
Report of Chair Outer North West Community Committee

Report to Full Council

Date: 1st April 2015

Subject: Outer North West Community Committee Update

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Adel & Wharfedale, Guiseley & Rawdon, Horsforth and Otley & Yeadon		
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

This report provides an update on the Outer North West Community Committee's progress so far including an update on:

- The first three themed Community Committee Meetings
- The work of the Community Champions
- Key successful projects.

Recommendations

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

1 Purpose of this report

- 2 The purpose of this report is to report on the progress, early outcomes, opportunities and challenges of the Outer North West Community Committee. It also highlights a number of key pieces of work supported by the committee.

3 Background information

- 4 Our city and its communities are facing massive and increasing social and financial challenges, including health inequalities, an ageing and more diverse population and poverty and financial exclusion. In a time of dwindling budgets but increasing challenges, the council must work more intelligently and more flexibly than ever before. Community Committees offer the opportunity to look afresh at our understanding of local needs, aspirations and potential. The challenge and focus for the new community committees will be to genuinely involve the communities they represent in the decisions that affect them.

- 5 The former Outer North West Area Committee developed sub groups to oversee work strands in the area, which have been operating since 2006. At its June 2014 meeting the community committee agreed to further develop the scope and range of the sub groups and that the sub groups would decide upon the topics for the Community Committee during the 2014/15 municipal year.

- 6 The change from Area Committees to Community Committees offered the opportunity to look afresh at local needs and to develop new sub groups to address issues of thematic importance to the area.

- 7 At the first meeting of the Outer North West Community Committee themed sub groups was agreed covering the following key areas: Environment and Community Safety; Employment, Learning and the Local Economy; Children's Services and Family Health; Adult Social Care, Health and Well-being; Highways and Transportation and Policy. Where possible the sub group chairs have been aligned with the Community Champion role:

- Environment & Community Safety – Councillor Barry Anderson (sub group chair and Community Champion).
- Children's Services – Councillor Pat Latty (sub group chair and Community Champion).
- Employment, Skills and Welfare – Councillor Ryk Downes (sub group chair and Community Champion).
- Health & Well-being and Adult Social Care – Councillor Graham Latty (sub group chair and Community Champion).
- Highways and Transportation – Councillor Brian Cleasby (sub group chair)
- Policy – Councillor Paul Wadsworth (Sub group chair).

- 8 The Community Committee Champions are working with lead officers through a range of partnership structures to develop clear priorities and play an active role in shaping themes and progressing work:

9 Main issues

Themed meeting

- 10 **The Outer North West Community Committee**, through its sub groups, identified a number of **themes** that Members wanted future meetings to focus on. These were:

- Domestic Violence
- Social Isolation
- Engagement with Children & Young People

Domestic Violence

- 11 In October 2014 the Outer North West Community Committee hosted its first workshop exploring Domestic Violence in our community, what is currently in place in our communities to respond to domestic violence and how the Community Committee can help to raise awareness of domestic violence in the local area. Representatives from the Domestic Violence Team, Caring Dads, Behind Closed Doors, Public Health, the Neighbourhood Policing Team and Children's Services joined officers and Ward Members to debate the issue.
- 12 The Chair of the Community Committee opened the meeting by introducing the topic and invited the Community Champion for Environment and Community Safety to set the scene for the workshop by providing a brief overview of the recent Scrutiny Board report on domestic violence. Officers from Safer Leeds highlighted the key issues surrounding domestic violence and the work being done in Leeds to address the issue.
- 13 A workshop session then followed with informative group discussions on domestic violence in the locality, what services are in place and available now, and what could be developed or supported to address the issues. Each group then summarised their discussions and fed back to the full meeting.
- 14 The Community Committee Champion for Environment & Community Safety closed the session advising that feedback from the workshop would be referred to the Environment & Community Safety sub group to consider what actions the Outer North West Community Committee could do to help and support agencies tackling Domestic Violence in the area.
- 15 Feedback from the workshop highlighted that domestic violence and abuse is an issue in the outer north west area and can affect individuals from any background or socio-demographic. The Environment & Community Safety sub group agreed that there is a definite need to raise awareness of this issue and has agreed a number of actions including exploring potential projects and funding to support both victims and perpetrators of Domestic Violence and also publicising contact details for support groups on Facebook and local newsletters. In addition the Community Committee contributed through their well-being fund, towards a Christmas party for vulnerable children who have witnessed or been a victim of domestic abuse in the outer north west area.

Social Isolation

- 16 The Adult Social Care, Health & Well-being sub group chose Social Isolation as the topic for the December community committee theme. The session focused on how we find people who are socially isolated in the local area, what the issues are and what can be done to help those in our community who are socially isolated.
- 17 The Community Champion for Health & Well-being and Adult Social Care opened the meeting advising those present of the reasons for the Adult Social Care Health & Well-being sub group choosing social isolation as their topic and explaining how it affects a large percentage of the population living in the outer north west area. Rachel Cooper from Leeds Older People's Network gave a presentation on the 'Time of Our Lives' £6m lottery bid and Lucy Jackson Public Health Consultant talked about the Leeds Ageing Well Board.
- 18 Group discussions with a range of services and partners including the four local Neighbourhood Networks, Leeds West Commissioning Care Group (CCG), Adult Social Care, Public Health, Leisure Services, Housing Leeds and Libraries, helped to set the scene, by providing a local perspective on how they deliver their services and the challenges they face.
- 19 The session highlighted a number of reasons individuals can become socially isolated including bereavement and mobility issues and asked what can be done to reach people who feel socially isolated. A number of suggestions were made including the need for a community development worker to engage with the community and make links with service providers.
- 20 Learning from this topic will be used by the Health & Well-being and Adult Social Care sub group and officers to agree what actions and activities to develop to address social isolation in the outer north west area.

Engagement with Children and Young People

- 21 The Children's Services and Family Health sub group considered what they wanted to choose as their topic and based their choice on the lack of engagement with children and young people in the outer north west. The Youth Engagement Panel has had consistently low attendance at their meetings and Councillors saw a way to promote the panel and equally importantly, connect with the children and young people living in the outer north west in a fun and informal way. Trinity University in Horsforth was chosen and the university kindly agreed to provide the venue for free.
- 22 A full day of engagement was organised with the assistance of the Clusters, the Voice and Influence Team, the Youth Offer Team and the Youth Service. Invitations to the event were sent to all schools across the four clusters asking them to send representatives from Years 3 to 13 (ages 8-17). The day was made up of three elements: a training session on governance organised and run by the Voice and Influence Team; a question and answer session with Councillors from the Outer North West Community Committee and an activities and mapping activity involving the Councillors and young people to decide how the Youth Activity Fund money should be spent in the wards.

- 23 The first session concentrated on 'having a voice', local democracy and governance and how to make a difference. All of which prepared the children and young people well for a question and answer session with a panel of their local councillors. This was very successful with a wide range of questions being put forward to the panel and answered by different Councillors in turn. Questions ranged from 'Why do you want to be a Councillor?' and 'What can you do to make our city better?' to 'Can you tell us a joke?' Unfortunately there wasn't time for the panel to answer all of the 60 different questions that were put forward but this was a very popular part of the day as evidenced in the feedback received at the end of the session.
- 24 Lunch was provided for all the attendees funded by the sub group and the afternoon session then provided an opportunity for the students and Councillors to work together to look at what type of activities should be funded through the Youth Activity Fund, working to a budget of £56,000 (the community committee youth activity fund for 2014/15). A list of activities and costs were provided and the young people and Councillors discussed in smaller groups how the budget should be spent, including what would be popular, whether the activities were value for money, was there a good spread for all ages etc. The general feedback was that these were difficult decisions to make and many found it hard to decide how to spend the money equally.
- 25 The day was rounded off with a tour of the University for the young people attending, accompanied by students from Trinity University giving the opportunity for the children and young people to ask questions about university life and further education. A feedback form was completed asking if any children and young people would like to be involved in the Youth Engagement Panel, what they had thought was good and bad about the day, what they liked best and what kind of activity they personally preferred from Arts, Play or Sport.
- 26 A report of the day, including analysis of the activity session and feedback was taken to the Children's Services and Family Health sub group. This will now be shared with local schools who participated in the event and also with the Youth Engagement Panel.
- 27 What's worked well:
- Engaging with services in a new way of working, developing more of a partnership approach to planning the themed meetings.
 - Role of Community Champions – through their active role in shaping themes and progressing work.
 - Involvement of the sub group infrastructure in response to the themed meetings - the Children and Young People's Sub Group now includes Cluster representation and will monitor those key actions from the Engagement with Children and Young People topic.
 - Well-being spend – during 2014/15 municipal year the community committee had a well-being fund allocation of £140,672 plus carry forward of £33,035 from 2013/14 giving a total of £173,707. During 2014/15 the community committee

has approved funding for 28 well-being projects totalling £168,245. In addition, £56,470 has been spent on 20 projects from the Youth Activity Fund.

Social Media

28 The introduction **of Facebook and Twitter** has allowed the Community Committee to interact with a wider audience by developing a **stronger social connection** with residents who have not necessarily previously engaged with us. Social media has provided a platform to **build relationships** and share useful and interesting information from local media, community groups and residents.

29 The Community Committee have publicised a range of messages on Facebook around consultation, community events or improvements to an area, which have proven to be very popular. With such a good response at a very early stage there is real potential for engagement through social media to further grow.

30 **Consultation and Engagement**

The Outer North West Community Committee has three Community Forums, Citizens@Guiseley & Rawdon, Citizens@Holt Park and Citizens@Yeadon for engaging with local people in addition to attending community events and galas as well as the Outer North West Facebook page. The Committee will continue to support and enable local people and communities to engage and interact on issues that are important to them.

31 The community committee hosts a Parish and Town Council Forum three times a year, which enables the committee to engage with the six local Parish and Town Councils in outer north west Leeds. A number of joint priorities between the community committee and the local councils have been agreed, including the proposed Parks and Countryside delegation, Highway issues in relation Public Transport and links to Leeds Bradford airport.

32 **Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

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

33 **Council policies and City Priorities**

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

34 Resources and value for money

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.

35 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

There are no legal, access to information or call in implications arising from this report.

36 Risk Management

There are no risk management issues of any significance arising from this report.

37 Conclusions

The Community Committees are building on the successes of Area Committees and developed on the engagement and involvement of local communities in the decision making process.

38 These first three themed meetings have allowed the Community Committee to work with a bottom-up approach by engaging with partners to envision ways to strengthen the links between Clusters and the sustainability of local assets. The next steps will be to investigate and respond to the challenges and opportunities discussed at these workshops.

39 The Community Committee already has good relationships with its local communities and utilises its available funding streams to support local projects. It recognises that there are challenges ahead especially with engaging with hard to reach groups, but will continue to strengthen its positive working relationships with stakeholders to improve local services and facilities.

40 Recommendations

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

41 Background documents¹

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.