



Report of the East North East Area Manager

North East (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 16th March 2009

Subject: Probation Services – Inner NE Community Payback Scheme

Electoral Wards Affected:

Chapel Allerton
Moortown
Roundhay

Ward members consulted
(referred to in this 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

Executive Summary

This report provides Members with an assessment of the delivery of the contract with the Probation Service to provide a deidictaed Communuyt Payback service for Inner North East through a locally managed referrals sysytem.

Purpose of this report

1. This report provides Members with an analysis of the work that the Probation Service have done in the inner north east area of Leeds over the last four months. This report will help members decide if they wish to fund this project after 31st March 2009.

Main Achievements

2. Since December 2008 the Probation Service have completed work in 20 different locations across the area and have supplied 1521.5 offender hours, which equates to £15,215 worth of labour (based on £10/hr wage/oncosts for such labour), plus 350 supervisor hours. This represents about 2.5 months of activity – which is projected over a year would equate to £73k of labour (at a cost to the Area Committee of £15k).
3. The range of work that has been completed includes environmental cleanups such as on the Beckhill Estate and in various ginnels throughout the area (see photos below of leaf clearing of a set of ginnels) as well as more complicated jobs such as painting and decorating. Appendix A provides a list of completed jobs, the number of man hours worked and the approximate cost of the work carried out.

Before



After



4. The purpose of the scheme is of course also to provide restorative justice through the visual community “payback” for offences committed which is less easy to measure.

Making Referrals

5. Although the project has been running for a short period of time the Area Management Team have been successful in promoting the service to partners and as well as receiving numerous request from elected members they have also received referrals from the Police, ENE Homes, the Conservation Team, the Youth Service and LCC Wardens. In order for the contract to work efficiently it is vital that the Area Management team continue to generate and receive regular referrals.
6. The Probation Service attend tasking meetings, which are used to promote the service to partners and provide regular referrals.

7. The Area Management Team have distributed the 'Take Action Card' via the About Leeds Newspaper and at community engagement events. Each card that is returned to the team is logged and assessed to see if the Probation Service can do the work. For example, referrals made for Stainbeck Road, litter around the Myrtle Pub and a ginnel running from Oakwood Grange have come from Take Action Cards.
8. The Area Management team have been advertising the Probation Service to the voluntary and community sector. We have invited neighbourhood design statement organisations to come up with ideas on how they could take advantage of this service to improve the environment. The Meanwood Valley Partnership have also been approached and were positive about using this service. Tenants and Residents Associations will also be contacted to see if they could generate referrals for this service.
9. Feedback from Elected Members at ward member meetings has been positive.

Future Development

10. To ensure that this contract continues to provide a valuable service to the area then it is necessary to continue to promote the service to partners and local people and ensure that regular referrals are made. The Area Management Team will continue to use methods mentioned in paragraphs 4-7.
11. Further work needs to be done to advertise the service to the voluntary and community sector, which have so far not sent in a single referral form, despite knowing about the service. The Area Management Team will do further work to promote the service and the potential benefits.
12. The aim is also to link this service in with tenants and residents associations such as the TRA in the Beckhill Estate. This will provide local people with a service that they have direct influence over and can be used to make small scale improvements to the environment. The service is being promoted through the Beckhill newsletter and by the East North East Homes Community Development worker.
13. Currently the team have litter picked large areas of the Beckhill estate and made a significant difference. Further work needs to be done to develop the role of the service in the area. For example, the idea of a gardening service for elderly people and doing general facelift work which could include painting and planting schemes could have a significant and lasting impact in the area, on top of regular litter picking.
14. There is also potential to use the resource to clear footpaths of snow following heavy snowfall, as recently experienced. The Area Management Team will work with ward members to agree a priority list of paths to clear (for example near shops, older people homes, schools) in the event of heavy snowfall and the Probation Team will automatically visit these sites with shovels and grit. Depending on conditions and capacity there may be scope for additional emergency referrals to be made on top of the priority paths already agreed/identified. Members views on this idea are welcomed.

Issues to address

15. Further work is required to promote the service and ensure involvement from organisations active in the area. Council Services are also aware of the service and are involved in delivering the contract.

16. Parks and Countryside use the service to make improvements to St. Johns's church in Roundhay ward. This is regular and on-going work. However, better use can be made by the department and the Area Management Team will develop this. For example, a referral to fix some paving stones in Oakwood has not been completed due to health and safety concerns. Parks and countryside will need to manage this work and see how they can utilise this service better.
17. City Services are working with the Probation Team and collect bags of rubbish that are collected from Highways land. This partnership is currently working well but needs to be managed to ensure that good working relations are maintained. Further work needs to be done with City Services to align the community payback scheme with their own service targets.

Recommendations

18. The Area Committee is requested to note the contents of this report and approve revenue funding for a further year, totalling £15,000, to come from the 2009/10 Wellbeing budget.