

Report of the West North West Leeds Area Manager

Inner West Area Committee

Date: 12th February 2009

Subject: Fairfields Local Area Management Plan – 12 Month Review

<p>Electoral Wards Affected:</p> <p>Bramley & Stanningley</p>	<p>Specific Implications For:</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>
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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"/>
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Executive Summary

From the last report brought to the Inner West Area Committee in October, based on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation statistics, partner priorities 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

It also set out SSCF proposals for 2010/11 which members supported.

This report provides the Inner West Area Committee with an overview on progress, successes and challenges currently facing the Fairfields estate in Bramley ward.

1.0 Purpose of the Report

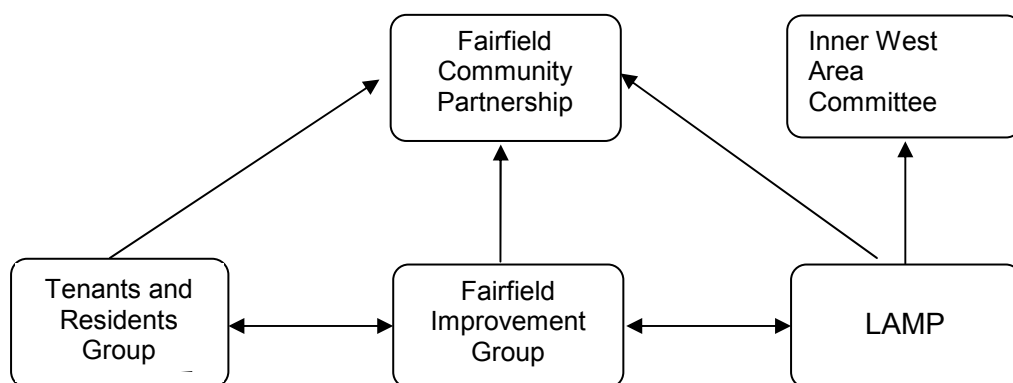
1.1 The purpose of the report is to brief Members on the progress, achievements and challenges currently facing the Fairfields estate and provide an overview of the partnership working approach that is currently in operation.

2.0 Background information

2.1 The Fairfield estate has been identified as a priority area in which to deliver Local Area Management plans (LAMPs), this was due to its issues at the time which ranked it in the top 3% of deprived Super Output Areas (SOA) in England and Wales. It was rated as 417th out of 32,482 localities, based on the 2004 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). All initiatives have therefore been focused on lifting the Fairfield estate out of these rankings.

The vision being to take the Fairfield estate out of the bottom 10% incrementally over the next 10 years. It currently ranks at 1249 (therefore in the top 3.8% nationally) based in the 2007 IMD figures

2.2 To facilitate the joint multi-agency partnership working a structure has evolved that best utilises the current partners and maximises resources. This set up works as follows:



Fairfields Community Partnership- this is the overseeing body that is made up of local residents and partner agencies, which manages the community centre staff and drives forward the spend and priorities set out through the Safer Stronger Communities funding. The group meet monthly to evaluate performance. The group links into all of the other meetings so issues can be dealt with as they arise. All other groups link into this partnership.

Fairfields Tenants and Residents Group – coordinated by the residents for the residents. The group meets regularly and a representative attends all of the other meetings to make sure that issues are raised at the correct meeting. The group is supported by West North West Homes Leeds and continues to try and make sure that the whole of the estate is engaged and their voices heard.

Fairfields Improvement group (FIG) – this group was originally set up to facilitate the installation of the decency works on the estate and subsequently the proposed improvements to the vacant sites as part of the Northern Housing Challenge Bid. Partners have been awaiting the outcomes of discussions regarding the bid and the group will hopefully be reconvened in the coming weeks. The meeting is led by West North West Homes Leeds (WNWHL).

Fairfields LAMP – this multi agency partnership, led by the West North West Area Management Team, is concerned with driving social and economic regeneration within the Fairfield estate through the implementation of the LAMP action plan. The group initially focused on the crime and grime aspects of the indicators and now the focus of works is now much more focused on the education and local primary schools and the health aspects of local need.

3. Partner Input

The current successful projects would not have been possible without the close working relationship between the multi-agency partners. This group consists of the following:

Healthy Living Network Leeds, WNWHL, BARCA - Leeds, NHS Leeds, West Yorkshire Police, Groundwork Leeds, Extended Services, Community Safety, ASBU, Bramley Primary school, Environmental Action Team, Fairfield Community Partnership and Bramley Elderly Action,

Developing close working practices and relationships mean that these agencies, projects, schemes and services benefit from multi-agency support, resources and input.

3.1 Education:

Bramley Primary school has been involved in a number of projects to work with children to encourage them to appreciate and have pride in their local neighbourhood. This work will continue in to the coming year and hopefully support the work done by the school to improve on the educational attainment targets shown in the last few years:

	Aggregate across the three core subjects							
	pupils achieving expected level or above				pupils achieving above the expected level			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007
LA Average	238	241	240	245	99	103	110	109
England Average	237	240	242	245	101	104	111	112
Bramley St Peter's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	198	215	237	251	47	71	84	104
Bramley Primary School	246	184	207	194	96	42	34	19

3.2 Crime

Crime was highlighted as a major concern from the IMD statistics (Fairfield ranking 75th worst in the country out of 32,482 estates). However, this is not reflected in the Police crime data for the estate over the last 12 months.

- Burglary Dwelling – 39 less reported incidents in last 12 months compared to the previous 12 months. The equated to a 23% reduction from December 2006 – 2007 to December 2007 – November 2008.
- Vehicle Crime – 15 less reported incidents, a 10% reduction of reported vehicle crimes in the last 12 months compared to the previous.
- Serious Violent crime – slight increase from 3 to 5 incidents
- Violent crime - 38 less reports equating to a reduction of 32% from 2007-2008
- Antisocial behaviour – reports are lower in the last 12 months than the District and also the West Yorkshire average.
- Criminal Damage – reduction of 117 incidents leading to a 29% reduction.

(source www.beatcrime.info)

These figures show a positive trend in all areas (except serious violent crime). Even though there is still a drive to make sure reporting levels are as high as they can be, these figures show the great work being carried out by partner agencies such as; the Police, Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and Neighbourhood Warden in the area. Also the perception of the estate is slowly changing as it is being highlighted as an issue less and less at strategic level multi-agency meetings.

3.3 Health

From the Health ACORN data the following have been raised as future problems:

Future Problems	Number of people effected (total 1236)	Percentage of local people (%)
Poor single parent families with lifestyle related illnesses	236	19.1
Multi-ethnic, high smoking, high fast food consumption	728	58.9
Urban estates with sedentary lifestyle and low fruit & veg consumption	272	22.0

These figures are supported by the 2007 ACORN population data which highlights that 85% of the Fairfields population is classed as 'struggling families' and 12.3 % as 'Burdened singles'.

3.4 Housing

The current housing breakdown of the Fairfields estate is as follows:

- Council properties: 390
- Private/owner: 119
- Total properties on estate: 509
- Voids: 2

These figures show that 23% of the properties are privately owned and only two of WNWHL's managed properties are void properties, this shows a dramatic improvement on the situation since 2002. Of the ALMO maintained properties the number of properties classed as voids since 2002 is as follows:

	% of housing stock Void
2002	7
2003	6
2004	6
2005	12
2008	0.3

(Data taken from NOMAD 2005)

4.0 Current initiatives

The main indicators that are being focused on are as follows:

- 1) Education, skills and training
- 2) Income Deprivation effecting older people
- 3) Crime
- 4) Worklessness
- 5) Health
- 6) Environment

4.1 Actions against these priority areas over the last 12 months have included:

Education, Skills and training

- Community gardener using skills to train volunteers on the estate in gardening
- Continuation of computer courses due to their success last year
- Volunteer run Jewellery class accessible to all
- Weekly 'Job shop' to continue
- Continuation of the Tea Time club which gives a structure to parent and children's learning

Income deprivation affecting older people

- Continue working with the West Leeds Debt Forum on projects such as the work they are delivering to tackle unofficial money lenders.
- Bramley Credit Union still hold their weekly collection at the centre.

Crime

- Promotion of Police using the Head Cams which were funded by the partnership last year.
- Support given to the Neighbourhood Warden led joint surgery in the centre.
- Police support given to the Dreamscheme project.
- Diversionary activities for young people to give the young people skills, and keep them occupied on an evening.

Worklessness

- Link developed with the Cubic Enterprise Centre.

Health

- Tai Chi & Salsa classes.
- Healthy cooking and eating course.

Environment

- Improvements to the community centre grounds such as the creation of planters.
- Support in the clearance of space at Bramley primary school to allow the children to grown plants.

- Conduit to delivery of improvements as part of the SSCF capital programme.

5.0 2009-10 proposals

Future work for the forthcoming year is in line with the statistical findings, as illustrated in Appendix 1.

5.1 NHS Leeds

Recent work has been to focus in on some of the specific indicators and the associated statistics. NHS Leeds statistics show the following issues need to be addressed:

- Poor, single parent families with lifestyle related illnesses.
- Smoking, high fast food consumption.
- Sedentary lifestyle and low fruit and vegetable consumption.

5.2 These lead us to the projects we have developed as follows:

- Sloppy Slipper exchange event.
- Flu jabs.
- 'Heat through Warmth' event.

Other initiatives are being developed to engage with the community in the most effective way to address local need such as chair-based exercise for the older residents.

5.3 Crime

Partners decided that it would be best to use the current Police data as an up to date account of criminality.

This has led to projects such as:

- Multi agency drop-in surgeries where local people can call in and talk to the Police, Neighbourhood Wardens and WNWHL staff about issues facing them in the community.
- Police involvement in the Dreamscheme.

Funding for the Neighbourhood warden ends in March 2009; the LAMP group will be looking at an exit strategy to account for this.

5.4 Income deprivation effecting older people

This can lead to complex debates regarding the identification of LAMP priorities for action. However due to the complex nature of the rationale behind this deprivation domain, working in partnership with NHS Leeds and Bramley Elderly Action, 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, on such issues as fuel poverty etc.

This event paired with the regular luncheon club, that provides an affordable lunch and good company on a weekly basis will hopefully be able to have an impact on this indicator. This said work needs to be developed to identify people who do not currently

access these services. This piece of work is the next stage of development for LAMP partners.

5.5 Education skills and training.

The centre already runs a job club and there is currently a range of volunteering opportunities that allow participants to gain a number of skills. The recent changes to the Leeds City Council Jobs and Skills Service in West Leeds will hopefully allow a more cohesive programme of events in the coming months to make a significant impact on this indicator.

6.0 Main Issues

6.1 Funding

There is more pressure on external funding opportunities and programmes which may impact on resources and service delivery in the Fairfields. But this may also impact on partner pressures and capacity to attend meetings.

The centre as a whole is looking at an exit strategy to allow the continuation of provision on the estate after the completion of the SSCF funding.

6.2 Fairfields is now part of a consortium of other Inner West community centres, (New Wortley, Wyther Community House, Moorside, and the Heights) who are making a collective bid for funding to place the centres on a more sustainable footing. It is proposed that a lead organisation will manage all the centres and undertake recruitment, caretaking, financial management and the co-ordination of services. The intention being to enhance the financial sustainability of these community centres and enable key services and initiatives, such as community development work, health and jobs and skills to continue to be provided in the neighbourhoods where they are most needed

6.3 Partner Engagement

Due to several restructures and reductions on staffing in organisations has lead to more pressure on staff capacity to attend meetings. However, there is good attendance at the meetings, this report highlights progress made to date and how working together can facilitate significant actions in light of pressures on funding.

7.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance

The Fairfield 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 As with any estate, such as the Fairfields, improvements take time, but it is envisaged that the significant improvements made in the last four years will show in the next round of IMD assessments, highlighting that the estate has again moved up significantly out of the bottom 10%. The partnership working practices, maximising opportunities and resources have been and will continue to be pivotal in the success of the area. However sustainable funding and income is also a key factor in the successful regeneration of the Fairfields 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