

REPORT TO WEST PEOPLE BOARD

WEST HOLIDAY HUNGER 2016/2017 – UPDATE AND UNDERSTANDING LESSONS LEARNT TO-DATE

14 NOVEMBER 2016

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 Update People board on the progress of the Area Committee funded Holiday Hunger Programme 2016/2017 as well as understand lessons learnt to-date to enable Committee to continue to support their most vulnerable communities, wherever possible.

2. Background

- 2.1 Area Committee agreed to fund a West Holiday Hunger Programme to deliver activities throughout the School holidays from July 2016 through to May 2017 inclusive at its meeting in June 2016. The projects delivered by the West VCS were developed via a Call for Projects, which were approved at the People Board in July 2016. The projects must deliver school holiday activities, which include lunch and healthy snacks, as well as education in relation to keeping the environment clean and tidy and the benefits of keeping fit and active.

- 2.2 £30,000 SIB funding was awarded to deliver the programme, which has enabled six projects (£5,000 each), to deliver 11 weeks' of holiday hunger activities, to be delivered across each of the six wards in the West, to cover the following holiday periods:

Summer – 5 weeks

Autumn – 1 week

Christmas – 1 week

February – 1 week

Easter - 2 weeks

May – 1 week

- 2.3 The projects, by ward are being delivered by the following providers:

Barnes – Youth Almighty

Pallion – Parker Trust

Sandhill – Grindon Young People's Project

Silksworth – Youth Almighty

St Anne's – Pennywell Youth Project

St Chad's – Youth Almighty

3. Lessons Learnt to-date

- 3.1 The Area Arrangements team met with the six organisations commissioned to deliver the West Holiday Hunger programme in September, to understand lessons learnt to-date, barriers faced by the organisations and partnerships created as a result of the programme. During the meeting they also encouraged continued partnership working across the six organisations and asked for the October school holiday programme to be shared with the ward councillors as soon as possible.
- 3.2 All of the providers explained that they had been incredibly busy during the summer holidays, with all sessions well attended. Each linked into wherever possible, activities that were going on in the area – to

maximise their budget – for example they took the young people to the Active Sunderland events taking place in Parks, and then brought them back to their premises for lunch.

- 3.3 The activities delivered across the six providers were wide-ranging and most importantly fun - an example of the activities, are noted below:

- Community clean-up/litter picks
- Gardening and plant pot painting
- Growing food
- Ready, steady, cook
- Artventurers
- Play sessions and sport games
- Drama
- Spanish lessons
- Trips and excursions across the city and region

- 3.4 All of the providers explained that Social Media was the best way to promote the sessions, stating that leaflet drops were not particularly successful. They also placed posters around the local area. Word-of-mouth and speaking to known vulnerable families also worked and the Community Helpers supported with this method wherever possible. During the Holiday Hunger activities, 41 of the parents/carers were signposted to the Community Helper for additional advice and support, particularly linked to reducing emotional and financial strains.

- 3.5 All of the providers co-ordinated their delivery, to ensure that they did not clash with similar activities to ensure maximum outcomes were achieved for the West. This partnership working will continue for the remainder of the programme.

4. Evidence of need

- 4.1 It was very clear that there was evidence of need for holiday hunger activities – very often children attended the sessions very hungry and had not received any breakfast.

- 4.2 The total number of young people attending the sessions was 827 with 2179 meals provided during the sessions.

- 4.3 Each provider shared case studies from their delivery activities and they were both heart-warming and heart-breaking. Friendships across communities were built and families enjoyed learning and having fun together. They especially enjoyed learning to cook meals together and valuing the outdoors and the facilities right on their doorstep. The stories of young children who had never travelled outside of Sunderland, witnessing the bridges across the Tyne for the very first time, never before tasting a pineapple and understanding that potatoes come out of the ground. The written word within this report would not serve justice and some of the providers will share their findings in more detail during the November People Board.

- 4.4 Due to the number of young people attending the sessions, £5000 per ward is not covering the full cost of the activities, and each of the providers have had to add funding to support delivery. Additional costs which the providers did not account for include:

- Providing breakfast / additional food
- Number of activities to deliver over the 5-week summer holiday period, including specialist workers to deliver the more 'creative' activities, which really engaged the children

- Additional equipment required to enable certain activities to be held, such as gardening, crafts, cooking meals etc.

5. Funding

- 5.1 The need for this programme could not have been anticipated and a further £5,000 SIB funding support (to the existing project leads), per project £30,000 in total), could be considered to allow additional equipment to be purchased as well as further meals to be provided during the remaining school holidays, up to and including May 2017..
- 5.2 Additional funding would enable extra equipment to be purchased (offering sustainability moving forward), to support the delivery of additional activities during the following holiday periods:
- Christmas 2016
 - February 2017
 - Easter 2017
 - May 2017
- 5.3 In addition, Christmas hampers would also be produced for the most vulnerable families in each ward.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 To consider the findings within the report and make a recommendation for December Area Committee.