

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 29 November 2010	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Health and Adult Care Sub-Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Southwark Circle: One Year On	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All wards	
<b>From:</b>		Deputy Director, Adult Social Care	

### **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. That Health and Adult Care Sub-Committee:
  - a. note the six month update on activities and project progression of Southwark Circle requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2010.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2. In June 2009, Southwark Council launched Southwark Circle - a membership organisation for older people which provides both help with practical tasks and also includes a social network that aims to increase opportunities for local residents to build up their own informal support networks.
3. Southwark Circle was developed following joint research in 2007 between the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), Participle (a think-tank organisation), BSkyB (the media and broadcasting company) and Southwark Council. These organisations came together to ask the question "could old age and social care in Britain be different?" The innovative research that was subsequently undertaken in Southwark particularly focused on how to create and maintain the social relations that generate a good quality of life and wellbeing for older people who do not live close to their families. This research included discussions with older people in Southwark in which they talked about the type of service that they felt was missing and would really help them. From these insights Southwark Circle was designed, and it was done so jointly with those who said that they would value this type of service.
4. The research and subsequent establishment of Southwark Circle is particularly important to the Council in consideration of its aim to shift the balance of care in Southwark, that is, to move away from a system where there is more intensive nursing and residential care and towards one where people are supported to remain living in their own homes. By providing an environment where Southwark Circle members are able to get help from the 'circle' to sort little things out and get jobs done, and also where social activities and friendships can be fostered, Southwark Circle aims to help people to stay active longer and to build confidence and self-esteem. The research suggested that this would help Southwark Circle members stay living in their own homes longer, prevent them becoming isolated, with all of the risks associated with this, and would reduce the likelihood of members needing to go into care.

5. This work is particularly important at a time when the public sector is facing budget cuts. Currently 72% of the council's total health and social care budget is spent on residential placements including nursing and care homes
6. Southwark Circle required initial investment to "get off the ground", however its business model was specifically developed so that the organisation would be able to become self-sustaining after three years and not a call on the public purse. The Council's then Executive Member for Health and Adult Services agreed to allocate £1m grant funding to develop Southwark Circle in March 2009.
7. Since being established, Southwark Circle has received keen interest from social care commentators, politicians and the national media and as been cited as a possible exemplar model for reducing dependency on health and adult care services. The coalition Government's vision for adult social care published in November 2010 cited Southwark Circle as an example of a successful model that is helping to reduce people's dependency on care services.
8. Southwark Circle models have been adopted in Hammersmith and Fulham and Suffolk, and both Lambeth and Lewisham are also looking into this approach.
9. The Southwark Circle One Year Report is attached as an appendix to this report.

## **PROGRESS**

10. Approximately 500 people are members of Southwark Circle as either members or members who are also neighbourhood helpers. Anyone aged over 49 who lives in Southwark can be a member of Southwark Circle, and packages start at £20 a month. At the individual level, Southwark Circle delivers flexible support with life's practical tasks to members. There is an opportunity to learn and a social network for building and maintaining relationships around shared interests and hobbies. Crucially, Southwark Circle does this by allowing those that seek support in some areas of life to provide help to other members, in other areas of life. The outcome is a more connected, supported person, who is part of a service that evolves with them as they age.
11. Neighbourhood helpers are people of all ages who share their talents and skills in order to provide Southwark Circle members with their needs (perhaps putting up some shelves, or doing some gardening). Many members of Southwark Circle are, as well as being members, also neighbourhood helpers and this is encouraged. Of the 500 members of Southwark Circle, approximately 80 are Helpers, which is a 1/6 ratio
12. About 45% of neighbourhood helpers were not engaged in paid work at the time of joining. Many were either receiving unemployment benefits or working freelance, and at risk of falling into this situation. Approximately 10% of these have since moved into full-time work as a result of the structured commitment, confidence boost and inclusive nature of being Neighbourhood Helpers.
13. The location of Southwark Circle members ranges across the borough, with a concentration in Peckham, Camberwell and around Elephant & Castle. The age range of members spans 49-96 years of age, of these 1/3 of members are aged under 65 and the average age of members is 70.

14. Southwark Circle is currently undertaking a Christmas membership drive (approx. 3,000 leaflet mail shot), with targeted marketing materials going out to groups from Carers to local Housing Association residents to Freedom Pass Holders, and a push in local outreach work in public spaces around the holiday period.

## GOVERNANCE AND MONITORING PROCEEDURES

15. Currently a steering group of Southwark Circle meets quarterly. The steering group is comprised of senior officers of Southwark Council, including the Deputy Director of Adult Social Care. The steering group provides strategic advice as well as looking at scoping opportunities to further expand and enhance the objectives of the organisation.

## FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE AND VALUE FOR MONEY

16. Southwark Circle has started developing a measurement framework that allows the organisation to measure social impact for individuals, the community and other stakeholders in a non-invasive way.

17. Southwark Circle has begun looking at a quantitative impact model to measure, in monetary terms, three types of cost savings:

- **Actual Savings (Council and Health):** savings that the council will potentially be able to directly achieve from implementation.
- **Preventative Savings:** these are savings that can be potentially 'indirectly' achieved, i.e. savings arising from actions that have the effect of preventing certain costs from occurring in the future.
- **Better Value:** these savings relate to being able to more effectively coordinate or use existing services & infrastructure to increase the number of older people who use the service and/or infrastructure.

18. The following table summarises Southwark Circle expenditure to date:

<b>Type</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Spent to date</b>	<b>Remaining</b>
<i>Launch Funds</i>	£250,000	£225,000	£25,000**
<i>June-Sept 09</i>	£62,500	£55,109	£7,391
<i>Oct-Dec 09</i>	£62,500	£57,745	£4,755
<i>Jan-March 10</i>	£62,500	£59,839	£2,661
<i>April-June 10</i>	£62,500	£76,663	0
<i>1 June - 31 Aug 10</i>	£87,500	£77,193.50	£10,306.50

*\*All Remaining funds must be re-allocated and approved by Southwark Council contract officer on quarterly basis*

*\*\*Contingency fund as per pre-agreed budget*

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

17. There are a number of areas where the Council and Southwark Circle see the potential for further work in the coming year.

18. Initial testing has begun on increasing the level of home-care packages that Southwark Circle can offer. Homecare for elderly residents in Southwark currently costs Southwark Council £13million for 2,500 users. Southwark Circle will begin piloting this with 5 members, who are currently receiving care, to prototype a work-package that Southwark Circle could undertake and scale up.
19. Southwark Circle is projected to have just over 800 members by June 2011 and to function as a self sustaining social enterprise by April 2012, with a projected membership of 1785.
20. Southwark Circle will continue to develop their methodology of measuring social capital. Cost savings will become more evident in year 2 and year 3 as the impact of services offered by Southwark Circle will become more transparent in measuring value for money against the current cost savings model.