

**Report of:** The South East Area Leader

**Report to:** The Outer South Community Committee  
(Ardsley & Robin Hood, Morley North, Morley South and Rothwell)

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**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**For decision**

## **Outer South Community Committee Update Report**

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### **Purpose of report**

1. To bring to members' attention an update of the work which the communities team is engaged in, based on priorities identified by the community committee that are not covered elsewhere on this agenda. It provides opportunities for further questioning or to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

### **Main issues**

Updates by theme:

#### **Children and Families: Councillor Karen Bruce**

2. The **Children & Families Sub Group** met on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Minutes have been circulated by email. The group considered and made recommendations for the Youth Activities Funded projects for 2017/18. Details of the projects approved are included in the Delegated Budgets Report.
3. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at Blackburn Hall, Rothwell.
4. The Children's Champion has also instigated exploratory work on projects to tackle key issues including; sanitary products for school aged girls, CSE & cyber safety and family counselling.
5. In the short term **sanitary products** are being distributed to all schools in Rothwell via the charity 'Fareshare'. Longer term, '**Donation stations**' are intended to be established in a suitable location in each ward, most likely a supermarket, for members of the public to donate new packets of sanitary products. These will be collected and distributed to

**foodbanks, schools and crisis centres** in the area. The Communities team is coordinating this and will consult with ward members.

6. Work is currently ongoing to scope the costs and practicalities of delivering **CSE & cyber safety** education to all young people in the area, and some measure of family counselling service for all in the Outer South. The police PWA has a number of officers trained to be able to deliver sessions in online safety to children and parents and are able to offer this service free to all schools in the Outer South. Possible opportunities will be discussed in more detail at the next Children & Families Sub Group

#### **Environment: Councillor Karen Bruce**

7. The Environment sub group met on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 at the **RERF (Recycling & Energy Recovery Facility)** at Veolia, Leeds and minutes were distributed by email.
8. Attendees had a guided tour of the facility, which is designed to remove and sort recyclables before the combustion process. This state-of-the-art technology is a safe and efficient way of treating residual black bin waste, with the plant helping to increase recycling rates and to generate energy. It also significantly reduces the amount of waste the city sends to landfill, as once the recyclables have been removed the remaining waste is burnt in carefully controlled conditions, with the heat from the combustion process being used to turn water into steam. This generates enough power for 22,000 homes in Leeds
9. Localities, Parks & Countryside, Housing Leeds, Highways & Transportation and Waste Management all provided key updates that related to the Outer South area. Waste Management advised of the proposed **charges for bulky waste collections**, as well as replacement bins in the near future.
10. Parks & Countryside advised that work was on schedule for the **Dementia Gardens** in **Rothwell** which went on to be opened on the 17<sup>th</sup> May. The very wet weather didn't detract from the crowds attending the opening ceremony to support this worthwhile project.

#### **Changes to Parkswatch Service**

11. The Parkswatch service transferred to Safer Leeds from Parks in 2013. The service was responsible for **patrolling green spaces and parks**, locking and unlocking cemeteries, monitoring of traveller injunctions and occasional work with West Yorkshire Police. There have been **6 officers** undertaking Parkswatch patrols, working seasonal hours. Over the last few months, intensive work has been undertaken to **modernise and redesign** the Parkswatch service
12. The team has now been integrated into the **wider Safer Leeds Patrol Team**, commencing April 2017. The new team comprises **20 officers** undertaking a **wider range of duties** including all of the above, plus: patrolling of estates to prevent ASB, responding to LCC alarm calls, routine patrols to LCC assets, patrolling of industrial

estates where this is a paid for service and **partnership working** with other services including West Yorkshire Police. Work has also commenced on joining up the work of the Safer Leeds Officer Patrol Team with the Council's ASB team in an attempt to find **sustainable solutions** to some of the ASB type problems the team encounters.

### **Community Safety: Councillor Lisa Mulherin**

13. Following the last Community Committee workshop on **Domestic Abuse** the Area Support Team and Safer Leeds' Domestic Violence Team have been working together on an **action plan** created from the workshop discussions. Leaflets, posters and other materials are being distributed to the majority of public venues in the outer south including, Health Centres, Libraries, Social Clubs and schools. Discussions are taking place to support **local businesses** to undertake the **Domestic Violence Quality Mark** and a large scale awareness raising event in the area is being considered. Further to this the local policing team and Cluster are interested in possibly establishing a standard and medium risk **case conference of DV cases in the local area**.
14. In the last 3 months work has continued to tackle the **anti-social behaviour** issues being committed by a minority of young people in **Drighlington and Rothwell**. Working in partnership, the LASBT team, police and Youth Services have carried out a range of actions including legal warnings and tenancy action.
15. Work is currently taking place with Environmental Services to receive **authority to demolish** a garage that youths have been using as a den in the Moorside area. Dispersal powers will then be used.
16. There have been a number of reports regarding anti-social behaviour at **Rothwell Morrisons**. A multi-agency meeting took place with the supermarket and they have agreed to look at ways to improve security on the site and to share **CCTV** footage they have captured. Youth Services and the police will work to identify any of the perpetrators from this footage and aim to work with the young people and their families to develop ways to prevent this happening in the future.
17. Officers in the Outer South Partnership Working Area (PWA) have executed two significant **drugs warrants** since the last meeting. One at an address on the **Fairleigh estate** in Tingley following information from the community. A quantity of drugs and section 1 ammunition was found, the case is being further investigated by CID.
18. The second was at an address in **Robin Hood**. The house was found to be a factory for the production and cultivation of **cannabis**. 225 plants were recovered. Whilst at the address officers found a 45 year old Vietnamese male who appeared to be the victim of **trafficking** into this country. The victim is being supported and entered into the National Referral Mechanism for **modern slavery**.
19. **No Cold Calling Zones** are now in place in **Churwell** covering over 130 houses and a second is due to start imminently covering 227 of the Croft Houses. These have been

developed in partnership between WYP, West Yorkshire Trading Standards and Leeds City Council.

20. The PWA has delivered inputs into three schools so far; Churwell, Asquith and Drighlington on **CSE and Cyber Safety**. This work will continue and link into the ambitions of the Children's Champion to deliver this to all schools in the area.
21. A new of working with regards to the **release of prisoners** has been introduced; Ward Officers now work with Anchor Prison Release persons, in partnership with probation and Intensive Offender Management (IOM), to develop a support package unique to the individual to try to **prevent re offending**.
22. Invitations have recently been sent out for the next **Operation Champion**, a multi-agency day of action, which is due to take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Employment, Skills & Welfare: Councillor Neil Dawson**

23. Within the Community Committee area, there are **510 people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)** as of March 2017, which is a 27% (190 people) **decrease** compared to the same period last year. There are 3,155 people claiming Employment Support Allowance (ESA), as of August 2016, which is a 0.16% (5 people) decrease compared to the same period last year.
24. From April to March 2017, there have been 870 residents accessing **Jobshops and Employment and Skills programmes**, with 327 supported to secure employment and 310 to improve their skills.
25. **The Personal Work Support package (PWSP)**, requiring those unemployed residents in receipt of Council Tax Benefit to attend Jobshops for additional job search support, is working well. Since it commenced in April 2015, 1,799 have attended and 429 (24%) have secured employment. There are currently 52 Outer South residents engaging or having completed this programme.
26. One of the key developments for the city was **Victoria Gate**, as part of this development **The Casino** was created. The Casino recruited 250 people into jobs, 80% (201) were from Leeds and 10 residents from the outer south secured employment. There were a number of initiatives to support the recruitment to these new jobs, an assessment centre aimed at **NEET young people** took place in October; a Pre-Employment Training event was held in December; and a number of information sessions across the city.
27. On the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017, an event was held at The Point to promote the forthcoming vacancies from the **White Rose Shopping Centre** extension. There were opportunities at the Cinema and 6 restaurant outlets promoted to the public along with a range of job search support. **Over 800 people attended** the event with over 200 registering for additional support. Businesses new to us have made contact for recruitment support on

the back of the event and Land Securities have said it appeared to be one of the most successful public events of its kind in recent years.

### **Transport for Leeds**

28. The City Development department were delighted to receive **confirmation from the Department for Transport of £173.5m in funding for the transformation of our public transport system in Leeds**. This is just the start of the major improvements needed to make it quicker and easier for everyone to move around the city; and to connect people to jobs, open up more opportunities for businesses, and increase productivity.

29. The package of improvements includes:

- Easing congestion, improving bus journey times and reliability **through bus priority measures on key corridors in the city**
- New park and ride services at Stourton and north Leeds joining the new service at Temple Green opening later this year and the successful site at Elland Road
- **Improved district transport hubs** making use of the latest technologies and better connectivity between local communities and neighbourhoods
- Developing proposals for **new rail stations** to support job creation and housing growth at Thorpe Park and **White Rose/Millshaw Business Park**
- Developing proposals for a new parkway station on the Leeds to Harrogate line to serve Leeds Bradford Airport and also act as a park and ride in both directions
- Enhancing access at Cross Gates, **Morley** and Horsforth **rail stations** and car park expansion at New Pudsey to increase its park and ride capacity
- Connecting with city centre plans to create modern transport interchanges, enhanced public spaces and maximising the benefits from the remodelled Leeds Station and the arrival of high-speed HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail.

30. The transport improvements form part of the wider Leeds City Region economic plan which aims to deliver up to **35,000 new jobs** and an additional £3.7billion of economic output by 2036.

31. Officers from City Development intend to report to Community Committee in the autumn with more details about how this affects communities specifically in the Outer South.

### **Health and Wellbeing & Adult Social Care: Councillor Karen Bruce (Health & Wellbeing) & Councillor Karen Renshaw (Adult Social care)**

32. Discussions from the **South and East Health and Wellbeing Forum** held in January have shaped the development of new work programmes, linking to the Leeds South and East CCG **Health Inequalities Fund**, which aim to address local priorities in relation to mental health & wellbeing

33. Leeds Beckett University are in the process of carrying out an evaluation of the **Connect for Health Service**, initial findings suggest that when local people access the service it has a significant positive affect on their overall wellbeing.

34. **Bowel Cancer screening champions** in GP practices will be continuing currently until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The champion programme aims to support GP Practices encourage patients who have not completed their bowel cancer screening test.
35. **Leeds South East CCG** are procuring a community awareness programme for cancer and CVD to increase local uptake of cancer screenings and **NHS health checks**.
36. Promotion of **Today's The Day** is continuing with a number of resources available for local organisations to utilise, including banners and flyers. New case studies supporting pregnant women to **quit smoking** have also been developed to support key promotion in children's centres across the area.
37. The LSE **CCG Quality Improvement Scheme** 2017/18 was launched on 1 April. Levels 1 and 2 of the scheme support key public health prevention work and working towards long term condition management: for example COPD screening rates, identifying patients at risk of diabetes, delivery of the NHS health check.

#### **South East Debt Forum**

38. At the last meeting of the **South East debt forum** on Thursday 16 March at Tenants Hall, Middleton, two presentations were well received by forum members. These were from:
- **Glasspool Charity Trust**, an organisation that provides grants for individuals of £250 – £750 for household essentials. They were also keen to consult with organisations working in financial/debt related areas outside of London and feed this intelligence into their 5 Year Plan. For more information, please visit [www.glasspool.org.uk](http://www.glasspool.org.uk).
  - **LCC Welfare Rights** consulted the meeting on the Advice Consortium. This is a partnership with Citizens Advice Leeds, Citizens Advice Chapelton and Better Leeds Communities which allows the council to bring together the funding for advice services across the public sector, getting better value for money and providing a consistent level of impartial and free advice.

#### **Money Buddies**

39. Further to discussions at the Community Committee's meeting in March 2017 regarding the 'Money Buddies' project, it has been arranged for sessions to be held at Lofthouse Children's Centre once a fortnight to ensure even spread of benefit across the area. In sharing the resource in this way, sessions in Rothwell ward will reduce from weekly to fortnightly.
40. The project lead is unfortunately unavailable to attend this meeting of the Community Committee as requested, due to annual leave, but can attend the next meeting or future ward member briefings as appropriate.

#### **Older Peoples Working Group (Councillor Renshaw, Chair)**

41. The Outer South Community Committee **Older People's Working Group** met on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at the Civic Hall, Leeds. Highlights included a discussion around how different organisations such as Ciaran Bingham Foundation Trust, Morley Elderly Action, Rothwell Live at Home Scheme and Age UK tackle **social isolation**, with schemes such

as the Hospital to Home Scheme, Digital Angels Service, “befriending schemes” and meals services all providing valuable support to elderly residents in the Outer South communities.

42. The minutes of the meeting were circulated by email and the next is due to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

#### **Outer South Community Centres Sub Group: Councillor David Nagle**

43. The last meeting of the Community Centres sub-group was held on 31 January 2017 at the Windmill Youth and Community Centre. The minutes will be circulated by email along with the work plan. Highlights include the plans to paint inside **Windmill Youth and Community Centre** in February during school half term with some funding from the Housing Advisory Panel, a discussion on plans for a mobile stage for Morley Town Hall and an update on Drighlington Meeting Hall.
44. **Gildersome Youth Centre** has now been sold allowing plans to be made to improve Gildersome Meeting Hall, which will allow the groups who were using the Gildersome Youth Centre and currently using a local school, to begin using the venue.
45. The Communities Team is working with the Trustees and the Management Committee of **St. Gabriel’s’ Community Centre** to improve the number of paying users. It has been agreed to improve the external signage to highlight the location St Gabriel’s. A meeting took place on the 16th January 2017 with the Management Committee and the Trustees, where a way forward was agreed.

#### **Community Centre Pricing Policy**

46. In July 2014, it was agreed Community Committees would consider free lettings based on the priorities for their area. This came into effect for letting renewals starting on 1 September 2015. The total value of free lets authorised in the Outer South for 2016/17 was £55,595.
47. **For 2017/18 a limit has been set across the city for the value of discounted lettings.** All hirers must now pay a **minimum of 25%** of the value of the let.
48. Internal adjustments will be made to the budgeting of youth service and neighbourhood networks provision to ensure that these services that are already under financial strain are not burdened further by this change. But we cannot offer any additional financial assistance to external organisations.
49. All organisations currently benefitting from a free let have been contacted and issued with a new hire agreement to commence on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017.
50. There are no additional free or discounted lets agreed by the community committee this financial year to report.

## Outer South Housing Advisory Panel (OSHAP)

51. The Outer South Housing Advisory Panel (HAP) meets to review the delivery of local housing services and monitor local performance. The HAP is represented by four Outer South Ward Members, Councillors Jack Dunn, David Nagle, Shirley Varley and Robert Finnigan. The panel have a budget to be able to consider and support a range of environmental and community related projects that are in line with local priorities. The **2017/18 funding priorities** of the panel were reviewed and are outlined in their 'plan on a page'; these are to support projects that help:

- Enhance and improve the environment
- Promote people's health and wellbeing, in particular to tackle isolation
- Benefit younger tenants, in particular those projects delivered by Youth Services in partnership with the Community Committee.
- Promote employment and skills

52. The panel's **budget for 2017/18 is £37,884.30** which is a 50% reduction from last year.

53. Housing Leeds had identified **additional savings and efficiencies** from 2016/17, and that as a result is able to pay for the **Community Payback Partnership** directly from Housing Revenue Account funds. The total partnership cost of £87.5k is therefore to be returned to the HAPs so they will now have **more funds to utilise** during 17/18 to support local projects. In addition, £12.5k has been earmarked as a fund to help with the purchasing of materials (typically paint) and items like skip hire, to help with the smooth running of payback projects. All other aspects of the partnership remain the same, with regular progress reports to HAPs being provided and an even distribution of payback work across the city.

54. This citywide partnership has worked effectively in the Outer South area, returning activity to the value of £25,112.00 over the last 22 months, from a total partnership cost of £12,503. This has resulted in the **completion of 48 different cleaning up, cutting back, tidying up and clearance** type of environmental jobs in communal/open spaces across the area in line with the HAPs local priorities.

55. The OSHAP forward plan includes a regular review of housing performance with a senior housing officer.

56. The OSHAP are keen to help support and raise awareness about future Community Committee activity, work with officers to explore **joint funding opportunities** to tackle joint priorities and help with community engagement.

## Outer South Community Committee Communications

57. A copy of the most recent Outer South Community Committee Newsletter highlighting key aspects of Community Committee activities is attached for information (Appendix 1). The Communities Team will be circulating the newsletter to their contacts and on social media. Appendix 2 details recent social media activity for the Outer South Facebook page.



## **Conclusions**

58. The report provides up to date information on key areas of work for the Community Committee.

## **Recommendations**

59. The community committee is asked to note the content of the report and make comment as appropriate.

## **Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

60. None.

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.