



REPORT OF THE Director of Neighbourhoods & Housing Department

MEETING: Outer South Area Committee

DATE : Monday 18th December 2006

SUBJECT : ReCreate Project - Groundwork

Electoral Wards Affected :

Ardsley and Robin Hood
Rothwell

Specific Implications For :

Ethnic Minorities
Women
Disabled People

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

In April 2006 the Area Committee agreed to commission Groundwork to deliver the ReCreate project in schools in Rothwell and Ardsley and Robin Hood Wards. Project funding was agreed at £11,000. This report seeks to update the Area Committee on the projects progress.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In April 2006 the Area Committee agreed to commission Groundwork to deliver the ReCreate project in schools in Rothwell and Ardsley and Robin Hood Wards. The project was allocated £11,000 funding
- 1.2 ReCreate represents an opportunity to expand and build upon the success of the New Creation project delivered in Morley. The ReCreate project benefits from a wide range of workshops that have been developed as part of the New Creation project.
- 1.3 ReCreate aims to protect and enhance the local environment by renewing local interest in recycling which will in time improve the quality of life for local residents making the area a place where people want to live. The project will also aim to reduce the amount of litter on the streets and vandalism, which will help to enhance confidence and pride in the local community.
- 1.4 The project also aims to encourage active participation in education through exploring and valuing young people's opinions and knowledge of their environment, whilst

creating opportunities for them to become actively involved in improving their local environment. In the 'Vision for Leeds' exercise, dissatisfaction with cleansing/ level of rubbish came out as a top priority for the residents of Leeds.

- 1.5 The project has been offered in principle to schools and community groups in the Ardsley, Robin Hood and Rothwell areas. Schools and community groups have been contacted and expressions of interest have to date been received from Oulton Primary School, Rothwell Primary School, Carlton Primary School, Rothwell C of E Primary School and Robin Hood Primary School.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 ReCreate will be delivered by the Groundwork Leeds Education team with support from community groups in the Outer South areas of Rothwell, Robin Hood and Ardsley over a twelve month period 31st Dec 2007. The project will develop and deliver projects focused upon engaging young people to care for the natural environment. Activities will be developed as a partnership with schools and local community groups to ensure that projects delivered meet the needs of the local community. Partnership working is the key to ensuring sustainability within the project, Groundwork Leeds aims to work alongside primary school staff and community volunteers to train them in delivery of the project on completion of work with groups. Projects proposed in the ReCreate project will link educational workshops and after school clubs to practical Action Days (a key part of the scheme). ReCreate will encourage each project partner to contribute, direct and participate in the project. ReCreate will be delivered through formal and informal curriculum education in schools as well as community days and recycling initiatives.
- 2.2 The ReCreate project will deliver a range of educational activities designed to engage and promote young people's role as stewards of their local and global environment. By educating local children around the topics of waste, litter, recycling and the importance of sustainable decision making whilst increasing their community pride, local children gain an awareness and responsibility for their surroundings. This in turn allows them to informally educate their parents, carers and peers. These actions will make a significant contribution to a cleaner and healthier Rothwell, Ardsley and Robin Hood and develop future citizens with a sense of individual, community and environmental responsibility.
- 2.3 Local children will be encouraged to think about the significance of their responsibilities as the future residents of that area. This will be achieved by involving children and young people in a participatory/active environmental education programme, aimed at promoting the benefits of recycling. In addition, children/young people will also be educated in a fun and interesting way about the positive benefits of not littering or vandalising in the area. The programme will be tailored to meet the needs of each school and will be developed to complement and enhance the National Curriculum and Key Skills.
- 2.4 Brief description of the main activities to be implemented:
- Young people will engage in actions to reduce waste, prevent litter, promote re-use, repair and re-cycling processes. The project workers will promote values to address the root causes of waste and litter and provide information to allow pupils to make sustainable choices.
 - Identifying and organising Action Days working alongside local community volunteers.

- After school clubs focused upon school grounds developing design and construction skills to implement changes in school grounds.
- Organising fun days/workshops/holiday clubs/events for children focused upon caring for the environment.
- Developing mini “bring” sites in schools to help children learn and promote recycling habits at an early stage. Schemes will be linked to work with charities that run reuse and recycling initiatives.
- Fostering “organic growth niches” on school premises encouraging the composting of organic waste and its application to the growth of food and flowers.

2.5 To create sustainability within the project, it would be beneficial to deliver the project over a 2 year period, with a funding application to be submitted for 2008/9. Working with schools over a period of time allows the project to develop a local focus and train staff and volunteers in the delivery of projects such as composting after Groundwork’s delivery of the project has ceased.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 The Area Committee is requested to note the contents of the report.