

**Report of Chair Inner North West Community Committee**

**Report to Full Council**

**Date: 15th January 2015**

**Subject: Inner North West Community Committee Update**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Headingley, Hyde Park & Woodhouse, Weetwood		
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**

This report provides an update on the Inner North West Community Committee's progress so far including an update on:

- The first two themed Community Committee Meetings
- The work of the Community Champions
- Key successful projects.

**Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the content of this report and receive a presentation from the Chair of the Inner North West Community Committee.

## 1 Purpose of this report

2 The purpose of this report is to report on the progress, early outcomes, opportunities and challenges of the Inner North West Community Committee. It also highlights a number of key pieces of work supported by the committee.

## 3 Background information

4 **The Inner North West Community Committee** was a newly formed Committee this municipal year and includes **Headingley, Hyde Park & Woodhouse and Weetwood wards**. This has meant realigning budgets and work streams from the previous Area Committee to reflect the priorities of this new area. Partners have also worked to realign their own structures to reflect the new area.

5 Our city and its communities are facing massive and increasing social and financial challenges, including health inequalities, an ageing and more diverse population and poverty and financial exclusion. In a time of dwindling budgets but increasing challenges, the council must work more intelligently and more flexibly than ever before. Community Committees offer the opportunity to look afresh at our understanding of local needs, aspirations and potential. The challenge and focus for the new community committees will be to genuinely involve the communities they represent in the decisions that affect them.

## 6 Main issues

### Themed meeting

7 **The Inner North West Community Committee** identified a number of **themes** that Members wanted future meetings to focus on. These were:

- Children and Family Health (July 2014)
- Making the most of local assets and ensuring community influence upon their use (October 2014)
- Connecting local communities to employment opportunities (January 2015)
- Engaging and increasing the influence of young people
- Making the Changeover process effective and sustainable with shrinking resources

### Children and Family Health

8 The Inner North West Community Committee held its **first themed meeting** on **Children and Family Health**.

9 Councillor Akhtar introduced the topic and invited officers from Children's Services and Public Health to contribute with setting the scene by providing a local and city wide perspective. This was followed by a workshop session, where lively discussions took place about how partners could work together with the Community Committee to deliver actions that support this area of work.

- 10 One area of focus for discussion was an increase in levels of **childhood obesity**. It was recognised that some areas of Inner North West, particularly **Little London**, had some of the **highest childhood obesity rates** in the city. Funding is available over the next two years, through the CCG, to help tackle this issue, which would include a preventative approach with a focus on healthy eating and physical activity. The Community Committee considered where it could add value to this work, including working with fast food providers to provide more healthy options. Linked to this, there was a feeling from Members and officers that there is a lack of access to Leisure Centres from within the Open XS Cluster (Headingley and Hyde Park & Woodhouse wards). It was also felt that having access to safe greenspaces and parks for young children and young people was important in promoting a healthy lifestyle.
- 11 The Community Committee, is working to respond to this, have recently **provided wellbeing funds** to support the delivery of the **Fit Kids** project promoting recreational and fitness activities to help young people get involved in useful activities and improve their health and general wellbeing. This is in addition to educational workshops to tackle anti-social behaviour, criminal activities, smoking, alcoholism and drugs.
- 12 A key **action** that emerged from the themed meeting was the need to gain a better understanding of the roles and priorities of the Clusters to strengthen **Elected Member and Cluster relationships**. This has led to the inclusion of Cluster representation at the Inner North West Children & Young People's Sub Group and involvement in the assessment of applicants for Youth Activities Funding.
- 13 The **Youth Activity Fund** has been used to support after school and holiday activities for young people. The Community Committee funded a wide variety of projects including trapeze skills, performing arts sessions, skateboarding, sports camps and Minecraft workshops.
- 14 The Community Committee is also funding a **transition programme** through **wellbeing funds** for young people leaving Hawksworth Wood Primary School. This project aims to help children make the difficult transition between primary and secondary education. It aims to tackle the marked drop off in school performance that can happen between primary and secondary school and help young people **develop higher aspirations** for their lives both now and in the future.

Making the most of local assets and ensuring community influence upon their use

- 15 The second Community Committee focused on **making the most of local assets (particularly community centres)** and ensuring community influence upon their use. The meeting was held at the Woodsley Road Community Centre and involved representatives from both council and privately run local centres and users and service providers.
- 16 The Cardigan Centre, Woodsley Road Community Centre and HEART Centre helped to set the scene for the workshop by providing a local perspective on how they delivered services and the challenges that they face.

- 17 The workshops focused on how partners can work together with the Community Committee to deliver actions, which support this theme. The meeting received **valuable feedback from those who attended**.
- 18 One of the key **challenges** included running a successful and sustainable community centre. Independent centres have to make their physical space pay, renting office space or creating a different type of offer in each room for hire. Often the **use of centres is seasonal**, with downtime during the summer, when classes or courses aren't running. The **challenge of short term project contracts** was also discussed, projects take time to develop and build up community support. However some centres are already **collaborating on bidding for central contracts** through the Leeds Locality Consortium. This offers a great opportunity for more locally delivered services and investment in our centres.
- 19 There was a plea from all of the third sector centres for the Council and other statutory services to use their centres for meetings and events, and asked for **support in marketing their offer** to the local authority and its partners.
- 20 Volunteering is a key aspect to the sustainability and running of many locally managed centres. Overheads can be kept down through committed and well trained volunteers running many aspects of the centres. Lots of volunteers go on to find paid work, which is a positive outcome, but it does mean constant recruitment and training of new volunteers is required. The **challenge** felt by the third sector is how to link opportunities from within their centres to the **wider employability opportunities** both locally and citywide.
- 21 The Community Committee is working to **respond to these challenges**, they have **utilised wellbeing funds** to support improvements to community centre buildings and support the Woodsley Employability Project which seeks to assist the BME communities of Hyde Park & Woodhouse, Burley and Kirkstall areas to improve their chances of employability and help them to get on to the careers ladder. One of the features of Woodsley Employability Project is the ability to offer volunteering opportunities. Through the Woodsley Employability Project, candidates who lack real-world work experience are provided with volunteering opportunities at the Woodsley Centre or with other organisations. This enables the candidates to gain insight into working in an organisation and show that experience on their CVs.
- 22 Learning from this topic will be used by both the Community Committee and officers when developing a **sustainable programme** of activities and services to run out of the **new Little London Community Centre**, when it **opens in 2015**.

#### Community Committee Champions

- 23 **Community Committee Champions** have been appointed to the following positions:
- Employment, Skills & Welfare – Cllr J Pryor
  - Children & Young People – Cllr S Bentley
  - Environment & Community Safety – Cllr N Walshaw
  - Health & Well Being and Adult Social Care – Cllr J Akhtar

24 The Community Committee Champions are working with lead officers through a range of partnership structures to develop clear priorities and play an active role in shaping themes and progressing work:

- Children and Young People Sub Group
- Environmental Sub Group
- WNW Employment, Skills and Welfare Priority Neighbourhood Board
- Locality Community Safety partnership
- Core Health and Wellbeing partnership

25 What's worked well:

- Engaging with services in a new way of working, developing more of a partnership approach to planning the themed meetings.
- Role of Community Champions – through their active role in shaping themes and progressing work.
- Involvement of the sub group infrastructure in response to the themed meetings - the Children and Young People's Sub Group now includes Cluster representation and will monitor those key actions from the Children and Family Health topic.
- Community co-optees – two of the three sub groups of the Inner North West Community Committee have local residents co-opted onto them. These co-optees often provide a different perspective on discussions and challenge where necessary.

26 Social Media

27 The introduction **of Facebook and Twitter** has allowed the Community Committee to interact with a wider audience by developing a **stronger social connection** with residents who have not necessarily previously engaged with us. Social media has provided a platform to **build relationships** and share useful and interesting information from local media, community groups and residents.

28 The Community Committee have publicised a range of messages on Facebook around consultation, community events or improvements to an area, which have proven to be very popular. With such a great response at a very early stage there is real potential for engagement through social media to further grow.

29 The committee also has a Hyde Park Twitter account with over 1700 followers. This has proved an effective way of engaging with some sections of the local community who would not normally engage with traditional methods of communication.

### **30 Key Neighbourhood Improvement Successes:**

31 There are two priority neighbourhoods within the Inner North West area. These are Hyde Park (including parts of Headingley and Burley) and Little London.

32 A range of activity has been undertaken across these two areas and some key successes include:

- Successful coordination and management of the Changeover period. This is the period at the end of summer when student tenancies end and there is a spike in environmental and refuse issues. The committee has worked with service providers, partners, the students unions, universities and landlords, funding a number of projects and encouraging them to work more collaboratively in addressing these issues.
- The Out of Hours Noise Nuisance pilot has been funded by the Inner North West Community Committee. This provides a dedicated resource for the LS6 area at peak times of the year, such as the Freshers period, to tackle the high number of noise complaints that this area generates.
- Development of a new community centre for Little London, alongside a new housing office and the expansion of Little London Primary School.
- Members are working with Keepmoat/SC4L, as part of the Project Liaison Group for the PFI housing contract in Little London, to help ensure the smooth running of the programme.

### **33 Corporate Considerations**

#### **34 Consultation and Engagement**

The Inner North West Community Committee holds both formal meetings and workshop sessions attended by the general public. It has Citizens@Hyde Park & Woodhouse forum that meets quarterly. This is supported by ad hoc community events, galas and the Inner North West Facebook page. The Committee will continue to support and enable local people and communities to engage and interact on issues that are important to them.

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

All projects funded from Well Being must have an equal opportunities policy and outline which equality group the project will work with, and how equality and cohesion issues have been considered. Internal and statutory partners are committed to equality and cohesion and all projects they are involved with will have considered these issues.

#### **36 Council policies and City Priorities**

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

**37 Resources and value for money**

There is no new resource implications detailed within this report. In all requests for funding from Community Committee applicants are asked to consider value for money during the application process.

**38 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

There are no legal, access to information or call in implications arising from this report.

**39 Risk Management**

There are no risk management issues of any significance arising from this report.

**40 Conclusions**

41 The Community Committees are building on the successes of Area Committees and developed on the engagement and involvement of local communities in the decision making process.

42 These first two themed meetings have allowed the Community Committee to work with a bottom-up approach by engaging with partners to envision ways to strengthen the links between Clusters and the sustainability of local assets. The next steps will be to investigate and respond to the challenges and opportunities discussed at these workshops.

43 The Community Committee already has good relationships with its local communities and utilises its available funding streams to support local projects. It recognises that there are challenges ahead especially with engaging with hard to reach groups, but will continue to strengthen its positive working relationships with stakeholders to improve local services and facilities.

**44 Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the content of this report and receive a presentation from the Chair of the Community Committee.

**45 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

46 None

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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.