



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

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Report of the West North West Leeds Area Manager

Inner West Area Committee

Date: 23rd October 2008

Subject: Intensive Neighbourhood Management, Safer Stronger Communities Funding– 12 Month Review

Electoral Wards Affected: Bramley & Stanningley	Specific Implications For: Ethnic minorities <input type="checkbox"/> Women <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled people <input type="checkbox"/> Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Council Function <input type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/>

Executive Summary

This report gives an overview of the successes on the Fairfield estate through the partnership working approach and Safer Stronger Communities funding.

The emerging priority areas for 2008/09 that have arisen from the recent update of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) are:

- Education, Skills and training
- Income deprivation affecting older people
- Crime

Each of these priority areas have been addressed in 2007/08's work programme, but due to the changes in their IMD rankings a more focused approach to these areas is required to make significant improvements.

This report also sets out the proposed Safer Stronger Community Fund (SSCF) allocations for 2009/10.

The Inner West Area Committee Members are asked to note the contents of the report, to comment on any aspects of the report and to support the continuation of the funding of the scheme as outlined at previous Area Committee meetings.

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to brief Members on the achievements of the Fairfield Community Partnership, the outputs from the associated partnership working, and show the proposed future actions to further improve the estate.

2.0 Background information

2.1 The Fairfield estate has been the focus of the SSCF funding in West Leeds due to its ranking at the start of the 2006/07, which ranked it in the top 3% of deprived Super Output Areas (SOA) in England and Wales. It was rated as 417th out of about 32,482 localities, based on the 2004 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). All initiatives have therefore been focused on lifting Fairfield estate out of these rankings. The ultimate goal being to take the Fairfield estate out of the bottom 10% incrementally over the next 10 years.

2.2 The main criteria for improving the estate based on the last IMD (2004) by The Office of the Deputy Prime minister were:

- Income Deprivation
- Educational attainment
- Crime

3.0 Revenue funding 2007-08

The funds made available in 2007-08 (£74,359 Revenue and £103,000 Capital) has been invaluable and allowed a number of different schemes to be delivered.

- Income Deprivation – Job shop
Job Links
Basic confidence building courses
IT training courses
- Educational attainment - Extended Schools provision
Volunteer support through community gardener
Support courses to build skills base
- Crime reduction - Police attendance at LAMP for feedback
Extra PCSO patrols
Close working with the neighbourhood warden
- Older people
twice weekly lunch club
Older gentlemans group

3.1 The revenue funding has allowed the centre to be open the vast majority of the time providing a range of activities to all. The Fairfield Community Centre has been able to involve a range of different agencies such as:

- Womens' Health Matters
- Play is sorted
- BARCA Leeds
- West North West Homes Leeds
- Surestart

- Bramley Children’s Centre
- Youth Inc
- ATL Enterprise
- Bramley Credit Union
- West Leeds Debt Forum

3.2 These partnership working practices have also opened doors and led to local people being involved in activities that have previously not been available to the area, such as Tai Chi, Salsa and jewellery making.

3.3 Appendix 1 provides more statistical information relating to Fairfields Intensive Neighbourhood Management Area, as part of the Year 2 update.

4.0 Capital funding 2007-08

The capital allocation for 2007-08 was £103,000; this was to be used to make environmental improvements to the estate highlighted through the Fairfields Local Area Management Plan and Fairfields Tenants and Residents group. Due to successful partnership working, match funding was secured to deliver total capital works in the region of £140,250. This has had a significant impact to the visual appearance of some parts of the estate such as:

- Maggies End - Improvements were made to the entrance of the estate off Broad Lane. Works included installation of a hand rail to support the resurfaced path, reinstatement of a seat and general clearance and levelling.
- Stanningley Road Streetscape – Improvements completed to the junction of Stanningley road and Hough lane to utilise the space more effectively. Works have included new seating, planters and installation of new edgings.
- Henley Estate Binyards – Clearance and re-walling of a number of yards to improve the aesthetics of the streets
- Bramley railings – funding to support the delivery of the restoration of the grade 2 listed site on the far end of the SOA

Cleaner Safer Greener - capital plus revenue*	Approval	Actual	Variance
Fairfield Privet Recycling		16900	
Maggies End		21900	
West Leeds Bin Yards Phase 3		20700	
Stanningley Road Streetscape		12400	
Bramley Town Street Railings		6000	
Fairfield Bramley Street Benches		900	
Fairfield Police Headcams		3400	
Fairfield Volunteer Tools		4800	
Dreamscheme*		5,000	
School Env Development*		7500	
Campus*		3300	
Total	103,000	102,800	-200

* includes revenue spend totalling £15,800.

5.0 Indices of Multi-Deprivation Rankings 2007

In November 2007 the updated IMD data was released with the Fairfield's estate going from being ranked 417th in England and Wales, to 1249th. This shows significant improvements, particularly in certain aspects of the estate. This move has meant a change in rankings from being in the bottom 3% to now residing in the bottom 5%. This does not however mean that all of the issues raised in the 2004 IMD data have been resolved, but there are marked improvements:

	2004	2007	Change
Multiple Deprivation	417	1249	+832
Income Deprivation	595	2131	+1536
Educational Attainment	258	259	+1
Crime	590	75	-515

5.1 The table above shows that even though significant improvements to the priority areas from the 2004 statistics have changed, there is still major attention required to impact on educational attainment and crime. A review of actions relating to education attainment and crime will be undertaken, in order to establish the rationale behind these rankings.

5.2 Based on the information above, the priorities for the estate would be as follows:

- Education, Skills and training (including educational attainment)
- Income deprivation affecting older people
- Crime

5.3 Partnership partners will continue to work towards making improvements in these areas, and enhance improvements made in previous years to the following domains; Barriers to Housing & Services, Living Environment and Income Deprivation Affecting Children.

6.0 Main Issues

6.1 Revenue funding 2009-10

The funding in 2008-09 is at a reduced level due to the changes in the budgets available from the Central Government for this scheme. These changes will affect all of the Intensive Neighbourhood Management areas across the city. This has obviously had an impact on the running of the project, but there are still five local people employed at the centre (the Community Coordinator, Administrative Officer, Community Gardener, Chef and Cleaner).

6.2 This local employment model has led to a more cohesive project and the involvement of some people from the community that may not have been involved in the past. The focus of the revenue funding for 2008-09 has been allocated to the local employment model and to sustain provision from the Fairfield's community centre, which is critical in the implementation of the exit strategy of SSCF funding.

6.3 2009-10 proposals

The reduced level of revenue funding will still allow staff to be employed and provision delivered from the centre, the main change being the emphasis on the staff to strive to be sustainable.

6.4 The available funding is proposed to be spent as follows:

Position	2009/10
Community Coordinator	30,298
Admin Assist	6,012
Garden assistant/ caretaker	11,983
Programmes (youth, education, health)	3,000
Gardener project costs (e.g. skips)	1,000
Rent/running costs	1,917
Total	54,210

6.5 These figures are in line with those of the last three years. The main reduction from the previous year is the omission of funding for the Neighbourhood Warden. Neighbourhood Wardens' posts across the city are currently going through a review in light of the loss of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF). The impact of not funding this post would mean that the neighbourhood warden who is currently in post would be reviewed in the same way as all of the other wardens in the city.

6.6 If approved the funding will contribute to allowing the centre to continue operating and deliver schemes targeted at the priorities raised earlier in this report:

Education, Skills and training

- Community gardener using skills to train volunteers on the estate in gardening
- Continuation of computer courses due to their success last year
- Volunteer run Jewellery class accessible to all
- Weekly Job shop to continue
- Continuation of the Tea time club which gives a structure to parent and childrens' learning

Income deprivation affecting older people

- Continue working with the West Leeds Debt forum on projects such as the Loan shark scheme they are working on at the moment
- Bramley Credit union still hold their weekly collection at the centre

Crime

- Promotion of Police using the Head Cams which were funded by the partnership last year.
- Support given to the Warden led joint surgery in the centre
- Police support given to the Dreamscheme project
- Youth groups are designed to give the young people skills, and keep them occupied on an evening

6.7 The centre as a whole is looking at an exit strategy to allow the continuation of provision on the estate after the completion of the funding.

- 6.8 Fairfields is now part of a consortium of other inner west community centres, (New Wortley, Wyther Community House, Moorside, and the Heights) who are making a collective bid for funding to place the centres on a more sustainable footing. It is proposed that a lead organisation will manage all the centres and undertake recruitment, caretaking, financial management and the co-ordination of services. The intention being to enhance the financial sustainability of these community centres and enable key services and initiatives, such as community development work, health and jobs and skills to continue to be provided in the neighbourhoods where they are most needed.
- 6.9 A business case is being prepared which will outline the responsibilities of the lead organisation, the model of delivery and the cost of maintaining and running these centres for the benefit of the communities they serve. This will form the basis of a funding bid to be made before the end of 2008.

7.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance

The Fairfield community partnership is part of the Narrowing the Gap agenda.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 As with any estate, such as the Fairfields, improvements do take time, but the significant improvements made in the last two years, highlighted in this report, signifies that partnership working can have a worthwhile impact in regenerating local communities. The estate has made significant improvements in the SOA rankings, and to continue this trend work needs to be targeted at specific priority areas; such as crime and education. Although these domains have been targeted, and have been the subject of partnership work efforts over the last two years, more intensive work will need to be undertaken, based on the outcomes and knowledge and experience, in order to ensure improvements in the next review.

9.0 Recommendations

- 9.1 The Inner West Area Committee Members are invited to:
- a) note the contents of the report and comment on any aspect of the matters raised, and
 - b) support the continuation of the scheme through the proposals outlined in this report into 2009-10 utilising the available funding for the estate through Safer Stronger Communities Funds.

Background Papers

- Appendix 1 Intensive Neighbourhood Management Update (2008), Regeneration Services