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## Report of the South East Area Manager

### South (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009

### Subject: Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker

#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Beeston & Holbeck  
City & Hunslet  
Middleton Park

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### 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

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## Executive Summary

To continue the commitment to priority neighbourhoods and to achieve the Area Committee's enhanced role of community engagement, this report outlines a proposal to continue funding a Priority Neighbourhood Worker to support the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) process and future community engagement events.

### 1.0 Purpose of This Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval, subject to annual Executive Board approval of the delegated Wellbeing Budget, to fund a Priority Neighbourhood Worker post for two years from August 2009 to support the NIP process and future community engagement events.

### 2.0 Background Information

2.1 In September 2004, the Area Committee identified a number of priority neighbourhoods on the basis of the levels of deprivation and instances of recurring issues such as anti-social behaviour and environmental issues. It was agreed to address these issues through Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs).

- 2.2 To support the development and implementation of the NIPs, the Area Committee approved funding for a Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker (PNDW). The PNDW was commissioned in July 2006 to be delivered by South Leeds Health for All (SLHFA), on behalf of the Inner South Area Committee. The original aim of the post was to work with local community groups and residents to build their capacity and encourage their participation in the regeneration of their neighbourhood.
- 2.3 Following the success and impact of the PNDW, funding for the post has been extended. In July 2008, the Area Committee continued the project with an additional year of funding to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009. In recent months the remit of the post has developed further to support the Area Committee's additional responsibilities in relation to community engagement.
- 2.4 In September 2008, the Area Committee agreed a three year NIP programme for 2008-11. As funding for the PNDW is currently only until the end of June 2009, it is proposed that the Area Committee approve funding for a further two years up to September 2011 to follow the timescales of the agreed NIP programme. This in turn fits with the timescales of the 2008-2011 Area Delivery Plan within which is a commitment to empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and delivery of services.

### **3.0 Evaluation of activity**

- 3.1 Over the past 12 months the PNDW has continued to work in target NIP areas. This has involved assisting in the further development of existing Resident Associations by supporting them in planning, organising and managing their own community initiatives and projects.
- 3.2 The newly appointed Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker took up post on 12<sup>th</sup> January. She is based with the Area Management Team at the Dewsbury Road One Stop Centre for 3 days per week, and 2 days per week with Health for All. The previous post holder worked with many other community groups in implementing previous NIPs in neighbourhoods across inner south. As a result of this work, many of these groups are able to sustain themselves and no longer require such intensive support. This is a very positive outcome of the project as it has established community groups that now provide a voice for those neighbourhoods. Other groups are being now supported by Aire Valley Homes Customer Involvement Team including Middleton Community Group, Cottingley TRAC and the Manor Farms Community Group.
- 3.3 The following provides a summary of recent activity from January 2009.

#### **West Granges & Winroses**

- First issue of community newsletter distributed to 1300 houses in NIP area and 200 copies distributed to local community provision prior to community group meeting. Information included NIP update and activities, community activities, promotion of Belle Isle in Bloom and contact numbers
- West Granges Community Group held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 23 residents attended 16 new members as a result of newsletter
- Work to generate interest in the Belle Isle in Bloom and other environmental projects in the area

### **Garnets & Woodviews**

- Newsletter completed and distributed on 19<sup>th</sup> March along with a consultation exercise to gauge interest in Tenants & Residents group. Information in Newsletter included: Aire Valley Homes update on option appraisal in the Garnets, news of clean-ups that had taken part in the area and community activities
- Work with Leeds Fed on increasing use of the garden area and potentially holding a gardening competition in the summer

### **Northcotes & Greenmounts**

- Letter sent to members of the old Hunslet Hall Road Forum to establish interest in Tenants and Residents
- Newsletter completed and distributed week 23<sup>rd</sup> March with Aire Valley Homes, Holbeck Elderly Aid, PCSOs
- First Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March
- Posters distributed to all community facilities in the area

### **Cardinals**

- Contact with local community activist who wants to set up community/ residents association
- Newsletter produced and will go out including leaflet from local children's centre

### **Other**

- Support to the CAD Beeston Community group (as a future Phase 2 NIP area), to build capacity in communities to ensure they can take part in and benefit from the Area Committee's community engagement activities.
- Support to promote the I Love South Leeds Festival 2009 to local organisations, encouraging their involvement in the running of events.
- Support to Holbeck in Bloom Group.

## **4.0 Costs**

- 4.1 Health For All have indicated costs of £33,684 from April 2009 – March 2010 and £34,579 from April 2010 – March 2011, reflecting a 3% increase. A full breakdown of costs have been requested.

## **5.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance**

- 5.1 There are no direct implications for Council Policy and Governance except that this initiative supports the achievement of the additional responsibilities delegated from the Executive Board to Area Committees to have a more central role in overseeing the extent of community engagement within their area.

## **6.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

- 6.1 There are no direct legal implications. Any potential legal implications will be covered within the funding agreement.
- 6.2 There are resource implications on the revenue Wellbeing Budget if members approve the two year Priority Neighbourhood Worker Post. Funding for the post

would be subject to the confirmation of Well-Being Funds allocated to this committee.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

- 7.1 Members are asked to approve two years of funding, subject to annual Executive Board approval of the delegated Wellbeing budget, for a Priority Neighbourhood Worker to be employed by Health for All (South).

## **Background Papers**

South (Inner) Area Committee: The Youth Bus and Priority Neighbourhood Development worker – next steps, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2008. Priority Neighbourhood Improvement