



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE SPELTHORNE

SELF RELIANCE IN STANWELL

8TH OCTOBER 2007

KEY ISSUE

To update Members on the progress of the SCC Self Reliance project in Stanwell.

SUMMARY

At the 25th September 2006 meeting of the Local Committee it was noted that SCC had designated Stanwell as a SCC Self Reliance area and that £150,000 had been allocated to spend during the years 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09. The Committee agreed that the funding should be used to bolster SCC services working in Stanwell to support children, young people, families and for improving educational attainment. Four main projects were identified and the purpose of this report is to inform Members of the progress to date.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee Spelthorne is asked to agree that:

- (i) To date the progress of the programme is satisfactory.
- (ii) It may be appropriate to invite the officers delivering the projects to make a presentation to an informal meeting of the Local Committee about their work and progress in early Spring 2008.
- (iii) An annual review report of progress made to the formal meeting of the Local Committee in September/October 2008.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the 25th September 2006 meeting the Local Committee agreed that the Area Director should determine the specific allocation of self reliance funds. At the time four main projects were being suggested namely (i) Stanwell Neighbourhood Youth Worker to work with the youth service and locality team and family workers to support young people at school and their families (ii) Stanwell Mini Bridge Project to provide a preventative and substantial intervention with Stanwell based families at risk of failing induction to mainstream education, being statemented and to reduce the risk of exclusions at key stage 1 and 2 by 50%(iii) Stanwell 7 Up Project to provide a comprehensive response to young people and families in the Stanwell area where parenting skills may be weak, school attendance is low or attainment poor and (iv) Early Years intervention project which would involve the Early years service and Stanwell schools addressing issues of low self esteem and aspiration of parents regarding their own and their children's educational and personal attainment etc.
- 1.2 It was agreed that if any self reliance money remained to be allocated the Area Director would allocate this within the priority areas agreed.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Following further discussions with the families and children services, youth justice and the youth service it was agreed that the four projects identified in paragraph 1.1. above should proceed and the financial allocations were made as follows: (i) Stanwell Neighbourhood Youth Worker £96,000 over three years (ii) Stanwell Mini Bridge Project £14,500 in years 1 and 2 (iii) Seven Up Project £24,000 over three years and (iv) Early Years Intervention Project £14,940 over three years.
- 2.2 An officer Steering Group, chaired by the Local Partnerships Team and comprising the families and children's service, the youth justice service and the youth service has been set up to monitor the projects and this will meet quarterly. Progress has been made with the first three projects and this is outlined below. There has, however, been a delay in the commencement of the Early Years Intervention Project owing to staff changes and the Local Partnerships Team are currently in discussions with the newly appointed Stanwell Children's Centre worker and Head teacher of Town Farm School with a view to progressing this.
- 2.3 The Youth Neighbourhood Worker has been appointed and is managed by the Manager of the Spelthorne Locality team with professional input from the youth service and youth justice service which manages her caseload. The Worker has already started to work with three of the

twelve families for whom she will have responsibility, she has started to meet with the various agencies supporting those families in Stanwell and she will also support the intensive youth work provision in Stanwell as part of the Positive Activities or Young People. Some inquiries are being made about the possibility of the Worker being given a small budget of between £300 - £500 to use for supporting those families with whom she will engage.

- 2.4 The Mini Bridge project to work with young people who are due to enter reception but do not have the social skills due to poor parenting has commenced. A log cabin learning base has been erected in the grounds of the Family Centre to house the project. The Family Support Worker for 18 hours, the Learning Support Assistant for 15 hours and the Teaching Assistant for 12 hours per week jointly deliver the project which so far has engaged with five families and is considered to be very successful so far. Pupils are in a group from 9 – 12noon, part timers going home in the afternoon and full time pupils going back to school for afternoon lessons. The personal commitment of the officer co-ordinating and setting up this project is to be congratulated.
- 2.5 The Seven Up project providing preventative work to target young people in years 7, 8 and 9 in consistently failing families who regularly appear as non-attenders or child protection issues is set to commence in October. Pre planning for this project has required the drafting of the programme for the project and identification of the young people. Four Stanwell residents have already been identified for the community mentoring project.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 These projects will be reviewed quarterly by the officer Steering Group and an annual review will be submitted to the Local Committee. If as the time goes by there is evidence that the projects are not achieving their intended objectives they will be reconsidered and if appropriate changes will be made. Members may wish to receive a presentation from the officers delivering these projects in Spring 2008 at an informal meeting of the Local Committee.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 These took place whilst in the process of devising these projects.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Area Director will ensure that the projects achieve value for money and if targets and objectives are not achieved it may be necessary to alter how the self reliance programme is delivered. The Corporate

Assessment which the County Council are currently undertaking has specifically asked for information about self reliance programmes in particular:

- What, how, who is involved?
- What difference has the County Council made by investing additional resources in their designated self reliance areas?
- What difference have we made by working with our partners?
- What difference have we made to young people, ethnic minorities, older people and travellers?
- Have we shared our resources with our partners?
- How have we improved the quality of life for local people in Stanwell and those at risk of disadvantage?

These questions will be considered whilst reviewing the progress of the projects.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The projects are aimed at supporting vulnerable people who need support from our services to be able to engage with education and improve opportunities for future employment.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Whilst not specifically addressed as specific targets for each of the projects there is evidence that some young people who are not able to engage with school etc may become involved in anti-social behaviour.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The progress so far is reasonable.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To hold the services to account for the use of the self reliance funding for Stanwell.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 The officer Steering Group will meet again in December to review progress and the Local Committee will receive a formal report at their meeting in September/October 2008. If Members agree a presentation to an informal Local Committee meeting in Spring 2008 could be arranged.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Report to Local Committee 25th September 2006