



Report of the East North East Area Manager

East (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 5th February 2009

Subject: Presentation of Truancy Watch East Pilot first full terms Report

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

This report presents the Area Committee with the first full terms report of the *Truancy Watch East*. This is a pilot activity seeking to help increase school attendance, contribute to further local reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour and meet residents concerns about apparent truancy in neighbourhoods and local shopping centres. The project complements other activities as part of an intensive approach to Neighbourhood Management in the area and a joined up approach with local schools.

The report sets out the actions and outputs from the team, and provides anecdotal information from professionals involved.

The report outlines the proposed increase in funding from £5k in 2008/09 to £15k for 2009/10 from the schools Area Management Board, in order to extend the pilot and to allow for the opportunity for the project to be mainstreamed in subsequent years.

The report seeks support from the Area Committee on the actions of the team and recommends a further 12 months pilot activity is supported with an increase of Wellbieng from £2.5k (tasking funding) to £7.5k to enable a comprehensive evaluation.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report presents the Area Committee with the first full terms report of the *Truancy Watch East*. This is a pilot activity seeking to help increase school attendance, contribute to further local reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour and meet residents concerns about apparent truanting in neighbourhoods and local shopping centres. The project complements other activities as part of an intensive approach to Neighbourhood Management in the area and a joined up approach with local schools.
- 2 The report sets out the actions and outputs from the team, and provides anecdotal information from professionals involved.
- 3 The report seeks support from the Area Committee on the actions of the team and recommends a further 12 months pilot activity is supported with an increase of Wellbeing from £2.5k (tasking funding) to £7.5k to enable a comprehensive evaluation.
- 4 The pilot is part funded (£30k) by Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) for 2008/09.
- 5 SSCF is due to reduce significantly in 2009/10 and cease from 2010/11. The overall SSCF allocation for 2009/10 is reduced by 40%. Therefore, subject to Area Committee approval, £10k from the Gipton and South Seacroft cluster and £5k from the Burmatoftsand Richmond Hill Cluster (£15k total), can support this project to continue next year.
- 6 Accompanying the report are the following appendices
 - (a) A copy of the first full terms performance report provided by Education Leeds.
 - (b) A copy of the Project Delivery Agreement.

Background Information

- 7 In March 2008, Truancy Watch East was successful in obtaining approval from the Inner East Area Committee for a contribution of Safer Stronger Communities Funding (£30k) from the Gipton and South Seacroft Cluster allocation to enable the pilot project to commence.
- 8 The project receives funding/in kind contributions from West Yorkshire Police (£35k), Education Leeds (£6.3k), the schools Area Management Board (£5k), David Young Community Academy (£1k) and the Inner East Area Committee (£2.5k through tasking budgets). These contributions (with the exception of the schools Area Management Board – which will increase from £5k to £15k for 2009/10) are to be maintained during 2009/10.
- 9 The project is being piloted during 2008/09 and targeted at Super Output Areas (SOA) within Gipton and Harehills ward and the Killingbeck and Seacroft ward, although due to the nature of the project coverage is Inner East wide. However if the pilot phase is extended during 2009/10 the project will extend it's focus to Inner East wide.

- 10 The main aims of the project are to reduce unauthorised absences and improve attendance, to reduce anti-social behaviour, youth nuisance and juvenile crime.
- 11 A copy of the first full terms report detailing actions and outputs, produced by Education Leeds is attached as Appendix A. A copy of the Project Delivery Agreement is attached as Appendix B to provide the Committee with further detail regarding the operational duties of the team.
- 12 The project supports improvement priorities contained within Leeds Strategic Plan and the Inner East Area Delivery Plan under the following themes;

Learning:

- Improve learning outcomes for all 16 year olds with a focus on narrowing the gap
- Improve participation and learning outcomes for all children with a focus on deprived areas

Thriving Places:

- Reduce anti-social behaviour

- 13 The project supports improvement priorities contained within the Safer Stronger Communities block of the Local Area Agreement as follows;
 - Increasing resident satisfaction levels, and residents believing that service providers are responsive to their needs
 - Reducing overall levels of crime
 - Reducing Anti Social Behaviour
 - Reduce fear of crime and increase feelings of safety
- 14 The teams targets for the autumn/winter term included;
 - establishing closer operational links with relevant tasking teams
 - to deliver a training package to all Inner East Neighbourhood Policing teams to better equip them in dealing with potential truants during their daily duties
 - a publicity campaign to raise public awareness

All of these actions have been completed.

- 15 Targets for 2009/10 include;
 - the continuation of presentations to schools in the target area
 - Incorporating the work of the team into the work of the Safer Schools Officers who are now in post in all of the target schools
 - Assessing impact on resident perceptions through bespoke consultation, and the annual Intensive management Household Survey for Gipton and South Seacroft which is currently being obtained.
 - Revision of the project delivery agreement to include more priority focused reporting, against the LSP/SSCF indicators, specifically analysis of crime/ASB committed by young people of school age in target neighbourhoods during school hours.

Headline Results

- 16 From 16th June to 19th December 2008 the total number of children/young people 'stopped' was 250. The action taken with those stopped included allowed to continue (authorised absence), returned to school, returned to home, school contacted.
- 17 Fourteen different reasons were given for being out of school with 100 of the stops admitting truancy.
- 18 In total, 43 schools have been involved in the project as a result of stops made.
- 19 16 home visits have been made to 12 separate pupils.
- 20 Relevant and comparable Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) statistics are unavailable for inclusion in the report attached at Appendix A at this time.
- 21 The first full term report from Education Leeds is attached at Appendix A. Further details regarding the project can be obtained by request from Hayley Clifton (Neighbourhood Manager, Gipton and Seacroft South INM Cluster).

Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 22 These suggestions have no additional policy and governance implications beyond powers already vested in the Area Committees.

Legal and Resource Implications

- 23 There are no additional resource implications related to these proposals at this moment in time.

Conclusion

- 24 This report provides the first full terms actions and outputs performance report of Truancy Watch East project.
- 25 This report shows that the team is fully operational, together with a dedicated vehicle. In the first full term of operation a significant number of sweeps have been successfully undertaken and 250 children were stopped, 100 of which were identified as truanting.
- 26 Overall, the project provides a valuable local resource and is making good connections with existing partnership working in the area, including work already being undertaken to support families and increase pupil attendance by local schools and is helping to meet a number of key priorities identified by residents through the neighbourhood survey and in the Area Committee's Area Delivery Plan.
- 27 It is evident that the pilot phase of the project needs to be extended to enable a full and comprehensive evaluation to take place. The evaluation must include stakeholder satisfaction and perception measurements, crime and ASB statistics, and statutory indicators including numbers of persistent absentee pupils in secondary schools, in order to demonstrate that the LSP and SSCF priorities are being met.

Recommendations

- 28 The Area Committee is requested to;
- (a) Support the extension of the pilot phase of Truancy Watch East in order to enable full evaluation against the LSP and SSCF priorities.
 - (b) Increase the Area Committee contribution during 2009/10 to £7,500, and agree the contribution of £15k SSCF.
 - (c) Note the continued financial and in kind commitments from West Yorkshire Police, Education Leeds and the David Young Community Academy, and the increased financial commitment from £5k to £15k from the schools Area Management Board to enable the pilot phase to continue during 2009/10, with a view to mainstreaming in subsequent years.

There were no background papers used in preparation of this report.