

Report of the Assistant Director (Citizens & Communities)

Report to South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 27th January 2014

Subject: Summary of Key Work

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Ardsley and Robin Hood Morley North Morley South Rothwell
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

This report presents an update on the key work taking place within the Outer South Leeds area, not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Recommendations

The Area Committee is asked to:

- a) note the contents of the report and make comment as appropriate;

1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To bring to Members' attention, a summary of key work which the Area Support Team are engaged in based on priorities identified by the Area Committee, that are not covered elsewhere on this agenda. It provides opportunities for further questioning or the opportunity to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

2.0 Background information

- 2.2 Members will recall at the July 2011 Area Committee, a revised title and format for this report was introduced based on proposed changes to the Leeds Initiative partnership and planning framework for the city in an effort to be more focused on current priorities.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 Area Chairs Forum

- 3.1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 4th October were approved at the meeting on 25th November 2013 and are attached at **Appendix 1**. The minutes of the meeting on 25th November will be presented to a future Area Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for 20th January 2014.

4.0 Updates by theme: Children's Services – Lead Member: Cllr Robert Gettings

4.1 Youth Activities Fund Delegation

- 4.1.1 An invitation to apply for Activities Funding went live on Monday 28th October and the closing date for applications was Wednesday 13th November. The Youth Matters Group reviewed applications and has provided feedback.

- 4.1.2 The Youth Activities Fund Steering Group met on 7th January and approved all applications. Further detail on the Activities Fund Budget is included elsewhere on the agenda.

4.2 Children & Young People's Working Group

- 4.2.1 The Children & Young People's Working Group was put on hold pending the outcome of the Activities Fund Steering Group. The working group will now be reinstated and arrangements are being made for a meeting in March. The Working Group will monitor the £20,000 Wellbeing Funding awarded for out of school activities.

5.0 Updates by Theme: Employment, Skills & Welfare

5.1 Employment, Skills and Welfare – Lead Member: Cllr Neil Dawson

5.1 The Point Steering Group

- 5.1.1 The Point Steering Group last met on 25th November 2013 and minutes are attached at **Appendix 2**.

5.2 South East NEET Reduction Group

5.2.1 The South East Area Leadership Team identified action to further reduce the numbers of young people not in education, employment and Training (NEET) as a major theme. In response to this a NEET Reduction Group was established under the leadership of Ann Marie Spry, Assistant Principle (City College) Adults, Community & ESOL. In pursuing this work on behalf of the leadership team the group took a broad definition of NEET based on the government priorities for young people using 16-24 as the age Category. As such there are a much wider group of partners and agencies with an interest in this group of young people.

5.2.2 Earlier this year the South East Area Support Team (AST) in conjunction with the NEET group organised a South East Leeds multi-agency NEET OBA event. The main product of the event was a NEET Reduction Plan for South East Leeds. The plan identified a number of actions partners felt were needed if we were to make further positive impact on the NEET Statistics, with a view to contributing to the goal of Leeds becoming a NEET free City. A Key issue raised was around information sharing between the agencies and initiatives operating for this cohort in South East. As a result it was decided to organise an event for agencies working in the area to:

- Raise awareness of initiatives in Leeds and children and young people's targeted services

5.2.3 The event 'Reducing NEET in South Leeds ~ Partners Working Together' was brought together by the AST, Igen and the NEET Reduction Group and saw 80 delegates gather at Tenants Hall Middleton in December 2013 to consider issues affecting young people in NEET. In attendance were a wide group of partners and agencies with an interest in this group of young people. The event was opened by Ann Marie Spry (Leeds City College), with guest speakers including Councillor Judith Blake, Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Children's Services and South East Area Leader, Shaid Mahmood.

5.2.4 Among other topics the conference were allowed access to the newly developed South East Portal on the Leeds Pathways. This portal though still developing is already home to a raft of information and statistics, including presentations from the NEET event which will be of benefit to a range of interests. For further information go to [Leeds Pathways](#).

5.2.5 The NEET Group will meet again early in 2014 to review the event and the NEET Reduction Plan and consider its future delivery.

5.3 Welfare Reform

5.3.1 Members received a report at the September Area Committee meeting providing an update on Welfare Benefit changes. The report gave an overview of the impact of welfare reform in Leeds as well as describing activity at locality level to address some of the changes, such as information on the arrangements that have been put in place to support people affected by these changes.

5.3.2 Locally The South East Welfare Reform Group continues to meet bringing partners together to develop joint working around this issue. The meetings are well attended and have proved a useful forum for developing local responses to the challenges presented by welfare reform.

5.3.3 Key achievements of this group include:

- Scoping, design and commissioning of The Financial Fitness Project. A financial literacy project funded by Public Health and delivered by West Yorkshire Trading Standards in community venues across South Leeds
- Supporting the development of the Cottingley IT project funded by Public Health. Providing online access to people in Cottingley to develop IT skills and link with employment support
- Launched the South East Leeds Debt Forum in 2013.
- Supported the roll out of Chapletown CAB's income maximisation project. A basic benefit and fuel tariff check delivered to parents at schools across South Leeds
- Providing practical support through partners for the newly established Leeds South Foodbank

5.3.4 At the December meeting of the Welfare Reform Working Group updates were received from:

- DWP on The Families First project and changes to the JSA Claimant Commitment
- Leeds South Foodbank gave an update on their service and asked for partners to support their plans for expansion. They are currently operational in Belle Isle and Middleton and plan to open further distribution centres in Hunslet, Beeston and Morley in the first quarter of 2014
- Ebor Gardens Advice Centre presented the Money Buddies project which has been piloted successfully in East Leeds
- Leeds University research project into Christmas spending and debt

5.3.5 The next meeting of the South East Welfare Reform working group will be held on Tuesday 11th February at 1pm at Dewsbury Road One Stop Centre. Among the items for consideration will be the High Cost Lenders Action Plan and the possible impact of welfare changes on crime. The minutes from the meeting held on the 10th December are available on request.

5.4 South East Leeds Debt Forum

5.4.1 A debt forum has now been established for South East Leeds. The aim of this group is to bring organisations together to share intelligence and information on issues related to debt advice, financial inclusion and financial literacy. The format mirrors similar debt forums already operating in East and West Leeds and has been established following consultation with partners across South Leeds.

5.4.2 The Debt Forum is in its early stages and is developing an action plan to direct its work. The Forum will meet every two months and will be open to organisations across the whole of the South East Wedge.

5.4.3 The next meeting of the South East Debt Forum is 28th January at 10am at BITMO's Gate, Aberfield Gate, Belle Isle.

5.4.4 Financial Fitness Project

In July 2013 Area Committee approved wellbeing funding for a Financial Fitness Project to be delivered in Outer South. West Yorkshire Trading Standards will provide a detailed summary on the project at the March 2014 Area Committee.

6.0 **Updates by theme: Environment & Community Safety – Lead Member: Cllr Karen Bruce**

6.1 Outer South Environmental Sub Group

The Outer South Environmental Sub Group met on 25th November 2013 and draft minutes are attached at **Appendix 3**. The next meeting is scheduled for 5th March 2014 and minutes will be presented to a future Area Committee.

6.2 **Community Safety**

Partnership and priorities

6.2.1 The Safer Leeds Executive priorities for 2013/14 are as follows:

- Strengthening the partnership approach to support a reduction in **domestic abuse**
- Continued focus on reducing domestic **burglary** and its impact across Leeds.
- Effectively tackle and reduce **ASB** in our communities
- Improve our understanding of and approach to deal with **Child Sexual Exploitation**
- Reduce **re-offending**
- Deal with increased use of **legal highs and cannabis** in the city

6.2.2 The South Leeds Community Safety and Environmental Partnership met on 19th November. The Partnership reviewed the action plan, commented on draft strategies for Domestic Violence and Hate Crime, received a progress report on the Families First Leeds programme and reviewed the outcomes of Operation Flame. The minutes have been circulated to the Area Lead Member.

6.2.3 The Partnership continues to deliver activity to improve community safety in Outer South Leeds. Given the limited time between the last meeting and this current report, there are no key achievements to report. The Community Safety annual report will be presented to the Area Committee at its next meeting in March 2014.

6.2.4 Policing review

A report will be presented to the Area Committee by Chief Inspector Nik Adams at the March meeting of the Area Committee.

7.0 Updates by theme: Health and Wellbeing – Area Lead: Cllr Shirley Varley

7.1 The South East Health and Wellbeing Partnership Forum is scheduled to meet on 29th January at John Charles Centre for Sport. The theme of the meeting is *Health Inequalities – the challenge for South East Leeds* and presentations will include:

- An outline of the Leeds JHWS outcomes and priorities and four key commitments
- Sharing Successes on the work of the SE Health and Wellbeing Partnership
- Key health and wellbeing challenges for SE area as defined in the JSNA; MSOA health profiles
- Priorities of key partners such as the SE CCG

7.2 The annual area Health and Wellbeing update will be presented to the March 2014 Area Committee along with updated information on health profiles.

8.0 Updates by theme: Adult Social Care – Area Lead: Cllr Karen Renshaw

8.1 Area Support Team is awaiting confirmation from Adult Social Care of the officer who will liaise with and update the nominated Area Lead.

8.2 Ideas that Change Lives Grant Programme

8.2.1 The Ideas that Change Lives grants programme re-launched on 20th January. The scheme invites innovative organisations across the city to apply for grants of £500 to £10,000. The programme, funded by Leeds City Council's Adult Social Care is part of its Better Lives through Enterprise programme. Funding is aimed at projects that give residents the care and support they need to live independently in their own homes. Successful applicants will also get a full support programme, which will include workshops and one-to-one sessions with experienced business advisors. Projects that could benefit from the grants include mental health support initiatives or groups working with the elderly or people with learning or physical disabilities.

8.2.2 The free launch event takes place at the St George's Centre on Great George Street in Leeds on 20th January 2014.

9.0 Integrated Locality working

9.1 Community Centres Sub Committee

9.1.1 The Community Centres Sub Committee last met on 6th November 2013 and draft minutes were presented to the 2nd December 2013 Area Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for 5th February 2014 and minutes will be presented to a future Area Committee.

9.2 Morley Literature Festival

9.2.1 Following the departure of Jenny Harris as Director after four successful years, the Area Support Team has provided advice & support to the Morley Literature Festival Committee on recruitment of a new director. The Morley Literature Festival Committee will now appoint a new Director to programme and deliver the 2014 Festival. Requests for expressions of interest went live on 5th December 2013 with a closing date for applications of 31st December 2013. Updates on progress will be provided to a future Area Committee.

9.3 Conservation Audits

9.3.1 Following a further round of public consultation that ran from January to March 2012, all consultation responses are being reviewed and considered and amendments made to the appraisal and proposed boundary as appropriate. The project was discussed at Planning Board on 29 November 2012. The appraisal and boundary review may also be considered by Executive Board. If approved, the revised boundary will be designated and the appraisal will be adopted as a material consideration in the planning process.

9.4 Community Hubs Pilot

9.4.1 A key objective for the Council through the Citizens@Leeds agenda is to deliver local solutions within communities that truly integrate council and partner service delivery to help individuals and their families address increasingly more complex issues simply and effectively.

9.4.2 To deliver this a network of Community Hubs is being developed that will make a real difference to citizens and communities. Community Hubs will deliver a more integrated approach to service delivery and maximise the use of the assets and service points that exist across the city e.g. joint service centres, one stop centres, housing management offices, libraries, children's centres etc. They will support the delivery of pop-up (e.g. in supermarkets and GP surgeries) and mobile provision to ensure that we can reach all priority communities across the city. This work will be supported through the delivery of more on-line provision to enable those that wish to self-serve to be able to do so, thereby freeing up time of our customer services officers to advise those most in need or those requiring more detailed or intense support.

9.4.3 To get us started, Executive Board agreed in November to pilot the community hub concept in three locations across the city, to help develop our thinking on the approach and identify the best form of provision for delivering truly integrated face-to-face services. This will be done working closely with all services and partners affected to ensure all issues are appropriately and fully considered. It is proposed to utilise the existing one-stop-centre provision at the Compton Centre in Harehills, the St George's Centre in Middleton and the One Stop Centre in Armley as the sites for the three pilots. The rationale for choosing these sites is as follows:

- To have one pilot in each of the three administrative areas of the city;
- To place the pilots in areas of the city where financial hardship and deprivation are significant issues facing citizens;
- To focus the pilots on those sites where there is already significant co-location of services;
- To ensure that the pilots have a focus on partnership working and exploit further the co-location and integration between council and partner services existing at these sites.

9.4.4 The proposals for changes and new service integration are being put in place now with the expectation that these pilots will be operational from 1st April and implemented fully in first 6 months of 2014/15.

9.5 Strengthening Relationships between Town and Parish Councils

9.5.1 At the July 2013 Area Committee meeting Members agreed to establish a working group to agree options for strengthening links and report back to Area Committee. The first meeting of the group took place on 11th October 2013 and an Action Plan was developed and approved at the 2nd December 2013 Area Committee. The Working Group are scheduled to meet on 3rd March 2014 to review and revise the Action Plan, as appropriate and minutes will be presented to a future Area Committee.

10 Localism

10.1 Community First Grants

10.1.1 Community First Grants are summarised at **Appendix 4**.

11.0 Corporate Considerations

11.1 Consultation and Engagement

11.1.1 Projects are developed to address priorities in the Area Committee Business Plan. The production of this plan is informed by Local Councillors and local residents. All projects developed are in consultation with Elected Members and local communities. Approval for any contribution from the Well being budget is received at the Area Committee.

11.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

11.2.1 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.

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

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

11.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

11.3.1 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

11.4 Resources and Value for Money

11.4.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

11.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

11.5.1 All decisions taken by the Area Committee in relation to the delegated functions from Executive Board are not eligible for Call In.

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

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

11.6 Risk Management

11.6.1 This report provides an update on work in the Outer South and therefore no risks are identifiable. Any projects funded through Wellbeing budget complete a section identifying risks and solutions as part of the application process.

12.0 Conclusions

12.1 The report provides up to date information on key areas of work for the Area Committee.

13.0 Recommendations

13.1 The Area Committee is asked to:

- a) note the contents of the report and make comment as appropriate.

Background documents¹

There is no background documents associated with this paper.

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.