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## Report of The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

**Inner North West Leeds Area Committee**

**Date: 22nd April 2010**

**Subject: Little London Intensive Neighbourhood Management Project**

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<b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b>  Hyde Park & Woodhouse	<b>Specific Implications For:</b>  Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/> Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/> Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Council Function <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>

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### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report outlines the achievements of the Little London Intensive Neighbourhood Management (INM) project in 2009/10 and provides information on plans for the partnerships and delivery of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan in 2010/11.

### 2.0 Background

2.1 The Little London Intensive Neighbourhood Management (INM) project was established in 2006, funded through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and the Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF). A number of greenspace improvements were also funded in 2006 and 2007 through the Cleaner, Safer Greener capital fund. 2009/10 is the final year of SSCF and NRF funding for the project, and there will be no funding allocated to the scheme in 2010/11

2.2 During the last year, INM has supported five main projects:

- Streetscene Services: environmental pride team,
- Youth club for ages 9-12,
- BARCA harm reduction: weekly drug and alcohol outreach
- Health Activities Worker: delivering a range of community activities, and
- Youthpoint: sexual health and relationships advice, outreach and weekend provision

2.3 The 2009/10 budget included funding for the Crime and Grime and Health and Wellbeing multi-agency partnerships to support small projects that meet local priorities. These included ESOL classes, greenspace improvements, police overtime for drugs operations and 'Celebrate Little London', a programme of community activities to promote community cohesion.

### **3.0 Little London Neighbourhood Improvement Plan**

- 3.1 In July 2009, the Area Management Team hosted a priority setting event for service managers, community and voluntary sector representatives and Elected Members to identify key areas of work for the next two years. Over 30 people attended the consultation event which was introduced by Stephen Boyle, the Chief Regeneration Officer.
- 3.2 A number of priority areas were identified and developed into actions by the two multi-agency partnerships. The new Little London Neighbourhood Improvement Plan 2009-2011 was launched in October 2009 and includes measurable, challenging actions that will be overseen by the partnerships.
- 3.3 Since October, the partnerships have focused on delivering a number of the actions included in the plan, and key achievements include;

#### **3.3.1 Adult Learning**

The Health & Wellbeing partnership organised an adult learning consultation event to showcase community learning opportunities to local residents. English as a second language (ESOL), Information Technology and volunteering were identified as the most requested areas. The Health & Wellbeing partnership is currently funding an ESOL class with crèche facilities, and a new Health Trainer scheme is recruiting local residents to spread health improvement messages to their peers and within a community setting.

#### **3.3.2 Greenspace Improvements**

The remainder of this year's SSCF budget was allocated to improving four neglected greenspaces identified by local residents through the Neighbourhood Housing Office. Hyde Park Source have been commissioned to deliver the project, a social enterprise working with pupils from City of Leeds school who will be involved in creating the new community spaces. The area at the top of Carlton Gate will see the biggest change, replacing a square of broken flags and broken benches with a grassed area and new seating. This particular location is outside of the Little London PFI regeneration scheme, and the improvements will provide an immediate boost to the area.

#### **3.3.3 Weekend youth provision**

The consultation event recognised the wide variety of activities for young people being delivered in the area, from sports including free running to art and DJ workshops. A government funded 20 week pilot of outdoor arts and sports provision Friday Nights has been continued thanks to the commitment of the four youth service agencies involved. During the summer, Youthpoint successfully applied for funding to deliver Friday and

Saturday night provision, and for the first time in years, there are now weekend activities for local young people.

### 3.3.4 Community Cohesion

A study last year showed that almost 50% of residents in Little London felt there was not a strong sense of community in the area. CALLS have been commissioned through the Health and Wellbeing partnership to deliver a series of activities under the 'Celebrate Little London' banner. These have included a bumper newsletter showcasing all the different activities in the neighbourhood, a community feast following the primary school's lantern festival, and a spring ball preceded by a clothes swapping and customising event. Feedback from the activities has been very positive, and CALLS have had the opportunity to engage with a large number of residents who had not previously participated in their activities.

## **4.0 Partnership Working**

- 4.1 The Crime and Grime partnership is chaired by West North West Homes, and the Health and Wellbeing partnership is chaired by NHS Leeds. Both partnerships currently meet bi-monthly and are tasked with overseeing their sections of the neighbourhood improvement plan. In practice, this involves setting a theme for each meeting around a specific action, and inviting relevant officers and community and resident representatives to discuss how best they can work together to deliver the necessary improvements. The partnerships also offer an opportunity for partners to share good news stories, identify areas for joint working and publicising each other's services.
- 4.2 Where an issue requires more in-depth consideration, the partnerships will commission time limited working groups. These have proved particularly useful in the past and have covered drug dealing, mental health and adult learning.

## **5.0 Plans for 2010/11 and Team Neighbourhood**

- 5.1 In March 2010, additional funding for Little London from SSCF and NRF ceases. In practice this will lead to the loss of two services, the weekly drugs outreach and the dedicated Streetscene Pride Team. Changes to a wheeled bin refuse collection in part of the Little London has reduced the amount of fly tipping and littering. At its meeting in February, the Area Committee recommended that the new Environmental Action Team officer be allocated to Little London, and this will go some way to mitigate the impact of the loss of the dedicated environmental pride team.
- 5.2 For the past few months, the drugs outreach team have not sought new clients and have worked closely with users of the service to ensure they are signposted to alternative provision and support.
- 5.3 The other services and activities previously funded by the Little London INM project will continue, including; 9-12 youth club, Friday night youth provision and the Health Activities Worker (part time).
- 5.4 Leeds City Council is currently reviewing the way neighbourhood management is delivered in priority neighbourhoods across the city. One area of work being trialled in Gipton is 'Team Neighbourhood'. This is a way of engaging with front line staff to encourage them to see themselves as belonging to the neighbourhood in which they

work as well as the service area they are employed by. ‘Team Little London’ will run training and networking sessions for front line staff, and provide a directory of contacts to encourage closer working between services. Front line staff can become the eyes and ears of an area, and they will be asked to take a closer look at how services are delivered and be empowered to refer issues they come across that are outside of their own area of work.

- 5.5 The Team Neighbourhood approach is being developed through the Neighbourhood Services Team, and further information will be provided to service managers and Ward Members in due course.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Area Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

### **Background Papers**

Appendix 1 Little London Neighbourhood Improvement Plan