

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Housing Management & Almshouses Sub Committee	20 November 2014
Subject: Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today Update	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Summary	
<p>Following six months of implementation of the 'Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today' project within Housing Services, this report is intended to provide an overview of estates First World War centenary activities. The report will highlight why these activities have been so important, the impact they have had and outline upcoming and future activity. A short video will also be shown to members to give a flavour of the variety of activities across estates and display the hard work and commitment that residents have shown for the 'Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today' project.</p>	
Recommendation	
Members are asked to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report 	

Main Report

Background

1. The 'Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today' project was established in March 2014 so that Housing Services could support and work with residents to remember the centenary years of the First World War. The project, in design and aim, was about recognising each estate as different and ensuring that staff support was there for residents to put on activities individual to them. The project at its very success would see residents designing, planning and delivering activities relevant to them and using the 4 year project to empower them to develop other activities on estates.
2. The key outcomes of the 'Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today' project were identified as:
 - Joined up working between residents and staff – more collaboration and coproduction in planning and delivery of services.
 - Resident Involvement – An event or activity happening on each estate with a minimum of 8 residents becoming involved.
 - Intergenerational activities connecting all ages groups happening on estates

- Sustainability – Ensuring on-going activity that is resident led
- Capturing Success – Evidencing activities with case studies, videos and pictures from estates
- Money raised for the British Royal Legion through fundraising

Current Position – Planning and Launching

3. Following approval to proceed with the ‘Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today’ project in March 2014, the first phase of delivery was to launch the project to staff and empowering them to support delivery. Community Development Training was delivered to staff on all 11 estates in April/May 2014. The focus was very much on learning techniques to empower residents to take the lead in project planning. Each estate team came away with an individual ‘Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today’ action plan to get residents involved and a First World War toolkit with information sheets and instructions of how to set up events and activities.



4. Both before and following the launch, mapping was done with residents at open meetings so that people could feed in their visions. At each open meeting residents were forthcoming and staff left with ideas and contact information to get activities started. Estate Managers also talked about Community Funds that were available for the project in case this was a barrier.
5. The project was launched formally in May 2014 when each household received a ‘Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating today’ invitation postcard. This asked residents to join City of London Housing Services in remembering

with them the centenary of the First World War. A tear off slip was included so that residents could drop in their ideas to estate offices.

6. In conjunction with the launch postcards, 'Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today' themed posters were regularly posted on the estates. These were designed to keep the project momentum going and diversify activities. Posters included an invitation to plant poppy seeds on estates, an appeal for First World War memories and stories, and the launch of the 'Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today' photographic competition

Current Position – Implementation and results

7. To date the project has seen numerous activities and events taking place across housing estates. These have included:
 - Writing Letters to the Unknown soldier event
 - Laying of Poppy Meadow
 - Poppy Walk
 - Memory sessions
 - First World War themed coffee morning
 - Baking
 - Poppy Planting
 - Fundraising
 - First World War themed CityRead
 - 100 years community fete
 - Commemorative Fun Day
 - Sheltered Housing Visit to the Poppy Factory



8. A short video will be shown to members to show a montage of these events as they have happened on estates and the journey of the project.

9. A key outcome of the project was identified as joined up working between residents and staff. This has been a real success so far. Through the use of Time Credits residents have been rewarded for taking the lead on planning and delivery. This has enabled staff to take a step back and instead be there to support on the day. The two Southwark Estate Commemorative fun days are an excellent example of joined up working. Both approached estate staff after hearing about Community Funding. Residents worked together on their applications and were granted funding. Having been successful residents set up meetings to plan activities and to allocate tasks for the day. Staff were able to value residents time and simply support their community by being there on the day. This year at Residents Celebration Day the coordinators from these events will talk to other residents about what they did and the impact it has had.
10. Resident Involvement and Intergenerational Activity were other key outcomes of the project. The 'Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today' project has been accessible to all. Resident Involvement has happened because we haven't predetermined activities but instead supported residents to take the lead and make events specific to their estates and the interests of those that live there.



11. Capturing Success of the programme has been exciting for all involved. The estate teams have a whole wealth of pictures and videos that are sent directly from residents. 'Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today' features in quarterly newsletters and the writing of community articles has become easy for staff. Case studies are being written for both staff and residents. One quote that has come in reads "There wouldn't have been an event on the estate this year without this project. It feels good to chat with your neighbours and be rewarded for the time that you put in".

Future plans

12. There are already a number of 'Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today' activities and events planned for the rest of the year. These include:
 - First World War Tea Dance
 - Sheltered Housing Afternoon Tea
 - Community Mosaic
 - Poppy Appeal Fundraising and volunteering for the British Royal Legion
 - First World War Games Night
 - Interview with 100 year old resident about her life and memories.

13. The next phase of the 'Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today' project with focus on sustainability and how estates can mould the project to be relevant to residents and individual estates for the next 3 years. The 'Celebrating Today' part of the project will support residents to be empowered to think of other things they may like to do on the estate and work together to achieve these.

Conclusion

This report has given an overview of the phases of the 'Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today' project led by City of London Housing Services. Highlighted in the report is why the project came about, the key deliverable of the programme, what has been achieved and how the future of the project looks. This has been an exciting and rewarding project for Housing Teams and it is anticipated that future benefits will be even further reaching.

Appendices

- None

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