



Report of the West Leeds Area Manager

Inner West Area Committee

Date: 19 October 2006

Subject: West Leeds Family Learning Centre

Electoral Wards Affected:

Armley
Bramley and Stanningley

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

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 introduces Alison Shafner, West Leeds Family Learning Centre Manager who will provide an update to the Area Committee on the current position of the centre, current activities and future plans.

Members are asked to note the report and support the current position and activities of the centre.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 To introduce Alison Shafner, Centre Manager, West Leeds Family Learning Centre who will provide an update on the current activities at the Family Learning Centre.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The future of West Leeds Family Learning Centre (WLFLC), a key plank in the regeneration work for the area, continues to give cause for concern. Jobs and Skills service of Leeds City Council lost part of the contract to provide training for New Deal in May this year when Job Centre Plus sub-regionalised their contracting arrangements for New Deal and awarded the contract to a consortium led by a private training provider, Business Employment Services Training Ltd (BEST).

- 2.2 The loss of the contract has had a financial impact on the Family Learning Centres, and as a result Jobs and Skills Department can no longer finance the running and overheads of West Leeds Family Learning Centre

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 Despite the loss of funding from the Department of Jobs and Skills, West Leeds Family Learning Centre has remained committed to the communities in West Leeds.
- 3.2 It continues to support the Every Child Matters agenda and provide training and employment opportunities to workless parents and carers.
- 3.3 Proposals have been submitted to under the Local Economic Growth Initiative bid to use part of the WLFLC building as a “Catalyst Centre” to support the development of small businesses.
- 3.4 The Centre also continues to work closely two major local employers in the area, Elite Forwarders and Farnells.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 4.1 The Centre will continue to work to support the ‘worklessness’ agenda and to provide support through training, supported work placements and work trials, and active engagement with local employers to support ‘workless’ people re-engaging with work.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

- 5.1 The centre can no longer be resourced through the Jobs and Skills Department, however alternative funding is being sought to secure the future of the centre.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 West Leeds Family Learning Centre plays a key role in the regeneration of the area through providing training and employment opportunities for residents in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 That members note and support the information on the current position and activities of the centre.