

**Cabinet Report**

Report of: Eugene Walker

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 14 January 2015

Subject: Sheffield Community Covenant Annual Report 2014

Author of Report: Julie Bullen

Key Decision: NO

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the key achievements on the Sheffield Community Covenant during 2014.

Reasons for Recommendation:

To fulfil the commitment to produce an annual report on progress following the establishment of the Sheffield Community Covenant in November 2011.

Recommendation:

Cabinet is asked to note progress made on the Community Covenant in Sheffield during 2014.

Background Papers: Community Covenant Annual Report 2014

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
NO Cleared by: Paul Jeffries
Legal Implications
NO Cleared by: Gillian Duckworth
Equality of Opportunity Implications
NO Cleared by:
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO Cleared by:
Human Rights Implications
NO Cleared by:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO Cleared by:
Economic Impact
NO Cleared by:
Community Safety Implications
NO Cleared by:
Human Resources Implications
NO Cleared by:
Property Implications
NO Cleared by:
Area(s) Affected
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Lead
Cllr Julie Dore
Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press Release
NO

REPORT TO CABINET

SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY COVENANT ANNUAL REPORT 2014

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Fulfil the commitment to produce an annual report on progress following the establishment of the local Community Covenant in November 2011. This report covers the calendar year 2014;
- Update Cabinet on the key achievements during 2014.

2. Background

2.1 At full Council on 2nd March 2011, a motion was passed to create a 'Sheffield Community Covenant' in order to ensure that local services such as housing, education and social care are appropriate to support the needs of local armed forces community. The Community Covenant was approved at Cabinet on 7 November 2011 and formally signed on 9 November 2011.

2.2 Each year a report is produced which fulfils the commitment to produce an annual report on progress and sets out the key actions and priorities for the year ahead. The report covering the calendar year 2014 is attached.

2.3 The Community Covenant is a commitment from the whole city to support the local Armed Forces Community. Sheffield City Council supports this by acting as a key facilitator, supporting organisations to coordinate their support to the local Armed Forces Community.

3. Key Achievements in 2014

3.1 The annual report (attached) provides details of the key actions taken this year to promote the aims of the Community Covenant.

3.2 In summary these include the following:

- South Yorkshire Police joined the Sheffield Community Covenant Partnership
- The Corporate Covenant has been newly established this year, with organisations such as Kier Group and Capita plc signing this new pledge
- Owlerton Stadium Sheffield has joined the Heroes Welcome Scheme offering discounts to armed forces

personnel

- Veterans and Armed Forces Day was a great success this year with stalls, activities and entertainment throughout the city centre
- Over £100,000 of funding has been utilised in Sheffield from the MOD this year. This includes funding for two projects that started in 2013 Parkour Training facility (£20,000) and Sheffield Cathedral Project (£25,098). Take2 a peer led accommodation, employment and personal development project has also received funding this year (£59,015)
- Collection of goods for Sheffield Supports Soldiers Easter box appeal
- Dedicated armed forces web pages, updated each month www.sheffield.gov.uk/armedforces
- “Support for Volunteer Reservists and Adult Instructors of Cadets Policy” updated and shared with other organisations
- Commemoration activities to mark the start of World War 1 have been taking place throughout the city
- Links have been made with the Royal Air Force and Naval Families Federations Community Covenant Coordinators
- Increased the Sheffield Armed Forces and Veterans Support Service from one day to two days each month. The Royal British Legion delivers this service from Howden House on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month
- £80,000 of service pupil premiums received by Sheffield schools this year
- Sheffield City Council took part in Exercise Executive Stretch, a SaBRE training course to give employers an insight into the training undertaken by Reservists
- The first Employee Armed Forces workshop took place in Sheffield City Council this year. This group will be used as a group of experts to help guide and shape our work with the wider Armed Forces Community
- In November this year Cabinet approved a recommendation to nominate Weston Park as a “Centenary Field” to commemorate the centenary of World War 1.

4. Summary

4.1 The Community Covenant ensures that services:

- encourage local communities to support the Service community in their area;
- nurture understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community;
- recognise the contribution made by the Armed Forces Community;

- remember the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces Community;
- encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life;
- encourage the Armed Forces Community to help and support the wider community

4.2 The annual report provides information on the progress of these aims.

5. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

1. Note the progress made on the Community Covenant in Sheffield during 2014.

Julie Bullen
Director of Customer Services
26 November 2014

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