



Report of the Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods Directorate

South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 21st June 2010

Subject: Priority Neighbourhood Worker Update

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ardsley and Robin Hood
Morley North
Morley South
Rothwell

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

Executive Summary

The Outer South Area Committee's response to the Narrowing the Gap agenda has in part been the commitment to priority neighbourhoods through Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs). At the September 2008 Area Committee, Members agreed to a new programme of Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 2008-2011, which included a new 'Supported Area' status. This status aims to ensure a minimum level of support to Tenants and Residents Associations (TARAs) following the completion of a NIP, and in additional targeted areas. This report outlines the work achieved by the Priority Neighbourhood Worker (PNW) since the last update in November 2009, and what support TARA's are receiving from the PNW as an identified 'Supported Area'.

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The report outlines the work achieved by the Priority Neighbourhood Worker since November 2009; including an update to Members on the Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs), details on the 'Supported Area' programme and additional community engagement work.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 In response to the Narrowing the Gap aim of the Vision for Leeds 2004-2020, the Area Committee developed Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs). In September 2004, the Area Committee identified several Priority Neighbourhoods on the basis of levels of deprivation and instances of recurring issues such as anti social behaviour and environmental issues.

2.2 The Area Committee commissioned South Leeds Health for All, a community development charity, in November 2006 to deliver the PNW project. In August 2008, the PNW left the post to take up alternative employment. At the time Area Management took the opportunity to review the PNW project in relation to Area Committee's enhanced community engagement role and changes to the Area Delivery Plans.

2.3 In September 2008, the Area Committee renewed its support to NIP's by approving a three year PNW project to deliver a revised programme of NIP's, including a new 'Supported Area' status and other community engagement work. Funding for the PNW post was approved by the Area Committee until 31st March 2011, subject to annual Executive Board approval of the Well being Budget. The PNW took up the position in Health for All in December 2008.

3.0 Neighbourhood Improvement Plan Programme (2008-11)

3.1 As approved by Members, NIP's continue to consult with residents and Members to inform an action plan to be delivered and monitored by a multi-agency steering group with a nominated Ward Councillor as Chair. NIP's are a time limited process of ten months with a standard level of elements to them. These are:

- A community consultation event or survey to find out community views and key issues.
- A steering group is established to be chaired by a Ward Councillor and which has representatives from agencies and the local residents association.
- An Action plan that includes projects to target 3-5 key issues in the area. This includes targeted work linked with ADP actions e.g. distributing information on training and employment, financial inclusion and fuel poverty.

3.2 To support the NIP process in 2010/11, the Area Committee has ring fenced £3,000 for each NIP area and £500 for each old NIP that is now a Supported Area status. This revenue funding is used to support specific projects such as youth provision, environmental improvements and community events.

3.3 The phased programme of NIP's and 'Supported Areas' is continually reviewed to ensure the timescales continue to be realistic. Members are asked to note the table below that outlines the current phased programme of work to deliver NIP's and 'Supported Area' Status.

3.4 Following discussions with Aire Valley Homes Winthorpes were removed from the Timetable. It was felt that Winthorpes operated more as a social group rather than an active Tenants and Residents Association. However, at a recent briefing Ward Councillors requested we follow up contact with the group as several issues of anti social behaviour were unsettling the neighbourhood.

Phase 1 2009/10 - Completed**NIP's**

Ward	Area	Actual
Morley North	Oakwell and Fairfax	February –November 2009
Rothwell	Wood Lane	October -July 2010

Supported Areas

Ward	Area	Actual
Morley North	Oakwell and Fairfax	Current
Rothwell	John O' Gaunts	Current
Ardsley and Robin Hood	Eastleighs and Fairleighs	Current
Morley South	Newlands and Denshaws	Current
Ardsley and Robin Hood	Northfields and Hopefield	Current

Phase 2 2010/11**NIP's**

Ward	Area	
Rothwell	Wood Lane	October - July 2010
Ardsley and Robin Hood	Thorpe	April – January 2011
Morley South	Harrops and Bridge Street	April – January 2011

Supported Areas

Ward	Area	Timescale
Rothwell	Wood Lane	From June 2010 - ongoing
Morley North	Oakwell and Fairfax	Current
Rothwell	John O' Gaunts	Current
Ardsley Robin Hood	Eastleighs and Fairleighs	Current
Morley South	Newlands and Denshaws	Current
Ardsley and Robin Hood	Northfields and Hopefield	Current

Phase 3 2011/12**NIP's**

Ward	Area	
Morley North	Farm Hill Asquith Road Ingle Avenue	February – November 2011
Morley North	Moorland Avenue Springbank Avenue and Spring View	February – November 2011

Supported Areas

Ardsley and Robin Hood	Thorpe	April – January 2011
Morley South	Harrops and Bridge Street	April – January 2011
Rothwell	Wood lane	October - July 2010
Morley North	Oakwell and Fairfax	Current
Rothwell	John O' Gaunts	Current
Ardsley Robin Hood	Eastleighs and Fairleighs	Current
Morley South	Newlands and Denshaws	Current
Ardsley and Robin Hood	Northfields and Hopefield	Current

4.0 Neighbourhood Improvement Plan Update

4.1 The Priority Neighbourhood Worker continues to work in targeted NIP areas, the following details the work undertaken to develop phase 1 and 2 NIPs, identify and deliver the 'Supported Area' status and other community engagement work.

4.2 Wood Lane – Phase 1 NIP

4.2.1 The Wood Lane NIP Steering Group have held six meetings to date and carried out a questionnaire consultation. The questionnaire was delivered to every household within the NIP Boundary and responses were collected by reply boxes located at the newsagents on Manor Road and the Children's Centre. The consultation was also distributed at the Rothwell Children's Centre to local residents who attend the centre.

4.2.2 The questionnaire focused on what skills local residents wanted to learn. 37 responses were received from the local community. The priorities of Health and Wellbeing, ICT, Cooking, Skills for Life, Arts and Crafts, Family Activities, Financial Support, Volunteering, Skills for Work emerged from the questionnaire results.

4.2.3 The NIP steering group developed several projects to address the communities' needs. 'The Jobseekers this is for you' involved the following partners: Job Centre Plus, Aire Valley Homes, Area Management and Joseph Priestley College. The project targeted unemployed members of the community and involved the Aire Valley Homes Mobile Office being located outside of the Manor Road Shops. Staff attended the mobile office from Job Centre Plus and Aire Valley Homes for three consecutive Wednesdays in May. 12 people attended the sessions for assistance with job search's and writing up CV's.

4.2.4 Consultation also highlighted IT training as a key interest from residents so the Steering Group promoted an IT training course. The project involved Joseph Priestley College, Area Management, Libraries, and Health For All. An IT training session was arranged for the 18th March 2010 at 1pm at Rothwell Library which included child care facilities provided by the Heath For All 'Funky Fun Bus'.

4.2.5 Following much publicity there was no take up for the It training provided although, four parents attended the 'Funky Fun Bus' but did not visit the library to access the IT training. Partners identified that the distance between the estate and the library was a barrier for residents and those that had attended were deterred by the formal setting in the library. The Steering Group now plan to provide IT training through the more informal setting of the Neighbourhood Learning Mobile Office at the Wood Lane Community Day so residents will not have to travel from the estate.

4.2.6 The final NIP project will be a Community Day organised for Saturday 24th July at Victoria School. The aim of the day is to help engage with local residents and encourage people to get involved with volunteering in the local community. A volunteering opportunities leaflet has been produced and delivered in the area, to promote the community event and local volunteering opportunities.

4.3 **Harrop's and Bridge Street - Phase 2 NIP**

4.3.1 The Harrop's and Bridge Street NIP has started sooner than programmed due to additional staff capacity in the Outer South Team from a social work student on placement.

4.3.2 An Area Profile has been written based on statistical data and information from partners and Members. The profile details information on the demographics, facilities, services and other relevant information about the NIP area and its locality

4.3.3 The first steering group meeting took place on the 23rd April 2010 at Morley Town Hall and 15 partners attended. The Area Profile was presented and discussions held with partners to identify issues in the area. An Action Plan was drawn up including the partners' key issues; including community safety, activities for children and young people, health and well being and the environment.

4.3.4 Residents have expressed their views by way of a door to door questionnaire which was carried out in the NIP area. The results will be presented at the next Steering Group meeting on the 18th June and will confirm the needs of local residents within the NIP area and inform the action plan.

4.3.5 Projects in the area to date include an environmental pride led by partners from Aire Valley Homes and Streetscene. A community clean up and an informal meeting of local residents will aim to be the first stages in forming a Tenants and Residents Association for the Harrops.

4.4 **Thorpe - Phase 2 NIP**

4.4.1 The Thorpe NIP is part of the Phase 2 NIPs. The first meeting took place at Stanhope Community Centre on the 26th April 2010 at 2pm. The Steering Group comprised 2 Ward Councillors, 14 partners and 4 local residents.

4.4.2 The meeting involved consideration of the Area Profile and key priorities for the area. The priorities have been linked into the ADP Themes of Community Engagement, Activities for Young People, Environment, Transport, and Learning.

- 4.4.3 An Action Plan has been developed to address issues identified during the Steering Group meetings and the group are now planning to carry out a consultation with residents within the NIP Boundary Area. Key partners involved with conducting the consultation will include Thorpe Primary School, LCC Youth Service and Rothwell Live at Home.

5.0 Supported Areas

- 5.1 A key role for the PNW is in continuing to develop community empowerment and the capacity of Resident Associations. This is particularly important following the completion of a NIP. This work involves supporting them in planning, organising and managing their own community initiatives and projects. A stronger and more robust level of agreement was requested by Members to define this critical work and agreed at the September 2008 Area Committee.

- 5.2 The 'Supported Area Status' work agreed identifies the Aire Valley Homes Customer Involvement Officer as a key partner in the delivery of this work. However, a recent meeting with AMT and AVH highlighted that AVH are no longer monitored on indicators based on the number and membership of TARA's. This impacts on AVH's ability to support TARA's and they are currently evaluating what is their most useful tool to engage with residents.

5.3 Newlands and Denshaws

- 5.3.1 The TARA has a full committee comprising Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and committee members. The full residents meetings continue to have a good attendance. The committee recently celebrated being awarded 'Residents Association of the Year' at the Aire Valley Homes Community Awards.

- 5.3.2 The group are highly organised and require only minimal support from the PNW. They have arranged separate meetings to plan their annual Community Day. The event was held on Saturday 22nd May at Newlands School. The PNW supported residents both in the planning and at the event. Over 150 residents attended and £260 was raised to contribute towards the costs of their community outing.

- 5.3.3 Through support from the PNW, the Newlands and Denshaws Management Committee have received training in their respective committee roles and have also completed Health and Safety and Emergency First Aid training to support their events.

5.4 Wood Lane

- 5.4.1 The TARA has a full committee comprising Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and two committee members. The TARA meetings are held at Haigh Road Community Centre and Royds Court in Rothwell. The TARA produces a yearly newsletter and regularly invites the Police and Aire Valley Homes and Councillors to the meeting to help address community issues.

- 5.4.2 The TARA have no plans to organise a Community Day but would like to support the Wood Lane Community Day organised through the NIP. The committee are also planning a stall at the Rothwell Carnival.

- 5.4.3 All committee members have received training to support their roles as committee members.
- 5.4.4 The TARA applied to the 'You Choose' Participatory Budgeting Project for two benches for the Wood Lane estate and have completed the funding agreement and project delivery statements. The TARA is awaiting a response from Groundwork to complete the project.
- 5.5 **John O' Gaunts**
- 5.5.1 The John O Gaunts TARA continue to hold regular monthly meeting at the Rose Lund Centre and Temple Lawn Sheltered Housing Complex. The TARA has a full committee comprising Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and all meetings have a good attendance of local residents.
- 5.5.2 A Community Day has been organised for the 5th June at the Rose Lund Centre and a separate Steering Group has been set up to organise the event. The TARA has also planned a tabletop sale and the Junior TARA have organised a Disco for 5-9 year olds and 10-15 year Olds at the Rose Lund Centre.
- 5.5.3 The group have completed training for First Aid and Risk Assessment and have produced their own risk assessment for the community day. The group is taking part in Committee Skills Training to develop skills in working together as a Residents Association Committee.
- 5.5.4 With support, the Residents Association have applied to the Outer South Area Committee Wellbeing Fund for a small grant as well as to the Aired Valley Homes Area Panel.
- 5.6 **Tingley**
- 5.6.1 The TARA has a full committee comprising Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and committee members. The TARA holds regular monthly meetings which are well attended by the local community. Recent achievements include the chair Sharna Ramsden being awarded Resident of the Year at the Aire Valley Homes Community Awards. The PNW continues to support the group with secretarial duties pending the nomination of a new Secretary. The TARA is working to address community issues and speakers from Highways and Metro have been invited to the meetings.
- 5.6.2 A community day is planned for 31st July 2010 at Blackgates School. Additional meetings have been arranged to plan the event.
- 5.6.3 On Monday 5th April 2010 the TARA organised an Easter Egg Hunt for the Children and young people at Blackgates School, the event was well attended by children and young people.
- 5.6.4 Members of the TARA have expressed an interest in training but due to work and family commitments, courses have not been taken up.
- 5.6.5 The TARA successfully applied to the Outer South Area Committee Wellbeing Small Grant fund to support the community day on the 31st July 2010.

5.7 **Northfields and Hopefields**

- 5.7.1 The group holds monthly TARA and Management Committee meetings but is currently without a secretary. The PNW is supporting the TARA in this role pending future nomination. The PNW is encouraging residents to join the TARA Committee. Attendance at meetings is growing each month and at the May meeting 25 residents attended.
- 5.7.2 The Management Committee is working hard to promote the TARA meetings to local residents and regularly writes to the Rothwell Record. A website www.nhrhtra.co.uk has been developed where residents can get access to minutes and agendas. Speakers from Highways, Neighbourhood Watch, Parks and Countryside and Metro have attended to address residents concerns and issues.
- 5.7.3 The committee has a good understanding of working in a committee setting and the various committee roles. The Vice Chair has undertaken First Aid Training.
- 5.7.4 The Copley Lane Project has been formed by the TARA in partnership with Leeds City Council Parks and Countryside. The group is looking into how to consult with local residents about this green space. Ideas to convert the area into a community orchard with a statue representing the community of Northfield and Hopefields have been suggested.
- 5.7.5 The group has been provided with information on different funding sources. The committee has recognised that running cost of the website and the community orchard project are priorities for funding.

5.8 **Oakwells and Fairfax**

- 5.8.1 The Oakwell and Fairfax Neighbourhood Improvement Plan Steering Group met monthly since February 2009 to address the key priorities previously reported; community safety, activities for young people, supporting the development of a TARA and targeting environmental issues. The last NIP meeting was held on the 27th November 2009 and concluded with the following achievements:
- Access to a community room at Drighlington Library
 - Regular detached Youth Workers in the area
 - The Children's Project available for 8-11year olds
 - A programme of summer activities club at the Local Rugby Club
 - Environmental initiatives targeting littering and dog fouling
 - Empowerment of residents to integrate and access other support networks
- 5.8.2 Following completion of the NIP, Oakwell and Fairfax is now 'Supported Area' status which will ensure the newly formed Oakwell and Fairfax Residents Association will continue to receive support from the PNW. The TARA has a full management committee comprising Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, the group continues to meet monthly at Drighlington Rugby Club.
- 5.8.3 Capacity building and training continues to be an important vehicle for building confidence and skills amongst the group and the PNW has ensured that all the new committee members have been referred to Leeds Tenants Federation for full training on their committee roles.

- 5.8.4 The Oakwell and Fairfax Residents Association are small but growing in size and enthusiasm. Regular monthly committee meetings have been held and a meeting of the full TARA will take place on the 3rd July 2010 at Drighlington Rugby Club. The Management Committee have designed and distributed a questionnaire leaflet to find out residents views and to get more volunteers involved with organising a Community Event. The PNW continues to support this fragile TARA encouraging strong voices from the community to represent and help resolve issues on the estate.
- 5.8.5 The group has got involved with Groundwork's Bulb Bonanza Scheme. Where bulbs are given away to community groups with the aim of improving the environment. Committee Members planted the Bulbs on green space located on Fairfax Avenue.
- 5.8.6 The Committee plan to link with the Drighlington Parish Council at the Summer Fair on Saturday 17th July 2010. The TARA is planning to fundraise with a tombola stall.

6.0 Rothwell Families Project

- 6.1 The Rothwell Families Project Steering Group was established following the Health For All and South East Area Management successful bid for just under £100,000 revenue funding through the Coalfield Regeneration Trust. The group will assist with directing and ensuring the effective delivery of the project. The funding provides a dedicated worker and project costs to tackle gaps in services to improve health and well being as well as training and skills development of local residents from John O'Gaunts and Wood Lane estates in Rothwell.
- 6.2 The Rothwell Families Project Coordinator and the PNW work closely together to support the residents and projects in the two priority neighbourhoods in Rothwell. In April, the Mother's Pride Teatime Club was supported by the PNW in securing £984.72 from Arise, to fund industrial catering equipment to develop the outside catering work.
- 6.3 An application has been submitted by the PNW, nominating the Mother's Pride Teatime for A Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Letters of Support from Pat McGeever Chief Executive of Health For All and Councillor Steve Smith accompanied the application, and the group will be considered for next years Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2011.
- 6.4 The PNW is attending the meetings to help set up the Wood Lane Carers Group and Wood Lane Teatime Club. 7 volunteers from the Wood Lane estate have completed Volunteer Application forms to take part in the Wood Lane Teatime project.

7.0 Community Safety

- 7.1 The PNW attends regular Tasking meetings in Morley and Rothwell. Tasking meetings are led by Neighbourhood Policing Teams and have representation from Anti Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU), Aire Valley Homes, Probation and Youth Service. This multi agency group share and coordinate information and actions to support the resolution of crime issues in the Outer South. The PNW's role is to link community safety issues raised by Members, Area Management and residents, with relevant partner agencies.
- 7.2 An email from the PNW a week before the monthly Morley and bi-monthly Rothwell Tasking meetings, invites Members to input any appropriate issues to the meeting via the PNW. The PNW has received a number of Community Safety enquires from residents associations and Ward Members since November 2009. Referrals have been made to appropriate agencies and issues brought to the relevant Tasking Group Meeting.
- 7.3 Operation Champion was held on the 16th and 17th March 2010 in Rothwell. The PNW role was to engage with local residents on promoting Operation Champion via a door knocking exercise and attend the planning meetings leading up to the event.
- 7.4 The next Operation Champion for the Outer South is scheduled for October 2010 in Ardsley and Robin Hood. The PNW will assist with engaging with local residents as part of the initiative.

8.0 Volunteering Support Fair

- 8.1 The PNW supported the Volunteering Support Fair at Tingley Youth and Community Centre on Saturday 20th March. In the lead up to the event the PNW delivered promotional leaflets to households within the area and to a targeted list of community venues, agencies and groups. At the event the PNW assisted with setting up the venue and refreshments.

9.0 Wood Lane 'You Choose' Participatory Budgeting Project

- 9.1 The PNW is monitoring the 6 successful projects from the Wood Lane Participatory Budgeting Initiative. All projects have completed funding applications, project delivery statements and funding agreement.
- 9.2 The Wood Lane TARA have submitted an application to install two benches on the Wood Lane estate and are now awaiting materials to be delivered from Groundwork. The Police have received funding to purchase two mountain bikes which are now in operation around the estate.
- 9.3 Groundwork received funding to deliver the Junior Warden Scheme to physically improve the area of the Wood Lane Estate. The project is targeted at 8-13 year olds and 3 sessions have been completed with an attendance of 14 young people.

- 9.4 The Wood Lane Youth Project has held 2 youth work sessions with an attendance of 13 young people. Two outings are planned for the 1st and 2nd June 2010. The Carers Project are planning to use their funding to complete a feasibility study and plan to engage with local residents at the Wood Lane Community Event on the 24th July 2010. The Wood Lane Teatime Club has purchased equipment to establish a Teatime Club and have successfully recruited 7 local volunteer to run the project.

10.0 Community Engagement at Community Fun Days

- 10.1 The PNW is attending the Community Days organised by the following Tara's. Newlands and Denshaws, John O'Gaunts, Tingley Tara, and the Wood Lane. NIP Steering Group.
- 10.2 The PNW plans to engage with local residents via survey. The results will be collected and will inform the development of the Area Delivery Plan 2010/11.

11.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 11.1 Under the enhanced roles from the Executive Board, the Area Committees have a greater role in community engagement within their area.
- 11.2 The role of the PNW and the NIPs detailed in the report is in line with 'Narrowing the Gap' and Leeds City Councils commitment to community cohesion.

12.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 12.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.
- 12.2 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

13.0 Conclusions

- 13.1 The Area Committee's development of the PNW project has provided direct support to groups and individuals which have enabled them to develop and sustain their role in providing community leadership in their neighbourhoods. It has also assisted in ensuring their involvement in the NIP process and beyond. The community development and ongoing support to residents groups has been a catalyst for further work in the NIPs as agencies have the opportunity to consult with residents and to learn more directly about the needs of the community.
- 13.2 The PNW provides a critical resource to the Area Committee enabling them to effectively achieve its community engagement function and support residents in actively participating in the decision making process. These actions are vehicles to further support the role of the Ward Councillors as community champions. Input from the PNW is essential for the successful delivery of the Area Committee Community Engagement Plan 2010/11 and Area Delivery Plan.

14.0 Recommendations

14.1 Members are requested to:

- a) note the contents of the report.

Background Papers

- Priority Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 18th October 2004
- Well Being Report April 3rd 2006
- Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker 2nd July 2007
- Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker 25th February 2008
- Priority Neighbourhood Worker and Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 1st September 2008
- Priority Neighbourhood Worker Update 22nd June 2009
- Priority Neighbourhood Worker Update 30th November 2009