

Item 10

Annual Report on Self-Reliance.

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE IN
SURREY HEATH**

27th January 2005

KEY ISSUE:

To report on the progress of self reliance work and projects in three relatively high need wards in Surrey Heath.

SUMMARY

The Surrey County Council Self Reliance Policy invites Local Committees to identify the high need areas within each Borough, and to decide on whether to promote any activity to promote self reliance. The report describes the ongoing work in St Michael's and Old Dean, and seeks the Committee's support for continued funding of these projects.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Surrey Heath Local Committee

1. discusses and notes the progress made
2. notes the funding implications for 05/06.

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

1. The County Council's corporate plan – "Making Surrey a Better Place" includes a policy of promoting self – reliance for disadvantaged groups. Old Dean is the third most high-need ward in Surrey, based on data from the 2001 Census.
2. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) uses data from the Census 2001 to score areas using deprivation indicators. The data was released by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on 28th April 2004.
3. The IMD 2004 shows that out of 149 Counties, Surrey is ranked at 146. This means that only three other Counties in England have lower levels of deprivation. (These are Windsor and Maidenhead, Rutland and Wokingham.)

4. The IMD also shows that Surrey Heath as an area is ranked 353rd out of 354 Borough or District areas in England. The only area that scores better than Surrey Heath is Hart.
5. The IMD does not list data by ward. Instead it uses the Super Output Areas (SOAs) from the Census 2001. There are between three and six SOAs in each ward, depending on ward population. All SOAs in Surrey Heath are ranked in the top half of the table.
6. Surrey County Council has five identified self-reliance projects in North Guildford, Preston, Sheerwater and Maybury, Court and Ruxley, and Leatherhead North. Local Committees have been asked to review the high need areas in their Borough and decide on whether to promote any self – reliance initiative locally.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

7. In Surrey Heath, two projects have been underway pre–dating the Self–Reliance work, in two wards, Old Dean and St Michaels.

Old Dean

8. The Old Dean Advice Centre (ODAC) opened to the public in December 2004. The idea was first raised by the Community Support Team at an Old Dean Steering Group meeting (now the Old Dean Network) in 2002. The project was taken forward by a Management Committee of three local church representatives, the Chair of the Residents Association plus other local representatives. A member of Surrey County Council’s Community Support Team attends to provide secretariat and project management support but is not a member of the Committee. Officers from Surrey Heath Borough Council and Peerless Housing Association also attend the committee meetings in a non-voting capacity. The Diocese of Guildford offered enormous support to the project by negotiating the legal terms and acting as signatory to the lease.
9. Funding of over £90,000 has been brought to this project to cover set up costs and running costs for the next three years. This includes £27,000 from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, £10,000 from the Surrey Heath Borough Council Community Fund, £22,000 from Members Pooled Allocations, £30,000 from the County Council’s self reliance fund and nearly £4,000 from the European Social Fund Global Grant scheme.
10. Interviews are to be held on the 22nd February for a Community Development Worker to run the ODAC and to undertake additional self-reliance work in the area. There has been a high level of interest in this post and it is hoped that the worker can start at the ODAC in March. This post has been funded from the County Council’s Self Reliance fund and from partnership funding secured from Peerless Housing Association. This funding is secure for three years.

11. There are numerous activities running at the ODAC including:
- Police surgeries where local people can meet with the local Police officers.
 - County Councillor and Borough Councillor surgeries where local people can meet their local Councillors to discuss local issues.
 - Learning advice from both Surrey County Council's Adult and Community Education and FACE (Family and Community Education) run by the Surrey Care Trust.
 - Open afternoons and mornings where local people can have a look around the facility and discuss the types of activities they would like to see running at the ODAC.
 - A coffee morning was held recently to raise funds for the Asian tsunami disaster appeal. Over 150 people attended, raising over £640.
12. In the next few month the following activities will be offered:
- First Aid Course.
 - Computer Course and website design course to be accompanied by a weekly open afternoon when the ODAC computers will be available for use.
 - Art and Craft courses for older people.
 - A community consultation to determine the activities the community would like to see at the ODAC.
 - Baby massage and aromatherapy course to support local parents.
 - Child minding courses to support local people wanting to get back into work.
13. The majority of the activities detailed above will be provided by Surrey County Council's Adult and Community Learning with funding having been secured from the European Social Fund's Global Grant.
14. It is expected that when the new worker comes into post, the range and number of activities offered at the ODAC will increase.

St Michael's Community Project

15. Community Flat opened in July 2000. The project was started because of concerns about the uptake of services, especially health and adult learning. The scheme was funded by the Borough Council, Peerless Housing Association and the County Council operating in partnership. Peerless provided a flat in Surrey Avenue so that a community base could be set up. In the first years there was considerable enthusiasm for services provided at The Flat, sessions provided included library and health visitor sessions. A Residents association was also set up and this took an active part in the running of the project.
16. In more recent years the usage of The Flat by both service providers and local residents has dropped. A meeting of stakeholders was held in October 2004 to discuss the future of the project. It was decided that the role of Community Development Worker would focus on working with providers to encourage them to use the facility, rather than direct frontline work with the community. It is hoped that this shift will encourage more diverse activities and services to be offered at The Flat.

17. Nikki Steer has been employed as the Community Development Worker at The Flat since March 2003. After nearly two years at the project, Nicki has decided to move on and will be replaced by the new worker, Helen Stanworth, in the next few weeks.

18. The Flat currently has the following activities running:

- Young parents group (funded by the Local Committee) runs each week.
- Youth group – run by the Youth Development Service.

19. The costs of the St Michael's project for the fifth year (05 / 06) will be £12,000 funded by the three original sponsors, i.e. £4,000 each. This £4,000 has been secured from the County Council's central Self-Reliance budget.

Watchetts

20. The Community Support Team has been attending a group in Watchetts for the past 18 months. This group, organised by St. Mary's Church, Camberley, brings together community leader six times a year to discuss local issues and to network in order to ensure that the needs of the resident's in the Watchetts area are being addressed. Member's Allocations are supporting the Watchett's Park Celebration to be held in June 2005. This event seeks to unite the local community and highlight the different organisations, both statutory and voluntary, working in the area. The Watchetts area has also been chosen as a new area to be eligible for the European Social Fund's Global Grant scheme.

CONSULTATION

21. All three projects are run in a culture of consultation. There are regular consultations with the community in both St. Michael's and the Old Dean.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

22. The St Michael's project and the work at Watchetts have no foreseeable financial implications for the committee.

23. The running costs of £5,000 for the Old Dean Advice Centre has previously been funded from the pooled Members Allocation. Members may wish to continue this funding in 05 / 06.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

24. Care will be taken in both areas to ensure that developments are sustainable by the local community and services involved.

25. Both the Old Dean and the St Michael's projects currently have action Plans for 04 / 05. The Old Dean Action plan is being reviewed this month and the St. Michael's Action plan will be reviewed with the new worker once she is in post.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

26. It is hoped that the broad approach to community development in both areas will have significant impacts on the crime and disorder concerns of local people.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

27. All Self Reliance projects will be run with regard to equalities implications. The ODAC building is fully accessible.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None