

**Report of: Priority Neighbourhood Worker**

**Report to: Outer South Area Committee**

**Date: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012**

**Subject: Priority Neighbourhood Worker Update**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	Ardsley & Robin Hood Rothwell Morley North Morley South	
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? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### Summary of main issues

To provide members with an update on the work of the Priority Neighbourhood Worker (PNW).

To outline the need for further capacity building and support in former Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) and supported areas to make resident groups more independent, effective and representative and widen community networks.

To provide members with an outline of the future work of the PNW in designing a programme of work to target key priorities of Health and Wellbeing and Community Safety in priority neighbourhoods.

### Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- a) note the contents of this report and make comment as appropriate;
- b) approve the proposal for further support to former NIP and supported areas;
- c) approve the further development of community leadership through a community champion model.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To provide an interim report on the initial work of the recently appointed Priority Neighbourhood Worker.
- 1.2 To present the early findings of a review of the support offered to residents groups in former NIP and supported areas in the Outer South. This review is ongoing and a further update will be presented to a future Area Committee.
- 1.3 To set out the proposals for developing future streams of targeted work in priority neighbourhoods.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 In July 2012 the Area Committee agreed to fund a further 3 year term from March 2013 for a PNW, working 3 days a week in Outer South. The work would build on the successful programme of NIP's and Supported Areas across Outer South. To date the PNW has engaged with resident groups and established good relationships with local community groups and offered them training and support.
- 2.2 The departure of the PNW in June 2012 has provided an opportunity to review the role of the PNW and develop new schemes of work, working in partnership with other members of the Area Support Team, to develop targeted schemes of work around key issues in communities.
- 2.3 The July 2012 Area Committee agreed to secure the progress made to date, while supporting resident groups further to address priority issues in their area. This will involve residents supported by the PNW developing partnership work, with the Health & Well Being Improvement Manager and the Area Community Safety Co-ordinator.
- 2.4 It was agreed that target neighbourhoods would be selected from the former NIP programme and agreed by the Area Committee at a future date.

## **3 Main issues**

### 3.1 Findings of the review of Supported Neighbourhoods

- 3.1.1 The PNW has made contact with residents in former NIP and supported areas and has conducted a review of their support needs using a questionnaire and face to face meetings. Work will continue and more information will be brought to a future Area Committee. A summary of work to date is detailed at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.1.2 Discussions with resident leaders have identified common problems, such as a lack of engagement and attendance from community members at meetings and a difficulty either in retaining existing committee members or in attracting new members to groups. In addition to ongoing support these issues will be addressed through training around committee roles and team work, to help individuals and groups to resolve conflict, work together and develop the skills to become self sustaining.

- 3.1.3 It has been recognised that innovation and diversification of routes into community action needs to be addressed. Residents have said that a meeting is not necessarily the best way for some residents to become involved in their community and that people may find activities and groups more accessible. By exploring other ways in which people can get involved in community life, while addressing issues that affect communities it is hoped to strengthen community infrastructure and make groups such as the local residents group more sustainable and representative.
- 3.1.4 One approach to developing community leadership which is gathering currency in many areas is the Community Champion model. The community champion model provides the opportunity to identify local residents, inviting them to participate in a structured programme of support, provided with appropriate training and information so as to be equipped to address particular issues and in doing so strengthen community infrastructure.

### 3.2 Community Champions

- 3.2.1 A community champion is a volunteer who is engaged, trained and supported to use their knowledge and place in the local community to help friends, families and others in their communities. Messages are passed on peer to peer both through informal networks and more formal sessions with local groups and schools.
- 3.2.2 Relationships with relevant agencies are fostered in order to bridge the gap between services and communities. They are then able to educate, inspire and motivate community members becoming advocates for change and influence in local organisations.
- 3.2.3 The community champion model is transferable across disciplines. The work to develop a Community Health Champion model is advanced with a strong evidence base, especially in Yorkshire and the Humber. The Community Health Champions model has been developed and delivered by Altogetherbetter in 12 projects across Yorkshire over 5 years. You can read more about community health champions at: <http://www.altogetherbetter.org.uk/community-health-champions>.

### 3.3 Community Health Champions in Outer South

- 3.3.1 Leeds JSNA Statistics have identified health issues associated with higher levels of deprivation within the four wards of Morley North, Morley South, Ardsley and Robin Hood and Rothwell. These include obesity, poor diet, and alcohol misuse, smoking, coronary heart disease, cancers and neoplasms.
- 3.3.2 One of the areas identified within the South East Health and Wellbeing Partnership Priorities Plan is the need to improve communications, community engagement and community capacity building in order to enhance community knowledge of healthy lifestyles and increase awareness of health and wellbeing services within the area. A programme of work based on a Community Health Champions model would encourage responsibility and control over health for participants and those they influence.

### 3.3.3 The Health Champions programme involves:

- Recruiting champions with an interest in health and wellbeing.
- Inviting champions to design a programme of training based around the issues they feel are prevalent in their communities and which are personal to them. Information on lifestyle issues, such as smoking, alcohol, healthy eating and physical activity, along with information about health conditions such as diabetes and the wider wellbeing issues such as financial inclusion, environment or fuel poverty would be introduced through a series of training sessions.
- Training sessions will be facilitated by Joanne Loft, supported by the PNW and delivered by a number of agencies including Leeds City Council, NHS Leeds and the Voluntary Sector.
- Champions pass on key health and wellbeing messages to the community and signpost to a range of local health and wellbeing activities. The PNW would help to link champions into local community infrastructure and would also offer support and group development to anyone wishing to start their own community group as a result of the champions programme. These will improve pathways into community involvement, allowing varied and accessible settings for individuals to participate in community life.
- Examples of activities delivered by champions are; organised health walks, allotment and food growing initiatives, fruit tuck shops in local schools, delivering health awareness sessions on chronic conditions.
- The health champions model impacts at an individual level, building the confidence, self esteem and self belief of participants. There are improvements in health, lifestyle choices and employability.
- The approach supports the appropriate use of services, including reducing barriers to access, decreasing hospital admissions and improving health status, including improved disease management where the focus is on long term conditions.

## 3.4 Community Safety Champions

- 3.4.1 As outlined in July's Area Committee Report the PNW will work with the Area Community Safety Co-ordinator to establish new ways of communicating community safety messages to communities. The PNW will work with existing resident's groups and community groups to develop ways in which community safety messages can be passed on through them, an example of this in Inner South has been the cascading of home safety messages through the facebook group of a residents group, live crime issues have also been fed back to police officers through information posted on the group. Working on issues that are identified by communities also creates a greater relevance and buy in than promoting city wide campaigns.

3.4.2 The PNW will work with the Area Community Safety Co-ordinator to develop a peer to peer learning programme around crime issues, a network of Community Safety Champions. This will involve:

- A training programme which delivers training and information around city priorities and community concerns, these will be identified by participants
- Champions will work to deliver crime messages and resolve crime issues in their communities in creative and locality led projects
- This could allow certain long standing issues that are dealt with at TARA meetings to find community resolutions, in a similar way to NIP's but with leadership and project ideas emerging at a community level.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

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

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

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

### **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 The work outlined in this report contributes to targets and priorities set out in the following council policies.

- Vision for Leeds
- Children and Youth People Plan
- Health and Well being City Priority Plan
- Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
- Regeneration Priority Plan.

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

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

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

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

5.4 There are no direct implications for the above as a result of this report.

## **6 Risk Management**

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

## **7 Conclusions**

- 7.1 There is a need for ongoing assistance to former NIP and supported areas, community groups still feel that they need support and there is potential for development of individuals and groups through training and mentoring. Community infrastructure is fragile and finding ways to diversify routes into community action would strengthen community life.
- 7.2 The further development of a Community Champion model, whereby we work to identify individuals to develop their roles as community leaders and their capacity to deliver messages and activities to community members, has been evidenced as a sustainable and volunteer led programme for supporting communities.
- 7.3 Community Health Champions directly address health problems within communities including lifestyle and wellbeing issues. The evidence base for Community Health Champions shows a three-fold benefit: to the individual, to the community and to the agencies that work with that community. Community Health Champions have contributed to community infrastructure in setting up groups and activities that enhance the programme and the community.

## **8 Recommendations**

- 8.1 Members are asked:
- a) to note the contents of this report and make comment as appropriate;
  - b) to approve the proposal for further support to former NIP and supported areas;
  - c) to approve the further development of community leadership through a community champion model.

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

- 9.1 There are no background documents associated with this paper.

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.