

REPORT TO: Corporate Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 2 November 2010
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Adults and Community
SUBJECT: Locality Working
WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members of the Board on progress implementing new approaches to locality working.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) Members of the PPB comment on the progress to date of locality working.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Executive Board agreed an approach to locality working on the 8th April 2010. Locality working is an approach to how the council works with our partners in responding to local concerns, deliver services and key objectives within localities. The approach builds on the area forum mechanism to engage with our communities and the voluntary sector.
- 3.2 How this impacts on the area forum mechanism in pre agenda meetings will be broadened to include representatives of key partners within that local area forum. There is a core list of partners that will be appropriate across all area forums however, there may be other agencies that it would be appropriate for area forums to extend an invite to. For example, if there was a particular issue around drugs a representative from the drug action team might be appropriate. Partners can share information on their key areas of activity across the patches and we will seek opportunities to maximise funding and resources to compliment the area forums activity.
- 3.3 Community Development Officers (CDO) will provide support to community organisations within the local area forum area and promote their involvement at public meetings. The CDO's will attend pre-agenda, project and public meetings. At the public meetings the CDO can feedback activity in the local area, which groups they are working with, the activity, funding levered in, partners involved, etc. This will contribute to the broader theme of locality working.

3.4 The format of the public meetings should be given some thought at pre-agenda. It was recommended in the Executive Board report that one meeting a year would be a daytime meeting and rotation of venues be considered.

3.5 The arrangements across area forums differ and we are likely to continue to have some variances as the forums respond to local circumstances.

3.6 Progress has been made in a number of area forums.

3.6.1 **Area 1 – Broadheath, Ditton, Hale & Hough Green**

- Lead Officer Ian Leivesley, CDO Clare Dinsdale
- Continue to rotate venue & Chair
- Community Development Activity in Quarter One:-
 - Supporting 5 community groups
 - 26 Volunteers involved in community activity
 - 12 community led initiatives and activity being supported
 - 124 people benefitting from activity
 - £ 1,000 funding levered from internal funding sources as a result of Community Development Support
 - £2,015 funding levered from external funding sources as a result of community development support

3.6.2 **Area 2 – Appleton, Kingsway & Riverside**

- Lead Officer Gary Collins, CDO Adele Clarke
- Locality working discussed and agreed to hold January meeting (25th January 2011) during the day with a themed event around employment & welfare. The format will be a workshop and information event with appropriate council departments and agencies present. The public meeting will also take place. There will be targeted invites as well as generic publicity. Planning meetings have taken place and the Fire Service, Citizens Advice Bureau, Halton People into Jobs, HBC Welfare Rights, Job Centre Plus, Age Uk, PCT, New Shoots and Community Safety will all be in attendance. Country Garden will provide refreshments and showcase their training and employment initiatives for adults with learning disabilities.
- Cllr Eddie Jones will remain as Chair and the venue will be the Stadium.
- Community Development Activity in Quarter One:-
 - Supporting 19 community groups
 - 156 Volunteers involved in community activity
 - 23 community led initiatives and activity being supported
 - 1,370 people benefitting from activity
 - £1,547 funding levered from internal funding sources as a result of Community Development Support.

£13,632 funding levered from external funding sources as a result of community development support.

3.6.3 **Area 3 – Birchfield, Farnworth & Halton View**

- Lead Officer Rob MacKenzie, CDO Karen Jacobs
- Locality working discussed and agreed to hold January meeting (26th January 2011) during the day with a theme around older people. Relevant Council departments and partner agencies to be asked to participate and targeted invites through Halton Older People's Empowerment Network, Carers, Intergenerational activity and community groups as well as generic publicity will be planned. Planning meeting scheduled for 9th November 2010.
- The Chair and venue is rotated.
- Community Development Activity in Quarter One:-
Supporting 23 community groups
218 Volunteers involved in community activity
25 community led initiatives and activity being supported
841 people benefitting from activity
£450 funding levered from internal funding sources as a result of Community Development Support
£11,016 funding levered from external funding sources as a result of community development support.

3.6.4 **Area 4 – Grange, Halton Brook, Heath & Mersey**

- Lead Officer Sue Wallace-Bonner, CDO Gillian Watson
- Locality working discussed, and agreed to theme the January meeting (31st January 2011) on intergenerational activity and be held during the day. Meeting between Community Development and Lead Officer scheduled for 1st November 2010 to progress.
- Chair for this year is Cllr John Swain and Vice Chair is Cllr Mike Hodgkinson. The venue is Runcorn Town Hall and won't be rotated.
- The October 2010 meeting received presentations from 4 Estates and People Making Theatre on what the organisations had spent their Area Forum Grant on and the impact it had made. People Making Theatre informed the forum that without the grant their organisation wouldn't still be in existence. The Members and Residents would like to receive further presentations from applicants both before and after funding, this provided a vibrancy to the meeting. One resident commented "if all the forums were like this we'd have more people attending".
- Community Development Activity in Quarter One:-
Supporting 21 community groups
88 Volunteers involved in community activity
40 community led initiatives and activity being supported
705 people benefitting from activity

£1,250 funding levered from internal funding sources as a result of Community Development Support
£59,936 funding levered from external funding sources as a result of community development support

3.6.5 **Area 5 – Castlefields, Norton North, Norton South & Windmill Hill**

- Lead Officer Simon Riley, CDO Kerry Johnson
- Locality working discussed at pre-agenda and agreed daytime meeting in February (2nd February 2011) themed around drugs & alcohol, venue Murdishaw Community Centre and Drug & Alcohol team on board to co-ordinate information and services for the event
- Chair & venue is rotated
- October 2010 meeting received presentations from Friends of Wigg Island and the British legion, both of whom have submitted area forum grant applications.
- Community Development Activity in Quarter One:-
Supporting 23 community groups
346 Volunteers involved in community activity
40 community led initiatives and activity being supported
2497 people benefitting from activity
£3,776 funding levered from external funding sources as a result of community development support

3.6.6 **Area 6 – Beechwood & Halton Lea**

- Lead Officer Mick Noone, CDO Nicola Sweeney
- Discussed locality working at pre-agenda, not keen on daytime meetings and no change to usual meeting format at this stage. October meeting received a presentation from pupils at Hallwood Park Primary School on how the area forum grant they had received helped them develop their garden project. Four Estates also gave a presentation as they are seeking area forum grant funding.
- Chair Cllr Alan Lowe and venue rotated
- Community Development Activity in Quarter One:-
Supporting 11 community groups
58 Volunteers involved in community activity
17 community led initiatives and activity being supported
605 people benefitting from activity
£ 600 funding levered from internal funding sources as a result of Community Development Support
£3,690 funding levered from external funding sources as a result of community development support

3.6.7 **Area 7 – Daresbury**

- Lead Officer, Phil Watts, CDO Nicola Sweeney

- Discussed locality working, public meetings regularly well attended with most attendees working, hence no daytime meetings planned. Meetings are often responding to local themes from the parish councils. Consultation is currently underway, attendees at the last meeting participated and postal returns coming in from parish councils. Outcome of consultation will be considered to shape future meetings.
- Venue is rotated around parish councils however; there is a tendency to only get attendance from the hosting parish.
- Community Development Activity in Quarter One:-
Supporting 1 community groups
40 Volunteers involved in community activity
1 community led initiatives and activity being supported
40 people benefitting from activity

3.7 A strategic meeting with the partner agencies requires scheduling. It was agreed these meetings would take place twice a year. The next round of pre-agenda's should be extended to partners to attend and they will need to consider the appropriate representation and input for the local area forums and strategic partnership meetings.

3.8 Members of each Area Forum will shortly be asked to approve an invitation list for partners. They will also be asked to agree a descriptive profile of each area, which is currently being drawn up by Policy Unit. This profile can then be discussed at the partner agency meeting.

3.9 It was agreed in the Executive Board report on the 8th April 2010 that a marketing strategy for local area forums would be developed, this needs to progress to support the first round of locality working approaches and increase community participation at area forums in the new calendar year. A promotional dvd has also been suggested that could also be utilised in direct links, doctors surgeries, hospital waiting rooms, etc to raise awareness of area forums

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The report updates member on an approved policy.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Locality Working operates within agreed budgeting provision.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People

Locality working is looking at engaging with more young people in the context of Area Forums.

6.2 Employment Learning and Skills

Jobcentre Plus are one of the identified partners in the context of locality working.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The PCT are an identified partner in improving health inequalities.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Police and Community Safety are significant partners in improving local areas. The Area Forums deal with many issues of anti-social behaviour.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Partners can come together to improve the sense of place within localities.

7.0 Equality and Diversity Issues

7.1 Locality working aims to engage with the whole of Halton's community and will be marketed as such.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

8.1 None under the meaning of the Act.