

Committee:	Tenants' and Leaseholders Consultative Forum
Date:	11 November 2008
Subject:	Xcite project – Outreach work supporting residents of social housing back into work and training
Responsible Officer:	Andrew Trehern –Director Community & Environment Services
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Barry McLeod- Cullinane, Portfolio Holder for Adult and Housing Services
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Press Release Appendix 1

## Section 1 – Summary

Xcite is Harrow Council's project, funded by London Development Agency's European Social Fund and West London Working<sup>1</sup> to address the worklessness issues of tenants in Council and Residential Social Landlords property

### **FOR INFORMATION**

## Section 2 – Report

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<sup>1</sup> West London Working is one of 15 City Strategy Pathfinders launched by the Department of Work and Pensions in April 2007 to join up employment and skills agencies and services working in partnership to increase their effectiveness.

This is an up date report to the Forum, following on from our report of January 9, 2008. Harrow Council successfully bid for funding from London Development Agency European Social Fund and West London Working to support 300 Harrow tenants back into work and training.

We are targeting the project on Cottesmore, Woodlands, Rayners Lane, Pinner Hill, Mill Farm, Stanmore Park, Weald Village and Harrow Weald Estates because these areas have shown greatest need, i.e. the highest levels of worklessness but we have a small margin in which we can include Harrow tenants from other estates.

Harrow Council manages the Xcite project. We have employed three outreach workers, who will move between estates to support the participants, and we are working with partners, Harrow Association of Disabled People, MIND in Harrow and One Parent Families/Gingerbread who are delivering specialist support.

In addition we are working with Tenants and Residents Associations and Harrow Association of Somali Voluntary Organisations ( HASVO) as well as Job Centre Plus.

The Xcite programme will sign post participants to training and provide a personal advice / coaching programme to workless adults in Harrow. We will work towards enabling individuals to develop and refresh skills and address barriers to work.

Advisors will work from children's centres, schools and community centres and they will aim to develop strong relationships with communities experiencing the higher levels of worklessness including the Somali community, women, disabled groups, lone parents and BAME residents.

Xcite will link into other programmes to access support for participants such as the Childcare Affordability Project, English for Speakers of Other Languages, debt advice and other Citizens Advice Bureau services. It will also link to existing Learning & Skills Council through local colleges and Job Centre Plus provision.

The project recognises that moving parents into paid employment is the major means of moving children out of poverty. This project will also seek to dovetail with and add value to other initiatives in this field.

### **Section 3 – Further Information**

Attached appendix 1

### **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

Addressing Tenants Worklessness – funding proposal. January 9 2008.

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