

Report of the Chair, Outer South Community Committee – Councillor Karen Bruce

Report to Full Council

Date: Wednesday, 23rd March 2016

Subject: Work of Outer South Community Committee

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

Summary of main issues

The report provides an update on the Outer South Community Committee's progress so far including an update on:

- Themed Community Committee Workshops
- The work of the Community Committee Champions
- Successful projects delivered in 2015/16

Recommendations

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

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Full Council on the progress of the Outer South Community Committee and its workshops, the work of the Community Committee Champions and also highlights key successful projects.

2. Background information

- 2.1 Area Committees were created in 2004 to improve service delivery at local level and deliver projects and programmes of work on priority issues in the locality. In 2014 Community Committees were established to build on the successes of Area Committees with an enhanced focus on community engagement and in particular, increase the attendance and active involvement of local people at Community Committee meetings.
- 2.2 This report looks at the themed Community Committee workshops, highlights successful projects that have been delivered in 2015/16 and outlines how the Community Committee Champions have helped shape projects and plans for 2015/16.

3. Main issues

3.1 Community Committee Meetings and Workshops 2015/16

- 3.1.1 The Outer South Community Committee agreed its programme of themed workshops for 2015/16 as outlined in the table below:

Community Committee Date	Theme	Workshop Topic	Community Committee Champion
23 rd March 2015	Employment, Skills and Welfare	Achieving Positive Outcomes in the Labour Market for Disabled people	Cllr Neil Dawson
29 th June 2015	Environment & Community Safety	Child Sexual Exploitation	Cllr Karen Bruce
30 th November 2015	Adult Social Care and Health & Wellbeing	Health & Wellbeing in Outer South Leeds	Cllr Lisa Mulherin Cllr Karen Renshaw
14 th March 2016	Environment & Community Safety	Have Your Say on Environmental Services in Your Area	Cllr Karen Bruce

- 3.1.2 These themed workshops address key issues and the topics which are determined in collaboration with service leads and Community Committee Champions. The formal business meeting generally follows the workshop depending on the topic.

3.2 What Works Well

- 3.2.1 The new Community Committee format has proved successful in the Outer South area. Highlights include:

- The new ways of working has enabled effective engagement with a range of services and stakeholders on a number of topics across the area and has provided a platform to widen the conversation and make connections with all involved including engaging residents and service users in the issues that matter to them
- Community Committee Champions have played an active role in shaping the agenda and working with service leads which has had a positive impact
- Greater publicity and communications is a key role in promoting Community Committee and new ways of engaging residents has started. Various promotional activities have been used to promote meetings and workshops to residents and service partners. Facebook page and twitter accounts are regularly updated with information about events and meetings. This also provides an opportunity for residents to post comments or questions before the Community Committee
- The use of videos on Facebook to promote Community Committee events appears to be effective in reaching a wider audience and securing attendance at Community Committee workshops

3.2.2 The recent Adult Social Care and Health & Wellbeing themed Community Committee Workshop held on 30th November 2015 at the Rodillian Academy in Ardsley & Robin Hood ward focused on Health & Wellbeing in Outer South Leeds attracted over 50 people:



Outer South Community Committee Workshop: Health & Wellbeing

3.2.3 As well as an introduction to the Leeds Health & Wellbeing Strategy attendees participated in group and table discussions looking at the refresh of the strategy which includes people living longer and having healthier lives and how resident's quality of life can be improved by access to quality services (such as good health care). Other priorities discussed included people living in healthy & sustainable communities (with good transport links in rural areas) and people being involved in decisions made about them.

3.3 Community Committee Champions and the Work of Sub Groups

3.3.1 The Outer South Community Committee Champions met on 14th September 2015 and are working with Service Leads to develop priorities. Community Committee Champions have been appointed to the following themes:

- Children & Young People – Cllr Bob Gettings
- Environment & Community Safety – Cllr Karen Bruce
- Health & Wellbeing – Cllr Lisa Mulherin
- Adult Social Care – Cllr Karen Renshaw
- Employment, Skills & Welfare – Cllr Neil Dawson

- 3.3.2 The Outer South Community Committee, at its meeting on 29th June 2015 considered a Forward Plan Report and agreed its recommendations. The report confirmed the Community Committee Champion role would aim to provide local leadership for each theme and topic, whilst acting as a critical interface with services. Meeting ideally on a quarterly basis, the report confirmed that Community Committee Champions, along with Service Leads are well placed to shape the local agenda around each theme.
- 3.3.3 Themed workshops provided a forum for Councillors, residents and Services to consider issues affecting their communities with the aim of finding solutions. It was agreed that the topics would be determined by Community Committee Champions in collaboration with Service Leads.
- 3.3.4 The Communities Team developed local action plans from the workshops. The Community Committee Champions meeting on 14th September 2015 agreed monitoring of actions plans and that updates would be provided through the Summary of Key Work report.
- 3.3.5 Following the Champion’s meeting on 14th September 2015, there was agreement that time limited, post event action plans be signed off by the Champions if tasks have been completed.
- 3.3.6 The Community Committee continues to develop its infrastructure in the form of Sub Groups to support the delivery of its work and provide a vehicle for the Community Committee theme Champions to take the lead on programmes of work. Among other things these Sub Groups manage delegations to Community Committee and monitor Wellbeing Funded projects and bring together key partners to collectively achieve outcomes. The Community Committee Sub Groups are detailed below:

Sub Group	Community Committee Champion/Chair
Children & Families	Cllr Bob Gettings
Community Centres	Cllr Bob Gettings
Environmental Services	Cllr Karen Bruce
Older Person’s Working Group	Cllr Karen Renshaw

- 3.3.7 **Children and Families sub group** has been instrumental in developing the model to deliver against the Youth Activities Fund delegation and has increased the voice and influence of children and young people. In 2015 the Community Committee commissioned three mini Breezes’ which took place in Rothwell, East Ardsley and Morley. The events provided a platform and opportunity to undertake consultations with children and young people which will help shape the delivery of activities 2016/17. Nearly 200 children and young people took part in the consultation.
- 3.3.8 Children and Young people continue to play an essential role in reviewing Youth Activity Fund applications and score applications on a number of areas such as how many children and young people can take part in an activity; where and when the

activity will take place; how effectively is the provider at engaging with young people and value for money.

- 3.3.9 An invitation to apply for the Youth Activities Funding 2016/17 went live in November 2015 and the closing date for applications was 17th January 2016. The Children and Families Sub Group reviewed and approved all 10 applications at the group's meeting on 23rd February 2016, taking into account feedback from children and young people. All the projects will be considered for final approval at the March 2016 Community Committee.
- 3.3.10 **Community Centres Sub Group** oversees the portfolio of community facilities delegated to the Community Committee. At the meeting of 9th June 2015, in conjunction with the revised Pricing and Lettings Policy, it was agreed that approval for free lets would be sought via email with ward specific members. In 2015/16, the Community Committee processed 30 requests for community lettings amounting to £75,489.10
- 3.3.11 **Environmental Services Sub Group** has continued to meet throughout the year and has received regular performance reports e.g. updates from the Localities Team and Housing Leeds promoting a joined up approach to issues such anti-social behaviour, litter and fly tipping. The Sub Group also monitors the delivery against the Environmental Services Delegation. The impact of bringing Parks and Countryside, Environment and Housing together has started to show improved, streamlined service delivery.
- 3.3.12 **Site Based Gardeners Scheme.** Community Committee approved funding of £35,654.01 for the Site Based Gardeners Scheme which provides dedicated gardeners who managed a number of green spaces including Smithy Lane Recreation Ground, Woodlesford Park, Drighlington Park, Lewisham Park, Hembrigg Park, Wide Lane, Churwell Park, Lowry Road, Magpie Lane, Shayfield Recreation Ground and Carlton Village. The gardeners undertook general gardening duties including: grass cutting, pruning, de-littering, emptying of litter bins, removing fly tipping, marking out sports pitches, inspection of play equipment, maintenance of park infrastructure, planting and sweeping paths. In addition gardeners acted as a point of liaison with the local community, effected policing duties and dealt with other routine park maintenance such as unlocking of park gates. The project helped to improve the physical environment and security issues at the above sites. The site-based gardeners engaged with the public to enhance visitor experience at the sites.
- 3.3.13 **Older Person's Working Group** was established by the Community Committee to bring together representatives from the Community Committee, statutory, community and voluntary sector who work with and for older people to promote the well-being of all older people in South Leeds. The Older Person's Working Group is a partnership that provides local leadership arrangements that are responsive to the needs of older people providing for better, more responsive and personalised services. The group aims to ensure service delivery that positively impacts the lives of older people in the Outer South. Through partnership working the group engages with services to identify local actions to address the following priorities:
- Health & Wellbeing issues relating to older people: including a focus on dementia and social isolation

- Housing and older people – supporting self-care and maintaining independence
- Community Committee funded projects including **Wellbeing Packs** and **Outer South Garden Maintenance Scheme**
- Intergenerational activities e.g. **International Day of Older People events**

3.3.14 **Wellbeing Packs:** The Older Person working Group in July 2015 received confirmation that that Public Health was working on a citywide offer for Winter Wellbeing Packs (containing food and warmth resources) for socially isolated people to be used as an engagement tool. The project was delivered during winter 2015 with a combination of funding from Public Health and Housing Advisory Panels and £4,000 of Community Committee wellbeing funding. As a result, a total of 524 packs were available for the Outer South area. The packs were made available to a variety of organisations for distribution. To support this approach a 'Winter Friends' training session was delivered to organisations distributing the packs. Organisations received an invitation to the training and an update on pack allocations. The training allowed Winter Friends to:

- learn signs and symptoms of isolation
- signposting and referral opportunities
- high impact interventions for support
- links to Leeds-wide Winter Friends media campaign and
- provide a networking opportunity for organisations to understand capacity and challenges in reaching isolated people

3.3.15 **Outer South Garden Maintenance Scheme.** Community Committee funding of £33,000 was approved to support a gardening service to the elderly and disabled in the Outer South area. The service, delivered by Morley Elderly Action, helps to prevent depression and despair at not being able to cope with the garden. It also helps to prevent accidents, such as tripping and falling as the garden is kept neat and tidy and does not have overgrown bushes and grass. A client can also benefit from being able to sit in their garden or walk around it, promoting healthier lifestyle. Work undertaken includes grass cutting, strimming, hedge cutting, cutting back bushes and small trees and weeding. Garden tidying at the beginning and end of the seasons is also completed. Targeted priority groups are anyone aged over 60, those with a disability and anyone unable to cope because of old age.

3.3.16 **International Day of Older People Celebration Events:** Since 1998 Leeds has organised annual events to celebrate International Day of Older People. Following the establishment of the Older Person Group and to help mark this day, the Community Committee approved £1,000 each for Rothwell & District Live at Home Scheme and Morley Elderly Action to host events on Wednesday, 30th September 2015 at Blackburn Hall, Rothwell and Monday, 14th October 2015 at the Town Hall, Morley respectively. To summarise, the events focused around promoting independent living for people over the age of 60 by introducing them to services that could be of help and engaging with the socially isolated older people living in the South Area to enable them to find out what activities and groups are available that could have a positive impact on their health and wellbeing. Transport was arranged for those who may have been unable, or may lack the confidence, to come along to an activity on their own. The grants permitted a number of qualified instructors to deliver taster sessions of gentle exercise, for example. To further complement the activities, local therapists were invited to offer alternative therapies along with statutory organisations and agencies, including the Police, Fire Service, Council

Services, Leeds Let's Get Active', Leeds Community Healthcare Trust and the Alzheimer's Society. Around 400 people attended the events.



International Day of Older People, Morley Town Hall

3.4 Key Projects Delivered

- 3.4.1 **Community Safety:** Community Committee funded a Wellbeing Project involving a number of crime reduction items which included holiday packs containing timer switches, television simulators and motion detector alarms to help reduce burglary. These packs have been purchased and distributed across the four wards. The aim was that the neighbourhood watch co-ordinators would be the custodians of the packs and loan some of the items out to members within the watch. Other crime reduction items were also funded such as bike security skins, shed alarms, marking kits and number plate screws. These items were distributed via community events across the four wards. The South Housing Leeds Area Panel match funded some of the items e.g. additional vehicle packs to help reduce vehicle crime.
- 3.4.2 **Operation Flame:** Community Committee funded Operation Flame in all Wards in the run up to bonfire night and the weekend after. This was a multi-agency coordinated operation to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and environmental issues leading up to and including mischief night and the bonfire period. Various partners worked together in the lead up to the period including Fire Service, PCSOs/PCs, Housing Leeds and the Environmental Locality Team. The aim was for partners to report any material which could be used in unofficial bonfires to the Environmental Action Team for removal. PCSOs directed young people to the youth provision and the ASB Team and Police also undertook pro-active visits to reduce ASB during the period. The Fire Service informed that the South East area had the lowest reported incidents across the city during the period and are in no doubt that Operation Flame contributed to this achievement. There were also no attacks on fire fighters in South East Leeds area during the period.
- 3.4.3 **Money Buddies:** Outer South Community Committee approved £1,995 to deliver the project across the Outer South area and are currently active in Morley One Stop Centre (OSC) and Rothwell OSC. Initially a slow start mainly due to over 50% of volunteers gaining full time employment however, to date, the equivalent financial gains for clients have been very encouraging and the feedback from clients has been excellent. In November 2015 it was reported that the total financial gains as result of e.g. utilities switch/utilities arrears/debt consolidation etc. for Morley and Rothwell combined equated to over £47,000.

3.4.4 **Leeds South Foodbank** was established in 2013 to provide emergency food to people in crisis. The Foodbank is run by volunteers and supported by the Trussell Trust. Outer South Community Committee allocated £4,000 Wellbeing funding to help establish Foodbanks in each of the four wards. Funding has supported the opening of a Foodbank distribution centre in Rothwell based at the Windmill Youth & Community Centre. Foodbanks in Morley are based at New Horizons Church and Drighlington Methodist Church.

3.4.5 **Community Heroes:** In June 2015 a Community Heroes Event was delivered at Blackburn Hall, Rothwell. The event was an opportunity for the Outer South Community Committee to celebrate the diversity and strength of community leadership in communities, saying thank you to those contributing to their communities on a voluntary basis across Outer South Leeds. Feedback from the event was very positive and groups appreciated the recognition offered to them.



Celebrating Recognition: Community Heroes, Blackburn Hall, Rothwell

3.4.6 The Outer South Community Committee, through its wellbeing budget, supports local community events that promote civic pride, community cohesion and help increase the footfall to the local area impacting on local trade and awareness of local facilities. Events supported through Wellbeing funding in 2015/16 include:

- May Day, Summer Carnival, Christmas Fayre in Rothwell
- Rothwell Competitive Music Festival



Rothwell Summer Carnival

3.4.7 **Morley Literature Festival:** The festival was a successful celebratory 10th anniversary event marked by a rebrand of the festival as the Morley Arts Festival (MAF) along with a new logo and website taking the festival forward to incorporate all art forms, whilst maintaining a strong literature focus. The financial foundation for the festival was secured by the Outer South Community Committee with an allocation of £10,000 with additional support from Morley Town Council,

Arts@Leeds and Land Securities. This year's programme comprised of 36 days of arts and 67 live, public events of which, 30 were free events for children and adults. 6400 attended at the live events with 2460 children across 12 Morley schools involved in the Schools Programme. The festival continued to enjoy the patronage of Gervase Phinn who officially opened the festival at a celebratory launch. Other headline artists included Michael Portillo, Lord Robert Winston, Carole Matthews, Ashley Jackson and Dr Annie Gray. Audience feedback about the speakers was very positive. The festival continues to maintain its reputation as a creative and cultural event of high profile within the region and a valuable addition to the Leeds cultural portfolio.

- 3.4.8 **John O'Gaunts Community Fun Day:** John O'Gaunts Community Fun Day event was held on Thursday, 18th February 2016 at the Rose Lund Community Centre, 12.00 to 5.00pm. Local services including statutory and community partners worked together to host a productive day with the view to enhancing community outreach engagement and enable an effective consultation process as part of the overall prospective Rothwell Neighbourhood Plan. Over 200 residents attended the event.



John O'Gaunts Community Fun Day

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Outer South Community Committee has developed an engagement framework. It is supported by ad hoc community events and galas, Outer South Facebook page, Twitter and the Community Committee newsletter.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 All projects funded from Wellbeing must have an equal opportunities policy and as an outline which equality group 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.

4.3 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 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.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 There are no legal implications and this report is not subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no significant risk management issues contained within the report.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Community Committees will further develop the engagement and involvement of local communities in the decision making process by actively involving residents in themed Community Committee meetings and other engagement activity in Outer South Leeds. The Outer South Community Committee will continue to support projects and programmes of work that enhance service delivery and continue to invest in local facilities.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ 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.