

2nd June 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Washington Area Committee: Work Plan for 2011/12

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 Committee agreed in March 2011 the next steps regarding the process to be used in shaping and informing the final work plan for Area Committee, against the provisional emerging priorities for the Washington area. This included:
 - Seeking views from local residents and the Community and Voluntary Sector, via the Washington VCS Area Network.
 - Using qualitative research available within the Council.
 - Finalising a draft work plan which was presented to elected members for comment and observation at the last Area Committee held March 2011.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 It provides a transparent framework for elected members, partners, and officers to work from, as well as acting as a focal point for local residents to find out what the Area Committee is undertaking to make a difference within their neighbourhood.
- 1.4 Key information for members to consider and agree is:
 - Key priorities
 - Actions
 - Lead Agents
 - Deadline Date/Forward Plan
 - Call for Projects (SIB 2011-12 budget)
 - Outcome measure
- 1.5 If adopted, the work plan will inform the majority of work for the Washington Area Committee for 2011 – 2012. It will form part of the standing agenda, along with progress updates being provided on Sunderland City Council's website after each Area Committee meeting. The Work Plan is made up of a number of work streams, each of which represents a key priority for Committee. These are:
 - To continue to help local people access employment opportunities. A need to focus on young people Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) and skills development and learning outcomes has been identified. Washington's 'Heritage Offer' to learning opportunities and employment/training opportunities will also be linked to this priority.
 - To look at activities to 'engage' young people and to broaden that into 'community inclusion' - linking young people and the broader community.
 - Anti Social Behaviour and youth disorder including activities for young people
 - Tackling health inequalities (Local GPs are proposing the formation of a CIC)
 - Speeding and dangerous traffic
 - Responsive Local Services (RLS)

1.6 The information and feedback received since March 2011, has been collated and the final plan is attached at **Annex 1**. This work plan will be updated by the Area Officer and presented to each Area Committee.

2. Key Priorities

2.1 Access to employment opportunities focusing on NEETs and links to learning, employment and training opportunities through Washington's Heritage Offer.

2.1.1 Building on Area Committee's key priority of helping local people access employment opportunities, it is proposed that the focus for 2011/12 is on NEETS. Job prospects, including lifelong learning, and apprenticeships for young people linked to culture, inclusion and heritage have also been identified by residents as a key priority. (Residents Survey 2010).

2.1.2 The workplan attached at **Annex 1** outlines the actions which the Washington Area Committee will focus on to support helping NEETs in Washington access employment, education and training opportunities.

2.1.3 It is proposed that a Task and Finish Group be established and membership agreed to develop and implement the actions that will support the achievement of this priority. This Task and Finish Group will also receive updates and progress reports with regards to activities carried over from the 2010/11 Workplan, i.e. Washington Workspace Project and the Employers Demand Survey.

2.2 Activities to 'engage' young people, addressing Anti Social Behaviour and youth disorder.

2.2.1 Residents have identified through numerous surveys that one of the top priorities for the Washington area is around teenagers hanging around the streets and the need for activities for young people to be improved. It has been acknowledged that the work carried out during 2010/11 has been very successful and assisted in the reduction of youth related anti social behaviour.

2.2.2 Area Committee has already identified a need to carry out proactive preventative work with the younger age group of 8 – 14 year olds as well as engaging all young people and supporting them.

2.2.3 Children's Services have also provided information on the current position on Children's Services funded Youth Activities in the Washington Area and are seeking proposals for the distribution of additional resources to enhance provision in the area during 2011/12. Youth activities across the City are based on a 3 Tier Youth Model (shown below).

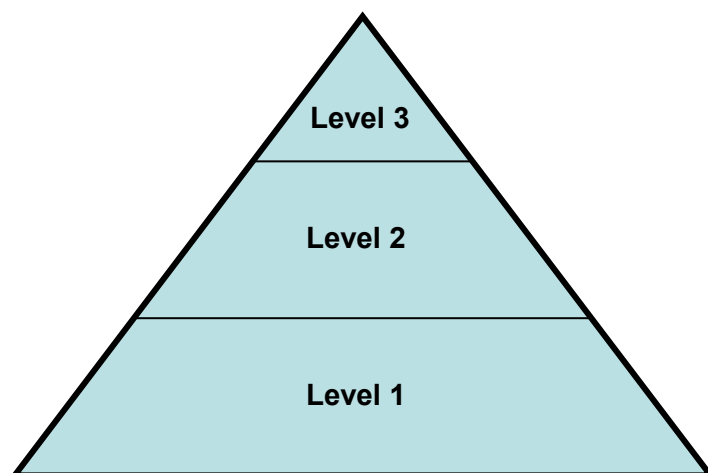


Table 1: Youth Tier Model

Level 1: Universal Services, accessible to the majority of children and young people.

Level 2: Targeted Services, preventative or intervention required.

Level 3: Specialist Services, vulnerable or at risk support required.

The core youth offer which delivers at least 3 weekly sessions per week in every ward, supplemented by XL Youth Village and mobile bus provision in each regeneration area, is universal provision and has been maintained at existing levels for 2011/12. Some of the additional activity provided in the area which was level 1 and 2 provision was funded by Positive Activities for Young People Grant (PAYP) and the Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF). The PAYP grants were specifically used to provide enhanced weekend activities and activities in school holidays, as well as activities targeted at young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Both of these grants ended on 31st March 2011.

In recognition of the priority given to youth activities, and to mitigate the impact of the ending of the specific grants as outlined above, Council agreed to the allocation of £30,000 for each regeneration area which was to be allocated to fund activities in consultation with the Area Committees. It was suggested that this might be enhanced by any allocation which the Area Committee might also make to fund youth activities in the area.

Examples of the activities which were funded by PAYP and YOF funding are detailed below:

- Activities across 13 weeks of school holidays (similar in range to Easter provision described at annex A)
- Sunday early evening music session (average participation of 38)
- Friday night drop-in session (average participation of 41)
- Saturday Mountain biking (average participation of 5)
- Junior session at Barmston Primary School (average participation of 19)
- Targeted work with NEET cohort

In response to the timing of the Easter Holidays and May half-term holidays, relative to funding decisions and Area Committee meetings, a decision was taken to provide a programme of holiday activities across the city which was funded from the £30,000 allocation. In Washington this was £2,000 in total to deliver a programme including activities in each ward and area wide for the two weeks. A similar programme has been considered for May half-term costing £1,000 in total.

In addition to the area allocation, a city-wide allocation of £15,000 was also made which is to support activities for BME communities. Separate consideration is being given to the use of this allocation specifically with Young Asian Voices (YAV) who have successfully delivered previous activities in partnership with other voluntary sector providers.

Service providers will need time to plan activities across the school summer holidays if it is agreed that a programme should be put in place, and it would be helpful for Committee to agree or otherwise that a funded programme of activities is a priority.

- 2.2.4 The workplan attached at **Annex 1** outlines the actions which the Washington Area Committee will focus on in order to build upon the success of the work completed to date and ensure that this success is not adversely affected by any reduction in funding in this area.
- 2.2.5 It is proposed that a Task and Finish Group be established and membership agreed, to develop and implement the actions to support the achievement of this priority.

2.3. Tackling Health Inequalities

- 2.3.1 Tackling Health Inequalities is a priority that has been carried forward from the 2010/11 Workplan.
- 2.3.2 Work continues through the Washington Health Champions project, which will continue to report to each Area Committee meeting.

2.4. Attractive Neighbourhood

- 2.4.1 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 will continue to report to Area Committee through the Area Response Manager.
- 2.4.2 Area Committee has also maintained an influencing role with regard to roadways, highways and traffic management issues. That role will be maintained with regular reports and updates to Area Committee together with the co-ordination of Members Requests for Service.
- 2.4.3 The workplan attached at **Annex 1** includes actions to maintain this issue as a priority for 2011/12.

3. Alignment of SIB Funding Against Priorities

- 3.1 The Strategic Initiatives Budget is funding aimed to add value to and accelerate improvement in delivering activity across the key strategic priorities identified in the work plan of the Washington Area Committee. To achieve this, the governance of SIB was refreshed (April 2009) to allow Committees to commission activity that would address the priorities as outlined in the area work plan.
- 3.2 In commissioning activity or calling for projects the Committee can devise a project brief which would allow the expected outcomes, budget and timescales to be defined by Committee. This would afford Committee greater opportunity in funding activity that would meet the agreed priorities within the workplan.

- 3.3 It is proposed that the Task and Finish Groups be allowed to propose allocated funding, which would be agreed by Committee allowing the commissioning of activity that would provide the outcomes required to successfully contribute to the priority.
- 3.4 Washington Area Committee will ensure a degree of flexibility is applied to commissioning the Strategic Initiatives Budget in order that additional activity can be delivered which will bring real benefits to Washington residents or will influence service improvements.

4. Recommendation

Members are requested to:

- Agree **Annex 1** as Area Committee's workplan for 2011/12.
- Agree the Call for Projects protocol to be used in the allocation of SIB funding during 2011/12.
- Agree and confirm membership of Task and Finish Groups to develop and deliver work streams and key priorities as detailed in the report.
- With reference to paragraph 2.2.3 above and in the workplan attached, consider previous activities delivered and described for young people, and agree if any of the activities should continue as a priority
- Consider other priorities for enhanced youth activity, either at a universal or targeted level which the Area Committee would request are progressed
- Note the use of £3,000 of the funding to provide activities during school holidays as set out in the report and in Annex 2
- Consider allocating a proportion of SIB 2011-12 budget, in line with Children Services Area funding of £30,000 to deliver positive activities for children and young people living in Washington
- Agree to receive a further report on the programme of activities to be delivered following Committee considerations as well as later report to evaluate the success of the programme
- Agree to receive regular updates and reports as detailed in the above report.

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Background Papers: Sunderland City Council Constitution, Section 10.2
Washington Local Area Plan 2010/11
Terms of Reference of LAP Task and Finish Group
Washington 2010/2011 Workplan

Annex 1: Washington Area Committee: Work Plan 2011-12
Annex 2: Holiday Provision for young people – Easter 2011