

INNER EAST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 4TH DECEMBER, 2018

PRESENT: Councillor S Arif in the Chair

Councillors P Drinkwater, K Dye,
R Grahame, D Jenkins, A Khan,
K Maqsood and D Ragan

**33 Approximately 10 members of the public attending the meeting
Election of the Chair**

The clerk reported that Councillor A Hussain had sent his apologies and the Committee would need to elect a Chair for the meeting.

RESOLVED – Councillor S Arif was elected Chair of the meeting.

34 Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and brief introductions were made.

35 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal the inspection of documents.

36 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

The agenda contained no exempt information.

37 Late Items

There were no formal late items. However, Members were in receipt of supplementary information for item 13 – Finance Report, Appendix B (Minute 46 refers).

38 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

39 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Hussain and one of the local residents, Lynne Caulfield.

40 Open Forum

No matters were raised during the Open Forum.

41 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held 26th September 2018 be agreed as a correct record.

42 Matters Arising

Minute 26 Murton Close – It was reported that consultation was being undertaken with local residents, with a decision to be taken by Leeds Safer Cities in due course.

Minute 31 Fearnville Leisure Centre – Due to the absence of Lynne Caulfield who had submitted questions in a letter to the Committee, the Chair requested that the issues raised be addressed at the Community Committee scheduled for March 2019.

Members noted and agreed to a request for an update on Inclusive Growth to be brought to the Community Committee in the near future. This matter was previously agreed at the Community Committee held on Thursday, 7th September 2017.

43 Universal Credit Presentation

Prior to the item, the Chair read out the following statement on behalf of all Inner East Community Committee Councillors:

“At Leeds City Council we help people to navigate the existing benefits system. Vulnerable members of our community are struggling to access the support they need and deserve because of long and intimidating application forms and online processes and convoluted tribunal waiting times. Many people are having to fight protracted battles to receive benefits that they should never have been denied in the first place. The consequences of an ineffective welfare system can be devastating, and Universal Credit arrears destined to worsen the situation.

We are not complicit in a scheme which results in further adversity and punishment for vulnerable people.

We support all efforts to challenge and change a system that causes threats of domestic violence, multiple examples of sanctions and misery and deprivation over Xmas forcing yet more people to use Foodbanks – with all the echoes of “I Daniel Blake”.

A presentation and update on the implementation of Universal Credit was provided by the following;

- Simon Betts, Relationship Manager, Department for Work & Pensions
- Glynis Logan, Housing Manager, Gipton
- Nick Hart, Community Hub Manager
- Saleem Shafi, Operations Manager, Money Buddies

Simon Betts highlighted that Universal Credit will replace 6 existing benefits including:

- Income based Employment and Support Allowance
- Working Credits
- Income Support
- Child TAX Credits
- Income based job seekers allowance
- Housing benefit
- Payments will be one single transaction, paid monthly, to one individual per household.
- Universal Credit is based upon the amount of money an individual earns per month as opposed to how many hours worked.
- The process for making the claim online and the measures in place for assisting individuals in need of additional support.
- Alternative payment/repayment arrangements in place; advanced payments, managed payments.
- Universal Credit would allow claimants to work more than 16 hours a week

Members were advised to direct residents' to the referenced web-link, for further advice and information – www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk

In response to questions, the Committee was advised of the following points:

- Payments could be split if the DWP was made aware of a vulnerable family
- People will be assigned a caseworker
- Support was available through local hubs using DWP outreach facilities and staff visits
- Visits to all tenants every 12 months
- LCC Housing Services and DWP will be working in partnership
- Those in supported housing will continue to be paid by the local authority
- Claimants would not be sanctioned for making mistakes on applications
- Telephone service in place to assist with advice 9-5 weekdays

Glynis Logan provided the Board with local Universal Credit statistics, including the number of cases within the locality. She gave an overview of the support work to claimants provided by LCC Housing Services, their partnership work with the DWP and other services; and the sign-posting work to direct claimants requiring further assistance and advice.

Members commented that the statistics did not provide the full picture as they did not cover all 3 wards within the Inner East CC area and related only to claimants in social housing and did not include the private rented sector.

Nick Hart informed the Board of the support provided to claimants through the 35 Community Hubs across Leeds; which included providing on-line access and digital assistance; access to interpreters, sign-posting to further support

for personal budgeting services and advocacy support for making and maintaining a claim.

One Member requested that consideration be given to the provision of a pop-up Hub within the Burmantofts & Richmond Hill ward which did not currently have a Community Hub, subject to the availability of suitable facilities.

Saleem Shafi provided information on the work of Money Buddies which could provide legal debt advice and protection to claimants who may get into financial difficulties. An emergency service is offered for clients, particularly those suffering with mental health illnesses. It was reported that over the last 12 months, 2000 people had been supported and an additional service, Benefit Buddies had also been established.

The Chair thanked officers for their attendance, updates and partnership work, providing support together in the local area.

RESOLVED - To:

- A. Note the contents of the presentation
- B. Request that local statistics for Universal Credit in the Seacroft Ward, are provided to Local Ward Members.

44 Youth Work Review

The report of the Head of Commissioning, Children and Families set out the findings of the youth work review and the recommended option for future commissioning arrangements.

In attendance for this item were:

Cat Henderson – Commissioning Programme Manager
Jean Ellison – Youth Offer Lead

The following information was appended to the report:

- Inner East Outline youth work budget
- Inner East Community Committee Profile data

Consultation was carried out for the review with a number of services and partner agencies, including online and face to face consultation with over 500 young people.

Members were informed of the consultation process which had led to the recommended commissioning model. This would provide the following three wedge based contracts:

- Geographically Targeted Youth Service
- Transitional Youth Inclusion Service
- NEET Prevention Project

The table provided Members with a description of the future service area and the proposed budget for the service.

Members' attention was drawn to information on proposed provision for 9-12 year olds; to be provided by the third sector; with LCC Youth Service to focus on 12 -17 year olds. Members noted the demand for youth service in this particular age bracket.

Members were informed that more detailed information could be provided at ward Member briefings.

Members comments on the key issues highlighted included:

- The quality of the service delivered to combat anti-social behaviour
- Although there was some good provision, there was a gap in joined up service provision and specifically publicising events within the Community
- The population data contained in the report was not a true reflection for each ward.

One Member suggested that a partnership meeting with local Academies should be arranged to encourage provision and accommodate youth activities on an evening/weekend.

Inspector Towers, West Yorkshire Police, summarised some of the recent events and reiterated the importance of publicising events; suggesting work around newsletters and webpages (social media 30k followers) is followed up.

RESOLVED-

- A. To note the contents of the report and information provided.
- B. To request that at the point of formal consultation, the Youth Service liaise with the Communities Team to ensure local Ward Members provide feedback relevant to their wards.

45 Area Update Report - December 2018

The report of the Inner East Area Leader provided Members with an update on the recent successes, current challenges and on-going pieces of work within the area.

Preet Matharu, Localities Officer, provided the Committee with updates on community events and local projects that had taken place in the Inner East area since the last meeting.

RESOLVED – To:

- A. Note the contents of the report
- B. Approve the updated terms of reference for the Inner East Environmental Sub-group
- C. Note the changes to Christmas bin collections, as set out in Appendix 2
- D. Note the Public Health Locality Update as set out in Appendix 3

46 Finance Report - December 2018

The report of the Inner East Area Leader provided Members with an update on the 2018/19 wellbeing budget including details of any new projects for

consideration and to inform the Committee of decisions taken by delegated authority since the last Community Committee meeting.

Members were in receipt of an amended version of Appendix B, Youth Activity Fund, which amended the technical formatting issues.

RESOLVED - To:

- A. Note the Wellbeing spend to date and current balances for the 2018/19 financial year (Appendix 1).
- B. Note the Youth Activity Fund to date and current balances for the 2018/19 financial year (Appendix 2).
- C. Note new Wellbeing application that have been received since the date of the last community committee meeting.
- D. Note the decisions taken on funding applications by delegated authority, in line with the agreed minimum 'conditions'.

47 Community Comment

The Chair noted the opportunity for members of the public to give feedback and/or queries on the reports presented during the formal part of the Community Committee meeting, the intention being that the written response would be provided within 14 days. No comments were raised.

48 Date and Time of next meeting

RESOLVED – To note the date and time of the next meeting as Wednesday 20th March 2019.