

Committee:	Date:
Housing Management & Almshouses Sub Committee	22 May 2014
Subject:	Public
Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today	
Report of:	For Information
Director of Community & Children's Services	
Summary	
<p>2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War. The Housing Service will be using this opportunity to run a programme of community development work on our estates. This programme is titled 'Remembering yesterday, Celebrating Today' (RYCT) and will be run in partnership with other CoL departments, the SPICE project and the Royal British Legion. The project will run for four years.</p> <p>The activities for each estate will be developed in consultation with local staff and residents and will aim to appeal to all ages. There will be a summer event to mark the anniversary on each estate and the annual Residents' Celebration Day will be themed to tie in with the project.</p>	
Recommendation(s)	
Members are asked to note the report.	

Main Report

Background

1. 2014 is the centenary of the beginning of WW1. There will be a number of national activities taking place to commemorate the anniversary and to recognise the sacrifice of those who fought, and their families.
2. Following the success of last year's community projects on some of our estates, and the appointment of our new Community Development Officer, Kirsty Leitch, the Housing Management Team will be using the opportunity of this anniversary to bring residents together on each estate for a series of activities and events. We have titled this programme of work 'Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today' (RYCT).
3. The aims of the project will be:
 - a. To provide opportunities for residents to get to know each other;
 - b. To encourage a sense of identity and heritage with projects which celebrate the past and the present of life in the local area;

- c. To motivate more residents to take part in volunteering activities and to promote the use of time credits;
 - d. To support activities which will bring different generations of residents together and foster better understanding;
 - e. To improve the wellbeing of residents by strengthening community spirit and encouraging them to feel proud of their estate.
4. The project will run for 4 years. This year will be particularly high profile, with so much publicity already in place for the anniversary. Extending the work beyond the first year allows us to run more activities and to develop the capacity of residents and local staff to manage community programmes so that these are sustainable in the longer term.

The Project

5. The Royal British Legion is running a campaign entitled 'Every Man Remembered', where members of the public are asked to donate in memory of a soldier who fell in WW1. We are using this as the starting point for RYCT. Each estate has identified a soldier who lived in the area where each estate now stands, and the Housing Service has made a donation in his memory.
6. Estate staff are now working with residents to find out more about the soldier's family and to research what it would have been like living in that area during the war. With support from the London Metropolitan Archives, the Guildhall Library and local library services, we will be sourcing photographs and gathering information to create exhibitions and web pages which will be of interest to residents of all ages.
7. A group of interested residents is being brought together on each estate to identify activities and events they would like to organise, with support from staff. Ideas being explored include:
 - a. Collecting and recording memories from people whose relatives were alive during WW1 or who were young children at the time;
 - b. Cookery demonstrations using recipes popular at the time;
 - c. Tea dances and concerts featuring music of the era;
 - d. Creating a choir of residents to learn and perform songs from the time;
 - e. Craft activities such as sewing bunting and making crocheted and fabric poppies;
 - f. A photography competition, capturing the spirit of the estate;
 - g. Talks on the war or life in London at the time;
 - h. Poppy planting, with help from Open Spaces;
 - i. Working with local artists to create a permanent reminder of the anniversary, perhaps in the form of a mural or mosaic.

8. During the summer, we will support residents to hold a Poppy Picnic on each estate, with help from the Royal British Legion, to bring residents together and to celebrate their community.
9. The City Read campaign run by the Library Service will, this year, be promoting a novel 'My Dear, I wanted to tell you', which is set during the war. We aim, with support of colleagues from City libraries, to get some of our residents to read the book, either individually or in book groups, and to share their views of it through social media.
10. We are also exploring, with the help of the Royal British Legion, the possibility of contacting local service men and women who have been injured in a recent/current conflict and who might be willing to work with the estate residents. This would make the link to current events and underline the work done by the Legion to support injured ex-servicemen and women today.
11. Events and activities will run throughout the year. Residents' Celebration Day, which will be held in October, will have a WW1 theme and we expect to hold some events during Remembrance itself.

Time credits and fundraising

12. Residents who participate will earn time credits for doing so. We will also be recruiting residents to be collectors for the Royal British Legion during Poppy Week, in November, and they, too, will earn time credits.
13. If residents wish to use some of their activities to raise funds for the Royal British Legion or other charities supporting service men and women, we will support them in this.
14. Through the year, opportunities will be found for residents to spend their time credits on activities which link to the overall theme. These might include:
 - theatre tickets to productions such as Warhorse;
 - entrance to special exhibitions;
 - tickets to the Royal British Legion's annual Christmas celebration, which is held at the Guildhall.

Resources and project management

15. Direct costs are likely to be low. An initial donation of £220 has been made to the RBL in memory of the 11 soldiers chosen. Seed funding for projects and events will come from the project development budget held by SPICE and also small development budgets held by each Estate Manager. Resident's Celebration Day already has its own budget.
16. The BBC have launched a website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww1> which provides information we can use to support all our activities. The Royal British Legion will also provide help and we will ask colleagues from the Library Service,

Museum of London and London Metropolitan Archives for assistance with research.

17. Estate Managers and their teams have already received community development training to help them implement the programme and to work closely with their residents. The Project Sponsor will be Jacquie Campbell, the Head of Housing Management, who will lead an officer working group to co-ordinate the programme of work. Kirsty Leitch, the Community Development Officer and Kaimi Ithia, the department's Strategic Communications Manager will be supporting the estate staff throughout the year.

Member support

18. We are extremely excited about this project, and hope that Members will support us in any way they can, perhaps by attending events and taking part in some activities.

Jacquie Campbell

Head of Housing Management

T: 020 7332 3785

E: Jacquie.campbell@cityoflondon.gov.uk