
Report of the Chair Outer South Community Committee – Councillor Karen Bruce

Report to Full Council

Date: Wednesday 1st April 2015

Subject: Work of Outer South Community Committee

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Ardsley & 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

The report provides an update on the Outer South Community Committee's progress so far including an update on:

- themed Community Committee Workshops
- the work of the Community Committee Champions
- Successful projects delivered in 2014/15

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the content of this report and receive a presentation from the Chair of the Outer South Community Committee.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Full Council on the progress of the Outer South Community Committee and its workshops, the work of the Community Committee Champions and also highlights key successful projects.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Area Committees were created in 2004 to improve service delivery at local level and deliver projects and programmes of work on priority issues in the locality. In 2014 Community Committees were established to build on the successes of Area Committees with an enhanced focus on community engagement and in particular, increase the attendance and active involvement of local people at Community Committee meetings.
- 2.2 This report looks at the themed Community Committee workshops, highlights successful projects that have recently been delivered and outlines how the Community Committee Champions have helped shape projects and plans for 2014/15.

3 Main issues

3.1 Community Committee meetings and workshops 2014/15

- 3.1.1 The Outer South Community Committee agreed its programme of themed workshops for 2014/15 as outlined in the table below:

Community Committee Date	Theme	Workshop topic	Community Committee Champion
9 th July 2014	Community Safety, Environment and housing	Priorities for 2014/15	Cllr Karen Bruce
20 th October 2014	Children's Services	Things for Young People to do	Cllr Bob Gettings
2 nd February 2015	Health & Wellbeing and Adult Social Care	Social Isolation and Loneliness	Cllr Lisa Mulherin Cllr Karen Renshaw
23 rd March 2015	Employment, Skills and Welfare	Achieving Positive Outcomes for those with Disabilities in the Labour Market	Cllr Neil Dawson

- 3.1.2 These themed workshops address key issues and the topics which are determined in collaboration with service leads and Community Committee Champions. The workshop is then followed by the formal business meeting.

3.2 What works well

3.2.1 The new Community Committee format has proved successful in the Outer South area. Highlights include:

- The new ways of working has enabled engagement with a range of services and stakeholders on a number of topics across the area and has provided a platform to widen the conversation and make connections with all involved including engaging residents and service users in the issues that matter to them
- Community Committee Champions have played an active role in shaping the agenda and working with service leads which has had a positive impact
- Greater publicity and communications is a key role in promoting Community Committee and new ways of engaging residents has started. Various promotional activities have been used to promote meetings and workshops to residents and service partners. A Facebook page and twitter account has been developed which is updated regularly with information about events and meetings. This also provides an opportunity for residents to post comments or questions before the Community Committee
- The use of videos on Facebook to promote Community Committee events appears to be effective in reaching a wider audience and securing attendance at Community Committee workshops

3.2.2 The recent Adult Social Care and Health & Wellbeing themed Community Committee Workshop held on 2nd February focused on Social Isolation and Loneliness with approximately 50 people attending.

3.2.3 The workshop was outcome based and discussions focused on the four wards of the Outer South area. These were round table deliberations on tackling social isolation and loneliness. Initial feedback from the workshop is being collated and will be considered by the Outer South Older Person's Working Group.

3.3 Community Committee Champions

3.3.1 Community Committee Champions have been appointed to the following themes:

- Children & Young People – Cllr Bob Gettings
- Environment and Community Safety – Cllr Karen Bruce
- Health & Wellbeing – Cllr Lisa Mulherin
- Adult Social Care – Cllr Karen Renshaw
- Employment, Skills & Welfare – Cllr Neil Dawson

3.3.2 The Community Committee Champions meet quarterly and are working with service leads to develop priorities:

- The Champions, in consultation with service leads agree priorities for the workshops to address issues and agree solutions
- Workshops topics are developed by the Champion and lead officer by theme. This involves planning, involving partners, and engagement with local people for their input. Outcomes from these events inform the work of sub groups and the Community Committee Plan.

- 3.3.3 The Community Committee continues to develop its infrastructure to support the delivery of its work and provide a vehicle for the Community Committee theme Champions to take the lead on programmes of work. Among other things these sub groups manage delegations to Community Committee and monitor Wellbeing Funded projects and bringing together key partners to collectively achieve outcomes. The Community Committee sub groups are detailed below:

Sub Group	Community Committee Champion/Chair
Children & Families	Cllr Bob Gettings
Community Centres	Cllr Bob Gettings
Environmental Services	Cllr Karen Bruce
Older Person's Working Group	Cllr Karen Renshaw

- 3.3.4 **Children and Families sub group** has been instrumental in developing the model to deliver against the Youth Activities Fund delegation and has increased the voice and influence of children and young people. In 2014 the Community Committee commissioned three mini Breeze which took place in Rothwell, East Ardsley and Morley. The events provided an opportunity to undertake consultation with children and young people which will help shape the delivery of activities 2015/16. 705 children and young people took part in the consultation.
- 3.3.5 Children and Young people play a role in reviewing Youth Activity Fund applications and score applications on a number of areas such as how many children & young people can take part in an activity; where and when the activity will take place; how effectively is the provider at engaging with young people and value for money. A programme of peer inspections is now being developed to help evaluate activities funded through Youth Activities Fund.
- 3.3.6 **Community Centres Sub Group** manages the portfolio of community facilities delegated to the Community Committee. In line with the council wide review of community centres it has been involved in the consultation process following the "Community Centre Review – Proposals to Consult" paper which was agreed at Leeds City Council Executive Board on 19th November 2014. The Executive Board agreed a 12 week consultation period for facilities located in the Outer South:

Community Centre	Ward
St Gabriel's Community Centre	Ardsley & Robin Hood
Gildersome Youth Club	Morley North
Lewisham Park	Morley South
Windmill Youth Centre	Rothwell

- 3.3.7 Consultation events have engaged with regular users of each facility, residents, community groups and ward members. Other interested parties were encouraged to participate. Ward members and key stakeholders were provided with financial information and usage figures for each community centres and were invited to provide initial comments.

- 3.3.8 In addition to discussions at the Outer South Community Centres Sub Group, the product of all the consultation was presented to the Outer South Community Committee at its meeting on Monday 23rd March and reported back to the Councils Executive Board with timescales for further action.
- 3.3.9 **Environmental Services Sub Group** has continued to meet throughout the year and has received regular performance reports on the delivery against the Environmental Services Delegation. The impact of bringing Parks and Countryside, Environment and housing caretaking together has started to show improved service delivery. The sub group will consider SLA4 proposals once the restructure is complete.
- 3.3.10 **Site Based Gardeners Scheme.** Outer South Community Committee approved funding of £35,654.01 for the Site Based Gardeners Scheme which provides dedicated gardeners who operate in Smithy Lane Recreation Ground, Woodlesford Park, Drighlington Park, Lewisham Park, Hembrigg Park, Wide Lane, Churwell Park, Lowry Road, Magpie Lane, Shayfield Recreation Ground and Carlton Village. The gardeners undertake general gardening duties including: grass cutting, pruning, de-littering, emptying of litter bins, removing fly tipping, marking out sports pitches, inspection of play equipment, maintenance of park infrastructure, planting and sweeping paths. In addition gardeners act as a point of liaison with the local community, effect policing duties and deal with other routine park maintenance such as unlocking of park gates. The project helps to improve the physical environment and security issues at the above sites. The site-based gardeners engage with the public to enhance visitor experience at the sites.
- 3.3.11 **Older Person's Working Group** was established by the Community Committee to bring together representatives from the Outer South Community Committee, statutory, community and voluntary sector who work with and for older people to promote the well-being of all older people in South Leeds. The Older Person's Working Group is a partnership that provides local leadership arrangements that are responsive to the needs and of older people providing for better, more responsive and personalised services. The group aims to ensure service delivery that positively impacts the lives of older people in the Outer South. Through partnership working the group engages with services to identify local actions to address the following priorities:
- Health & Wellbeing issues relating to older people: including a focus on dementia and social isolation
 - Housing and older people – supporting self-care and maintaining independence
 - Community Committee funded projects including **Wellbeing Packs** and **Outer South Garden Maintenance Scheme**
 - Intergenerational activities eg **International Day of Older People events**

- 3.3.12 **Wellbeing Packs:** this project was delivered during winter 2014 and was an enhanced scheme based on the 2013/14 Winter Warmth Scheme. A key challenge of the scheme was ensuring that packs were delivered to the most vulnerable members of the community. The Older Person's Working group proposed that an enhanced scheme would be aimed at reaching the most vulnerable throughout the year. Community Committee provided £4,000 from Wellbeing funds and additional funding of £8,000 was secured from Public Health and Housing Area Panel thus creating a £12,000 scheme for £4,000 Community Committee contribution. Packs were targeted at the elderly and vulnerable and contained a range of items to help people stay warm over the winter period.
- 3.3.13 **Outer South Garden Maintenance Scheme.** Outer South Community Committee funding of £33,000 was approved to support a gardening service to the elderly and disabled. The service, delivered by Morley Elderly Action, helps to prevent depression and despair at not being able to cope with the garden. It also helps to prevent accidents, such as tripping and falling as the garden is kept neat and tidy and does not have overgrown bushes and grass. A client can also benefit from being able to sit in their garden or walk around it, promoting healthier lifestyle. Work undertaken includes grass cutting, strimming, hedge cutting, cutting back bushes and small trees and weeding. Garden tidying at the beginning and end of the seasons is also completed. Targeted priority groups are
- anyone aged over 60
 - those with a disability
 - anyone unable to cope because of old age
- 3.3.14 **International Day of Older People Celebration Events:** Community Committee allocated £2,000 of wellbeing funding for events that coincided with International Day of Older People on or around 1st October. Two organisations were commissioned to deliver events on behalf of the Community Committee with one event being held in Morley Town Hall and another held at Blackburn Hall, Rothwell.
- 3.3.15 The events were designed to provide a day of entertainment and fun for older people as well as providing an opportunity for them to gather information from various organisations and services about provision for older people, including living in their own homes with comfort, dignity and security for as long as they choose.
- 3.3.16 The event delivered by Rothwell & District Live at Home Scheme at Blackburn Hall included 27 exhibitors who offered information, advice support and therapies on the day. Transport was provided and the FDM For Disability Mobility provided transport for those who were unable to get into Rothwell without assistance. Over 250 people attended the event.

- 3.3.17 The event delivered by Morley Elderly Action held at Morley Town Hall included various stalls set up to give out information to all those who called in. The event was attended by the Police, Fire Service, Post Office, Welfare Rights, LCC Housing, Morley Library, Morley Leisure Centre, and NHS Blood Pressure Checks, Boots the Chemist, Will Services, and Cleaning Services. Demonstrations were given from the sports centre with attendees participating. The event focused around promoting independent living for persons over the age of 60 by introducing them to services that could be of help and was attended by over 150 people.

3.5 **Successful Projects**

- 3.5.1 **Neighbourhood Improvement Officer Project (NIO).** Through the development of its Business Plan the former Outer South Area Committee identified the need for an NIO role to address issues of community capacity and the development of community leadership. Commissioned through Health for All and funded by the Wellbeing budget, the NIO project employs 1 worker across the Outer South wards and provides 3 days a week for Ardsley & Robin Hood, Morley North, Morley South and Rothwell.
- 3.5.2 The NIO works in the Outer South, identifying and leading on projects through engagement with Elected Members, local agencies, partners and residents, supporting residents in becoming community leaders and implementing actions in keeping with the Community Committee Plan.
- 3.5.3 Funding allocated is £20,402.40 for salary, National Insurance and on costs. Key areas of work are included below. This post was recently re-advertised and the new NIO has developed a work programme in consultation with Ward Members.
- 3.5.4 **South Leeds Community Network:** the South Leeds Community Network provides networking opportunities for community groups across South Leeds. The group aims to strengthen the community sector by providing a forum through which groups can meet each other and support organisations such as funders and development workers. It also aims to share information, ideas and best practice enabling groups to improve and innovate their work. Meetings have been held and topics covered included funding, training and organising community events with key speakers from Leeds City Council and the Voluntary Sector being invited to each event as well as groups sharing their own experiences and learning.
- 3.5.5 The NIO along with Involvement and Improvement Officers from Housing Leeds provides support to South Leeds Community Network to organise meetings and training sessions, aiming to strengthen the networks ability to support itself as a peer learning network.
- 3.5.6 In conjunction with the NIO, the group reviewed and reproduced a guide for people who want to set up a community group. The guide includes information on governance, insurance, policies, funding, support, finances and training.
- 3.5.7 The NIO promotes relevant opportunities, from both LCC and the voluntary sector, including training, funding and events to South Leeds groups, examples include:
- widespread distribution of Leeds Let's Get Active promotional materials

- encouraging groups to take advantage of the HUGO bus and the Library Information Bus
- promoting the financial fitness project commissioned by Outer South Community Committee and Public Health and delivered by West Yorkshire Trading Standards
- contributing to integrated locality working through participation in relevant development forums such as Third Sector Goes Local and Transform Leeds.

- 3.5.8 **The South Leeds Debt Forum** was established in 2013 and completed a mapping exercise of advice service provision in South Leeds. This demonstrated that whilst there is reasonable access to Welfare rights and Housing Advice there was little provision of face to face debt advice.
- 3.5.9 To help address this issue the Outer South Community Committee match funded a **`Money Buddies scheme'** which trains volunteers to provide one to one support to people in debt, enabling them to negotiate with their creditors, make savings, switch utility/mobile phone supplier and borrow money at a reasonable rate of interest.
- 3.5.10 **Leeds South Foodbank** was established in 2013 to provide emergency food to people in crisis. The Foodbank is run by volunteers and supported by the Trussell Trust. Outer South Community Committee allocated £4,000 Wellbeing funding to help establish Foodbanks in each of the four wards. Funding has supported the opening of a Foodbank distribution centre in Rothwell. Leeds South Food bank has provided food to [2200] people in crisis, two thirds of which were children.
- 3.5.11 Community Committee Wellbeing Funding paid for essential equipment to set up and manage the distribution centre in Rothwell and for a laptop which will be used by volunteers to coordinate the work of Leeds South Foodbank in Outer South Leeds. Referrals to the Foodbank are made by a growing number of local support agencies who issue clients with a voucher which is then exchanged for 3 days' supply of food at a Foodbank distribution centre. The Rothwell distribution centre is based at Temple Lawn Community Centre and opened on 14th August.
- 3.5.12 **Community Heroes:** In June 2014 a Community Heroes Event was delivered at Morley Town Hall. The event was an opportunity for the Outer South Community Committee to celebrate the diversity and strength of community leadership in their communities, saying thank you to those contributing to their communities on a voluntary basis across Outer South Leeds. Feedback from the event was very positive and groups appreciated the recognition offered to them.
- 3.5.13 The Outer South Community Committee, through its wellbeing budget, supports local community events that promote civic pride, community cohesion and help increase the footfall to the local area impacting on local trade and awareness of local facilities. Events supported through Wellbeing funding include:
- May Day, Summer Carnival, Christmas Fayre in Rothwell
 - Rothwell Competitive Music Festival
 - Morley Literature Festival

- 3.5.14 **Wood Lane Playground improvements.** £8,400 Wellbeing funding was provided to implement improvements at Wood Lane recreation ground in Rothwell. The recreation ground is very well used, but play equipment had been removed, resulting in there being little to no facilities for young people or children to enjoy. The project provided enhanced play opportunities with as wide a play experience for children of all age ranges and abilities and relocated the seats for carers and users of the park. The scheme provided equipment and opportunities for imaginative play.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Outer South Community Committee has developed an engagement framework. It is supported by ad hoc community events and galas, Outer South Facebook page and the Community Committee newsletter.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 All projects funded from Well Being must have an equal opportunities policy and as outline which equality group the project will work with, and how equality and cohesion issues have been considered.
- 4.2.2 Internal and statutory partners are committed to equality and cohesion and all projects they are involved with will have considered these issues.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 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

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 There is no new resource implications detailed within this report. In all requests for funding from Community Committee applicants are asked to consider value for money during the application process

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 There are no legal implications and this report is not subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 There are no significant risk management issues contained within the report.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Community Committees will further develop the engagement and involvement of local communities in the decision making process by actively involving residents in themed Community Committee meetings and other engagement activity in Outer East Leeds. Outer East Community Committees will continue to support projects and programmes of work that enhance service delivery and continue to invest in local facilities.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report and raise questions.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.