

Report of South East Area Leader

Report to Inner South Area Committee

Date: Wednesday 26th September 2012

Subject: Transfer of Belle Isle Foundation to Childrens Services - Family Contact Centre and office base for the South Locality Safeguarding Team.

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	Middleton Park	
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:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. The Belle Isle Foundation (BIF) unit, delegated to Inner South Area Committee, was leased to the Belle Isle Foundation until the organisation folded two years ago. Since then the building has been empty and Area Committee has become responsible for running costs including the alarm, electricity and business rates. In its empty state the premise last year cost £13,435.
2. Children's Services are keen to take on the centre to use as a Family Contact Centre and an office base for the South Locality Safeguarding Team.
3. No other service or group has shown an interest in taking on the building.
4. If Area Committee agrees to the disposal, the Family Contact element will most likely be based in the corridor-like area with rooms leading off at both side, and the open plan office / meeting rooms towards the rear of the building. Children & Young Persons Social Care (CYPSC) will potentially include some remodelling of the existing layout to create an open plan office space, meetings rooms and one larger conference room.
5. The financial implication is still to be determined however CYPSC are progressing this internally.

6. Middleton Park Ward Members have been consulted and support this proposal.
7. Equality Impact Assessment Screening has been prepared as a separate document

Recommendations

8. Area Committee are requested to approve the disposal of the Belle Isle Foundation unit so that it can be used by Children's Services.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for Inner South Area Committee to dispose of the Belle Isle Foundation unit which has been unused for the last two years.
- 1.2 The report also seeks approval for the unit to be transferred to Children's Services.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The Belle Isle Foundation (BIF) unit, delegated to Inner South AC, was leased to the Foundation until the organisation folded two years ago. Since then the building has been empty and AC has become responsible for running costs including the alarm, electricity and business rates.
- 2.2 Children's Services approached Area Support Team registering they wish to acquire the premise to use as a Family Contact Centre and an office base for the South Locality Safeguarding Team.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The Belle Isle Foundation (BIF) unit, delegated to Inner South Area Committee, was leased to the Belle Isle Foundation until the organisation folded two years ago. Since then the building has been empty and Area Committee has become responsible for running costs including the alarm, electricity and business rates. In its empty state the premise last year cost £13,435.
- 3.2 Children's Services are keen to take on the centre to use as a Family Contact Centre and an office base for the South Locality Safeguarding Team.
- 3.3 No other service or group has shown an interest in taking on the building.
- 3.4 If Area Committee agrees to the disposal, the Family Contact element will most likely be based in the corridor-like area with rooms leading off at either side, and the open plan office / meeting rooms towards the rear of the building. Children & Young Persons Social Care (CYPSC) will potentially include some remodelling of the existing layout to create an open plan office space, meetings rooms and one larger conference room.
- 3.5 The financial implication is still to be determined however CYPSC are progressing this internally.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Ward Members have been consulted and confirmed they are happy to declare this building surplus to their requirements.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 Community groups submitting a project proposal requesting funding from the Well being budget have an equal opportunities policy and as part of the application process, complete a section outlining which equality groups the project will work with and how equality and cohesion issues have been considered.
- 4.2.2 Internal and statutory partners are committed to equality and cohesion and all projects they are involved with will have considered these issues.
- 4.2.3 A light touch Equality Impact Assessments is carried out for all projects.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The projects outlined in this report contribute to targets 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

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 4.4.1 This proposal provides better use of Council resources.

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 not 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 No risks identified.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Disposal of this building will provide a cost saving to the budget allocated to community centres.
- 5.2 Transfer of the building will provide a needed service in the area.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Area Committee is requested to approve disposal of the Belle Isle Foundation unit so that it can be used by Children's Services.

Background documents ¹

There are no background papers associated with this report

¹ 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.