



Report of the Chief Democratic Services Officer

North West (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 17th September 2009

Subject: Local Authority Appointments to Outside Bodies – Progress Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

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 This Report

1.1 This report updates the Committee on the three outstanding vacancies in relation to Bethel Elderly Day Centre Management Committee; Burley Lodge – Committee of Management and Caring Together in Woodhouse and Little London Management Committee and requests Members to give consideration to the proposals outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

2.0 Background

2.1 At the previous meeting held on 2nd July 2009, Members considered a report outlining the procedures for Council Appointments to outside bodies, and made appointments to various Organisations.

2.2 Appendix 1 makes reference to three outstanding vacancies which were not filled at the meeting held on 2nd July 2009.

2.3 The bodies in question are the Bethel Elderly Day Centre Management Committee, Burley Lodge Centre – Committee of Management and Caring Together in Woodhouse and Little London Management Committee.

Bethel Elderly Day Centre Management Committee

Bethel Elderly Day Centre is a registered charity, and company limited by guarantee which provides Day Care Services for those within reach of its premises on Victoria Road, Leeds 6, mostly serving those in the Leeds 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 post code areas.

It was founded in 1992 by Pastor Mabel Parris and the elders of Bethel United Church to provide a centre sensitive to the cultural needs of the elderly of the Caribbean Community in Leeds, but always had a non-discriminatory policy, and presently benefits from a very diverse group of Service Users.

The services currently provided include a cooked meal, assistance with bathing, social activities and gentle exercise sessions.

The current officers of the Management Committee are:-

Dr Doreen Illingworth – Chair
Pastor Mabel Parris – Treasurer and Assistant Secretary
Ms Amogene Parris – Secretary

As referred to in the previous report, following a delegated decision in September 2008, Leeds City Council has withdrawn all funding and no longer refers people to the service. Following discussions with the Chair of the Management Committee, Dr Doreen Illingworth, there is no longer considered to be a requirement for the Council to appoint a Council representative to this body.

Therefore, the Area Committee is requested to recommend to the Member Management Committee that this body be removed from the list of Appointments to Outside Bodies.

Burley Lodge Centre – Committee of Management

The Burley Lodge Centre originally began in 1981 as a base for advice, information and group activities. The centre was based in two back to back houses, moving to its current building in 1996, The centre has a track record of providing youth work, advice and rooms for hire. In the last five years the Burley Lodge Centre has seen a great increase in activities in response to local consultation, including a counselling service and a community café.

These are annual appointments, and the Council's current representatives for 2009/10 are Councillor M Hamilton and Councillor P Ewens. Following discussions with the Centre Manager, two Council representatives are adequate for this body.

Therefore, the Area Committee is requested to recommend to the Member Management Committee that a reduction in appointments be made from three to two in relation to this body.

Caring Together in Woodhouse and Little London Management Committee

Caring together in Woodhouse and Little London is a small registered charity supporting older people living in inner-city Leeds and managed by a voluntary management committee made up of local older people, and representatives of local older people and other representatives of local organisations. They work with volunteers of all ages.

The aim of Caring Together in Little London is to offer non-bureaucratic and sympathetic services, advice and activities, to support older people to live healthy, happy and independent lives.

This has always been a three year appointment, and following the resignation of Councillor P Ewens in September 2008, arising from timing difficulties in her attending meetings of the voluntary management committee, a vacancy has existed on this body. Councillor Ewens appointment was until June 2010. Further enquiries have revealed that that the Constitution of the organisation states the following:-

"The affairs of the Association (Caring Together) shall be managed by a committee, which shall have the power to regulate its own meetings PROVIDED THAT it shall meet no less than 10 times each year, and one of the meetings shall be the Annual General Meeting.

c) Attendees: The following persons shall be entitled to attend all regular meetings of the committee, but shall not be entitled to vote thereat: -

i) "Any of the Ward Councillors, for the time being, representing University Ward which includes Woodhouse and Little London on Leeds City Council"

The reference to any of the Ward Councillors attending the Management Committee in a non-voting capacity therefore appears to be an 'open invitation, as opposed to a requirement.

The Chief Democratic Services Manager contacted the Manager of Caring Together in Woodhouse and Little London to ascertain her views about this situation. She made the following statement " *Our charity is really struggling at the moment. Our past success with Lottery funding has now dried up and we have just lost a full-time worker because of this. Similarly, the Charitable Trusts we have previously depended upon for grants, are seeing barely any return on their investments and so are unable to support us as they did in the past. Our staffing levels (1 full time and 2 part-time staff) are at 1997 levels but with demands from older local people 1,000% greater than 12 years ago.*

Finally, like every other Neighbourhood Scheme in Leeds, we are trying to prepare ourselves for Adult Social Care Procurement and, again, the support of a local Councillor would be welcome.

Despite great challenges, we continue to offer direct support, activities and service to 100s of local older people in the areas of Woodhouse and Little London. We do have

a very good voluntary Management Committee, but the support of a Council Representative would be very much appreciated”.

Members of the Area Committee are therefore requested to give further consideration to whether or not the Hyde Park and Woodhouse Members might wish to leave this as a loose arrangement, whereby one of them attempts to attend meetings (perhaps on a rota basis) and to request the Member Management Committee to remove this body from the list of Appointments to Outside Bodies.

3.0 List of Background Papers

3.1 Local Authority Appointments to Outside Bodies – Report of the Chief Democratic Services Officer– North West (Inner) Area Committee – 2nd July 2009.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Area Committee is asked to note the report and consider the following proposals:-

- recommend to the Member Management Committee that Bethel Elderly Day Centre Management Committee be removed from the list of Appointments to Outside Bodies
- recommend to the Member Management Committee that a reduction in representation from three to two, in relation to the Burley Lodge Centre – Committee of Management, be approved
- give further consideration to whether or not the Hyde Park and Woodhouse Members might wish to attend Management meetings (perhaps on a ad hoc basis) of the Caring Together in Woodhouse and Little London Management Committee and to recommend to the Member Management Committee that this body be removed from the list of Appointments to Outside Bodies