

**Report of the West North West Leeds Area Manager**

**Inner West Area Committee**

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

**Subject: Wythers Local Area Management Plan – 12 Month Review**

<p><b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b></p> <p>Armley</p>	<p><b>Specific Implications For:</b></p> <p>Ethnic minorities <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Women <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Disabled people <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
---	---

Council Function	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function available for Call In	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report	<input type="checkbox"/>
------------------	--------------------------	--	-------------------------------------	--	--------------------------

**Executive Summary**

This report gives an overview of the progress, successes and challenges currently facing the Wythers estate in Armley Ward.

Taking into account the Indices of Multiple Deprivation statistics and partners local agencies statistics the main challenges for the future working practises on the estate include:

- Education, Skills and training
- Income deprivation affecting older people
- Crime
- Jobs
- Housing and neighbourhood services
- Impact on Children
- Impact for older people
- Worklessness
- Health
- Environment

The Inner West Area Committee are asked to note the report and support the actions suggested in forwarding the future working methods.

## **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to brief Members on the progress, achievements and challenges currently impacting upon the Wythers estate and give an overview of the partnership working approach driving these challenges and priorities.

## **2.0 Background information**

2.1 The Wythers estate has been the focus of much work in the past 4 years due to its IMD status and lack of community engagement. The upper part of the estate has stayed in the top 4% of most deprived estates nationally in the recent update of the IMD statistics. One of the main problems on the estate has always been the inter-relationship between the three levels of the estate (top, middle and bottom Wythers). A large number of new houses have been built on the vacant land adjacent to Borrowdale Crescent, this has added to the existing issues by creating new neighbourhood problems. This is discussed further throughout the report.

## **3.0 Partner Input**

### **3.1 Action Plan**

The LAMP group action plan has recently been reviewed and updated; the action plan is now more streamlined and focused on specific priorities and projects based on IMD and partners local statistics and priorities. In particular this has led to a focused approach on community engagement activities.

### **3.2 Meetings**

Meetings are chaired by Cllr Alison Lowe and are generally well attended by a range of service providers. On the back of the action plan review, a bigger role for NHS Leeds has emerged and the LAMP group will facilitate their engagement in the partnership and actions.

## **4.0 Progress Highlights**

### **4.1 Community House**

The re-opening of the Community House with the support of BARCA, NHS Leeds and WNWHL has allowed a range of events to be delivered by such organisations as Healthy Living Network Leeds (HLNL), and this is making a big difference to the people living in the area.

### **4.2 Cooking group**

The group has brought together a number of agencies to facilitate a range of activities for the members. HLNL, BARCA Leeds and some local Community Health educators have taught skills and undertaken confidence building with a group members through a series of events at the Community House. It is hoped that as the confidence in the group grows the range of activities they would like to be engaged in will grow.

### **4.3 EAT questionnaire**

The Environmental Action Team in partnership with the Police and Neighbourhood Wardens completed an extensive questionnaire on the bottom and middle Wythers. The main focus was around the perception of the estates and engagement with partners. The results of the questionnaire have provided evidence for partners of a lack of reporting, this will lead to agencies developing new methods of engagement to maximise input from resident in the future.

4.4 Due to the estate being identified as a priority by the LAMP group and local agencies there are a range of schemes being developed with partner input to maximise input from residents. The problem that most partners are facing is the lack of engagement with the community.

4.5 For the past few years there has been an increasing problem relating to community integration, neighbourhood problems and tensions which have led to very low reporting of issues. The recently collated Environmental Action Team questionnaire supports the perception of many agencies that reporting of issues is very low in the area and many problems do not get acted upon due to the low levels of reporting. Community House has made progress with some groups, but on the whole the problem needs further work.

#### 4.6 Housing

West North West Homes Leeds (WNWHL) has recently modified their boundaries to allow them to work more effectively with their customers. This change means that the Wythers estate has moved from the Bramley Housing Office to the Armley Housing Office. WNWHL officers feel that the Wythers estate is currently stable which is reflected in the low number of void properties of their stock (6 properties, or 1.4% of the WNWHL stock). WNWHL are an integral part of the partnership working and continue to work closely with the Neighbourhood Warden and Community Coordinator ensure successful delivery of projects. Leeds Federated Housing and Connect Housing are currently working with Groundwork Leeds to engage with their communities within their local environment.

### 5.0 Current initiatives

The nature of the Wythers estate means that there are a number of issues that need to be addressed at any one time. To this end the Wythers Improvement Group have tried to focus on the key statistics under the indicators of most need. Appendix 1 shows statistics that have helped shape priorities.

#### 5.1 Education, Skills and training

Children from the Wythers, by in large attend either Raynville Primary school or Hollybush primary school. Partners from these schools are engaged in the LAMP group and are delivering projects to help the children with specific issues.

	pupils achieving expected level or				pupils achieving above the expected level			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>LA Average</b>	238	241	240	245	99	103	110	109
<b>England Average</b>	237	240	242	245	101	104	111	112
<a href="#">Hollybush Primary</a>	NA	158	112	207	NA	26	14	44
<a href="#">Raynville Primary School</a>	210	213	225	236	59	67	87	93

(source: [www.dcsf.gov.uk](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk))

These figures show that in the three core topics there has been a positive trend over the last three years with an increasing number of children either achieving their target or above their targets in the core topics.

The LAMP has supported any work brought forward by the schools and have engaged with the children in out of school activities with the creation of the Dreamscheme. The Dreamscheme project is run thorough West North West Homes Leeds and allows children from the Wythers to engage with their local environment and gain skills to help them both in and out of school.

In addition the LAMP group have supported work around:

- Raynville Primary school are involved in a number of projects to support the transition of children from primary to secondary schools.
- Connexions workers in the Community House working directly with local people.

## 5.2 Income deprivation affecting older people

A project is being developed by the Community Development worker, it is hoped that this will be rolled out to partners in order to develop the scheme for implementation in the coming months.

## 5.3 Crime

The Wythers has been a hotspot for crime over the last few years leading to it being the focus of two Operation Champions in the last 2 years. Crime statistics for the area show that on the whole there are problems with a number of indicators. Burglary Dwelling, Vehicle crime, ASB and Criminal Damage are all above the local, division and district levels (see Appendix 1 for the full breakdown). This does not reflect the work that the Police, ASBU and Neighbourhood Wardens have done; partnership working has been invaluable and will have contributed in some way to the reduction in criminal damage figure in 2007-08 compared to 2006-07.

Over the last six months the schemes that the group have supported are:

- The Police and Neighbourhood Warden are working to try and increase confidence in the Police and make sure that crimes are reported through the correct methods.
- The remaining Smartwater kits are to be distributed to houses that have not taken up the offer to maximise the impact of the scheme.

## 6.0 2009-10 proposals

## 6.1 Health

The nature of NHS health priorities mean that only some of them can be improved through local partnership working. Most have to be dealt with by specific teams in the NHS, the schemes that are being looked at through the LAMP group area:

- Teenage pregnancy project
- Sexual Health Drop-in
- Healthy Eating project – reducing the rate of increase in obesity and raising physical activity for all

## 6.2 Future plans

- Smoking cessation class
- Exercise Class
- Fuelsavers
- Sloppy slipper exchange
- Sport and wellbeing project through the Sports Development worker

## 6.3 Crime

In the last 12 months the Police crime figures for the Wythers have not highlighted the estate as a hotspot for crime, this compared to the year 2007-2008 where it was identified twice leading to two Operation Champion initiatives in the area. The Police are currently working closely with partners to identify specific areas of work to maximise engagement.

6.4 The issues of low reporting of crime are to be addressed through a flyer campaign that will show the various methods of reporting. As it stands people feel that in the past they have reported crime and nothing has happened to resolve it. This perception needs to be changed to allow the Police to work effectively in the area.

6.5 Funding for the Neighbourhood Warden ends in March 2009, the LAMP group will be looking at an exit strategy to take account of this.

## 6.6 Income deprivation effecting older people

The LAMP group have decided to focus in on information sharing and its accessibility to tackle this problem. Working in partnership with NHS Leeds and Armley Helping Hands, events are planned to maximise the information and services that people can access. This will take the form of a Sloppy Slipper exchange event that will incorporate a market place event that will give valuable information to people, such as information on fuel efficiency.

## 6.7 Education skills and training.

The level of this indicator shows that work is required to investigate the most effective way of engaging with a community that needs to increase its educational level. Currently Connexions staff work out of the Community House and the Jobs and Skills service are soon to be involved in delivery from this venue also.

## 7.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance

The Wythers Improvement Group (LAMP) is part of the Narrowing the Gap agenda. And the community engagement activities associated with the work are a part of the new delegated functions of the Area Committees.

## **8.0 Conclusions**

8.1 On the whole partnership working practices are having a positive effect on local people and the work being delivered from the Community House in engaging with more residents. The main issues on the estate have been identified and schemes are being developed to address them. The group needs to continue to meet on a regular basis to maintain the drive to improve the estate and engage with more of the community. Additional support is required from partners to tackle the most prevailing issues. However sustainable funding and income is also a key factor in the successful regeneration of the Wythers estate.

## **9.0 Recommendations**

9.1 The Inner West Area Committee Members are invited to:

- note the contents of the report and comment on any aspect of the matters raised.

## **Background Papers**

None