

Report of: Jane Maxwell, East North East Area Leader

Report to: Inner East Community Committee - Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Gipton & Harehills and Killingbeck & Seacroft

Report author: Andrew Birkbeck, Area Officer, Tel: 0113 3367642

Date: 22nd January 2015

Area Update Report

Purpose of report

1. This report provides a brief update on the work programme of Inner East Community Committee.

Main issues

2. At the October Inner East Community Committee meeting a number of actions points were raised by Elected Members, officers, local residents and representatives from the voluntary and community sector about how to better re-engage with young people in Inner East Leeds.
3. These action points (attached as **Appendix A**) have been written up, shared on the Inner East Community Committee social media sites, and the suggestions raised are currently being explored by the council and partners.
4. One specific example is that in the new financial year the Inner East Community Committee - which has a devolved budget for youth activity - will work in partnership with the Clusters (the umbrella organisations of schools in the area) to collaboratively commission youth activity projects in 2015/16 in a bid to maximise budgets and reduce duplication.
5. New ways of communicating with young people are also being explored which includes linking in better with schools and 3rd sector groups who already have access to large numbers of young people. A short on-line questionnaire asking young people what activities they would like to happen in their area has been drafted and will be shared in local schools in a bid to ascertain young people's views to shape future spending.

6. Feedback has also been given to colleagues in the Breeze team – the council’s youth engagement brand – as to how they could improve their offer to young people. Breeze is currently formulating a response to these suggestions in line with ongoing financial pressures.
7. The Inner East Children and &Young People’s Sub Group has been re-established and met on 19th January 2015. Discussions were held as to how to address the issues raised at the October Community Committee meeting, with the actions raised in the workshop session forming the basis of a new localised work programme. The progress of the sub group will be reported back to the Community Committee on a regular basis.
8. Discussions at the October Community Committee have also helped shape a Scrutiny Board report reviewing the effectiveness of the Youth Activity Fund (YAF). This report, which went to the Children and Families Scrutiny Board in December 2014, made recommendations for simplifying the process of administering the YAF grants and the greater involvement of young people in the decision making process.
9. Cllr Maureen Ingham, the Inner East Community Champion for Children & Young People has continued to build on the work that she, officers and partners undertook over the summer by visiting local groups and providers across the area, attending a session of Leeds Youth Council, and holding meetings with council officers from Children’s Services where she has been articulating local concerns and aspirations.
10. A review of Youth Activity Fund spending has been carried out by the East North East Area Support Team and is attached for Elected Members information as an appendix to the Wellbeing report. The information contained in this review will help inform the allocation of the 2015/16 budget.
11. In light of significant financial pressures facing the council a wider review of the Wellbeing process is currently being undertaken by the Area Support Team in a bid to ensure that any future successful funding applications meet agreed priorities and are also outcome based, sustainable and illustrate partnership working. A paper outlining proposals will come forward to the Community Committee for discussion in March 2015.
12. The Inner East Environmental Sub Group met on 9th December 2014 to discuss issues around the ongoing restructure to the Locality Team, progress with the Environmental Improvement Zones and refuse issues including side waste and alternate weekly collections. The sub group involves representatives from the council’s East North East Locality Team, Refuse Service, Parks & Countryside Service, Housing Leeds, East North East Area Support Team and local Ward Councillors.
13. A dedicated Employment and Skills Board has been established for the East North East area to address issues of unemployment and skill deficits in the wedge. The board has met on twice, on both 22nd October 2014 and 8th January 2015. This board will oversee the development and implementation of an Employment & Skills plan for the East North East area, with a particular focus on the Inner areas.
14. The Inner East area is represented on that board by the Community Champion for Employment, Skills and Welfare Councillor Ron Grahame.

15. The Inner East Planning Sub Group has met on 17th November 2014 and 12th January 2015 and discussed issues relating to significant projects in the Inner East area including the Wild Wild West site, The Gate Pub site, outline proposals for Oak Tree Drive and Askett Drive as well as concerns about the appearance of York Road shops. The sub group consists of representatives from the council's Planning service, East North East Area Support Team and local Ward Councillors.
16. The Inner East Community Committee continues to use social media to increase its reach into communities; the latest addition to this is the use of a Twitter page, which now has 90 followers.
17. The East North East Area Support Team has posted over 100 items to its dedicated Facebook page that have had total reach of over 5,500 people (although it should be noted that this will include a high proportion of re-visits to site from the same people). The most popular posts have proved to be those that have included photographs, particularly of local events and projects.

Options

18. That Members note the report and comment where appropriate.
19. The Inner East Community Committee agreed to focus its work on the theme of the environment for the meeting on 19th March 2015.

Conclusion

20. There are a number of actions on-going to achieve the Community Committees' priorities and fulfil its work programme. Progress has been made against these priorities but the Community Committee recognises that there is still a significant amount of work to be done within a challenging financial context for 2015/16.

Recommendations

21. That Members note the contents of the report and make comment where appropriate.

Background information

- Link to the Facebook Page for the Inner East Community Committee: <https://www.facebook.com/LCCInnerEast>
- Link to the Twitter Page for the Inner East Community Committee: https://twitter.com/LCC_InnerE_CC
- A link to the Community Engagement Strategy for the Inner East Community Committee: <http://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/documents/s118674/13a-%20draft%20IE%20comm%20eng%20strat%20v1.pdf>
- A link to the Scrutiny Board report for Children and Families relating to the Youth Activity Fund: <http://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=798&MId=6822&Ver=4>