

2nd February 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 Further Business Breakfast Events are proposed in early Spring 2012 and will look at how to support employers re apprenticeships and placement schemes, look at what opportunities are available, what can be done to help businesses, what other support might be needed, and how to provide and co-ordinate more opportunities for young people. There will also be a focus on publicising services and activities to businesses that need that assistance to take on apprentices or work placements. The proposed events need to take into consideration the current work being carried out by a Cabinet Working Group which is looking at how to stimulate apprenticeships across the City.
 - 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.
 - 3.1.4 The group has received briefings re the Harraton Centre and the current position of employability services in Washington. The Task Group proposes to hold the next group meeting at the Harraton Centre.
 - 3.1.5 The Employment Task and Finish Group is completing the SIB application form for assessment, as approved at the last Area Committee meeting in December 2011.
- 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) has been developing links with a number of organisations which operate across and within the Washington locality, providing a brief overview of the project. Organisations include Job Linkage, Connexions (YPKW recently attended the NEET Panel Meeting at Connexions and will continue to attend the NEET Panel meetings as part of the Washington Youth Opportunities program), Sure Start Children's Centre Rainbow and Wessington which included meeting with the Community Involvement Worker/ Volunteer Co-Coordinator and Volunteers, Children's Centre Manager and the Child and Family Team. Following these meetings the Child and Family Team have already identified potential young people from the Washington locality who would benefit from the Youth Opportunities Project.

The YPKW has also developed links with Albany Bridge Centre (Young Women's Connect Group), Millennium Centre, Oxclose and District Young People's Project, Washington Mind, and Usworth Sixth Form College. Introductions have been made with colleagues from Princes Trust and Gentoo and with colleagues from CVS and Age UK to look at possible volunteering/ placement opportunities for some of our young people.

The YPKW is working very closely with Riverside/ Itec training providers and will be at Riverside/Itec on a weekly basis to work the young people from Washington's Youth Opportunities program, participating in the Foundation Learning Program and supporting Washington Youth Opportunity Apprentices as required.

Links with local schools are already in place with the YPKW working with Oxclose Community School to support current year 11s identified at risk of becoming NEET or not moving into EET when they leave secondary education. A further meeting has been arranged with Biddick School Sports College and YPKW will also be contacting Washington School and St Roberts School in the very near future.

- 3.2.2 Employer Engagement: The YPKW has met with local employers to introduce the project and to discuss the scope for businesses to create opportunities (employment/ training etc) for young people in the Washington locality. Following on from these discussions Riverside/Itec are now discussing possible engineering opportunities and apprenticeships with Charlton Engineering based in Crowther Industrial Estate Washington.

Washington Millennium Centre is working with the project to recruit a business administration apprentice. North-East Business and Innovation Centre hope to recruit an apprentice through the scheme with a view to filling a vacancy in the longer-term, when a member of staff retires. The YPKW has forwarded information onto Riverside/Itec about other employers from the Washington locality who may be interested in creating opportunities for Washington young people. S.N.C.B.C's Employer Engagement and Placement Officer will be working with the YPKW to identify work placements for Washington young people to gain employment experience as part of the programme.

- 3.2.3 Delivering the Programme: The YPKW commenced employment on the 28th November 2011 and has identified that to make the youth opportunities project accessible and for young people to feel safe and comfortable it was important to identify and recognise suitable venues where young people from across Washington would attend for one to one meetings, group work, job clubs etc. The YPKW is currently operating from 3 bases

across Washington which are Job Linkage Services (Galleries and Concord) Connexions Washington and the Washington Millennium Centre. Options to utilise Springwell Village Community Centre are also being discussed with the Centre.

The work with Oxclose Community School as detailed in paragraph 3.2.5 is underway. 11 young people are currently registered onto the project. One young person has moved into Foundation Learning at Riverside, eight young people are seeking employment or Apprenticeship opportunities with three of those young people also expressing an interest in volunteering. A meeting has been arranged to meet with the Children's Centre Volunteer Co-ordinator. One young person is looking for volunteering opportunities to help build confidence and to improve on literacy and numeracy and one has expressed an interest in a naval career. As part of the program, that young person will be supported to gain additional experience via work placements and volunteering. In addition, three young people have moved onto Foundation Learning provision at Riverside from ODYPP and will be registered onto the Washington Youth Opportunities program.

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. Events held recently include a team challenge day with fifteen volunteers from Gentoo who redecorated the main hall at Harraton Community Association. Bowes Railway organised seventeen volunteers from Deloitte and six from Oxclose Youth Project for site and rail sleeper works as well as two volunteers for installation of female toilets. Negotiations with the Aircraft Museum for cladding works, Columbia Community Association, Springwell Community Association and Fatfield War Memorial are ongoing. A memorial plaque for local chimney sweep, Christopher Drummond which was donated from a local engineering company was unveiled at the Christmas festival 2011. The Education Heritage Officer and apprentice, who is placed at the Millennium Centre are now looking to engage with schools to promote local heritage. The project is meeting all targets set.

3.4 Washington Managed Workspace Project

3.4.1 Legal processes are currently underway with regard to the award of contract. Further details will be presented to a future Area Committee meeting.

4 Activities for young people addressing youth anti social behaviour

4.1 Operation Choice

Since September 2011 Operation Choice has assisted in reducing youth related ASB by more than 20%, with a total of 768 incidents reported, and a reduction of 194 incidents. The working relationships between the police, the Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Team and the Youth Workers are developing to identify which teams are best suited to deal with specific ASB issues across Washington This work is looking to compliment other activities and operations to best utilise resources. The operation has also impacted upon non-youth related ASB with incidents dropping by 597 between April and September. It has focussed on the areas of Lambton, Oxclose, Fatfield, Concord and Albany and continues to bring about substantial reductions in youth related ASB with the year to date figures up to the end of December showing a reduction of 19%. This represents 258 less calls. All schools have now been contacted and sessions diared.

5 Tackling Health Inequalities: Health Champions

- 5.1 There are a total of 154 Health Champions across the city, 29 of which are based in, or are residents of, Washington. A further 603 people across the City are undergoing training, 122 of which are based in, or are residents of, Washington, which includes 1 councillor in Washington.
- 5.2 After a competitive process 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. It is proposed that committee receive a presentation and summary of findings at a future meeting.
- 5.3 After the success of the Health Champions celebration event last year, another event is planned for 13th March 2012, where people who have completed all five modules will be invited to come and receive their certificate from the Mayor of Sunderland. The Health Champions Niall's Mile was held in late November in the Stadium of Light with Niall Quinn. Around 40 Health Champions and their families supported the event, and the programme made the local press through the Sunderland Echo and North East Tonight on ITV.
- 5.4 Due to the success in Washington from January 2012 the programme will be open to all community and voluntary groups across the City of Sunderland. Sunderland TPCT will be starting a new quote process for training providers in late January and also looking at adding two more courses in 2012 to the 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.

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.
- 6.2 Area Committee has also maintained an influencing role with regard to roadways, highways and traffic management issues. That role is maintained with regular reports and updates to Area Committee together with the co-ordination of Members Requests for Service.
- 6.3 Local buses play a vital role in supporting the economic and social life of the region, getting 141 million passengers a year to work, education, the shops and other services Nexus has been asked by the Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority, with the support of the area's local councils, to look at possible new models for the delivery of bus services. Nexus is investigating the relative merits of a Quality Contracts Scheme, based on local franchising of bus services, or new Voluntary Partnership Agreements with operators, to see how they might bring improvements for passengers. These would represent a significant change to the current 'deregulated' bus market.
- 6.4 Consultation with regard to the Bus Strategy Review is currently underway and Members will have had the opportunity to attend awareness raising sessions in January 2012. A Stakeholder Engagement event was also held in Washington on January 25th at the Washington Library and further consultation with Members will be through a survey. Information from all these events will help inform any draft proposals for March 2012.

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.

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**
- Agree further updates from Youth Opportunities
- Agree a detailed progress report for the Washington Managed Work Space Project to be presented to a future Area Committee meeting.

Contact Officer: Karon Purvis, Washington Area Officer Tel: 0191 561 2449
Email: karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk