

Report of the South East Area Leader

Report to Inner South Leeds Area Committee

Date: Tuesday 8th November 2011

Subject: Jobs & Skills Action Plan - Middleton Park

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Middleton Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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. This report will update Area Committee on work in the Middleton Park Ward to address the priority issues surrounding the jobs and skills agenda, especially relating to the high level of NEET's (Not in Employment, Education or Training) in that ward.
2. The report will provide Area Committee with the initial draft action plan that has been produced. This is a working document that will be developed as this project progresses.

Recommendations

3. Area Committee will be requested to note the report and raise any queries.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The report will provide Area Committee with an update on the work of the Middleton Park Jobs and Skills sub-group that was established in summer 2011. The report provides background to the project and details of why Middleton Park has been specifically targeted.
- 1.2 Area Committee will be provided with the draft action plan that includes specific project work relating to Middleton Park ward.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Statistical information for the Middleton Park ward illustrates that it has some of the highest numbers of benefits claimants and NEET's in the city.
- 2.2 The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) packages all of its out-of-work benefits data into a single dataset called Working Age Client Group (WACG). This provides a complete count of all people claiming out-of-work benefits and because it counts people rather than claimants there is no double counting of those on multiple benefits.
- 2.3 Data shows that there are 4,315 WACG claimants in the Middleton Park ward. This is 25.6% of the working age population compared to a city rate of 14.4%. Across the ward rates vary considerably from 12.4% in the Sharp House Road / Throstle Road / Lingwell Road area to 37% in the Throstle Lane / Intake Sq / Acres / Middleton Park Grove area.
- 2.4 The following areas all have WACG claimant rates that are more than double the average for the city:
 - 37.0% in the Throstle Lane, Intake Sq, Acres, Middleton Park Grove area
 - 36.1% in the Winroses, Whitebeams area
 - 32.3% in the East Granges, West Granges, Sandon Mount area
 - 30.2% in the Newhalls, Aberfields, Winrose Approach area
 - 29.6% in the Bodmin Road, Bodmin Gardens, Sissons Crescent area
 - 29.4% in the Low Granges, Windmill Road area
 - 29.4% in the Manor Farms, Newhall Crescent area
- 2.5 Additional data relating to WACG claimants in Middleton Park ward is attached on **Appendix 1**.
- 2.6 The latest data (July 2011) shows 7.8% of the working age population in Middleton Park ward are claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), 1315 claimants, compared to a city average of 4.4%. Across the ward rates vary considerably from 3.5% in the area covered by Orions / Broom Terrace / Middleton Ring Road to 11.3% in the Newhalls / Aberfields / Winrose Approach area. The following areas all have claimant rates that are more than double the average for the city:

- 11.3% in the Newhalls, Aberfields, Winrose Approach area
- 11.1% in the East Granges, West Granges, Sandon Mount
- 11.1% in the Throstle Lane, Intake Sq, Acres, Middleton Park Grove area
- 10.7% in the Winroses, Whitebeams area
- 10.6% in the Manor Farms, Newhall Crescent area

2.7 Additional data relating to JSA claimants in Middleton Park ward is attached on **Appendix 2.**

2.8 In Middleton Park ward there are 835 young people, of which 90 are classed as NEET's (10.78%) and 60 are not known (7.19%). The following are comparative figures by wedge:

- North West – NEET's - 5.35%, not known – 4.45%
- East – NEETs – 8.35%, not known – 4.61%
- North East – NEETS – 5.31%, not known – 3.19%
- West – NEETS – 8.48%, not known – 5.39%
- South – NEET's – 7.93%, not known – 8.02%

2.9 In response to these statistics Councillor Kim Groves was asked by the Middleton Regeneration Forum to take forward a project of work that would establish a working group to action issues relating to worklessness and NEET's. Its primary aim is to put in place a programme of work that ensured people living in the ward would be ready and had the necessary skills to take up future job opportunities anticipated in the ward and in the wider south Leeds area.

3 Main issues

3.1 Middleton Park ward Jobs and Skills sub-group

3.1.1 The first meeting of the group, chaired by Cllr Groves, was held in June 2011. Attendees included representatives from Leeds City Colleges, Connexions, Cockburn High School, Job Centre Plus etc.

3.1.2 The main actions of the meeting were:

SAIL (Success and Achievement in Learning) programme. To look at delivering this programme from either the Belle Isle HUB and/or the Middleton Enterprise Centre. Funding will be sought from the Learning Support Fund.

Who else needs to be involved in the group? Agreed that Extended Services, Aire Valley Homes, Leeds Ahead and South Leeds Academy were needed as partners on the group.

Information on available programmes. It was agreed to carry out a scoping exercise on determining what activities were happening in this field and how this could be brought into an action plan for the ward.

3.1.3 Subsequent meetings have been held in August and September with key stake holders to produce an action plan for the ward.

3.2 **Middleton Park Jobs & Skills Action Plan**

3.2.1 The first draft of the action plan is attached as **Appendix 3**.

3.2.2 The SAIL project has started at the HUB with 12 people having signed up for the scheme.

3.2.3 Negotiations are being held with Learning Partnerships to set a date and venue for a Market Place event to be held somewhere in the ward in the next few months. The venue is likely to be one of the primary schools and held at school closing time.

3.2.4 The date for a recruitment event will be subject to discussions with potential employers. This will be led by LCC's Employment & Skills section and a small amount of funding from the Well Being Budget may be required to support the event.

3.2.5 The document is at draft stage and will be developed to include outputs and outcomes specific to the work included in the document and any further project work that evolves.

4 **Corporate Considerations**

4.1 **Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 This project is supported by Ward Members for Middleton Park and has been raised as a priority at the Middleton Regeneration Forum.

4.2 **Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

4.2.1 Under equality legislation the Council has a legal duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate and promote equality in relation to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and religion or belief.

4.2.2 The work included in this report supports this legal duty.

4.3 **Council Policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 The proposals contained within this report contribute to the existing targets and priorities set out in the Council's Policy Framework in the following plans:

- Children & Young Peoples Plan
- Safer & Stronger Communities City Priority Plan

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report other than funding that may be required from Area Committee Well Being Budget to support some events mentioned.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

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

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

4.5.3 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 This report provides an update on project work in Inner South. Any projects funded from the Well Being Budget will be risk assessed.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The report provides up to date information on the Middleton Park Jobs & Skills project. Members are requested to note the content of the report and raise queries relating to issues raised within the report.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Area Committee is requested to note the content of the report and raise queries relating to issues raised within the report.

7 Background documents

None.