

Report of Area Leader - South East Leeds

Report to South Leeds (Inner) Area Committee

Date: Wednesday 21st September 2011

Subject: Priority Neighbourhood Worker - Cottingley

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Beeston & Holbeck
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. To outline the current issues in Cottingley and to highlight the opportunity to address some of the ongoing problems by considering a proposal for the Outer South Priority Neighbourhood Worker (PNW) to become a shared resource with Inner South (specifically working in Cottingley). The PNW would provide support and guidance to the Tenants & Residents Association Cottingley (TRAC), developing capacity of residents to organise and represent their area, including supporting residents with training and developing their role, in planning, organising and managing their own community initiatives and projects.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Inner South Area Committee are requested to:
 - a) note the contents of the report and make comment as appropriate.
 - b) Consider and agree to the proposal for the PNW to become a shared resource with Outer South Area Committee.
 - c) Agree revenue funding from the Beeston & Holbeck ward revenue allocation to support the proposal.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To present a proposal for the Outer South Priority Neighbourhood Worker to become a shared resource with Inner South Area Committee focusing on the Cottingley estate.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Cottingley has been highlighted as a priority area by Elected Members and in consultation with residents and partners. It is a large social housing estate, managed by Aire Valley Homes Leeds that is effectively an island due to being surrounded by railway lines and motorways. This puts pressure on residents due to the lack of access to services and suffers from recurring environmental issues
- 2.2 The design of the estate means that bin collections and recycling are difficult and this results in unofficial waste collection areas where residents dump their rubbish. These areas lead to unsightly parts of the estate and further difficulties with rubbish collection.
- 2.3 As part of the integrated locality working agenda, Cottingley has become the focus of a multi agency approach to address environmental issues facing the estate. A number of initiatives are planned to engage with the community.
 - 2.3.1 A recycling project is being considered which will focus on improving the service to both the estate as a whole and specifically the tower blocks. Local residents will be involved in the consultation process in the coming months.
 - 2.3.2 A day of action will take place on the 23rd September and bring together a range of services to tackle some of the problem areas on the estate. Local residents will be involved with the likes of Aire Valley Homes Leeds and West Yorkshire Police targeting specific sites.
- 2.4 The TRAC group has strong individual members but would benefit from a programme of support to enable it to increase its potential.
- 2.5 Inner South Area Committee has funded other initiatives on the estate such as the Make a Difference Project, managed by the Cottingley Health & Wellbeing Group. The project aims to involve residents in local activities and which could lead to more joint working on the back of the day of action.

3 Priority Neighbourhood Worker

- 3.1 In the Outer South area, estates similar to Cottingley have benefited from the Priority Neighbourhood Worker project. A key aspect of the PNW work has been to build and strengthen relationships between local people and those in positions of power so that everyone can take part in resolving issues that affect residents' lives. Volunteers can often lack confidence and skills in taking on community leadership roles, often finding situations daunting. Support from a PNW has been critical in creating opportunities for individuals to learn new skills and build community spirit which is essential to build strong and cohesive communities.

- 3.2 The Outer South PNW manages two different types of community development initiatives; Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs) and Supported Areas. NIP areas include; John O’Gaunts (Rothwell), Newlands & Denshaws (Morley), Oakwells & Fairfax’s (Drighlington) and Wood Lane (Rothwell). On completion of a NIP the tenants and residents associations are supported by the PNW through a Supported Area programme. This continues to deliver an appropriate level of support for governance and project delivery to resident groups.
- 3.3 By working closely with residents and partner agencies, small projects and initiatives can be identified to improve areas and also raise the aspirations and involvement of local people. Similar schemes in Cottingley would be developed in conjunction with partner agencies to maximise their impact.
- 3.4 This additional support from a PNW can play a pivotal role in developing the group and bring significant improvements to the estate. The community development approach to be used in Cottingley would be agreed in consultation with Ward Members.

4 Costs

- 4.1 This project is commissioned from Health for All and managed by the Area Management Team.
- 4.2 The proposal is for Outer South PNW to become a shared resource, two days a week in Inner South (Cottingley) and 3 days a week to continue managing work in Outer South. The costs to the Beeston & Holbeck Ward revenue allocation would be as follows:

PNW two days per week	Costs
1 st October 2011 – 31 st March 2012	£6,349.08
1 st April 2012 – 31 st March 2013	£13,601.58

- 4.3 Proposed Inner South Work
In response to the integrated locality working agenda, Area Management has developed a number of projects to tackle various environmental issues. One of the areas targeted for a multi agency approach is Cottingley. Whilst this substantial project is environmentally focussed, the success and benefits of this work will be stronger and more sustainable if the local residents are engaged. Following an inaugural meeting in July, an action plan has been developed for this project. A day of action for 23rd September has been agreed and a planning meeting for this has already taken place.

It is proposed that the PNW would support the Cottingley Tenants and Residents Association (TRAC), to develop their capacity to support not only the short term environmental work, but in the longer term, develops a role in improving their community. The outer south NIP model will be used as the basis for this capacity building work.

4.4 Benefits

The proposal to extend the PNW project into Inner South Leeds builds on the success of the project to date and the recent introduction of the integrated locality working model, piloted in the South East. It would introduce the successful Outer South approach in a challenging area while providing much needed community development support to the residents of Cottingley.

Health for All is currently running a short term 'Springboard to Independence' Project which will hopefully lead to the formation of a community groups network offering assistance with information and funding but even that will be limited and will depend on community development workers encouraging representatives of groups to participate.

The Chief Executive of Health for All has commented that; "at a recent Investment Partnership South Leeds meeting, a representative of a local community group in Leeds 11 stated that they felt they were not kept informed of developments, opportunities and potential sources of support. The needs of Cottingley residents include; support to develop a strong, well governed group with good attendance and participation from residents, develop confidence and skills to engage with local service providers and to receive and take up funding opportunities. No other organisation in the area is funded to carry out this vital capacity building work".

The PNW project has adopted a genuine community development approach, with significant success, supporting groups in the outer south to take actions to improve their local communities and linking local community leaders, along with Councillors, and groups to local statutory services. This approach offers a strong and positive opportunity to support a priority community in Inner South Leeds.

4.5 Personal Development Opportunity

Extending the project into an Inner South community would provide the Priority Neighbourhood Worker with an opportunity to experience different challenges that would support their personal and professional development.

5 Corporate Considerations

5.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.1.1 Local Ward Councillors have been involved in discussions about this project and see the benefits to its roll out in to Cottingley.
- 5.1.2 Local residents have not been involved in this strategic discussion to date. If approved they will be a main stakeholder in the delivery of the project.

5.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 5.2.1 This project focuses on the cohesion and integration of the community in Cottingley. Equality and diversity considerations will be taken into account in each of the individual projects highlighted through the scheme.

5.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

5.3.1 The work outlined in this report contributes to targets and priorities set out in the following council policies:

- Vision for Leeds
- Children and Young People Plan
- Health and Well being City Priority Plan
- Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
- Regeneration Priority Plan.

5.4 Resources and Value for Money

5.4.1 Funding is being requested from the Inner South Well being fund as outlined above.

5.4.2 The proposal to have a formal link with the Area Committee aims will contribute to achieving value for money

5.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

5.5.1 There are no direct implications for the above as a result of this report.

5.6 Risk Management

5.6.1 This report provides an overview of the potential of employing a PNW in the Cottingley estate. Risk reduction and management will be taken in to account if this proposal is approved.

6 Conclusions

6.1 The benefits and opportunities for the Cottingley estate with the appointment of a PNW are clear. The details of what exactly can be achieved on the estate will be dependant on discussions with local residents and Ward Councillors.
Recommendations

6.1 Members of the Inner South Area Committee are requested to:

- a) note the contents of the report and make comment as appropriate.
- b) Consider and agree to the proposal for the PNW to become a shared resource with Outer South Area Committee.
- c) Agree revenue funding from the Beeston & Holbeck Ward revenue allocation to support the proposal.

7 Background documents

7.1 Outer South Area Committee Priority Neighbourhood Worker report, 5th September 2011