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## Report of the Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods Directorate

### South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 22nd June 2009

### Subject: Priority Neighbourhood Worker Update

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ardsley and Robin Hood  
Morley North  
Morley South  
Rothwell

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

The Outer South Area Committee's response to the Narrowing the Gap agenda has in part been the commitment to priority neighbourhoods through Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs). At the September 2008 Area Committee, Members agreed to a new programme of Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 2008-2011, which included a new 'Supported Area' status to ensure a minimum level of support to Tenants and Residents Associations (TARAs) following the completion of a NIP, and in additional targeted areas. This report outlines the work achieved by the Priority Neighbourhood Worker (PNW) since their appointment in December 2008, and what support TARA's are receiving from the PNW as an identified 'Supported Area'.

### 1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The report outlines the work achieved by the Priority Neighbourhood Worker since their appointment in December 2008; including an update to Members on the 2009/10 Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs), details on the 'Supported Area' programme and additional community engagement work.

### 2.0 Background Information

2.1 In response to the Narrowing the Gap aim of the Vision for Leeds 2004-2020, the Area Committee developed Neighbourhood Improvement Plans. In September

2004, the Area Committee identified several Priority Neighbourhoods on the basis of levels of deprivation and instances of recurring issues such as anti social behaviour and environmental issues.

- 2.2 The Area Committee commissioned South Leeds Health for All, a community development charity, in November 2006 to deliver the PNW project. In August 2008, the PNW left the post to take up alternative employment. At the time Area Management took the opportunity to review the PNW project in relation to Area Committee's enhanced community engagement role and changes to the Area Delivery Plans.
- 2.3 In September 2008, the Area Committee renewed its support to NIP's by approving a three year PNW project to deliver a revised programme of NIP's, including a new 'Supported Area' status and other community engagement work. Funding for the PNW post was approved by the Area Committee until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011, subject to annual Executive Board approval of the Well being Budget. The PNW took up the position in Health for All in December 2008.

### 3.0 Neighbourhood Improvement Plan Programme (2008-11)

- 3.1 The programme below was presented to the Area Committee in September 2008 as the NIP's to be delivered each year and the areas to receive support. Consultation with Members at Ward Member Briefings confirmed the locations and boundaries the NIP programme would target, any revisions made are outlined in bold. As the PNW was not in post until December 2008, a revised timescale has been devised and are highlighted in the table below.

#### Phase 1

##### NIPS

Ward	Area	Timescale
Rothwell	Wood Lane	June – December 09
Morley North	Oakwell and Fairfax	February – November 09

#### Supported Areas

Ward	Area	Timescale
Rothwell	John O' Gaunts	Current
Ardsley and Robin Hood	Eastleighs and Fairleighs	
Morley South	Newlands and Denshaws	
Ardsley and Robin Hood	Northfields and Hopefield	
Ardsley and Robin Hood	<b>Winthorpes</b>	

#### Phase 2

##### NIPs

Ward	Area	Timescale
Morley South	<b>Harrops and Bridge Street</b>	January – October 2010
Ardsley and Robin Hood	<b>Thorpe</b>	January – October 2010

### Supported Areas

Ward	Area	Timescale
Rothwell	Wood Lane	January 2010-ongoing
Morley North	Oakwell and Fairfax	December 2010 -ongoing
Rothwell	John O' Gaunts	Ongoing
Ardsley Robin Hood	Eastleighs and Fairleighs	Ongoing
Morley South	Newlands and Denshaws	Ongoing
Ardsley and Robin Hood	Northfields and Hopefield	Ongoing
Ardsley and Robin Hood	<b>Winthorpes</b>	Ongoing

### Phase 3

#### NIPs

Ward	Area	Timescale
Morley North	Ingles	November-August 2011
Morley North	<b>Springbank Avenue and Springview</b>	November -August 2011

### Supported Areas

Ward	Area	Timescale
Morley South	<b>Harrops and Bridge Street</b>	November 2010-ongoing
Ardsley Robin Hood	<b>Thorpe</b>	November 2010-ongoing
Rothwell	Wood lane	January 2010-ongoing
Morley North	Oakwell and Fairfax	December 2010 -ongoing
Rothwell	John O' Gaunts	Ongoing
Ardsley Robin Hood	Eastleighs and Fairleighs	Ongoing
Morley South	Newlands and Denshaws	Ongoing
Ardsley and Robin Hood	Northfields and Hopefield	Ongoing
Ardsley and Robin Hood	<b>Winthorpes</b>	Ongoing

- 3.2 The 2008-11 programme of NIP's continue to consult with residents and Members to inform an action plan to be delivered and monitored by a multi-agency steering group with a nominated Ward Councillor as Chair.
- 3.3 Members agreed that the 2008-11 NIPs are a time limited process of ten months with a standard level of elements to them. These are:
- A community consultation event or survey to find out community views and key issues.
  - A steering group is established to be chaired by a Ward Councillor and which has representatives from agencies and the local residents association.
  - An Action plan that includes projects to target 3-5 key issues in the area. This will include targeted work linked with ADP actions e.g. distributing information on training and employment, financial inclusion and fuel poverty.
- 3.4 To support the NIP process the Area Committee ring fenced £3,000 for each NIP area and £1,000 for each old NIP that is now a Supported Area status. This revenue funding is used to support specific projects such as youth provision, environmental improvements and community events.

## 4.0 Priority Neighbourhood Worker Update

4.1 The Priority Neighbourhood Worker continues to work in targeted NIP areas, the following details the work undertaken to develop phase 1 NIPs, identify and deliver the 'Supported Area' status and other community engagement work.

### 4.2 Phase 1: Oakwell and Fairfax

4.2.1 The Oakwell and Fairfax NIP was the first one to be created as part of the new NIP programme. A steering group has been established with Councillor Leadley as Chair and representatives from Youth Service, Drighlington Parish Council, Drighlington Children's Centre, Drighlington Primary School, Neighbourhood Policing Team, Groundwork and the voluntary sector.

4.2.2 The first meeting was held in February 2009 when the NIP process was explained and consultation undertaken with partners and Members to identify the issues for the Oakwell and Fairfax Action Plan. The main issues identified were; more activities for young people, community safety, cohesion with the wider Drighlington community, and environmental issues.

4.2.3 A fundamental element of a NIP is the inclusion and empowerment of residents with the aim to establish and make sustainable a local residents association. The Oakwell and Fairfax Steering Group agreed that an event for the residents from the estate would be the most appropriate way for initial engagement with them and allow the Priority Neighbourhood Worker and Aire Valley Homes Customer Involvement Officer to develop links with residents.

4.2.4 In addition to a leaflet drop on the estate to promote the event, partners also supported the PNW to circulate a consultation postcard to all households and complete a door knocking exercise, asking for the residents views and concerns about their neighbourhood.

4.2.5 On the 21<sup>st</sup> March, a family fun event was held at Drighlington Meeting Hall. Over twenty people attended and participated in activities and consultation events. Using a miniature model ideas tree, residents attending were encouraged to bring forward suggestions on how to improve their neighbourhood. These were written up on paper leaves and then pinned to the ideas tree.

4.2.6 Residents Feedback:

- more activities for young people e.g. dance classes, art classes
- better street lighting
- cookery classes
- improvements to the green spaces e.g. more flowers and an allotment
- a community newsletter promoting activities and news
- create a tenants and residents association

4.2.7 The NIP Action Plan has been updated to reflect the community views and the Steering Group continue to meet to deliver and monitor the action plan (**Appendix 1**).

4.2.8 To date, NIP achievements include;

- Extra Youth Service Provision
- Extra Children's and Young People Activities

- First newsletter produced and circulated to all households on the estate (**Appendix 2**)
- 3 community meetings held at Drighlington Rugby League Club
- An Environmental Pride initiative was held on Fairfax Avenue

4.2.8 The PNW is now working with residents to plan the first Tenants and Residents meeting with speakers from the Police and Aire Valley Homes. The PNW will also identify with residents their first project to achieve as a group.

#### 4.3 **Phase 1: Wood Lane**

4.3.1 Wood Lane is the second of the phase one NIPs. The PNW has written an Area Profile of the estate to gain an understanding on the location and services already present. Partners have assisted in providing information for this profile for consideration by the Steering Group when it is established.

4.3.2 The PNW has made contact with the Rothwell Tenants and Residents Association who are a well established group on the Wood Lane estate. The group have made a significant input over to the improvement plans for the area in front of Manor Roads shops. This work is now complete.

4.3.3 The Indices of Deprivation and from discussions with the Tenants and Residents Association (TARA) highlight that environmental and community safety are not priority issues. The results of the Area Profile confirmed a good level of provision for young people and other services for residents. As a result a proposal was presented to the recent Rothwell Ward Member Briefing that recommended the delivery of a NIP with a focus on skills development and training, and a Participatory Budgeting initiative to capitalise on the well established TARA, so enabling further engagement and empowerment of local residents.

### 5.0 **Supported Areas**

5.1 The role of the PNW has always involved continuing to develop community empowerment and the capacity of Resident Associations. This is particularly important following the completion of a NIP. This work has included supporting them in planning, organising and managing their own community initiatives and projects. Members asked that a stronger and more robust level of agreement was required to define this critical work. The 'Supported Area' status was agreed as a means to achieve this and confirmed at the September 2008 Area Committee.

5.2 The PNW has produced a plan that details a minimum level of service (**Appendix 3**) that will be delivered in partnership with the AVH Customer Involvement Officers to Tenants and Residents Association listed in the 'Supported Areas' category.

#### 5.3 **Newlands and Denshaws**

5.3.1 Following the conclusion of a successful NIP action plan, the Newlands and Denshaws community are led by a highly organised and dynamic TARA. Contact has been made through regular meetings with the management committee and wider Residents Associations meetings. The PNW supported the Residents Association in the planning of their fun day in May through assisting with publicity and organising stalls for the event.

5.3.2 The PNW is currently supporting the group to identify training needs and providers. This includes the standard committee training but also specific training to support project delivery such as First Aid Training. The committee are also interested in taking part in a community network event which would involve them mentoring and advising other TARA's in Outer South.

5.3.3 The Residents Association Committee members have expressed an interest in building on links already made with the Morley Literature Festival in 2008. The TARA participated in the street market on the weekend before the festival with a book stall. The PNW will ensure that the TARA continued to be involved with the festival and is exploring with the management committee and the Festival Director a festival event to be held in Newlands and Denshaws as part of the 2009 festival.

#### 5.4 **John O' Gaunts**

5.4.1 The highly successful TARA has been developed through the NIP process and partner support is still currently operating as a NIP. The PNW has assisted the group with finding funding for projects and has been involved in identifying training needs and opportunities for residents. The PNW has also offered advice on Committee issues and is supporting the John O' Gaunts Community Fun day with the organisation of the event, as well as providing a stall on the day. The group has also expressed an interest in sharing ideas with other Residents Associations.

#### 5.5 **Eastleighs and Fairleighs**

5.5.1 Tingley TARA was the product of another successful Outer South NIP. The development of Smithy Lane Recreation Ground continues to be a priority for local Councillors and residents and is the only outstanding item from the NIP action plan. The Area Committee agreed feasibility funding to support this work and a funding cocktail involving Wellbeing Capital has been identified to take the project. However, it should be noted that all TARA's remain fragile structures for sometime and so require a great deal of support. The PNW has concerns that the sustainability of Tingley TARA remains a priority mainly due to not having a fully elected management committee at present.

5.5.2 The PNW has attended the Residents Association meeting to identify need; the PNW is supporting the group in contacting speakers for their meetings and assisting the Chair with a Small Grants Application, and with the organising of a fun day. Currently there is not a full membership take up on the Residents Association Committee and the PNW is working in partnership with AVH Staff to recruit a full committee and encourage more residents to attend the Residents Association Meetings.

#### 5.6 **Winthorpes**

5.6.1 Winthorpes do not have an established Residents Association at present. The PNW is working with AVH to support their work in addressing issues in the area.

#### 5.7 **Northfields and Hopfields**

5.7.1 Attending Residents Association meetings and supporting the group with arrangements for speakers and possible fun day event.

## **6.0 Other Work of Areas**

### **6.1 Rothwell Family Project**

- 6.1.1 Following an unsuccessful funding bid to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust to support a skills development project in Wood Lane and John O'Gaunts estates, Health for All and Area Management established a steering group to look at alternative ways to deliver the project. The PNW is the Area Management representative on this group and along with the Children's Centre is a significant driver in developing the work of this group.
- 6.1.2 The Group meet monthly and have constituted an organisation with local residents and the Children's Centre called 'The Rothwell Family Project'. Local residents form part of the management committee and also attend steering group meetings. The Rothwell Family Project will act as an umbrella organisation to support smaller sustainable projects, current or new, that offer learning opportunities to local residents.
- 6.1.3 The Rothwell Family Project steering group have five identified project areas:
- Teatime Club
  - Healthy Lifestyles Project
  - Dad's Club
  - Young Parents Group
  - Learning Group (Basic Skills)
  - Open Day
- 6.1.4 The Group have already received support from the Area Committee with £1,500 Well being funding towards the Teatime Club for 2009/10. The Group has sourced Basic Food Hygiene Training to allow the group to become more sustainable, so enabling residents to prepare and cook the food themselves.
- 6.1.5 An action plan has been created and funding sources identified to support each project element. Health for All continues to support the project with their Funding Officer supporting the group in developing and implementing this project action plan.

### **6.2 Community Network**

- 6.2.1 As a result of the PNW talking to groups and working with residents to develop their capacity and skills. The PNW has considered the benefits of developing a Community Network which would aim to link the various Outer South Residents Associations, assisting them in sharing ideas, skills, good practice, and funding opportunities and so learn from one another.
- 6.2.2 One of the benefits is that less established groups we may be daunted by the running of an association, can be motivated by seeing how more established groups administer their affairs. This would also provide a network from the voluntary and community sector which the Area Committee can engage with when developing the ADP priorities and actions. At present a project plan for a celebration type event is being produced and will be presented to Members at the next series of Ward Member Briefings.

## **6.3 Community Safety**

- 6.3.1 The PNW attends regular Tasking meetings in Morley and Rothwell. Tasking meetings are led by Neighbourhood Policing Teams and have representation from Anti Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU), Aire Valley Homes, Probation and Youth Service. This multi agency group share and coordinate information and actions to support the resolution of crime issues in the Outer South. The PNW's role is to link community safety issues raised by Members, Area Management and residents, with relevant partner agencies.
- 10.3.2 The Two Operation Champions planned for Outer South in 2009/10 will involve the support of the PNW. The next Operation Champion is planned for August 2009 in the Morley North Ward. The PNW will attend the planning meeting to influence the nature of the work and locations targeted by the operation.

## **6.4 Community Engagement**

- 6.4.1 The PNW attended the Morley Network Meal held in April 2009 at Morley Town Hall. The meal was identified as a format to be piloted and evaluated as a possible initiative to form part of the Area Committees Community Engagement Plan. The PNW supported the event itself and attended planning meetings prior to the event.
- 6.4.2 As part of its community engagement strategy, the Area Committee signed up to the use of Participatory Budgeting (PB) as an appropriate initiative to engage with residents. Funding to support a programme of PB in priority areas across the Outer South was secured from the Aire Valley Homes Outer South Area Panel. The Area Committee has also ringfenced funding to deliver projects.
- 6.4.3 Following a round of Ward Based Briefings, PB Projects have been identified. In Ardsley and Robin Hood, an area in Lofthouse was agreed. The project has £15,000 allocated and aims to use the project as a means to develop the capacity of the Lofthouse Tenants and Residents Association. To date this has included supporting the association in their role on the Steering Group, supporting consultation with the wider resident population in the area and through attendance at the Residents Association Meetings,

## **7.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance**

- 7.1 Under the enhanced roles from the Executive Board, the Area Committees have a greater role in community engagement within their area.
- 7.2 The role of the PNW and the NIPs detailed in the report is in line with 'Narrowing the Gap' and Leeds City Councils commitment to community cohesion.

## **8.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

- 8.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.
- 8.3 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.



## **9.0 Conclusions**

- 9.1 The Area Committee's development of the PNW project has provided direct support to groups and individuals to develop and sustain their role in providing community leadership in the form of residents association. It has also assisted in ensuring their involvement in the NIP process and beyond. The community development and ongoing support to residents groups has been a catalyst for further work in the NIPs as agencies have the opportunity to consult with residents and to learn about the needs of the community.
- 9.2 The PNW provides a critical resource to Area Committee enabling them to effectively achieve its community engagement function and support residents in actively participating in the decision making process. These actions are vehicles to further support the role of the Ward Councillor as community champion Input from the PNW is essential for the successful delivery of the Area Committee Community Engagement Strategy and Area Delivery Plan.

## **10.0 Recommendations**

- 10.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the report.

### **Background Papers**

- Priority Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 18<sup>th</sup> October 2004
- Well Being Report April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006
- Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007
- Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008
- Priority Neighbourhood Worker and Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008