



Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate

Inner South Area Committee

Date: 8th April 2008

Subject: Inner South Area Committee The Youth Bus and Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker – next steps

Electoral Wards Affected:

Beeston & Holbeck

City & Hunslet

Middleton Park

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a review of two projects commissioned by this Area Committee in order that Members can determine the next steps for both initiatives for 08/09 and 09/10.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In March 2007 a report was presented at this Committee regarding the two of the biggest initiatives which had been commissioned by the Area Committee. The two initiatives this report focuses on are The Youth Bus (managed by St Luke's Cares) and the Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker (managed by South Leeds Health For All).
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to assist the Area Committee to determine the next steps for these initiatives.
- 1.3 Why determine the next steps now when there is over 4 months remaining of year 2 for the Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker and over 3 months remaining for the The Youth Bus?

It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the next steps at this stage as this leaves sufficient time for the Area Committee to review how the initiatives are going and determine whether each initiative should continue with the current provider and with any amendments to the contract(s) and be able to prepare for a third year; be retendered; or to end the initiative(s) allowing time for either or both of them to wind down.

2.0 THE AREA COMMITTEE'S PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT WORKER

2.1 Background to the Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker

a) In February 2006 the Inner South Area Committee gave the Area Co-ordinator the go ahead to commission and tender for an organisation to manage a well-being funded Priority Neighbourhood Development worker post. A procurement exercise followed and South Leeds Health For All (SLHFA) successfully won the bid from a shortlist of 3 organisations. SLHFA and the Area Co-ordinator jointly recruited to the post appointing Richard Lancaster who started in August/September 2006.

b) The Committee had approved a first year of this post with a further 'in principle' support for funding from future Area Well Being budgets up to a maximum of 2 further years based on the evaluation & review of the first year of the project. A review and evaluation of this was provided to the Area Committee in March 2007 which subsequently led to the Area Committee approving a further year of funding. The below provides a summary of the initiative over the past 12 months since the Area Committee received a report last time. SLHFA has drawn up a more detailed review from their perspective (see appendix). Proposals for a third year are also included in SLHFA's attached report and summarised in the main body of the report below

c) The cost of the initiative was originally £32,800.00 for 12 months (approx £5,000 management/ staff resource costs and £27,800 salary). The Area Committee, through the South Area Management Team, leads on the strategic and day to day operational management of the post holder whilst SLHFA employs, manages, supports and provides an office and administrative support for the member of staff.

d) The original aim of the post was to assist the Area Committee and Inner South Area Management Team with community consultation and involvement and supports the implementation of actions identified through the Neighbourhood Improvement Planning (NIP) process. The intention was that the post holder would work in different neighbourhoods across the Inner South Leeds area particularly in accordance with NIPs being carried out. Consequently the worker has worked in several neighbourhoods since he started.

2.2 Achievements

a) For the past 12 months the worker has built upon the foundations developed in year 1 and therefore has particularly helped enhance the involvement of local people, built the capacity of local groups and developed various projects with them. Such work has been largely in relation to the three new Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs) in Manor Farms, Recreations area of Holbeck and in the Arthingtons/Roylals area in Hunslet. Although NIPs have been completed in

Middleton and Cottingley, as part of an exit strategy, the worker gave some support to those existing and new resident groups that had been established as part of the NIPs in these areas. The worker has also supported the Area Management Team and Area Committee in Belle Isle where a 'youth forum' has developed to engage with young people and local councillors. Also in Belle Isle, work is underway developing a 'residents' forum'. Additional activities have included, as a community engagement role, supporting: Holbeck in Bloom, Intensive Neighbourhood Clean ups, Operation Champions and environmental work as part of the Middleton Regeneration Board. He has encouraged local people to attend either the Area Committee meetings themselves or at least local neighbourhood forums/groups.

b) There is considerable detail of achievements in the attached report from SLHFA. A few examples of results include the following:

- A 2008 calendar created by Middleton Community Group and widely distributed.
- Garden Competition run which led onto helping set up Middleton In Bloom group and the winning, for one individual, of one of the LCC's Community and City Pride Awards.
- Residents consulted on environmental projects around the Middleton Circus and 20mph zone for the Sissons area.
- Residents helped to improve the environment of Manor Farms estate and tackle anti-social behaviour particularly by ensuring that CCTV cameras are erected.
- Residents have been helped to plant 1,000 bulbs and a small orchard.
- Flower beds enhanced around Cottingley Heights and Towers and hanging baskets developed around the flats alongside the running of a garden competition.
- A commendation award for Cottingley in Bloom in the Yorkshire in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards.
- The planting of over 100 trees and 4,000 bulbs and installing of Welcome Boards in Cottingley.
- A newly formed residents group in Holbeck with plans to hold an environment day, develop an information panel for Holbeck Youth Centre, collate nuisance diaries of incidents in the area.
- A door to door survey of residents in the Royals which has established issues in the area.
- Several clean ups, newsletters and community meetings.

2.3 Proposals for Year 3 (August 2008 to July 2009)

a) The practical ideas

SLHFA's attached report details suggested next steps of work in neighbourhoods currently being worked in to the end of year 2 (ie August 2008).

Following consultation with the Area Co-ordinator, the report also proposes what the worker could do in a year 3 of the scheme should this Area Committee wish to continue to commission this initiative. It is proposed that the worker would be:

- less involved with some groups/neighbourhoods (encouraging their self reliance) and allowing for a greater role in other neighbourhoods and new NIPs (as they become identified).
- Be working on other community engagement activity for the Area Committee including the already proposed community engagement events for each ward each year and thematic events prior to Area Committee meetings.
- Be supporting the Area Management Team and local ward councillors in developing 'forums' e.g in Belle Isle to support engagement between local councillors and local people and groups.

- Be involved in other initiatives and events local summer galas, Operation Champion events with the view to encouraging local community involvement as appropriate.

b) The costs

There is detail of not only costs to date of the scheme but also costs for the extension of the post for a year 3.

The cost for year 3 includes an incremental increase in the salary for the worker. SLHFA are willing to identify £3,000 to provide the basic requirements for the post plus any future group development costs will be met by SLHFA through it's own resources (other staff and funds) or by applying for other grant support such as Awards for All, or small grants from various sources.

Were the Area Committee minded to have only one or two Wards covered by this post then either the 'sponsoring' Ward(s) would have more time from a full time worker at the cost of £32, 037, or 1/3 or 2/3 of the post could be paid by the Area Committee but of course the worker would work only in the 'sponsoring' Wards.

If the Area Committee wishes it, It is also proposed that during year 3 SLHFA could try to identify possible grant sources for a fourth year (09/10), so that there is a reduction on Area Committee resources.

2.4 Recommendation

The Area Committee is asked:

- i) to make comment on:
 - the past 12 months work of year 2 of this post
 - the proposals for continuation to august 2008 and proposals for a potential year 3 (until august 2009)

- ii) to determine:

Option (1) To extend the Area Committee's Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker post

 - Continued as a full time post
 - Delivered by the same provider (ie SLHFA)
 - Implemented for a further 12 months (from August 08 to August 09)
 - and covering across the Inner South area with a well-being funding amount of £32,037.
 - And taking into account any comments from Members made at this meeting

Option (2) any variation to Option 1

Option (3) To retender the contract from August 08 with any amendments recommended by Members and the Team.

Option (3) To end the initiative allowing time for it to wind down by August 08.

3.0 THE AREA COMMITTEE'S MOBILE YOUTH PROVISION – The Youth Bus

3.1 Background to the Youth Bus

a) In February 2006, the Area Committee approved the commissioning of a mobile youth provision scheme (now known as The Youth Bus) to operate across the inner south area. The Committee approved the service for a one year pilot, with support being given in principle for a further year, based on the evaluation of the project outcomes. A brief review of the service in its initial months was provided at the March 2007 meeting of this Area Committee. The below provides a summary of the initiative over the past 12 months since the Area Committee received a report last time and a more detailed report from the provider's perspective is in the appendix. Proposals for a third year are also included in SLHFA's attached report and summarised in the main body of this report below.

b) The original aim of the project was to provide an alternative way to engage with young people particularly in street based locations where young people tend to gather and in locations without centre based youth provision. The vehicle is a transit van converted into a space where small groups of young people can do simple activities such as creative art, discussion, watch educational dvds and receive guidance and advice from qualified youth workers on a range of matters.

c) Part of the 50k well being funding approved by the Area Committee was to cover sessional youth workers to manage the activities being delivered from the vehicle. As part of the conditions attached to the contract in the tendering process, it was indicated the mobile youth provision should be operational at least four weekday evenings per week and that 11 weeks of the school holidays should also be covered. Because of the time young people have on their hands Members wanted more hours allocated to the school holiday time than in term time.

d) There were three organisations considered to be appointed to this contract. St Luke's Care was the successful tender and began delivering the provision from July 2006. A timetable was produced to outline where and when the vehicle would visit key locations across the area, so that this could be promoted to local young people through schools, youth service and local youth organisations. Since then the timetable has been revised usually on a termly basis in line with Elected Member's views and the experience of the provision to date by the provider.

e) The scheme was officially launched in December 2006. Following a review of the service last year, additional monies freed up from a 50% reduction of the lease was approved to be used to increase the service. Consequently at the moment there is now an increase in term time of three weekly sessions per Ward. Since Early Sept/Oct 2006 there have been 3 part time members of staff appointed as dedicated to the provision: a driver/worker and 2 youth workers.

3.2 Achievements

St Luke's Cares report as attached provides a lot more detail on the achievements of the Youth Bus. However below is a summary of a few highlights during year 2 (summer 2007 to February 2008).

a) general achievements include:

- 2541 young people accessed the provision in 2007 compared with 909 in 2006. The Bus works regularly with 428 young people a month compared to 151 in year 1.
- 10 young people, contacted through the Bus, went to Sierra Leone at Christmas time to provide help to young people living in desperate circumstances. For 7 months the young people fundraised for the trip and returned from this life changing experience.
- St Luke's built upon partnership work from the previous year with the Youth Service, Church of Nazarene, Cupboard Project, Getaway Girls, Leeds Fed, Leeds United and Thomas Danby College.
- The timetable has provided consistency for young people, parents, local groups in knowing where the Bus is coming and when. It has also been flexible to requests from Ward Members and uses the floating session on the weekends to be able to be responsive.
- Staff and young people have been in touch about the Bus through texting.

b) Specific examples of achievements within each Ward include:

In Beeston and Holbeck ward:

- 10 young people are working towards gaining Duke of Edinburgh award;
- a single mother, originally a volunteer, has become a paid member of staff,
- several young people have become Young Leaders;
- 8 young people contacted in Cottingley are now taking up sports activity;

In City and Hunslet Ward:

- young people in the Arthingtons area have been tackling issues such as bullying and self-confidence and misbehaviour has been challenged;
- many young people in the Balmorals have benefited from the Youth Bus;
- The Bus has successfully been able to contact hard to reach young people in Hunslet Moor area.

In Middleton Park Ward:

- work with young people in Manor Farms has resulted in reduced anti-social behaviour;
- local activities, such as at Belle Isle Family Centre, have been promoted to young people;
- 2 young people are currently in the process of becoming Young Leaders;
- 8 older girls from Sissons/Throstles participated in a outdoor adventure residential which helped confidence building and team work.

c) At the time of writing results had not been finalized regarding feedback about the provision but maybe available at this meeting.

3.3 Proposals for Year 3 (July 2008 to July 2009)

a) The practical ideas

Suggestions for developments during and beyond Year 3 include:

- Linking up volunteers from the company '02', into the Youth Bus in Inner South
- Explore potential funding sources to assist in the future sustainability of the Youth Bus e.g
 - from Children Leeds' ISCB (Integrated Strategic Commissioning Board) – not available until September 2008.
 - Connexions funding (held by West Yorkshire Youth Association).
 - PAYP/Youth Service for funding of school holiday time

The Area Committee may wish to note:

- That it is unknown as to when, if at all, any new funding sources may come to fruition and requires discussions with agencies. As such the Area Committee may wish to underwrite a proportion of funding for Year 3 subject to any successful funding bids.
- that depending on the proportion of funding from the Area Committee, changes in funding sources for the Bus is likely to bring about a change in the focus and direction of its operation compared with its current use.
- that St Luke's has had difficulties in trying to bring income into the Bus from other agencies using it. There also has been an additional issue of damage to the Bus caused by other users hire of it.

The Area Committee are requested to express whether they would wish St Luke's to pursue the above suggested developments in consultation with the Area Management Team.

b) the costs for year 3 (July 08 to July 09)

In the attached report, St Lukes' Cares details three proposals for year 3. They provide a breakdown of the typical cost for an hour and a session (£35/£105) and a breakdown for each proposal (not detailed in this summary below).

St Luke's point out that in year 2 they were able to deliver the level of service with not only the additional funding released as a result of a reduced hire charge (as agreed by this Committee) but also as a result of funding they had from BBC Children in Need and Young Leader Support Work. The latter however ends July 08 and together with insurance and fuel costs this results in an increased costing for maintaining the current provision at the same level (see proposal 3).

The proposals are as follows:

Proposal 1.

6 sessions per week (50 weeks, term time and school holidays as per original tender)

£35,298 (running costs*) + £7,800 (lease) = £43,098

Approx £14,366 per Ward.

Proposal 2

9 sessions per week + 1 weekend per month (39 weeks, term time only)

£40,660 (running costs*) + £7,800 (lease) = £48,460

Approx £16,153 per Ward.

Proposal 3

9 sessions per week + 1 weekend per month 50 weeks, term time and school holidays ie as per the current provision).

£52,958 (running costs*) + £7,800 (lease) = £60,758

Approx £17,653 per Ward.

* running costs include: staffing, insurance fuel, management fee etc

3.4 Recommendations

i) to make comment on:

- the past 12 months work of year 2 of The Youth Bus

- the proposals for continuation to August 2008 (already committed) and proposals for a potential year 3 (until July 2009) – to be determined by Area Committee)

ii) to determine:

Option (1) To extend the scheme:

- with the same provider (ie St Luke's Cares)
- for a further 12 months (ie from July 08 to July 09)
- with a level of well-being funding in accordance with one of proposal 1 at £43,098 or proposal 2 at £48,460 or proposal 3 at £60,758

Option (2) Any variation to Option (1)

Option (3) To retender the contract from July 08 with amendments recommended by Elected Members

Option (4) To end the initiative allowing time for it to wind down by July 08.

Option (5) In addition to Option 1 or 2 to request of St Luke's that, in consultation with the Area Management Team, they pursue suggested developments regarding 02 volunteers and the seeking of potential other funding sources whilst underwriting funding for Year 3.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

There are no direct implications for Council Policy and Governance except that the Youth Bus does fit with the current Area Committee's Function for the Youth Service as well as fitting with the pending additional responsibility, in 08/09, for the Children and Young People's Plan for South Leeds.

5.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct Legal Implications of this report. Any potential legal implications would be covered within the funding agreement with the organization.

The resource implications of this report is that should Members decide to contribute well-being funding towards a year 3 of the initiatives referred to in this report, this would naturally reduce the remaining Well-being budget overall for the Area Committee.

Any well-being funding agreed by this Area Committee to the above initiatives, would be pending the confirmation of well-being funding allocated to this Committee for each financial year.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Area Committee are asked to consider the recommendations in sections: 2.4 and 3.4.