

**Report of Deputy Chief Executive**

**Report to Inner West Area Committee**

**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

**Subject: Area Update Report**

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Are specific electoral Wards affected?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |
| If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):<br>Armley<br>Bramley & Stanningley             |   |  |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" 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?                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:<br>Appendix number:   |   |  |

**Summary of main issues**

1. The Area Update Report provides Members with information on LAMP meetings, key services, and other activities around the inner West area since March. It also provides information on how the Community Centre Consortium project will be delivered this year, and on actions to target anti-social behaviour and street drinking in Armley town centre.

**Recommendations**

2. Inner West Area Committee Members are invited to note the contents of the report, comment on any matters raised and suggest items for inclusion in future Area Update reports.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to inform members on progress against the Area Support Team's work programme and locality priorities.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1. An Area Committee Update report is submitted at every cycle of Area Committee meetings. Partners contribute collectively on projects and provide service updates.

## **3 Main issues**

### New Wortley LAMP

- 3.1 At its meeting in April, the New Wortley LAMP discussed the Health Needs Assessment, recently completed by NHS Leeds. A mapping exercise of health and well-being provision will follow to identify gaps and opportunities for joint working.

### Wythers Improvement Group

- 3.2 The Wythers Improvement Group supported a multi-agency action day on the estate at the beginning of April. The focus of the day was on gathering intelligence on anti-social behaviour, and 118 residents completed surveys.

- 3.3 BARCA Leeds have access to a large vehicle that can be taken into neighbourhoods to promote health and wellbeing. A number of residents accessed the service on the action day, and BARCA are looking to visit on a weekly basis, providing drop in sessions and a place for residents to meet.

### Fairfield LAMP

- 3.4 The Fairfield LAMP meeting was updated on the continued reduction in anti-social behaviour and burglary. Future activities were discussed including a multi-agency environmental improvement day and a jobs fair in July.

### Broadleas LAMP

- 3.5 The Broadleas LAMP meeting in May discussed the low numbers accessing the advice surgery set up covering a range of issues including housing, finance and training opportunities. Anti-social behaviour continues to be a problem in certain parts of the neighbourhood, and the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team is taking action against persistent offenders.
- 3.6 Teenage conception rates are high in the Broadleas area, and the group will look at what services are in place at a future meeting.

### West North West Area Leadership Team

- 3.7 The WNW Area Leadership Team was established to bring together the Chairs of the Area Committee with a cross section of senior officers and partners to facilitate integrated locality working. The aim is to connect senior officers and partners to an area of the city so that they are able to better understand the needs of localities and

to learn more about communities to inform service delivery. By working across boundaries leaders will be able to take advantage of the opportunities of integration and improve outcomes.

- 3.8 The WNW Area Leadership Team is chaired by Sandie Keane (CLT Director). The group has met 3 times and during these meetings has agreed some operating principles, identified an agreed set of priorities and explored geographical priority areas based on an assessment of need. The WNW Area Leadership team priorities are: Communities (including Community Safety and Environment), employment and skills, and, health and well-being (focus on health inequalities). The group have developed relationships which have led to new opportunities emerging for integrated working including, work to support the WNW community safety activity relating to reducing burglary, closer working between organisation at the local level and some joint planning activity with the ALMO's around environment and community safety in specific areas. There is also work underway to run a multi-agency referral scheme in an area of the WNW, specifically linked to improving outcomes relating to health and well-being. The network of leaders has also been used to support the development in the Big Local area of Hawksworth Wood.
- 3.9 The next steps are for groups of leaders to develop work programmes around the themes recently agreed which will be part of the longer term improvement activity. However, partners are also bringing issues to the group that require immediate action or that are opportunities to address problems.

#### West North West Homes Update

- 3.10 West North West Homes are carrying out a consultation through the Armley housing office to consult with customers living in multi-story blocks of flats to identify the top three issues they have living in this type of accommodation. A local multi-story flat action plan will be then be developed to address the issues raised.
- 3.11 a) Bramley and Stanningley Ward:  
The new Neighbourhood Housing Officer for the Broadleas is arranging a day of action on the 9<sup>th</sup> August followed by a family funday on the 10<sup>th</sup>. West North West Homes have supported residents in successfully applying for Area Panel funding to replace bushes with a metal fence on Broadlea Hill. A bid has also gone in for a new fence at the back of Broadlea Hill flats and the area in front of the shop, and an overgrown piece of land on bordered by Broadlea Oval / Gardens / Hill has been cleared.
- 3.12 Funding was provided for raised garden bed and a new seating area at Moorside Community Centre, and the neighbourhood caretakers have cut down overgrown conifers at the rear of the centre. A rounders match is planned between the Moorside tenants and residents association and staff from West North West Homes. A clean up day for the whole Moorside estate will follow on the 13<sup>th</sup> July.
- 3.3 b) Armley Ward:  
A new timber raised garden bed has been built at the entrance of Burnsall Grange multi story flats that will be planted and maintained by residents living in the block. The Westerley Rise multi-story block also has a new rose garden in place of an overgrown bed.

- 3.14 In June, the Neighbourhood Caretaking team carried out makeovers to the Cheltenham estate and Wyther Park Close to improve the overall appearance of the areas.
- 3.15 A cricket match is planned for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July between West North West Homes staff and members of the Armley Mosque.

### Youth Service

- 3.16 a) Armley Ward  
The Armley youth service team continue to hold well attended sessions, including weekends. Highlights from the last quarter include:
- Delivering sessions inside local authority care homes.
  - Increasing outreach work in anti-social behaviour hotspots and participating in truancy sweeps to help engage with young people not attending school
  - Setting up a new drop in at Armley library.
  - Working with increasing numbers of Slovakian youths who are attending sessions at Strawberry Lane. The service is looking to find a volunteer or secure funding for interpretation services.
- 3.17 b) Bramley & Stanningley Ward  
The following lists some of the regular activities that are taking place in the ward.
- Up to 30 young people are attending the youth club on Thursdays, and a C card programme is now in place.
  - The Bramley School of Rock is going well, and the young people have spent time in a studio recording their first CD.
  - A mobile session is held on the Ganners every Friday between 7.30-9.30pm. This has contributed to a reduction in anti-social behaviour around the shops in the area.
  - Young people in the 'WRAP' group work towards increasing participation in decision making. They have applied for MICE money and are volunteering at the Bramley Carnival.
  - The sexual health drop in on Friday afternoons has increased the number of young people accessing the service.
  - Anti-social behaviour at the Fairfield Youth Session has decreased, and young people are engaging more with staff at the centre.
- 3.18 c) Lazer Centre  
The Lazer Centre at Armley continues to run activities for local young people and provides a base for other citywide youth service providers.
- The centre ran a packed programme of activities in the February half term, and took a group of young people who regularly attend the centre to a residential at Herd Farm.
  - A Friday night session attracts around 35 young people aged 8-11 who are then accessing other provision in the area.

- Saturday activities are extremely popular with up to 60 young people joining in the sessions and helping out at the café.
- Lazer staff are fully involved in multi-agency safeguarding meetings and are working with a number of young people referred through the CAF process.

The centre is setting up meetings to work with Gypsy and Roma girls, with a view to supporting their education and developing life skills

### Regeneration Projects

#### a) Armley Moor Improvements

3.19 In May 2012 the refurbishment works commenced and the works to date include:

- New timber railing posts along Town Street;
- Rustic York stone paving laid at the entrance to the Moor and at the central point of the Moor where the two existing footpaths cross;
- Installation of two bollards at entrance from Town Street.

3.20 The following works will be undertaken throughout June and July:

- Installation of new outdoor green gym equipment.
- New footpaths and improvements to existing footpaths. Paths will be widened in order to accommodate for wheelchairs and pushchairs.
- Native tree and shrub planting across the Moor.
- Street furniture, including; new benches; new picnic benches; new litter bins;
- Existing church pews, highly regarded by the Armley Common Right Trust, will be restored and repainted.

3.21 Work is ongoing with local stakeholders to promote the use of the Outdoor Green Gym equipment. The Armley Leisure Centre, the Armley Moor Medical Centre and the Healthy Living Network have all expressed interest in running fitness programmes from the equipment with local residents.

#### b) Theaker Lane former Medical Centre

3.22 Sanctuary Housing are continue to work up proposals to deliver a scheme comprising of 30 flats for older people on the site of the former Medical Centre and adjoining open space on Theaker Lane. Once a number of legal issues are resolved around land ownership, Sanctuary hope to be in a position to submit a planning application in late June/ early July, with a view to commencing on site work later in the year.

### Community Centres Consortium

3.23 The Area Committee funded Social Enterprise and Business Facilities Manager will be in post until the end of September 2012. A year long, part time option for the post was considered, but the current post holder would not have been able to continue on reduced hours. In order for the centres to move towards sustainability, it was felt that the expertise of the current post holder would enable the centres to develop a robust exit plan for the project and leave some funding aside to help the centres in the current financial year. Both centres are in a much better position

financially than they were when the project started, and BARCA remains committed to supporting the centres through their other work in the area.

3.24 a) New Wortley Community Centre

The centre has suffered from anti-social behaviour by some users and local residents. The police have been called on a number of occasions to deal with people drinking alcohol or using drugs. A nuisance diary is in place, and both staff and volunteers have received training on how to deal with inappropriate behaviour. Some of the main culprits have been referred to appropriate agencies, and have apologised for their behaviour. The police are attending the centre on Mondays for 'Cuppa with a Copper' sessions.

3.25 Use of the centre is increasing, with NHS stop smoking classes and an additional Zumba session now running, and around twenty older people attend the re-launched lunch club. The coffee shop and laundry continue to be popular with local residents, and a £1,000 grant from Sport Relief has supported the centre's volunteering programme.

3.26 The pocket park is almost complete, and an opening event will be held to celebrate. BARCA is supporting the management committee in its bid to Reaching Communities for an extension to the centre.

3.27 b) Fairfield Community Centre

A day of action transformed the centre, which is now bright and clean, with designated space for a range of activities. An internet room has been created which is being used by job seekers, and a Jobs and Training day is planned for 18<sup>th</sup> July.

3.28 Use of the centre is higher than ever with a full programme of events supported by the BARCA workers based there. These include youth provision, cookery classes, line dancing and Zumba. Recent publicity including newsletters and flyers have brought in new users.

3.29 Security at the centre is much improved, and the management committee has installed a new CCTV camera.

Gelder Road Anti-Social Behaviour

3.30 Following complaints from local businesses, a multi-agency group has been set up to tackle anti-social behaviour around the shops and public conveniences on Gelder Road and Town Street in Armley. An information gathering session took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> May where shops in the area were asked about their experience of anti-social behaviour and street drinking. This intelligence will be used to develop an action plan for the area, and Members will be kept updated with progress.

Jubilee Celebrations

3.31 The Area Committee provided funding for community led Jubilee celebrations on Armley Moor and Hunters Greave in Bramley. The Area Support Team supported the Armley event by designing a billboard poster and publicity leaflet.

3.32 Leeds Industrial Museum

Leeds Industrial Museum is continuing to increase visitor numbers, and held a party at the end of May to celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. A partnership with Leeds Fashion Works will see fashion shows and new displays, the Optics Gallery is being developed, and the re-design of the colour garden will provide inspiration for dyeing workshops from June onwards.

Future plans include celebrating 100 years of the Leeds Toy Steam Club and a community café and community arts project.

## **4. Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1. Community forums are held on a monthly basis in Armley and bi-monthly in Bramley within Inner West Leeds to inform communities.

4.1.2. Ward Members are consulted on projects and initiatives within their ward on matters relating to the Support Team's work programme and locality priorities.

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

4.2.1. This section is not applicable to this report

### **4.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1. The Area Committee Functions and Priority Advisory Functions were approved by the Executive Board in June 2009, this approval was rolled forward to 2010/11, and rolled forward again to 2011/12 with amendments only to environmental delegations.

4.3.2. The Area Functions are included in the Council's Constitution (Part 3, section 3C).

4.3.3. Area Support Team's work programme contributes at a local level to the themes contained in the:

- Vision for Leeds
- Leeds Strategic Plan
- Health and Wellbeing City Priorities Plan
- Children and Young People's Plan
- Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
- Regeneration City Priority Plan

### **4.4 Resources and value for money**

4.4.1. Programmes of work outlined in this report are resourced in the main by Area Support Team staff and where relevant their partners which in turn provides value for money.

4.4.2. In order to meet the Area Committee's functions (see Council's Constitution Part 3, section 3C), funding is available via Well Being budgets and the Community Centres Budget.

4.4.3. In order to meet the Area Committee's roles, funding is in the main supplied by other Leeds City Council Departments main stream budgets, and external partner agencies for example the Police and Primary Care Trust, which is in turn reflected in the fact that the Area Committee's role here is to influence, develop and consult. However, on occasion, wellbeing funding has resourced some projects related to its roles, for example community engagement, area based regeneration schemes and conservation area reviews.

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

4.5.1 This report is the report of the Area Leader for West North West Leeds who has delegated responsibility to action decisions in accordance with Area Management's work programme in accordance with part 3 of the Council's Constitution in relation to Area Committee Functions.

4.5.2 This report is not confidential, neither is it, or part of it exempt.

4.5.1 This report is subject to Call-In as the Area Committee's functions are delegated Executive ones.

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 There are no significant risks identified in this report.

### **5. Conclusions**

5.1 In conclusion, the Area Update report is in line with the functions and role of the Area Committee which are:

- Improve the quality and value for money of Council service delivery
- Improve the quality of democracy and find new ways to facilitate citizen participation in local government through the development of links between Ward Members and their communities
- To co-ordinate policy and service delivery between the local service providers.

### **6 Recommendations**

6.1 Inner West Area Committee Members are invited to note the contents of the report, comment on any matters raised and suggest items for inclusion in future Area Update reports..

### **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.