues in four key neighbourhood areas: Chapeltown, Meanwood, Brackenwood and Queenshills.

## **6. Regeneration**

Further consultation took place with residents in July regarding the Neighbourhood Framework for the regeneration of the Beckhills estate. A new vision was established as a result. This vision focuses upon the community's aspirations, building on the unique setting of the area whilst addressing the issues that are important to local people. The framework aims to ensure that a new development of residential properties is linked with other investment to the benefit of the wider community. This should improve the neighbourhood area. Continued partnership working between the council, community, investors and service providers will be the key to successful delivery of this vision and the wider regeneration of this area.

The Neighbourhood Manager supported partner agencies in Chapeltown to write an application for pre-feasibility funding and develop an initial business plan to develop a cultural quarter in Chapeltown. This application was submitted to the Social Enterprise Investment Fund (SIB) and nine and half thousand pounds was successfully gained. The pre-feasibility work is now under way. This work includes gathering evidence to support the potential of the Chapeltown Cultural Quarter concept and to build the capacity of the group to successfully manage a community building. The grant is being used to cover two separate strands of work. The first is to address the existing training needs of the board members. The second is for a consultant to fulfill the requirements set out in a 'pre-feasibility brief' which will request a schedule of "space requirements" for new income generation and will identify what space can be 'shared' on a practical and economic basis. A lead officer from the voluntary sector has also been established to run a series of community consultation events. An independent market valuation of the Leeds West Indian Centre will also be undertaken.

## **8. Consultation and engagement**

Community consultation of engagement continues through a variety of partnership meetings, full details of which are outlined in the Neighbourhood Improvement plans. As a result of on-going recruitment by the neighbourhood manager the Community Leadership team in Meanwood is developing with a large number of members now participating. Surgeries on Neighbourhood issues continue to be held at Stainbeck Church community café bi-weekly. In Chapeltown the management team is being re-developed with statutory partner members. Work has commenced to hold a conversation dinner in Chapeltown; this will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> January, with key partner agencies and local residents. The aim of the conversation dinner is to have a healthy discussion on the issues in Chapeltown and use this as a stepping stone to develop a community leadership team in the area.

## **9. Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

Equality and Diversity are monitored through the NIP's, identifying inequalities and looking to resolve associated issues. This information forms a crucial part of all work in the neighbourhood.

## **10. Council policies and city priorities**

The work links directly to overall city wide plans through The Best Council.

## **11. Resources and value for money**

The work here looks to streamline existing resources, creating an integrated approach to issues with associated improvements in value for money.

## 12. Conclusions

Work being undertaken in the priority neighbourhoods is making steady progress. Also work has now commenced to address issues in the Brackenwood and Queenshills area in the Roundhay and Moortown wards. Highlighted below are the key priorities for the next period.

### Priorities for the next period:

#### (I) Regeneration

- Commencement of the initial stages of the new neighbourhood framework on the Beckhills Estate
- Progress work on the development of a cultural quarter in Chapeltown
- Work on the new priorities for the Chapeltown Investment strategy

#### (II) Environmental issues

- Continue the monitoring of the EIZ areas and address any issues identified including tackling environmental waste and fly tipping.
- Continue to progress and escalate those issues involving derelict sites in the Chapeltown area

#### (III) Provision of positive activities for young people

- Continue to support voluntary and statutory youth service providers enabling young people to engage in productive activities in the Meanwood and Chapeltown areas.
- Support providers to hold diversionary activities for young people on bonfire night in Chapeltown.
- Increase activities and outreach provisions for young people in the Brackenwood and Queenshills areas.

#### (IV) Employment, training and anti-poverty strategy

Engage with residents and partners using a range of innovative techniques to establish any additional support required at local level to assist gaining sustainable employment. This will include focused work on

- Young people leaving school. This will include continued monitoring and effective sharing of information of destinations.
- Adults transferred from incapacity benefit to ESA and job seekers allowance.
- Effective marketing at local level of city wide services, including direct referrals from partner agencies in the community where appropriate.
- Ensuring effective support and referrals to deal with mental health issues.

#### (V) Health and wellbeing

- Continue to develop activities to address the impact of alcohol use locally.
- Support members of the local community to access NHS Stop Smoking Services.
- Develop activities to raise awareness and increase sign up to the Smoke Free Homes.
- Develop activities to raise awareness with the local community around **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease** (COPD).
- Raise awareness of the "Got a Cough Get a Check" campaign and increase numbers accessing the self-referral chest x-ray clinics.
- Put in place effective support for people with mental health issues and reduce problems associated with isolation.
- Continue to support a range of physical activities throughout all the neighbourhood areas.

#### (VI) Community Engagement

- Continue to develop the Meanwood community leadership team.
- Hold a conversation dinner in Chapeltown and then develop the management team and a community leadership team in the area.

- Engage with residents and increase the participation of partnership working in the Brackenwood and Queenshills areas.

#### **14. Background information**

Neighbourhood Improvement plans