

27th September 2012

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

People Board Progress Report

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The report provides an update of progress against the current year's (2012/13) People Board Work Plan.

2 Background

2.1 At its meeting on 21st June 2012 Washington Area Committee agreed its Local Area Plan for 2012/13. In doing so Area Committee agreed how it can most effectively contribute to delivering Sunderland City Council's Corporate Outcome Framework (COF) at a local level and relevant to the Place and People themes.

2.2 Those Local Area Plan priorities associated with People were referred to the People Board to action on behalf of the Area Committee. The People Board have initiated action on those priorities and agreed target dates for delivery and feedback to the Area Committee for the year ahead. The People Board Work Plan and target delivery dates are attached as Annex 1.

2.3 This report provides Area Committee with a progress update on the People Board Work Plan during period June – September, including requests for decisions where necessary.

3 Early Intervention Locality Services

3.1 People Boards are ideally placed to strengthen their understanding of local circumstances and existing local provision and set out an overall 'framework' for future action on provision. This would inform service delivery or 'procurement' activity.

3.2 Children and young people issues are directly or indirectly reflected in the priorities of Area Committee. Bringing those services into the remit of the People Boards will improve the knowledge, information and understanding of the full extent of provision, including that of partners, which currently exists. It will also offer an opportunity for Members to have a greater understanding and influence as to how services are provided and how performance is evaluated.

3.3 Members have already been involved in informing the needs assessment for youth services and activities for young people, and within that context the People Board received a 'community profile' relating to services at the last meeting held September 17th. A further meeting on October 15th will consider Member's feedback on influencing the service specification for youth services and activity.

4 Area Priority - A Healthy Washington ensuring healthy outcomes and lifestyles for Washington

4.1 Applications for Healthy City Investment Funding have now been received and assessed. Recommendation for approval of a project which delivers a partnership approach to addressing men's cancer and raising awareness is presented to Area Committee under Item 4.

5. Area Priority - Education and Attainment: Supporting young people to access opportunities

5.1 The Washington Employment Task and Finish Group met 4th September and handed over the monitoring of three key initiatives to the People Board. The group has successfully developed a number of projects to meet Area Committee priorities since its inception. It was agreed the group no longer needs to meet and all monitoring and any further proposals would now be brought forward through the People Board.

5.2 The **Youth Opportunities Project** is on target and performing well, and up to the end of August 2012 there were 57 young people registered on the programme. On average 3 or 4 new NEET young people are engaging with the project every month. 14 young people are in apprenticeships, 9 are in employment across a variety of positions including production, manufacturing and retail, and 21 are accessing Foundation Learning provision. This results in 44 young people from Washington no longer NEET.

A range of training programmes are underway, both accredited and non-accredited. Accredited training includes Emergency First Aid at Work, Paediatric First Aid, Test the City Literacy and Test the City Numeracy, Food Hygiene, and Health and Safety. Non-accredited includes Confidence Building, Employability Skills and Learn to Drive.

The Key Worker continues to offer a range of support. This includes weekly or fortnightly reviews with each young person, information, advice and guidance as required, Job Clubs and Job Search, volunteer drop in sessions, supporting young people in attending interviews, and meeting with employers to discuss and develop work experience opportunities and raise awareness of the support available. Partnership working continues with Riverside Itec, Connexions, School's ESP Projects, and a range of VCS groups such as JAG, CVS, Surestart, Connect and Health Champions. Young People continue to be signposted onto additional services as required.

5.3 The **School Opportunities Project**, as detailed under Item 4 Annex 3, has now commenced. The recruitment of the School Opportunities Mentor is underway. Interviews are being held in September and the Project Steering Group will also be established before the end of September.

5.4 The Enterprise Grant for Young People initiative is also detailed under Item 4, Annex 2. It is anticipated 20 young people from Washington will be assisted to start in business. Further updates will be provided through the normal SIB monitoring mechanisms and reports will be presented to future People Boards.

5.5 Collaboration with the VCS to provide services to ensure resident's skills and knowledge are updated and work to determine how the VCS can help increase awareness of services and support available, is a key activity to help deliver this priority. Further work will be undertaken to develop a collaborative approach through the Area Community Voluntary Sector Network and the newly established Washington Trust, ensuring that the sector has the support it needs to fulfil this role.

6 Area Priority - Safe: Maintaining key partnerships for a safe and secure Washington

6.1 Positive for Young People Project (SIB) has now been invited to full application stage. It is anticipated the proposal will be considered at the January 2013 Area Committee

meeting. The project aims to take a collaborative approach with partners identifying and supporting young people to be part of the project. Young people will lead the project with support from youth workers to:

- Get positive images/stories about young people in Washington, out into the media
- To organise events such as 'State of the Area Debate for Young People'
- Organise 'Question-time type events
- Link with Sunderland City Council's Youth Parliament
- Influence the direction of youth work in the Washington area

Young people will play a full part in every aspect of the project including having responsibility for budgets, contacting and liaising with outside agencies and organisations, and booking venues for events to be held. This will result in young people accessing opportunities for both themselves and other young people in Washington, to take a fuller part in their communities and thus lead them to increase both their self confidence and self esteem. In taking part in the project young people will be seen to be attaining and acquiring skills and experiences that will be of use in future years.

7 Area Priority Improved access to information, advice and guidance

7.1 The recently established Washington Trust is currently looking at how it can encourage further collaboration and partnership working to help deliver information, advice and guidance, and support services to Washington residents. Discussions are underway to facilitate a 'Reaching communities' proposal to support this work.

7.2 Further updates will be presented to future Board meetings and Area Committee.

8 Recommendations: Members are requested to:

8.1 Note the report, and the People Board's timetable for activity for the year ahead as included in Annex 1

8.2 Agree to accept progress update reports based on the timetable outlined in Annex 1.

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