

6<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**COMMUNITY ACTION IN WASHINGTON – PROGRESS REVIEW**

**Progress Report on 2011/12 Workplan**

**1 Why has it come to Committee?**

- 1.1 The report provides an update of progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) Work Plan (**Annex 1**).

**2 Background**

- 2.1 The purpose of the work plan is to clearly identify the key priorities for Area Committee to discuss, deliver actions and monitor throughout the year, with the overall outcome to improve the quality of life for residents within the Washington area.
- 2.2 This report presents an update with regard to the key priorities for 2011/12 and other priorities carried forward from 2010/11.

**3 Helping local people access employment opportunities**

**3.1 Employment Task and Finish Group**

- 3.1.1 The Employment Task and Finish Group meets monthly to discuss future activity and receive an update with regard to progress of the Youth Opportunities Project. The Group is well attended by a number of partners.
  - 3.1.2 The Employment Task and Finish Group received proposals for a second Business Breakfast event at the last meeting, held 6<sup>th</sup> March. It was agreed that the event would be marketed to a large number of local employers, to schools, and to small and medium sized businesses. The event would focus on publicising services and activities to businesses that need assistance to take on apprentices or work placements. It would also consider what other support local employers need to provide more opportunities for young people. The Business Breakfast event is proposed to take place 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012.
  - 3.1.3 In addition to further events with employers, the group also proposes further work with young people to consider what's working, lessons learned and best practice from the Youth Opportunities Project. A targeted event for young people is proposed Spring/Summer 2012.
  - 3.1.4 A verbal update will be provided at the meeting, following confirmation of additional activity at the Task Group meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012.
- 3.2 Youth Opportunities (NEET Support & Co-ordination)**
- S.N.C.B.C and Riverside Training attend the Employment Task and Finish Group and Area Committee to provide regular updates with regard to the project. A number of work stream are now underway.
- 3.2.1 Developing links in the local area: The Young Persons Key Worker (YPKW) continues to develop links within the local area. This includes schools, voluntary community sector organisations, local businesses and the BIC as well as attending the Area Voluntary

Sector Network. The YPKW has attended the National Apprenticeship week event at Washington Job Centre and networked with other agencies with a view to being involved in a possible network forum for local employers. The YPKW continues to work very closely with Riverside/ Itec training providers and attends Riverside training fortnightly to continue to offer additional support to young people referred onto the Foundation Learning programme as part of the menu of support offered to young people registered on the Youth Opportunities project. Links have also been made with Biddick School Sports College to work with targeted current year 11's who are identified at risk of being NEET from May /June 2012. This is in addition to the work already being implemented with Oxclose Community School.

- 3.2.2 Employer Engagement: The YPKW continues to work with local employers and has recently been in discussions with a local business currently offering an employment opportunity for young people 16-18. Further discussions are taking place with other local businesses considering taking on apprentices in the near future. The project continues to work with businesses to look at whether they would take young people on placements to gain work experience and potentially offer references for those young people again to support them into securing employment opportunities.

Links are also being made with services that have recently received funding to help young people into employment. Learning Curve can offer (at no cost to the Youth Opportunities project) training to young people in a selection of occupational areas including administration, welding, retail, customer services. Learning Curve have agreements in place with organisations such as Caterpillar, Morrisons and the Arcadia group and young people are invited to attend employment training programmes to participate in 102 guided learning hours. As an example, for training units in welding units covered include servicing mechanical equipment, welding, assembling components, problem solving, and working in a team. At the end of the training, young people will be guaranteed a job interview with an employer from their chosen occupational area with the possibility of securing actual employment. This is not compulsory but it is an additional opportunity for the young people to not only be skilled up but they will they will also receive an NCFE qualification, have the opportunity to experience a real interview and potentially be recruited by local employers.

- 3.2.3 Delivering the Programme: The first young person's focus group has taken place which identified a selection of 'support' that young people have identified they would benefit from. This includes basic skills level 1 and level 2, the 'learn to drive' program, a Job Club to help with employability skills, CV workshops, interview techniques, mock interviews and invited guest speakers.

A meeting with the BIC has taken place to look at the possibility of delivering a programme of activity for young people who may be interested in pursuing self employment opportunities. This includes the possibility of setting up an enterprise club which would run from one of the Job Linkage offices that the Youth Opportunities Project currently delivers from.

The project is performing well and is achieving over and above the anticipated targets. 24 young people to date are registered onto the project in the first quarter, 2 have moved into paid employment and support will continue for those young people up to 12 weeks of commencing employment to assist sustainability and retention. 1 young person has been successfully appointed onto an apprenticeship and 3 are waiting to start a work placement at BIC with a view to one of those young people securing an

apprenticeship at the end of the placement. 9 young people are currently on Foundation Learning at Riverside, 2 have started on a personal and social development programme, 1 has expressed interest in self employment opportunities, and 1, although registered on the programme is waiting to start a full time vocational course at Newcastle College. 5 young people are actively seeking employment / apprenticeship opportunities in a variety of occupational areas with 4 of these young people interested in volunteering and all interested in work experience / placement opportunities.

### **3.3 Education and Heritage Project Update**

3.3.1 The Education Heritage Project engages young people at both school age and those categorised as NEET to access heritage volunteering opportunities and training opportunities.

3.3.2 A number of initiatives are underway and supported by the Education and Heritage Officer:

- Ongoing work with volunteers from Multipurpose Centre, Crowther, Washington carrying out decoration to various areas of the centre. A local roofing contractor has also completed essential repairs to the Centre.
- Negotiations with local companies to carry out repairs and renovation at the North East Aircraft Museum and work with various organisations to site Blackpool tram at the museum.
- Working with three of the CAs in the area (Springwell, Donwell and Columbia) assisting with refurbishment works and with Columbia CA to arrange a Heritage Open Day in partnership with the Education and Heritage Project.
- Facilitating volunteering at Bowes Railway and the Washington Usworth Miner's Memorial Wheel Project.
- Work with Fatfield Primary School and St. George's Church with regard to the siting and repair works of the Fatfield War Memorial.
- Negotiations to carry out essential work to the Usworth Miner's Monument as well as working with the Usworth Banner Group to raise funding.
- Supporting the Heritage Youth Group (8–11 year olds) at the Washington Millennium Centre. This group is developing intergenerational work across the area.

### **3.4 Washington Managed Workspace Project**

3.4.1 Three companies - Hellens, Barmston Developments and Anthony Watson submitted tenders for the Washington Managed Workspace Project. Following the appraisal process the tender has been awarded to Barmston Developments. The Barmston Development Site is on Turbine Business Park and borders Both Turbine and Nissan Way. Site plans and computer generated images of the building will be available to view at the Committee Meeting.

3.4.2 The development will provide 56,000 sq ft of managed business space comprising 25 Offices and 9 workshops at a cost of £6m. £3m of the funding will come from the former Working Neighbourhoods Fund and the remainder will be sought from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

3.4.3 The business case for ERDF has been submitted to the department for Communities and Local Government. Currently the City is in the first stages of the technical appraisal of the proposals. This can be a lengthy process and it is anticipated approval will be received July 2012.

- 3.4.4 Council Officers have begun the process of working with Barmston Developments to ensure once approval is granted for the funding the construction can quickly move forward. The target date is August 2012. The anticipated opening of the new managed workspace will be autumn 2013.

For any further information please contact Berni Whitaker, Enterprise Manager on 0191 305 1205 [berni.whitaker@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:berni.whitaker@sunderland.gov.uk)

## **4 Activities for young people and addressing youth disorder**

### **4.1 Holiday Activities Programme 13 – 19 year olds**

- 4.1.1 The Holiday Activities Programme being delivered to young people in Washington include:

- Sunderland City Council's Youth Development Group's Mobile Youth Service delivered two additional sessions, one at Vigo Lane and another taking young people Quad biking. The sessions attracted ten and nine young people respectively. On the Tuesday at Vigo Lane youth workers engaged young people in board games and arts and crafts using the bus as a base. Staff engaged with young people in discussions using the board game around "britishness" and being a part of their local community.
- Washington Arts Centre delivered a host of different activities every day over the half term. Activities included photography, and the arts as well as music workshops and engaged 81 young people.
- Oxclose and District Young Peoples Project once again have engaged a number of young people in a range of activities. Oxclose had young people mountain bike riding, and a day at 'Wet and Wild'. Young people also visited the Sunderland Stadium of Light and a Pandemic Music Event was very successful with 177 young people attending. Oxclose District Young People Project engaged 306 young people.
- The mobile youth service is delivering two sessions in Rickleton.

### **4.2 Activities for 8 – 12 year olds**

- 4.2.1 In relation to the work with 8 – 12 year olds all three projects are underway, delivering in three of the five ward areas. They are:

- Washington North: Washington Millennium Centre Heritage Youth Forum is now meeting and is supported by Beamish and Tweblo. The forum has been promoted to all primary schools in the area.
- Washington East: Washington Arts Centre is delivering Pick n Mix Arts Activities sessions which are well attended.
- Washington West: About 40 young people are attending sessions in Springwell Village.

- 4.2.2 It is anticipated that projects will be developed in the other 2 wards by the Spring of 2012. Children's Services are currently engaging with service providers to identify delivery partners.

### **4.3 Operation Choice**

- 4.3.1 Since the last meeting some progress has been made with regard to utilising the Youth Bus in Primary Schools across Washington. Officers will present a verbal report to Area Committee informing Members of activity and progress.

#### **4.4 XL Youth Villages**

- 4.4.1 Successful delivery of the XL villages at the Galleries site was reported to the Task and Finish Group. Large numbers of young people are attending. 'New' young people are being signposted to other provision across the area.
- 4.4.2 Building on the success of the Winter XL model, which has seen a marked increase in the number of young people accessing the service and an overall reduction of 33% in reported youth ASB, Children's Services are holding a meeting of the XL Strategic Group to develop and agree the model of delivery for the new financial year. They would like to extend an invite to all locality Task and Finish Group Chairs to join Cllr Smith on this group together with stake holders from across the City. The model of delivery would then be discussed at each locality Task group and decisions made with regards to the location of provision using the information collected from previous villages and data from the multi agency Intelligence and tasking Group. It is hoped that these recommendation would then be taken to a future Area Committee meeting.

#### **4.5 Young People's Task and Finish Group**

- 4.5.1 The Young People's Task and Finish Group meets bi-monthly to discuss future activity and receive an update with regard to progress, from partners delivering services for young people. The Group is well attended by a number of partners.
- 4.5.2 At the last Task and Finish Group, held Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, the group received a number of very positive reports with regard to delivering services for young people collaboratively, impacting on anti social behaviour and expanding networking and signposting to appropriate services. One of the most successful outcomes has been the partnership approach which has resulted in those co-ordinated services for young people right across the area. Concerns were raised that many of the projects which are having a positive impact on anti-social behaviour and are engaging record numbers of young people, are currently funded through support from the Area Committee and other 'short term' funding streams. In many cases that funding will cease at the end of this financial year.
- 4.5.3 Partner organisations are currently pursuing other sustainable funding opportunities but it is likely a gap in provision will arise whilst those opportunities are proactively explored and appropriate applications for support are progressed. Projects and initiatives likely to be affected include Remix at the Washington Arts Centre, the new work recently implemented with the 8 – 12 year olds and holiday activities for 13 – 19 year olds.
- 4.5.4 The Task Group requests Members to consider inviting those partners to submit a full application for SIB from the 2012/13 budget (subject to budget approval) to meet the short term gap and to support those partner organisations to work collaboratively to bid for sustainable funding.

#### **5 Tackling Health Inequalities:**

- 5.1 There are a total of 184 Health Champions across the city, 29 of which are based in, or are residents of, Washington. A further 656 people across the City are undergoing training, 127 of which are based in, or are residents of, Washington, which includes 1 councillor in Washington and 60 people from the voluntary sector.
- 5.2 The next health champion celebration event is planned for 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012. People who have completed all five modules will be invited to come and receive their certificate from

the Mayor of Sunderland. A690 have been commissioned to make a short film on health champions will be premiered at the celebration event.

5.3 Due to the success in Washington, the health champion programme was opened up to across the City of Sunderland to all community and voluntary groups. From 1<sup>st</sup> March a project will be established to support the City wide roll out focusing on promoting and engaging with voluntary and community groups throughout the City.

5.4 Sunderland TPCT is current going through a new quote process for training providers for 2012 -13. The health champion steering group agreed to add two more courses in 2012 -13 health champion programme for the people who have undertaken all five modules; one course around early signs and symptoms of cancer and the other around diet, nutrition and malnutrition. Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust has commissioned Leeds Metropolitan University to carry out a full evaluation of the project, which will be completed by the end of February.

## **6 Attractive Neighbourhood**

6.1 Service requests, complaints and resident surveys and satisfaction levels indicate that an attractive and cared for environment is still a priority for the area. Responsive Local Services continue to work with and report to Area Committee through the Area Response Manager. A verbal report will be presented at the meeting highlighting key successes, issues and activity.

## **7. Equality, Community Inclusion and Engagement**

7.1 To develop the capacity and influence of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) across the City, Area Networks have been established and delegates represent each Area Network at Area Committee taking forward issues on behalf of the whole VCS in the area and reporting back, providing a two-way flow of communication between SCN and the Area Committee. Washington Area Network delegates will present a verbal report to each Area Committee meeting informing Members of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

### **7.2 Washington Trust**

7.2.1 The Washington Area Network met in January and discussed proposals to establish a Washington Trust to support the voluntary sector to identify the resources they need to deliver activities, advice and services to the residents of Washington.

7.2.2 The objects of the Trust are “to support the VCS and partner organisations in Washington and adjacent areas to work collaboratively to develop and enhance Community Cohesion, training and employment support, health and wellbeing of individuals and communities and developing community resilience. “

7.2.3 It is proposed the Trust will

- Work with its partners to bid for funding to enable the Trust and its partners to deliver services that the residents of Washington have said they want.
- Work with its partners to improve training and employment opportunities for the people of Washington especially the young people.
- Support organisations that offer Information, Advice & Guidance to help residents improve their lives.
- Work with partners to enhance community cohesion in Washington and will seek to strengthen communities.

- Work with Statutory partners to engage residents in decision making and strengthen community resilience.
- Aspire through work with partners to develop the Pride the people of Washington have in their local community and to celebrate the history of the villages that make up the new town of Washington.
- Support its partners to work with the most vulnerable in society to ensure equality of opportunity to all.
- Promote the voluntary and community sector in Washington and all the good work they do and it will seek to ease the burden on small VCS groups to support them with funding applications so that they can develop the activities and services they offer.
- Encourage the sector to value the work of volunteers and support volunteering activities in Washington.

7.2.4 A number of the voluntary and community sector organisations partners are already committed to supporting the formation of the Trust and have agreed that the Trust will be well placed to lead on collaborative working so that the organisations can focus on their core activities of servicing the needs of the residents.

7.2.5 A 'shadow' board is being appointed, a constitution and appropriate documents drawn up, a dedicated web site is being developed, and funding applications are being submitted. Members are requested to note a SIB application under **Item 3a** for support for set up costs of the Trust.

7.2.6 Members are also requested to consider the information as presented above and agree to invite the Washington Trust to submit a full application for SIB funding from the 2012/13 budget (subject to budget approval). The funding would be ring fenced to support the VCS and partner organisations in Washington and adjacent areas, to work collaboratively to bid for funding to enable the Trust and its partners to deliver services for the benefit of residents of Washington. All applications will be subject to receipt of a detailed SIB application, assessment and consultation.

**Recommendations:** Members are requested

- To note the report, progress updates and actions as detailed in this report and in the Work plan attached as **Annex 1**
- To agree further updates from Youth Opportunities
- To agree to receive further information and influence the XL Village model of delivery for 2012/13 in Washington.
- To note the report from the Young People's Task and Finish Group and to consider inviting partners delivering services for young people to submit a full application for SIB from the 2012/13 budget (subject to budget approval) to meet the short term gap and to support those partner organisations to work collaboratively to bid for sustainable funding.
- To note the report with regard to the proposed Washington Trust as detailed above and invite the Washington Trust to submit a detailed SIB funding application for funding from the 2012/13 budget (subject to budget approval).

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