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## Report of the Director of Environments and Neighbourhoods

### South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008

### Subject: Operation Champion

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ardsley and Robin Hood

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council  
Function

Delegated Executive  
Function available  
for Call In

Delegated Executive  
Function not available for  
Call In Details set out in the  
report

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## Executive Summary

This report provides the Area Committee with an update on the recent Outer South Operation Champion, coordinated by Area Management Team and held in October 2008.

### 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 This report summarises the activities and achievements of the Operation Champion held in the Tingley and West Ardsley areas of Ardsley and Robin Hood ward.

### 2.0 Background Information

2.1 Operation Champion is a multi agency crime and grime initiative. It brings together a range of agencies working in partnership to:

- Reduce crime and anti social behaviour.
- Tackle environmental issues such as litter, rubbish dumping and graffiti removal.
- Provide public reassurance and support.

2.2 The most recent Operation Champion was held from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008, and concentrated on specific streets in Tingley and West Ardsley where anti-social behaviour was identified by partner agencies as a significant problem.

- 2.3 The Operation coincided with the Home Office's 'Not in my Neighbourhood Week', an initiative to raise awareness of the work carried out by agencies to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour at a local level. Safer Leeds had funds to support this initiative and provided £1,000 additional funding for the Operation. This will be used to fund anti-climb paint on Blackgates Primary School.
- 2.4 The range of agencies involved in the Operation included Area Management, West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire Service, HM Courts Service, HM Customs and Excise, DVLA, Aire Valley Homes, ASBU, Environmental Services, Probation Service, Environmental Health and Victim Support.

### **3.0 Outcomes from Operation Champion**

- 3.1 A planning meeting was held two weeks before the Operation to identify priority neighbourhoods and seek commitment from partner agencies, co-ordinate work and maximise the impact. An environmental audit was also carried out and jobs allocated to individual services.
- 3.2 The activities and outcomes from the Operation are as follows:

#### Community Engagement

- 3.3 A school gate consultation was carried out on 10<sup>th</sup> October with parents at Blackgates Primary School. The purpose of the consultation was to publicise Operation Champion and identify additional areas where anti-social behaviour, fly tipping and litter are an issue for local residents.
- 3.4 Police Community Support officers and officers from the Area Management Team, Aire Valley Homes and Fire Service carried out a door to door survey in the streets around the Fairleighs and Eastleighs to provide reassurance, gather intelligence and offer fire home safety checks.
- 3.5 A newsletter was distributed to 500 households providing information on the Operation, current community safety initiatives including 'Dob in a Dealer' and the 'Lighten Up' campaign, as well as useful telephone numbers.
- 3.6 The Anti-Social Behaviour Unit organised a publicity stand at Morley Asda for two days of the Operation. They were supported by officers from the Police, Safer Leeds and Victim Support. The stall offered advice and reassurance, and a range of crime prevention materials for sale at discount prices.

#### Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- 3.7 Officers from the Police, Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and Aire Valley Homes visited seven properties where occupants were believed to be responsible for anti-social behaviour in the area. This work was supported by door to door reassurance visits to neighbouring properties to encourage reporting and update on action being taken.
- 3.8 DVLA carried out patrols on one day supported by police officers, 14 tickets issued.
- 3.9 Police and Parkswatch carried out off road motorbike patrols in known hotspots for nuisance motorbikes.

- 3.10 HM Customs, supported by police officers, stopped and checked 117 vehicles for illegal use of red diesel. No detections were made
- 3.11 HM Courts Services, supported by police officers, spent one day in the area to serve civilian warrants.
- 3.12 The Youth Service undertook outreach work on Tuesday evening in ASB hotspots identified by partner agencies. One group of well behaved young people were approached, and advised of youth provision in the area.

#### Environmental Activity

- 3.13 Streetscene provided a team over three days to clear fly tipped land between Garden House Lane and Eastleigh Drive and on Northfield Place.
- 3.14 Aire Valley Homes estate caretakers cleared untidy gardens.
- 3.15 Probation Services cut back and cleared a ginnel between Eastleigh Drive and the doctor's surgery on Bradford Road.
- 3.16 Environmental Enforcement Officers inspected 143 properties with 11 referrals for further waste in garden enforcement action. 26 warning letters sent to suspected fly tippers and four new enquiries started. 3 commercial premises within the Champion area were visited as part of on-going enforcement activity.

### **4.0 Evaluation**

- 4.1 A de-brief session was held after the operation to evaluate its success. Partners viewed the levels of community engagement and involvement from agencies in the operation as very positive. The one day of activities targeting ASB issues, was highlighted as a format that was effective and had a positive impact on offenders and victims. Abandoned vehicle officer, dog warden and trading standards were identified as agencies to engage with future operations where appropriate.

### **5.0 Future Operations**

- 5.1 A schedule of future Operations for 2009 is within the Area Managers Report to be presented to members. The Outer South Operation Champions are scheduled for the following dates:  
24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009 – Morley South  
4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> August 2009 – Morley North

### **6.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance**

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

## **7.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

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

7.2 At the July Area Committee, Members approved £400 towards the two planned Operation Champions in 2008/09. The total budget for the Ardsley and Robin Hood Champion was £1,200. This was £1,000 from the Home Office as part of the 'Not in My Neighbourhood Week' and £200 from the Area Committee.

7.3 The budget for Operation Champion was as follows:

Community Centre venue hire	£162
Discount vouchers for crime reduction equipment	£40
Police overtime for off road bike patrols	£364
Anti-climb paint	£624
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,190</b>

## **8.0 Conclusion**

8.1 The Operation Champion in Tingley & West Ardsley was a successful operation, supported by a variety of agencies and well publicised within the local community.

8.2 A de-brief session took place with participating agencies on 14<sup>th</sup> November, updating on actions taken and providing feedback on new referrals from the Operation.

8.3 Action on Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour is reviewed monthly at the police led multi-agency tasking meeting.

## **9.0 Recommendations**

9.1 The Outer South Area Committee is asked to note this report.

## **Background Papers**

- Operation Champion 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008