

Item 7

Update report on Self-Reliance.

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S
LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH)**

9th March 2006

KEY ISSUE:

To inform Members of the ongoing work at The Old Dean Advice Centre (ODAC) to ensure its sustainability.

SUMMARY

Members received the annual report on self-reliance on 8th December 2005, and agreed to receive an update report at the March meeting, particularly in relation to plans for the Old Dean. This report updates Members on the work being done at the ODAC to ensure its sustainability and future funding and confirms that the St. Michael's community flat will close on 31st March 2006.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Surrey County Council's Local Committee (Surrey Heath) notes the progress being made to achieve the sustainability of the ODAC.

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. At the heart of this, is working with communities in order to develop capacity and access to long term, mainstream funding to ensure sustainability. However, it is recognised, this is a long term approach. A full report on self-reliance activity in Surrey Heath was brought to the Committee on 8th December 2005, this report updates Members on the continuing work to ensure the sustainability of the ODAC project.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

2. In Surrey Heath, two projects have been underway for some years now, in two wards, Old Dean and St Michaels.

St Michaels:

3. As described in the 8th December report, the community flat will close on 31st March 2006 and will be returned to housing stock at Peerless Housing Group. The partnership group will look at local demographics and needs and formulate an action plan to address these needs.
4. Funding from Members Allocations will fund the first piece of project work, a sport course for young people who live in the area. This is due to start in the next few weeks.

Old Dean:

5. The Old Dean Advice Centre (ODAC) has now been running for 16 months and the Community Development Worker, Kim Nicoll, has been in post for 11 months.
6. Usage of the ODAC has increased dramatically with the Community Development Worker in post. Average numbers of users are up to approximately 140 per week from just 20 – 30 in the first few weeks.
7. The Management Committee (ODACMC) is made up of local representatives and officers from Surrey County Council (SCC), Surrey Heath Borough Council (SHBC) and Peerless Housing Group (PHG) working in partnership. The ODACMC aims to register the group as a charity by the end of 2006. This will allow many additional funding streams to be accessed to cover rent and running costs that will need funding from November 2007. This gives the group a minimum of 11 months as a charity to secure its future funding from grants.
8. The rent for the ODAC has been secured from the Safer Surrey Heath Partnership (£9,000 each year for three years, Total £27,000) until November 2007. The Safer Surrey Heath Partnership (SSH) comprises Surrey County Council, Surrey Heath Borough Council, Surrey Police, Surrey Police Authority, Surrey Heath and Woking Primary Care Trust and Surrey Fire and Rescue. The running costs have been secured from the pooled Members Allocations until November 2007 as well. The funding for the Community Development Worker is secure until March 2008. The funding for the worker comes from Surrey County Council and Peerless Housing Group operating in partnership. In future, if the ODAC becomes a registered charity it will be able to access significantly more funding streams and be able to fundraise for its own costs.
9. In summary, in addition to the funding from SSH, to date partners have shown their commitment to commencing and sustaining the ODAC work by resourcing as follows:
 - **Surrey County Council (SCC)** – Officer support to the Management Committee and the Community Development Worker, and grants from the Members Allocations (total £15,300). Also part funds the Community Development Worker (£10,000 per year for three years (£30,000) from the central self-reliance fund)
 - **Surrey Heath Borough Council (SHBC)** – Officer support to the Management Committee and £10,000 from the Community Fund.

- **Peerless Housing Group (PHG)** – Officer support to the Management Committee and the Community Development Worker and part funding of the Community Development Worker (£3,000 per year for three years, total £9,000)
- **Diocese of Guildford** – Officer time to negotiate the lease and act as landlord to the ODACMC.
- These four partners form the ODAC Management Committee with the following organisations who give up their time for meetings:
 - St Martin's Church
 - The Beacon Church
 - St Peter's and St John's Church
 - Pine Ridge School
 - The Old Dean Resident's Association
 - Uncle Bud's community group

Each partner has expressed support for the approach of securing sustainability via gaining charitable status.

10. The current Community Worker, Kim Nicoll, has completed a basic survey of grant giving bodies and the number of grants that the ODAC can access will increase from 5 funds to over 100 funds if charitable status is gained. Most government backed funds or places where significant levels of funding can be accessed will only consider registered charities because they are considered to be reputable and require little or no checking on their credibility thus protecting the reputation of the particular trust or funding body. The ODACMC would seek to secure long term funding, however, this is dependant on the funding streams identified. The ODACMC will target funding that offers the most sustainable option. It may be that the ODACMC will be continually accessing different funding streams in a "patchwork" approach to future funding.
11. The ODACMC and Kim Nicoll are leading on progressing the move to charitable status. This is being done with minimal officer support from SCC, SHBC and PHG, however, the aim of the ODACMC is to become self reliant and independent of this support, and fully manage their financial and developmental portfolio. This will entail the post of Community Development Worker moving from being a SCC post to being a direct employee of the ODAC. The likely time frame of this is when the current SCC employment contract runs out in March 2008.
12. In addition to the prospect of bidding for further funding streams, it is open to ODAC to make bids in the future to the Surrey Heath Community (Small Grants) Fund and/or Surrey County Council's Local Committee (Surrey Heath) for funding to assist ODAC with particular project work, including the costs involved in obtaining charitable status. These are likely to include legal costs, account auditing fees and charity registration fees.
13. The Old Dean Advice Centre Management Committee (ODACMC) is holding its AGM on 21st March 2006 at St Martin's Church on the Old Dean at 2pm. At

this meeting the officers will be elected for the coming year and a new constitution agreed. This new constitution will align the group to the requirements of the Charity Commission and will aid the smooth transition from community group to registered charity.

14. The ODACMC have also taken this opportunity to look at how they have been operating and are in the process of producing an action plan to ensure they are functioning as effectively as possible. Steps in this action plan include:
 - Clarifying the role of the ODACMC and having clear lines of responsibility and reporting.
 - Writing a Strategy with clear short-term (one year), medium term (five years) and long term (10 years) aims and objectives. This will be shared with partners and their services as a draft as well as a final version and will be brought to Surrey County Council's Local Committee (Surrey Heath) at the first appropriate meeting.
 - Increase the robustness of feedback mechanisms so that the ODACMC have full statistics on the ODAC which they can share with partners and mainstream service providers and use for meeting grant requirements for reporting back to the grant giving body. This will include regular community and partner consultation.

15. In addition to developing sustainable funding streams the development of strong links with all mainstream services and agencies operating within the community is another important element to ensure sustainability. This work will form part of the Management and Development Strategy that will seek to ensure service development and provision is co-ordinated against common objectives for best impact. For example, co-ordinating with the development on the future of Children's Centres. To date the following mainstream services are involved at the ODAC:
 - SHBC – Choice-based lettings service that allows local people to apply online for housing exchanges.
 - PHG – Housing surgery for local tenants.
 - SCC – Children's Services use the ODAC for family conferences, and Adult and Community Learning are starting to use the ODAC as a base for courses, these are due to start in April 2006 and will hopefully include computer skills, financial management and recreational and craft activities.
 - Surrey Police – Weekly surgery for local people.
 - Domestic Abuse Outreach Service – ad hoc use for meetings.

16. The vision is that after this work has been completed the ODAC will be a registered charity, able to access various funding streams to cover its rent, running and employment costs. Built into the running costs will be the costs of individual projects identified to meet the needs of specific sections of the local community e.g. young parents, older people, unemployed people etc.

17. Time frame for actions:

Action	Date
ODACMC set up to manage the strategic direction of the ODAC.	January 2004
ODAC opens.	November 2004
Community Development Worker appointed (Kim Nicoll).	April 2005
ODACMC started to explore the idea of going for charitable status and what benefits this would bring.	September 2005
ODACMC begun work on the new constitution and a vision paper for the ODACMC's vision of how they will manage the ODAC in the future.	October 2005
ODACMC begin work on gaining Charitable Status to be submitted in May 2006	January 2006
ODACMC to meet with Ed Baker, Business and Social Enterprise Advisor, Surrey Community Action, to discuss gaining charitable status	14 th March 2006
ODACMC AGM to agree new constitution to align the group to charitable status	21 st March 2006
ODACMC prepare draft Management and Development strategy for the ODAC	April 2006
ODACMC share the Management and Development strategy with partner organisations.	May 2006
ODACMC to submit application for charitable status (Consideration period approximately 6 months)	May 2006
ODACMC write final Management and Development strategy including amendments and formally adopt it	June 2006
Community Development Worker surveys applicable grant funding bodies. Specific grants identified for application by the ODACMC	August 2006
Target date for ODAC to gain charitable status	Early December 2006
ODACMC apply for identified grants for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running costs • Rent • Community Development Worker costs 	December 2006 - November 2007
Funding secured and in place for running costs and rent ends	November 2007
Funding secured and in place for Community Development Worker	March 2008

CONSULTATION

18. Consultation is key to both projects. There are regular consultations by both paper and face-to-face interviews with the community and service providers in both St. Michael's and the Old Dean.

19. A new consultation will be carried out on the Old Dean in the next month.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

20. The ODAC is funded until November 2007 and the Community Worker until March 2008. Funding will need to be sourced to fund the project after these dates. The plans outlined in this report move the ODAC onto a more financially stable footing to allow further funds to be accessed.

21. The St. Michaels' project is funded until March 2006.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

22. At the heart of the work being undertaken is the approach of ensuring the developments in both areas are sustainable by the local community and services involved.

23. The gaining of charitable status will move the ODAC onto a more sustainable footing as it will be able to fundraise for itself and access many more funding streams.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

24. It is hoped that the broad approach to community development in both areas will have a positive impact on community safety and the crime and disorder concerns of local people. The Police are actively involved in the ODAC.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

25. All Self Reliance projects will be run with regard to equalities implications. The building being leased for the ODAC is fully accessible.

LEAD/CONTACT OFFICER: Jane Biscombe

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01276 800269

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None