

**Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Planning, Policy and Improvement)**

**Report to South Leeds (Inner) Area Committee**

**Date: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

**Subject: Children & Young People's Sub-group Report**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Beeston & Holbeck City & Hunslet Middleton Park
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**

This report has been compiled in response to a request from the Inner Area Committee to market test provision for elements of support for Children & Young People in the Inner Area. The purpose of this 'test' would be to throw open the opportunity to the whole sector to bid for funds for activities that address identified need in the area. Following a review of the operation of the Outer South Children and Young People's Working Group which was established in 2008, it is believed that the efficient operation of such a development in the Inner Area will require a similar vehicle to coordinate the delivery. The Area Improvement Manager has held talks with Extended Services colleagues to explore the potential for establishing an Inner South Children and Young People's Working Group. The group would be Chaired by the Area Committee Childrens Champion and be constituted in line with the draft Terms of Reference attached at **Appendix 1**.

The proposed 'Working Group' would focus on the needs of local Children and Young People plus the professional requirements of those who work with those children in the Inner South Area of Leeds.

The group would undertake tasks including:

- Review current provision of out of schools activities for Children and Young People across the Inner Area
- Develop a coordinated programme of joint activities that offer best value for money and achieve the best service provision for children and young people in the Inner South.
- Set priorities based on clear evidence.
- Link citywide strategic direction and local implementation through joint working.
- Work along side and feed into the current strategic arrangements in the Inner South area through the Beeston, Holbeck & Hunslet and Middleton & Belle Isle Neighbourhood Improvement Boards.
- Share good practice and establish improved working in line with the 'Locality Working' agenda.
- Inform the Area Committee Business Plan in relation to Children and Family issues.

The Area Committee is asked to agree the formation of this group and agree the Terms of Reference.

## **Recommendations**

Members of the Inner South Area Committee are requested to:

1. Note the contents of the report.
2. Agree to establish an Inner South Children and Young People's Working Group
3. Agree the Terms of Reference for the Inner South Children and Young People's Working Group
4. Agree to receive a further report to the March meeting that addresses funding issues in this sector that might be considered by the Children & Young People Working Group.

## **1.0 Purpose of this report**

This report seeks to provide:

- 1.1 Details of a proposal to establish an Inner South Childrens and Young Peoples Working Group, including Terms of Reference.
- 1.2 An outline of some of the benefits of working in partnership and forward planning for provision in future years.

## **2.0 Background information**

- 2.1 Each Area Committee has been allocated a Well being Budget which it is responsible for administering. The aim of this budget is to support the social, economic and environmental well being of the area by using the funding to support projects that contribute towards the delivery of local priorities, identified in the Area Committee Business Plan.
- 2.2 In line with its priorities the Area Committee have previously provided funding for various projects to address issues around children and young people. Members recently asked officers to explore how the opportunity to access Wellbeing funding might be made available to a wider audience of providers through a transparent process.
- 2.3 The Outer South the Children & Young People's Working Group has been established for a number of years and on behalf of the Area Committee it has been coordinating the use of an amount of Wellbeing funding to provide universal provision in its area. It is felt that this model provides an appropriate and tested way to engage with partners to review, plan and implement a coordinated programme of activities that will address identified need in the three Wards of the Inner South Area Committee.
- 2.4 The recent development of Neighbourhood Improvement Boards (NIB) has a focus on addressing need. The Children & Young Peoples Working Group would provide a forum to look at cross boundary working to maximise the impact of projects on young people and help inform the work of the NIB.
- 2.5 There are a range of providers delivering services to the benefit of local communities in the Inner South area. These are both statutory and voluntary sector, with differing criteria for attendance and type of provision. One of the key activities of the working group will be to map out this provision to highlight gaps and then target appropriate work.
- 2.6 With the recent developments around the Localism Act, a number of work strands could support the work of the group and enhance the opportunities for young people. For example the opportunities around the community first funding pots could add value to schemes already in development. The nature of the community first panels makes it possible for further duplication of provision, which is to be avoided given the limited resources available. The Children & Young peoples Working Group would be able to

provide up to date information to the panels to better advise them on the projects already operating, thus further enhancing the scope of the funding and the levels of engagement.

### **3.0 Childrens & Young Peoples Working Group**

- 3.1 The proposed 'Working Group' would focus on the needs of local Children and Young People plus the professional requirements of those who work with those children in the Inner South Area of Leeds.  
The group would undertake tasks including.
- Review current provision of out of schools activities for Children and Young People across the Inner Area
  - Develop a coordinated programme of joint activities that offer best value for money and achieve the best service provision for children and young people in the Inner South.
  - Set priorities based on clear evidence.
  - Link citywide strategic direction and local implementation through joint working.
  - Work along side and feed into the current strategic arrangements in the Inner South area through the Beeston, Holbeck & Hunslet and Middleton & Belle Isle Neighbourhood Improvement Boards.
  - Share good practice and establish improved working in line with the 'Locality Working' agenda.
  - Inform the Area Committee Business Plan in relation to Children and Family issues.
- 3.2 The establishment of a working group would assist the monitoring of services provided to children in the area. It would also enable the more effective targeting of the limited funding that Inner South Area Committee (and others) has available to support such services.
- 3.2.1 A working group could help reduce duplication of services and produce better value for money. This proposal would deliver the benefits of 'Integrated Locality Working' and increase the transparency of provision and funding arrangements. The working group would be also be effective in adding weight to any partnership bids for external funding or training.
- 3.3 The Area Support Team would provide administrative support and co-ordinate the proposed 'Working Group meetings for the Inner South Area.
- 3.3.1 The aim of this joint working is get a greater level of provision at better value for money. Partnerships with voluntary and community sector organisations will open access to other funding streams which could be applied for and used to support this programme.
- 3.4 Complimentary funding streams might include Awards for All, NHS Leeds and the West Yorkshire Police Community Trust.

### **4.0 Timescale and Proposed Activities**

- 4.1 Provision across the sector for children and young people in Inner South by Cluster Services, Youth Service, Sport Development and the voluntary sector is currently delivered and supported through core provision and some supplementary funding.

4.2 When approved the working group can be established in the coming months and work to be in a position to coordinate services in 2012/2013. This timescale would allow the mapping of current services to be developed and decisions made to provide a joined up programme of activities to children & young people in Inner South Leeds.

## **5.0 Outcomes and Benefits**

5.1 It is anticipated that a fully coordinated programme of activities for a range of ages will have a high impact on service provision for children and young people across the Inner South.

5.2 Children and young people taking part in the activities will build their confidence, experience new activities and gain new skills. The diversionary activities for the older age group will have a positive impact on reducing anti social behaviour and associated activities.

5.3 Evidence from the Outer South scheme, demonstrates the potential of how coordinated mapping, across partners can inform future working. If this approach can be resourced and adopted consistently across activities and boundaries in Inner South, then it will enable future planning to take account of gaps in provision and seek to address them. Further, there is great potential to maximise the GIS technology for example, to overlay Anti Social Behaviour and associated data to inform the debate in greater detail where areas of concern are identified.

5.4 If implemented the working group will address the following:

- Provide added value to the Department for Children, Schools and Families Activities Grant resource, being routed through Clusters for vulnerable children and young people support
- Add value to the work of the Clusters, their partner organisations and their local delivery arrangements
- Support joint-working and sustainability by reinforcing existing networks and reducing duplication of activity contract arrangements, monitoring and evaluation
- Target co-ordinated activity delivery, based on the of evidence of 'need' and data collection
- Eliminate competition between partner organisations ensuring that processes and priorities are clear
- Make direct links between the Area Committee Business Plan and the Children's and Young People's Plan and priorities
- Contribute to the work of The South Wedge Leadership Group
- Provide access to the Breeze Culture Network and necessitate as a statutory duty, partner's uploading concise data to the Breeze and Family Hub websites
- Provide evidence that will inform future sustainable models of partnership work

## **6.0 Corporate Considerations**

### **6.1 Consultation and Engagement**

6.1 Projects are developed to address priorities in the Area Committee Business Plan. The production of this proposal is informed by Local Councillors and local residents. The aim of this change in local arrangements aims to allow for a more needs led approach based on local intelligence and utilisation of specific service providers.

### **6.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

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

6.2.2 A light touch Equality Impact Assessments is carried out for all projects.

### **6.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

6.3.1 This proposal and any projects arising from this report will contribute 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

### **6.4 Resources and Value for Money**

6.4.1 Resource implications will be an amount of staff time around the setting up and initial meetings of the group.

### **6.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

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

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

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

### **6.6 Risk Management**

6.6.1 Any projects funded through Well being budget complete a section identifying risks and solutions as part of the application process.

## **7.0 Conclusions**

- 7.1 The creation of a working group that focuses on providing a more cost effective and streamlined process, addressing the needs of children & young people in the Inner South area, would link in to a range of the current locality working practices. The information sharing and mapping of service would facilitate a more targeted approach both to funding allocation and project planning. With the successes shown in the Outer South Area pilot scheme, confidence is high that this type of group would enhance the effectiveness of the current locality working models currently being implemented in Inner South.

## **8.0 Recommendations**

- 8.1 Members of the Inner South Area Committee are requested to:
1. Note the contents of the report.
  2. Agree to establish an Inner South Children and Young People's Working Group
  3. Agree the Terms of Reference for the Inner South Children and Young People's Working Group
  4. Agree to receive a further report to the March meeting that addresses funding issues in this sector that might be considered by the Children & Young People's Working Group

## **Background Documents**

Well-being Report, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011  
Well-being Report, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011  
Well-being Report, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011