

Report of Area Leader – South East Leeds

Report to South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 5th September 2011

Subject: Priority Neighbourhood Worker Report

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Ardsley and Robin Hood Morley North Morley South Rothwell
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The report presents the six monthly update on the Priority Neighbourhood Worker project and the 2008-11 Neighbourhood Improvement Programme (NIP), as part of the Well being funding monitoring process.
2. The report also invites Members to consider a proposal that the Priority Neighbourhood Worker project becomes a shared resource with the Inner South Area Committee. Support for the current NIP programme in the Outer South will be maintained, but the proposal offers an opportunity for cross boundary working using the successful Outer South model to benefit communities in all South Leeds. It would also provide a revenue saving for the Area Committee over the next 18 months that would allow Members to support additional projects in the Outer South.

Recommendations

3. Members are asked to:
 - a) note the contents of the report
 - b) consider and agree the proposal for the Priority Neighbourhood Worker project to become a shared resource with the Inner South Area Committee.

- c) Agree for Area Management to develop a proposal, based on this report, to the Inner South Area Committee to consider sharing the benefits of the Priority Neighbourhood Worker and the revenue Well being resource implications.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The report presents the six monthly update on the Priority Neighbourhood Worker project and the 2008-11 NIP programme, as part of the Well being funding monitoring process.
- 1.2 The report also invites Members to consider a proposal that the Priority Neighbourhood Worker project becomes a shared resource with the Inner South Area Committee. Support for the current NIP programme in the Outer South will be maintained, but the proposal offers an opportunity for cross boundary working using the successful Outer South model to benefit communities in all South Leeds. It would also provide a revenue saving for the Area Committee over the next 18 months that would allow Members to support additional projects in the Outer South.

2 Background information

- 2.1 In September 2008, the Area Committee renewed its commitment to supporting deprived neighbourhoods by approving a revised programme of Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIPs) and three years funding for a Priority Neighbourhood Worker (PNW), subject to annual Executive Board approval of the delegated Well being Budget.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Members received a full evaluation of the Priority Neighbourhood Worker and 2008-11 NIP programme at the March 2011 Area Committee, and agreed 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.

3 Six Monthly Monitoring Update

- 3.1 The attached monitoring report (**Appendix 1**) has been written by the Priority Neighbourhood Worker and outlines achievements of the project during April - September 2011.

4 Future Working

- 4.1 A key aspect of the community development work undertaken by the PNW is to build and strengthen relationships between local people and those in position 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 community 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.

- 4.2 The priority neighbourhood worker project is a local model which has demonstrated success in supporting residents in targeted neighbourhoods. The Cottingley estate in Inner South Leeds has been highlighted as a priority area by Elected Members and in consultation with residents and partners. It is a large social housing estate, managed by Aire Valley Homes, that is effectively an island due to being surrounded by railway lines and motorways. This puts pressure on residents due to the lack of access to services and suffers instances of recurring issues such as anti social behaviour and environmental issues.
- 4.3 The new integrated locality working approach encourages cross boundary working of successful models to improve service delivery and the outcomes for residents. It is proposed that the Outer South Area Committee PNW project is extended into the Inner South area for two days a week over the remaining period of the PNW project; 1st October 2011 to 31st March 2013.
- 4.4 Impact on Outer South Work

Outlined below is a summary of future work that is dependent on the PNW to manage and that can continue to be delivered within the proposal:

- Establish and deliver a ten month NIP in the Asquith/Ingles, (Morley North). The NIP has been established and will run from June 2011 –March 2012. A significant element of a NIP is the consultation undertaken at the beginning which will be completed by September 2011. The PNW will continue to manage the NIP, ensuring partners play a key role in the delivery.
- Establish and deliver a ten month NIP in the Springbank/Moorlands, (Morley North). The NIP has been established and will run from June 2011 –March 2012. A significant element of a NIP is the consultation undertaken at the beginning which will be completed by September 2011. The PNW will continue to manage the NIP, ensuring partners play a key role in the delivery.
- Support the development of the ‘Supported Area’ programme by continuing to deliver an appropriate level of support for governance and project delivery to residents. Following the completion of a NIP, five tenants and residents associations are supported by the PNW through the supported area work; Newlands and Denshaws (Morley South), Tingley TARA, Thorpe (Ardsley and Robin Hood), Wood Lane and John O’Gaunts (Rothwell). Northfields and Hopefields joined the ‘Supported Area’ programme at the request of Ward Members, having not previously been a NIP area.
- Support the development of the ‘Supported Area’ programme of priority neighbourhoods at an enhanced level for residents in Oakwells and Fairfax (Drighlington) & Harrops (Morley), to increase resident participation and capacity and skills amongst the group.
- Deliver the community engagement aspects of the Outer South Area Committee Business Plan – including completion of Gildersome participatory budgeting projects, and consultation activities with residents to inform future priorities and actions in the Business Plan.

4.5 Proposed Inner South Work

In response to the integrated locality working agenda, Area Management have developed a number of projects to tackle various environmental issues. One of the areas targeted for a multi agency project is the Cottingley estate. Whilst this substantial project is environmentally focussed, the success and benefits of this work will be stronger and more sustainable if the local residents are engaged. Following an inaugural meeting in July, an action plan has been developed for this project. A day of action for 23rd September has been agreed and a planning meeting for this has already taken place.

It is proposed that the PNW would support the Cottingley Tenants and Residents Association (TRAC), to develop their confidence and capacity to support not only the short term environmental work, but in the longer term, develop a role in improving their community. The outer south NIP model will be used as the basis for this capacity building work.

4.6 Management

The PNW would continue to be employed by Health For All and managed by the Area Management Team. The current work programme provides the PNW with a clear plan of work and would be revised to incorporate two days a week to support targeted work in Inner South Leeds. Following experience in supporting residents within a new priority neighbourhood, the two days a week is a reasonable allocation for a highly intensive support package to be developed and delivered, without jeopardising the Outer South work programme. Area Management would manage this work to ensure that the PNW time is split to the agreed 2:3 ratio.

4.7 Benefits

There are several benefits to the proposal which are detailed below.

4.7.1 Financial

The Outer South Area Committee has approved £31,745.40 revenue Well being funding to commission Health For All to employ a Priority Neighbourhood Worker during 2011/12 and £34,003.96 for 2011/13.

By agreeing for the project to be extended into the Inner South area for two days a week, the Outer South Area Committee could recoup revenue funding to be spent on alternative projects to benefit communities in the Outer South.

2011/12		
Time Period	Project Cost	Funding
1 st April 2011- 30 th September 2011	£15,872.70	Outer South Area Committee received project full time.
1 st October 2011 – 31 st March 2012	£15,872.70	Project split between Outer South and Inner South. 2 days a week for 6 months in Inner South; £6,349.08 3 days a week for 6 months in Outer South; £9,523.62
2012/13		
Time Period	Project Cost	Funding
1 st April 2012 – 31 st March 2013	£34,003.96	2 days a week for 12months in Inner South; £13,601.58 3 days a week for 12 months in Outer South; £20,402.38

The proposal offers the Outer South Area Committee a saving of £6,349.08 revenue funding in 2011/12 and £13,601.58 in 2012/13.

4.7.2 Support a Priority Neighbourhood In South Leeds

The proposal to extend the PNW project into Inner South Leeds builds on the integrated locality working model, piloted in the South East. It would introduce the successful Outer South approach in a challenging area while providing much needed community development support to the residents of Cottingley.

Health for All is currently running a short term 'Springboard to Independence' Project which will hopefully lead to the formation of a community groups network offering assistance with information and funding but even that will be limited and will depend on community development workers encouraging representatives of groups to attend.

The Chief Executive of Health for All commented that; “at a recent PEG partnership meeting, a representative of a local community group in Leeds 11 stated that they felt they were not kept informed of developments, opportunities and potential sources of support. The needs of Cottingley residents include; support to develop a strong, well governed group with good attendance and participation from residents, develop confidence and skills to engage with local service providers and to receive and take up funding opportunities. No other organisation in the area is funded to carry out this vital capacity building work”.

The PNW project has adopted a genuine community development approach, with significant success, supporting groups in the outer south to take actions to improve their local communities and linking local community leaders, along with Councillors, and groups to local statutory services. This approach offers a strong and positive opportunity to support a priority community in Inner South Leeds.

4.7.3 Development Opportunity

Extending the project into an Inner South community would provide the Priority Neighbourhood Worker with an opportunity to experience different challenges that would support their personal and professional development.

5 Corporate Considerations

5.1 Consultation and Engagement

5.1.1 This report is a product of consultation with Members, residents and partners and presents a proposal for Members to consider.

5.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

5.2.1 Internal and statutory partners are committed to equality and cohesion and all projects they are involved with will have considered these issues.

5.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

5.3.1 The project outlined in this report contributes to target and priorities set out in the following council policies:

- Vision for Leeds
- Children and Young Peoples Plan
- Health and Well being City Priority Plan
- Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
- Regeneration City Priority Plan

5.4 Resources and Value for Money

5.4.1 Subject to Members approving the proposal and further agreement from Inner South Area Committee, the project will demonstrate a high level of value for money to the residents of Leeds and provides the Area Committee with the opportunity to recoup revenue Well being funding.

5.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

5.5.1 Legal implications as a result of this report will be reflected in any subsequent Funding Agreements and Contracts to Tender that arise from projects funded from the Well being Budget.

5.5.2 All decisions taken by the Area Committee in relation to the delegated functions from Executive Board are eligible for Call In.

5.5.3 There are no key or major decisions being made that would be eligible for Call In.

5.6 Risk Management

- 5.6.1 All proposals requesting Well being Funding complete a section in the application process outlining the risks associated with the project and how they will be managed.

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 The report forms part of the Well being Budget monitoring requirements by presenting a six monthly monitoring report to Members accounting for the revenue well being funding allocated.
- 6.3 Expanding the PNW project into the Inner South area offers a number of benefits, most significantly to support residents in a priority neighbourhood to work with Members and partners to improve their neighbourhood.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 Members are asked to:
- a) Note the contents of the report
 - b) consider the proposal that the Priority Neighbourhood Worker project becomes a shared resource with the Inner South Area Committee.
 - c) Agree for Area Management to develop a proposal, based on this report, to the Inner South Area Committee to consider sharing the benefits of the Priority Neighbourhood Worker and the revenue Well being resource implications.

8 Background documents

- 8.1 Outer South Area Committee, Priority Neighbourhood Worker and Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 2008-11 14th March 2011
- 8.2 Outer South Area Committee, Priority Neighbourhood Worker Update June 2010
- 8.3 Outer South Area Committee, Priority Neighbourhood Worker Update November 2009
- 8.4 Outer South Area Committee, Priority Neighbourhood Worker Update June 2009
- 8.5 Outer South Area Committee, Priority Neighbourhood Worker and Neighbourhood Improvement Plans September 2008