
Halesowen Area Committee 14th January 2010

Report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services

Community Renewal Working Group

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on the progress made by the Working Group in progressing and updating the Halesowen Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.

Background

2. At their meeting on 16th November The Working Group was given an update on the organisational flowchart setting out the various work streams, Groups, Forums, etc. involved in community renewal activity in Halesowen. The Area Community Renewal Officer (ACRO) was able to advise that:-
 - The list of community groups is still being worked on and should be available for the next meeting.
 - Discussion on the composition of the Neighbourhood Services Group continues and a first meeting is planned for the New Year.
3. An updated copy of the Area Committee Community Renewal Plan had been made available to members and the ACRO was able to advise that the Social Responsibility Scheme aimed at tackling under age drinking had commenced and all licensees in Police Neighbourhood 30 had been interviewed and signed up to the Scheme. Follow up visits and spot checks would be carried out. Youth diversionary activities were also planned.
4. The Area Community Renewal Officer updated the meeting on the Cradley and Foxcote Anti Social Behaviour Working Group. An application had been made to the Joint Activities Group (JAG) for funding to provide additional police bicycles allowing better coverage of the area by officers and a positive response was awaited. Applications had also been made for funding of diversionary activities through Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP). Once the outcomes were known an action plan would be formed.
5. Members were aware that the Lighthouse Project was in liquidation. Discussions were taking place with an ex-director and an ex-employee of the Lighthouse who had recruited volunteers to help them run the Centre under a new name and enable services offered to continue. The Chairman of Halesowen Area Committee had attended a meeting and it was felt that there was a basis for a Management Committee to be formed but consideration had to be given to aspects such as security of the building and background checks of volunteers to satisfy standard requirements. A business plan was being drafted and various applications for funding were being made. The Chairman indicated that she had had discussions with the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services

expressing concern about the number of people that had been displaced. The ACRO was asked to keep members of the Working Group advised of progress.

Finance

6. In line with the draft local community plan, Area Committees plan in line with the overall Council Plan and priorities whilst encouraging innovation in the commissioning of activities from a variety of partners which will add value and achieve objectives for their area.

Law

7. The Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on local authorities to establish a Local Strategic Partnership to address collaborative working and develop a community strategy and local neighbourhood renewal strategy. Community Renewal is part of that approach.

Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1980 enables the Council to do anything which is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental well being of the area.

Equality Impact

8. The objective of Community renewal is to promote inclusion and social cohesion. Community renewal plans target those most in need in terms of deprivation. Information is collected through each CR intervention or consultation to monitor the exclusivity and difference made for various groups and people involved. Where inclusion is an issue ACROs engage through various community or interest groups locally to design appropriate responses to different circumstances. Where children and young people are involved they are directly consulted and frequently design the response to local issues. The community renewal officer is also linked to the Area youth Forum.

Recommendation

9. That Committee Members note the report and accept the Plan as a working document for the year ahead, and with the Community Renewal Service reporting progress to the Committee through the Working Group.



.....
Linda Sanders
Director of Adult, Community
and Housing Services

Contact Officer: Arwyn Thomas
Telephone: 01384 815964
Email: arwyn.thomas@dudley.gov.uk
List of Background Papers
None