

**06 January 2015****Agenda Item: 11****REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR POLICY, PLANNING AND  
CORPORATE SERVICES****UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR TEAM****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update members of the Community Safety Committee on the work of the Community and Voluntary Sector Team

**Information and Advice**

2. At its meeting on 22 July 2014, Community Safety Committee supported the development of the 'Operating Framework for Working with Communities' as approved by Policy Committee on 2 July 2014.
3. Community Safety Committee agreed that future reports on the implementation of the framework through the work of the team be brought to the Community Safety Committee.
4. As part of its budget approvals for 2014 – 15, the Council restructured the team responsible for working with the community and voluntary sector. The team is now made up of 4 Community Officers, who work across the county, in geographical areas, each with a focus on a priority area, such as social enterprise development, a Grant Aid Officer, Business Support and the Team Manager.
5. The work priorities of the team have been identified as working in partnership with the voluntary and community sector to:
  - improve preventative and core services that strengthen the local community
  - streamline the corporate grant aid process
  - promote localism by working with communities to increase community involvement in the way services are shaped and delivered.
  - drive a series of local programmes with communities to deliver services in a different way which will support their transformation.
  - work with communities to move towards more cooperative models of service delivery, promoting community ownership by, for example, supporting the development of social enterprises and supporting community groups to develop sustainable models for future working
  - have a consistent approach to partnership working – an agreed set of shared standards for working with communities ensuring for example that the community and voluntary sector are engaged at all levels with the priorities for community safety.

- ensure co-ordinated and targeted engagement – rationalising the community engagement undertaken, reducing duplication and maximising efficiencies, this will empower communities
- listen and respond to the local community, meaning that services meet their needs effectively and efficiently and are underpinned by community safety and cohesion.

## **Supporting Local Communities**

6. Communities, particularly those facing high levels of disadvantage in Nottinghamshire need support to help them build the skills, confidence, networks and resources they require to become more empowered and resilient. The team are working with groups across the county to assist in building community capacity, confidence and support for building effective organisations which aims to have a longer term impact in helping communities to meet the challenges ahead
7. These activities include:
  - working with Bassetlaw Council of Voluntary Service and the Centre for Sport and Learning in Manton to maximise the building and resources need to provide a community hub
  - supporting the 'Rainworth Skate Play Association' to maximise funding attracted from NCC, WREN and S106 to build and maintain a Play/Skate park which provides a much needed resource for young people
  - working with Friends of Bestwood Country Park and CFCS to secure funding for a community café
  - working with Community Resource Centres in Mansfield Woodhouse, Pleasley Vale, Newstead Village, Hucknall and Selston by carrying out diagnostic organisational health checks leading to support with developing business plans and funding applications
  - working with Sandy Lane TRA to build a play park, improve the estate, including getting CCTV installed and operating, supporting activities for young people and supporting the wider community to engage with the regeneration activity which is continuing around the lake area to get involved and shape future activities for example a "Friends of Godfreys Pond" group is currently being set up.
  - providing advice and support to the Haven Church at Stapleford with moving into the former Frank Harrison Primary School on Wadsworth Road Stapleford – renamed the site the Haven Centre. The Haven Centre is a Church based Community Organisation that offers practical support to the local community including provision of a Youth Group meeting 2 evenings a week with over 50 attendees, a food bank, clothes bank, furniture bank and seniors lunch club
  - providing funding advice, help with recruiting volunteers to the Eton Avenue Growers Association Hawtonville which offers plots to groups and individuals from across Newark to grow vegetables and flowers, the surplus of which is sold at a reduced cost to local enterprises such as Rumbles Community Cafe Newark. Users of the site can have physical/mental health issues, learning difficulties and some are benefit claimants

with a long term illness or disability and are encouraged by the local job centre/doctors surgery to attend. Local families, youth organisations and community groups also use and enjoy the site. Pond dipping visits by local schools are a particular favourite. The Association contributes to community cohesion by providing an opportunity to develop life skills, self-worth through interaction and in some cases reintegration, and a chance to learn new skills

- embedding community cohesion by attracting, supporting and training volunteers and initiating volunteer involvement in visiting the holocaust project resulting in a volunteer led Holocaust Roadshow which has toured public venues and local schools assisting education with regard to the holocaust and hate crime generally.
- Supported Community CSL Social Cohesion project - Twenty two families, approximately 70 people, both British and Eastern European came together to enjoy craft activities and different foods.

### **Grant Aid**

8. The team manages the corporate grant aid programme, which falls within the remit of the Grant Aid Sub Committee. The closing date for applications for grant aid for 2015 onwards for voluntary and community groups providing services in Nottinghamshire was 1 December 2014. In total 178 applications have been received. An assessment process will now be undertaken by officers and recommendations will go to the Grant Aid Sub Committee in March 2015
9. Four information events were provided across the County to inform the community and voluntary sector about the grant programme for 2015 onwards. These events also provided an opportunity to draw participants' attention to 'Doing Things Differently' budget consultation. The events were held in Worksop, Mansfield, Newark and Rushcliffe with 280 groups attending

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

10. To support the Working with Communities Framework as an approach to supporting local communities

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

12. To note the various activities in the area of work outlined in this report.

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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**Constitutional Comments (SB/18/12/14)**

13. This report is for noting.

**Financial Comments (SM/18/12/14)**

14. There are no financial implications contained within this report.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 'None'.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- 'All'.