



Report of Acting West North West Area Manager

Report to Inner West Area Committee

Date: 22nd June 2010

Subject: Update on Priority Neighbourhood Areas

<p>Electoral Wards Affected:</p> <p>Armley Bramley & Stanningley</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)</p>	<p>Specific Implications For:</p> <p>Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Council Function <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function not available for Call in Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on progress, and achievements to date that have occurred in the Inner West's Priority Neighbourhood Areas (also known as Local Area Management Plans – LAMPS). This report also outlines the next steps for each of the partnerships.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress, and achievements to date that have occurred in the Inner West's Priority Neighbourhood Areas (also known as Local Area Management Plans – LAMPS). This report also outlines the next steps for each of the partnerships.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Based on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) there are three priority neighbourhoods in which Area management Team lead on the delivery and implementation of Local Area Management Plans through multi-agency partnership working.

- 2.2 In 2004 the Fairfield estate was ranked in the top 3% of deprived Super Output Areas (SOA) in England and Wales, it was rated as 417th out of 32,482 localities. (IMD). It currently ranks at 1249 (in the top 3.8% nationally) based on the 2007 IMD figures.
- 2.3 In the Wythers estate the upper part has stayed in the top 5% of most deprived estates nationally in the recent update of the IMD statistics. In 2004 the area was ranked 1305 out of 32,482 and in 2007 it rose slightly to 1328, the area is still ranked in the top 5% most deprived estates nationally.
- 2.4 More recently the Wythers estate has been the focus of a community cohesion pilot. This has resulted in the production of a Wythers Community Cohesion Report, along with a number of interventions, which have been embedded into the LAMP.
- 2.5 In the New Wortley estate the average position of the neighbourhood, based on the IMD in 2004 was 1063 out of 32,482 placing it in the bottom 5% of deprived neighbourhoods in the country. In 2007 it increased slightly to 1088. In 2009 local community groups, with the support of Yorkshire Planning Aid launched a community plan. The recommendations and local need identified in this report have helped shape the Local Area Management Plan in New Wortley.
- 2.6 In each of these estates the Area Management Team has established and lead on multi-agency partnerships. This has included the development of Local Area Management Plans and dependant on local priorities established structures that support the implementation and delivery of the plans.
- 2.7 In January 2010 workshops were held for each of the priority neighbourhoods to re-prioritise the LAMPs for 2010.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 Fairfields – The Safer Stronger Communities Fund for the community centre finished in March 2010, and this required a restructure at the community centre.
- 3.2 There were a number of issues that came out of the workshop and these have been embedded in the new LAMP action plan. These included the need for more and wider community engagement, more support for those unemployed, health initiatives/courses and community safety advice.
- 3.3 New Wortley – The community centre undertook a restructure in 2009, which resulted in the loss of the centre manager, as a result the Management Committee have been running the centre with the support of volunteers.
- 3.4 Issues from the workshop held in January included the need for more inter-generational work, tackling worklessness, a wider range of activities for young people, health literacy courses, improvement to the local environment and the need to promote the social enterprises at the community centre.
- 3.5 Wythers – The Wyther Community House, which is based in the top Wythers, is not adequately equipped and spaced to fulfill the needs of the community. There have been disrepair issues with the building, both internal and external, BARCA – Leeds who have a base there to deliver on Community Development work, and the Community Centre Consortium have been working closely with WNWHL to address these concerns.

- 3.6 A Community Cohesion pilot was carried out in the Wythers, by the Area Management Team, with the aim to better understand community cohesion at a neighbourhood level, and identify interventions, along with a set of indicators to evaluate community cohesion.
- 3.7 Some of the key issues, which came out of the Wythers Cohesion Report included significant deprivation with a high level of unemployment, low levels of educational attainment, significant anti-social behaviour and high levels of crime. Although the area is split into three areas, there was a stronger sense of connectivity within each of the areas. However, there is a need for more community engagement and a need to develop a community development strategy for the area.

3.6 **Next Steps for the Priority Neighbourhood Areas**

- 3.7 Fairfields – Partners are currently working to deliver the priorities listed in the action-plan for 2010. This has included developing a Community Engagement Strategy, which incorporates community cohesion, and the development of social enterprise opportunities. Other actions have included partners working together to deliver advice around financial support and services providing money management courses in conjunction with other on-going worklessness initiatives.
- 3.8 A new partnership has been formed between the community centre and Aramark, an American Catering Company who have adopted Fairfields Community Centre as part of their Social Responsibility role. On the 9th July Aramark will be coming to Fairfields Community Centre with approximately 50 volunteers to focus on improving the landscaping and appearance of the outside grounds. This will not be a one off event, they will continue to work with the community centre on a whole host of areas, which will include mentoring, facilitating career fairs or health and wellbeing events, a programme of support will be developed.
- 3.9 New Wortley – Elements of the Community Plan have been embedded into the action-plan for 2010. A health and well being subgroup has been established to take forward the health priorities, this group will specifically look at addressing health issues in New Wortley. Inter-generational work has taken place through initiatives between Armley Helping Hands and Swallow Hill School, along with actions to tackle worklessness and promote financial inclusion. Various courses have taken place to address health concerns in the area such as smoking, alcohol, and drugs misuse.
- 3.10 Wythers – Following the completion of the Community Cohesion pilot, and the incorporation of the interventions into the Wythers Action Plan, a subgroup has been established to take forward the community development/ community engagement elements of the interventions, this group has called itself the Team Wythers. An action plan is being developed, which focuses on increasing resident involvement and engaging with the hard to reach. A Family Fun Day is being organised in July, bringing residents together from each of the three areas and allowing those residents who have expressed an interest to get involved in planning and delivering the event.
- 3.11 BARCA Leeds are leading on the health and well-being issues raised and Environmental Action Team are leading on all environmental issues in the area.
- 3.12 Community Centres
- 3.13 The community centres in these areas are a valuable asset in engaging with residents in deprived communities. They offer many services and facilities, as well as being a

local focus from which partner agencies can deliver initiatives, such as worklessness and health.

- 3.14 As noted in this report each of the three community centres within our priority neighbourhoods have faced a number of challenges and changes recently and need more support and a change in focus/ restructure to enable these community centres to continue their good work through a more sustainable management model. A Community Centre Consortia group was established by Area Management Team to address the impending funding issues and deliver a more sustainable management model.
- 3.15 A business model was drawn up, which involves a lead organization, BARCA Leeds, taking responsibility for managing a Business Facility and Social Enterprise Manager. The Business Facility and Social Enterprise Manager will develop strategic business plans for each community centres, oversee the running of the three local community buildings (Fairfields, Wythers and New Wortley) and review and identify further funding towards the long-term sustainability of centres. The anticipated outcomes include, raised awareness of Social Enterprise opportunities, in order to create new sustainable community businesses, maximised income generation from room hire and usage of the facilities and services and promotion of the use of the centres to local businesses. As a result this will free up community centre staff and volunteers to engage with local people, develop and deliver programmes of work and enable capacity building and training opportunities for the both the management committees, staff and volunteers. The Business Facility and Social Enterprise Manager will work across the three community centres within the priority neighbourhoods, Fairfields, Wythers, and New Wortley.
- 3.16 The Inner West Area Committee provided £75,680.32 for funding towards a Business Facility and Social Enterprise Manager to cover the three community centres within the three priority neighbourhoods in Inner West, and a pot of funding to help address any issues or gaps in funding between the three community centres.
- 3.17 The Business Facilities and Social Enterprise Manager's post has been advertised, the closing date was midday 28th May and interviews will take place on the 10th June.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 The work that has been carried out in the Priority Neighbourhood areas has helped to meet the Council's objectives of narrowing the gap; improving community cohesion and regenerating deprived areas.

Member Consultation

- 4.2 Relevant Ward Members have been consulted on the works of the LAMPs and the Area Committee through regular updates.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1 There have been no legal implications arising out of the work in the Priority Neighbourhood Areas. Resource implications have revolved in the main around

Officer time, and in the case of the community centres financial support from the Area Committee's Wellbeing budget.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 There remains a great deal of work to be undertaken in these priority neighbourhoods to narrow the gap, improve community cohesion and regenerate these priority neighbourhoods. This is dependent on the continued identification and evaluation of local need, both historical and emerging, priority setting, harnessing resources both physically from continued partner input, and financially from mainstream funding, and both strong partnership working and resident involvement.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 The Inner West Area Committee are asked to note the progress and next steps of the three LAMP areas and make comments, and ask questions where necessary.