



Report of the Director of Neighbourhoods & Housing

South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 14th March 2011

Subject: Cover Report: Priority Neighbourhood Worker and Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 2008-11

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

In September 2008, the Area Committee renewed its commitment to supporting deprived neighbourhoods by approving a revised programme of Neighbourhood Improvement Plan's (NIPs) and three years funding for a Priority Neighbourhood Worker (PNW), subject to annual Executive Board approval of the delegated Well being Budget. Members received detailed six monthly reports at Area Committee and brief updates through the Area Managers report. This report presents the evaluation report of the Priority Neighbourhood Worker and 2008-11 NIP programme as part of the monitoring process and asks Members to consider future funding of this programme.

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce the evaluation report of the Priority Neighbourhood Worker project and the 2008-11 NIP programme, as part of the Well being funding monitoring process. The report also invites Members to consider the future of the programme.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In response to the Narrowing the Gap agenda of the Vision for Leeds 2004-2020, the Area Committee developed Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs). In September 2004, the Area Committee identified Priority Neighbourhoods on the basis of their level of deprivation and instances of recurring issues such as anti social behaviour and environmental problems.
- 2.2 In November 2006, the Area Committee considered a report and agreed to commission Health for All, a community development charity, to deliver the PNW project. In August 2008, the PNW left 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 commitment to NIP's by approving a three year PNW project to deliver a revised programme of NIP's. Funding for the PNW post until 30th November 2011 was also approved by the Area Committee, subject to annual Executive Board approval of the Well being Budget. The PNW took up her post at Health for All in December 2008.
- 2.4 The role of the PNW had always involved developing community empowerment and the capacity of residents to organise and represent their area. This work includes supporting residents with training and developing their role, in planning, organising and managing their own community initiatives and projects. In September 2008, Members recognised that beyond the NIP a stronger and more robust agreement was required to define this critical work. The 'Supported Area' was developed and agreed as a means to achieve this.

3.0 Evaluation Report

- 3.1 A key aspect of the community development work undertaken by the PNW is to build and strengthen relationships between local people and those in positions of power so that everyone can take part in resolving issues that affect residents' lives. For those small number of volunteers, with limited confidence and skills, who wish to take on these vital leadership roles in their communities, it can be a daunting task. The support from a PNW to create opportunities for individuals to learn new skills and build community spirit is essential to build strong and cohesive communities.
- 3.2 The attached evaluation report has been written by the Priority Neighbourhood Worker and the Chief Executive of Health for All. The report structure covers the aims of the project and details how these have been achieved.
- 3.3 2008-2011 has seen NIP's completed in Oakwell's and Fairfax (Morley North), Wood Lane (Rothwell), Harrops and Bridge Street (Morley South) and Thorpe (Ardsley and Robin Hood). Each NIP is managed by a multi agency steering group which has been chaired by a Ward Councillor. Among other things the steering groups has overseen a consultation exercise to inform and deliver a local action plan. A number of activities and projects have been achieved to benefit the communities and two new tenants and residents associations established; Tingley Bar, (Harrops estate in Morley), and Oakwells and Fairfax (Drighlington).

- 3.4 On completion of a NIP the tenants and residents association become a 'Supported Area'. Four tenants and residents associations have been supported by the PNW through the supported area work; Newlands and Denshaws (Morley North), Tingley TARA and John O'Gaunts (Rothwell). Northfields and Hopefields (Ardsley and Robin Hood) joined the 'Supported Area' programme at the request of Ward Members, having not previously been a NIP area.
- 3.5 In addition to the NIP's and Supported Area work, the PNW has a crucial role in delivering the Area Committee's community engagement strategy. Over the Summer of 2010, the PNW completed 100 questionnaires at community days organised by Outer South tenants and residents associations. The PNW has been instrumental in the successful delivery of 3 participatory budgeting initiatives in the Outer South.

4.0 Future Work

- 4.1 The late start date of the PNW in December 2008 caused a slippage in the timetable for delivering Outer South NIPs and leaves two NIPs still to be delivered from the revised NIP programme.
- 4.2 Outlined below is a summary of future work that is dependent on the PNW to deliver:
- Establish and deliver a ten month NIP in the Asquith/Ingles, (Morley North).
 - Establish and deliver a ten month NIP in the Springbank/Moorlands, (Morley North).
 - Support AVH in establishing and developing a new tenants and residents association in Lofthouse.
 - Support the development of the 'Supported Area' programme of priority neighbourhoods in Newlands and Denshaws, Tingley, Thorpe, Northfields and Hopefields, John O'Gaunts and Wood Lane by continuing to deliver an appropriate level of support for governance and project delivery to residents.
 - Support the development of the 'Supported Area' programme of priority neighbourhoods at an enhanced level at Oakwells and Fairfax TARA & Harrops and Bridge Street TARA, to increase membership and capacity and skills amongst the group.
 - Deliver the Outer South Area Committee Community Engagement strategy – including completion of Gildersome PB, and consultation activities with residents to inform the Area Committee's Area Delivery Plan.

5.0 Funding

- 5.1 The current project is due to end on 30th November 2011. Based on a work programme to be delivered over the next two years it is recommended that Members agree to a further two years from 1st April 2011. This would secure the position of a PNW from 1st April 2011 – 30th March 2013, subject to annual Executive Board approval of future well being budgets.
- 5.2 The contract with Health for All provides both parties with a three month notice period for the PNW post.

6.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 6.1 There are no direct implications for the above as a result of this report.

7.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications from this report.
- 7.2 Resource implications for future revenue Well being Budget if Members approve funding to continue the project, subject to annual Executive Board approval of the delegated Well being budget.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 The Priority Neighbourhood Worker and 2008-11 NIP programme is a successful Area Committee project which contributes to supporting a number of Area Committee priorities across the Outer South.
- 8.2 The report forms part of the Well being Budget monitoring requirements by presenting an evaluation report to Members accounting for the revenue well being funding allocated.
- 8.3 Members are asked to discuss and agree the future of the PNW project and programme of NIPs, based on their commitment to priority neighbourhoods and enhanced role of community engagement.

9.0 Recommendations

Members of the Outer South Area Committee are requested to:

- a) Note contents of Report and make comment as appropriate.
- b) Consider and agree priority neighbourhoods as an Area Committee priority as outlined in 4.0.
- c) Consider and agree to extend the PNW project for a further two years from 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2013, subject to annual Executive Board Approval of future Well being budgets.

Background Papers

- Priority Neighbourhood Worker and Neighbourhood Improvement Plans September 2008
- Priority Neighbourhood Worker Update June 2009
- Priority Neighbourhood Worker Update November 2009
- Priority Neighbourhood Worker Update June 2010