



Report of The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Inner North West Leeds Area Committee

Date: 5th February 2009

Subject: Little London & Woodhouse Intensive Neighbourhood Management

Electoral Wards Affected:

Hyde Park & Woodhouse

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

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report outlines the 2009/10 budget for Intensive Neighbourhood Management in Little London and Woodhouse.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Little London Intensive Neighbourhood Management (INM) project was established in 2006, funded through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and the Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF). A number of greenspace improvements were also funded in 2006 and 2007 through the Cleaner, Safer Greener capital fund.

2.2 During the last year, INM has supported eight main projects:

- Neighbourhood Co-ordination: employment of a neighbourhood manager;
- Streetscene Services: environmental pride team;
- Police overtime: drugs operations;
- Breakers Unify: break dancing classes for 7-11 year olds;
- BARCA harm reduction: twice weekly drug and alcohol outreach;
- Health Activities Worker: delivering a range of community activities;
- Youthpoint: youth drop in and outreach work, and;
- Little London Arts: Weekly children's art class over two terms

2.3 The 2008/09 budget included funding for each multi-agency partnership for small projects to meet local priorities. These included ESOL classes for those ineligible for current provision, a new youth club for 9-12 year olds and improved recycling facilities across the neighbourhood.

3.0 Little London Intensive Neighbourhood Management Budget 2008/09

3.1 In 2008/09, the joint SSCF and NRF budget reduced by 34% from the previous year's funding levels. In 2009/10, the INM budget will reduce by a further 48%, with a total budget of £86,356 (£54,210 SSCF and £34,146 NRF).

3.2 Hyde Park and Woodhouse Ward Members have been consulted on the budget proposals. One Ward Member has expressed concerns over the projects listed at 3.4 and 3.7. Further consultation is required with all three Ward Members before the budget for these projects can be approved.

3.3 Streetscene Services - £40,000

Little London has benefited from a dedicated Streetscene Pride Team for the past three years, part funded by Environmental Services' own SSCF budget. The INM project will continue to fund an additional Pride Team service, but because of the likely reduction in funding from the Environmental Services side, it may be a part time service from April.

3.4 Drug & Alcohol Outreach - £9,000

The service is run by BARCA, working with an average client base of 20 individuals from the Little London area, during two outreach sessions per week. The service provides advice to people suffering from drug and alcohol misuse, making referrals for treatment and running health promotion courses. In 2009/10, the service will run one outreach session per week in the area.

3.5 Healthy Activities Worker: £15,000

The Health Activities Worker is employed by Community Action Little London, a local community organisation to deliver activities for local people that promote a healthy lifestyle. These include a family tea time club, a community café, exercise classes and a gardening club.

3.6 Intermediate Youth Club: £8,000

In September 2009, a youth club for 9-12 year olds was established to bridge a gap in provision, as 80% of activities run in the area are for over 13's. The group is a success with an average attendance of 20 young people. Five youth service providers give staff to support the group free of charge, but no budget has been available for room hire and activities. This funding would enable the group to run for a further year.

3.7 Youthpoint: £11,000

Youthpoint have delivered weekly outreach and centre based sessions in Little London with a focus on gangs and sexual health work. This work will continue for a further year, and more links will be made with other provision in the area.

3.8 Partnership Support Budget: £2,356

This money will be used to support the local partnership meetings by providing room hire, publicising neighbourhood forums and producing a bi-annual newsletter.

4.0 Projects ending in 2009

4.1 The following projects have received INM funding for the past three years. If the above budget is approved, the following projects will no longer be supported.

4.2 Neighbourhood Manager

The part time neighbourhood manager oversaw the INM project, supporting the three multi-agency partnerships and developing activities and projects that met local priorities. It is proposed that an officer from the Area Management team will continue to oversee partnership working and the neighbourhood improvement plan in Little London. There will however, be less direct involvement than previous years.

4.3 Breakers Unify

Breakers Unify were funded to hold after school breakdancing classes in three primary schools. Whilst the organisation is currently negotiating a contract with Breeze Leeds to continue some of its other activities, the primary school breakdancing classes are likely to end. Support has been made available to help the organisation apply for external funding.

4.4 Little London Arts

Little London Arts were funded to deliver weekly children's arts classes. The organisation's core funding ends in March, and as yet, the group has not been successful in seeking an alternative source of income. Support has been made available to the group to apply for grants to continue some provision.

4.5 Space@ Little London

In March 2008, the community rooms at Little London primary school were threatened with closure. Funding was secured from A2E and INM to keep the centre open, supported by a worker employed by BARCA Leeds. In August 2008, the Council's Jobs and Skills service took over the running of the centre, holding a job shop four days a week along and other activities. The A2E funding continues for another year, and this keep the centre open with Jobs & Skills continued support.

5.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

5.1 Three partnerships address key priorities for the neighbourhood covering: Crime & Grime; Health & Wellbeing; and Employment & Skills. The work of these partnerships will be monitored on a quarterly basis by a co-ordination group that will ensure that the groups are not duplicating work, and gaps are being identified. The co-ordination group will produce a quarterly report, outlining the work that has been carried out by each partnership group.

5.2 All projects that have been funded through INM will be required to submit a report every three months on the previous quarter's activities and performance against agreed outputs.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 The Area Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and approve the proposed 2009/10 INM budget, subject to further Ward Member consultation on the projects listed at 3.4 and 3.7.

Background reports

None