

Area Committee Well Being Fund
Commissioning of Service

Appendix 1

Project Name: Neighbourhood Wardens

Lead Organisation: Area Management

Project Summary:

The New Wortley area of West Leeds has 2 Neighbourhood Wardens. The wardens have been in post since October 2004 following the significant success of the pilot to place wardens in the area to combat previously high levels of crime and anti social behaviour. These posts are jointly funded by West Inner Area Committee and West North West Leeds Homes and at present are temporary for 2 years. This application is to continue joint funding of 2 neighbourhood wardens posts in New Wortley for a further 12 months and to joint fund 1 post to cover the Wyther and Fairfield area with West North West Homes Leeds.

The funding for the temporary wardens posts on the Wythers ends in March 2009 as does funding through Stronger Safer Communities for the wardens post on the Fairfield estate.

In order to provide a wardens service to both the Wyther and the Fairfield, a request is being made to joint fund 1 warden post with West North West Homes Leeds with 50% of the time spent working on the Wythers and 50% on the Fairfield for a 12 month period.

This would mean that both areas that currently have a full time warden would continue to have some warden presence to tackle environmental, crime and community engagement work.

From the 2007 deprivation statistics the most deprived areas in West (by rank order) are New Wortley, followed by the Fairfield which previously was in the worst 5% of neighbourhoods, Heights, Upper Wyther and the Gilpins neighbourhoods – all these are in the worst 5% of deprived neighbourhoods nationally. The Broadlea estate has improved and is ranked in the 10% band of most deprived neighbourhoods. All of these areas have a neighbourhood warden, a Local Area Management Plan or a multi-agency Improvement group which has had an impact on reducing crime, making visible improvements to the local environment, developing multi agency events and action days in partnership with local residents.

Outcomes (please summarise the main outcome / output / benefit the project will achieve):

The overall aim of the Leeds Neighbourhood Wardens scheme is to assist in achieving better neighbourhoods and confident communities by reducing crime and the fear of crime, deterring anti-social behaviour, assisting in making environmental improvements and supporting the local community.

The success of the Wardens, service in West Leeds, is based on their flexibility to work when required, and the support and reassurance they give to the local community, which has seen improvements in the reduction of crime and Anti-social behaviour, as well as environmental improvements.

Over the last 2 years the wardens have been involved in a number of multi-agency projects as well as providing patrols and dealing with local issues on a daily basis. Some of the projects have included multi-agency tenancy sweeps in the high rise flats, working with the local PCSO on joint surgeries, attending police briefings, providing vital information that has assisted the police to target criminal activity/individual in relation to drugs, prostitution, nuisance motorbikes, criminal damage, burglaries and vehicle crime. The wardens have been instrumental in relation to intelligence for Operation Abbreviate focussing on drugs and prostitution in the New Wortley area, resulting in over 112 arrests over a 12 month period. Other operations include Champion the multi-agency operations to tackle Crime and Grime issues in Inner West and action days. The neighbourhood wardens have also organised environmental clean-up's and work with the environmental enforcement team targeting un kept gardens and fly tipping.

The wardens have develop links with the local schools, assisting in safe walking schemes and are also working with the attendance strategy service within Education Leeds on identifying children who are not attending school. The wardens help in identifying vulnerable residents and victims of crime such as domestic violence and hate crime and provide advice, support and reassurance. The neighbourhood wardens in New Wortley, Fairfield and the Wythers have assisted in the development and the delivery of project at the Wyther Community House, Fairfield Community Centre and New Wortley community centre working with community group such as youth services, young parents groups and access into training and employment opportunities. The wardens have strong links with the local PCSO's and meet them or have joint surgeries to discuss local issues and initiatives in relation to crime in their areas on a regular bases. Likewise the wardens work closely with the Neighbourhood Management Officer for West North West Homes Leeds in tackling issues of anti-social behaviour, identifying vulnerable tenants and environmental issues and projects.

The wardens also link into the probation service utilising the un paid service work on a weekly bases to undertake task such as painting projects, clearing of ginnels and footpaths and other types of environmental work, thus giving much needed additional resources to these area at no additional costs. The youth offending service regularly ask the wardens to assist them offering placements for young people to participate in reparation work.

The wardens have strong links with the community centre and attend residents meetings support local people and have assisted local people into drugs treatment services and into training and employment.

Currently there are funding issues with the warden service link to the short fall in the Neighbourhood Renewal Funding budget however it has been recognised that neighbourhood wardens provide a vital role in the community and act as a link to communities accessing other services in their areas.

With the review of the wardens service, any future changes to their role would be discussed with the funders.

All the Neighbourhood wardens are currently supported by the senior wardens and managed by the Area Community Safety Co-ordinator for West Leeds

Project Cost (please indicate how much the project will cost, how much Well Being Funding is sought and breakdown between capital and revenue):

Joint funding with WNWHL for 2 wardens post for New Wortley for 12 months = **27,525** = 1 post

Joint funding with WNWHL for 1 wardens post covering the Wythers and Fairfield's for 12 months = **13,762** = 50 % of costs

Total amount £41,287

*Please note should there be a restructure of the Neighbourhood Warden Service in the next twelve months, these posts will need to be considered in light of the outcomes to this service.

Identify which geographic areas will benefit and which Area Committee (Inner or Outer) you are applying to:

Inner Area Committee

State who will receive the funding for this project:

Sarn Warbis Project Manager LCC Regeneration Team