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**BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2009**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULT, COMMUNITY AND HOUSING SERVICES.**

**COMMUNITY RENEWAL AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKING GROUP.**

**Purpose**

1. To update the Committee on the progress to date of the Working Group and development of the Brierley Hill Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.

**Background**

2. At Brierley Hill Area Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009 it was resolved that the Brierley Hill Area Committee Community Renewal and Young People's Working Group be reappointed for the ensuing municipal year with its existing terms of reference. The working group would comprise of Councillors Mrs E Blood, Mrs S. Greenaway, Mrs D Harley, Mr P Harley, Mr Islam, Mrs Jordan and Mr Tyler.
3. The working group has met once during the municipal year 2009/10 to develop and monitor the Area Community Renewal Plan for Brierley Hill.
4. At the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, details of a number of activities aimed at tackling local issues were presented by the Area Community Renewal Officer. This helped enable members to focus on some of the work being carried out across the Area Committee area and to identify where further activities were needed.

**Report from the Working Group**

5. **Children and Young People:** The Area Community Renewal Officer reported that two important events i.e. Brierley Hill Township Youth Activities event and the launch of the Brierley Hill Township Integrated Services Partnership Strategic had been organised and would take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2009. A range of local public, community and voluntary sector service providers have been invited to attend these events, which would provide important opportunities for networking and promotion of existing services. Both events will help foster an effective partnership approach towards identifying and addressing issues that impacted upon children and young people.
6. **Children and Young People:** It was stated that £15000 Positive Activities for Young People Funding would be made available by Connexions, with £5000 of the funding already being allocated to local community and voluntary sector organisations. Applications were being invited from other youth service organisations for the remaining £10,000. Through Community Renewal Partnership

infrastructures, it had been decided to submit an application for work with young people who were considered either involved or at risk of becoming involved in crime and anti social behaviour.

7. **Social Responsibility Scheme:** The Area Community Renewal Officer reported that in order to deal with problems of anti social behaviour resulting from under age alcohol abuse, work continued to be undertaken with the Police, Trading Standards, Connexions and local residents. The Social Responsibility Scheme provided a two phased approach.

The first phase of the scheme had resulted in thirty off licences being approached and entering into agreements, which included:

- 7.1 Attendance by all off licence staff at Serve Wise Training Events, sponsored by Dudley's Safe and Sound Partnership. The training provided staff with knowledge regarding licensing regulations and skills to refuse the sale of alcohol without causing offence and conflict.
- 7.2 The adoption of "challenge 25" proof of age scheme.
- 7.3 Maintaining a sales refusal register which would facilitate any future investigations that may occur by Trading Standards and the Police.

The second stage of the Social Responsibility Scheme involved utilising a range of intelligence to conduct "hot spot" operations. A number of these operations have been undertaken that have resulted in:

- 7.4 Alcohol being confiscated from young people.
- 7.5 Young people together with their parent(s) / guardian(s) being invited to attend a multi agency meeting to inform them of the offence, effects of under aged drinking and secure agreements towards preventing further offences being caused.
- 7.6 Identify and agree courses of action to deal with any other issues that are relevant to the young person. This could include non attendance at school or college or / and engagement in youth provision.

8. **City Strategy:** The Area Community Renewal Officer reported that the Neighbourhood Employment and Skills Partnership continued to provide a range of support services to non working people aged 19 years plus living across the Brierley Hill, Brockmoor and Pensnett wards that suffered from above average rates of worklessness. The partnership was coordinated by the Area Community Renewal Officer and consisted of a number of local training and employment support agencies.

As a means of engaging with and supporting individuals, a series of neighbourhood show case events have been organised whereby residents will have an opportunity to meet with agencies who can actively assist them in returning to work. These events will be held as follows:

Neighbourhood	Date	Venue
Central Brierley Hill	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2009	Nine Locks Community Centre, Hill Street, Brierley Hill
Hawbush	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2009	St. Paul's Community & Learning Centre, Hawbush Road, Hawbush
Pensnett	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	Fens Pool Centre, Tennyson Street, Pensnett
Brockmoor	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2010	Brockmoor Community Centre, Pensnett Raod, Brockmoor

Through joint working with other agencies, over nine hundred unemployed people living within the Brierley Hill, Brockmoor and Pensnett wards will be invited to attend the showcase events together with a number of young people aged 16 -19 years who are currently not in employment, education or training following the events a series of home visits would be undertaken to those who failed to attend the show case events.

9. **Healthy Towns Programme:** In relation to Healthy Towns the family health hub at the Dell Stadium and Fens Pool Nature Reserve would provide outdoor facilities for all those who resided across the Brierley Hill Area Committee area. A stakeholder event had been held on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 when over fifteen people attended. Detailed plans for the hub were presented and well received with constructive feedback. As a result further stakeholder events will be organised.
10. **Hawbush Community Gardens Project:** The Area Community Renewal Officer reported that £10,000 funding had been secured from Awards from All to commence building repairs which included with Groundwork Black Country, a further £25,000 had been secured from Marks and Spencer's to undertake landscape work. This would include installing raised garden beds and a community picnic and barbeque area. To ensure community involvement, a number of community events had been organised to begin landscape clearance with as many as twenty five young people attending each event. In addition, young people from the neighbourhood currently serving reparation orders had also undertaken clearance work and agreement had been reached with the Youth Offending Service to also undertake all other remaining building repairs. Activities involving young people serving reparation orders would be undertaken on a Friday and Saturday when local crime and anti social behaviour incidents are at their highest, thus minimising the risk of re-offending.

## **Finance**

11. The Area Committee Community Renewal Plan is developed 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**

12. 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.
13. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1980 enable 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**

14. The objective of Community Renewal is to promote inclusion and social cohesion. The Community Renewal Strategy targets those most in terms of deprivation.
15. Information is collected through each Community Renewal intervention or consultation to monitor the inclusivity and difference made for various groups and people involved. Where inclusion is an issue, the Area Community Renewal Officer will engage through various community or interest groups locally to design appropriate responses to different circumstances.
16. Where children and young people are involved they are directly consulted and involved in designing solutions.

## **Recommendation**

17. That Committee members note the report and continue to support the work of the Area Community Renewal Officer in community localities.



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