

**26<sup>th</sup> April 2016****Agenda Item: 8**

## **REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF PLACE**

### **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. The priorities of the team have been identified as working in partnership with the voluntary and community sector:
  - to improve preventative and core services that help strengthen the local community;
  - to streamline the corporate grant aid process and
  - to promote localism by working with communities to increase community involvement in the way services are shaped and delivered.
3. A key strategic priority for the Council is to ensure that Nottinghamshire has strong communities that are safe and thriving. The reality of the challenges faced means that the Council of the future will be different in the way it is shaped, organised and how services are delivered. The Council is committed to working in partnership with local communities, voluntary groups and volunteers to provide services.
4. Work being undertaken by the team seeks to support ways to develop and strengthen engagement with communities, moving towards a changed landscape of local services with new and innovative models being implemented. The contribution made to improving public services and well-being in Nottinghamshire by communities and the voluntary sector is recognised and supported through both an extensive grant aid programme and direct hands-on support from Community Officers.
5. Over recent years economic circumstances have drastically changed how organisations are funded with the result that only well organised third sector groups can thrive and provide a valuable contribution to the local community. Only by being robustly established and equipped to respond to new challenges can the wealth of voluntary sector organisations across the County maximise the positive impact that they have on local communities.

## **Working with Communities**

6. The work of the Community and Voluntary Sector Team underpins the Council's commitment to building on its reputation of working in partnership with the community and voluntary sector to help build local capacity. The range and scope of activities which members and officers are involved in seek to help to drive programmes with communities to deliver local solutions and move towards providing services in a different way.
7. The Council has several important roles to play in supporting communities to:
  - Build a strong sense of community, capacity and pride through collaborative partnerships.
  - Engage in the planning and delivery of services.
  - Generate and sustain their own capacity to respond to the challenges which Nottinghamshire faces.
8. Building confident and stronger communities is especially important within the current climate and the Team has been working with different communities across Nottinghamshire to help support local activities. These activities bring individuals together to celebrate the uniqueness of localities by helping to encourage and empower communities to take ownership and pride in the places they live and the people they live with. Examples of this include:

### **Hawtonville Community**

9. Working with Newark & Sherwood District Council to support activity resulting from findings of Neighbourhood Study, the study amongst other things identified a need for community development. Our role includes help to:-
  - Facilitate delivery of the wider priorities identified in the consultation process.
  - Identify local leaders who can contribute to a community orientated body
  - Support / help create a community orientated body to deliver activities
  - Support the management of Hawtonville Community Centre within an agreed framework and target
  - Raise revenue so that provision can be developed

### **Haven Centre – Stapleford**

10. A former County Council primary school has been utilised by the Haven Church for the past 18 months – delivering a wide range of community services which includes:
  - Youth Group – 2 evenings a week with over 50 attendees
  - Mums & Tots Club with Soft Play
  - Performing Arts Club – The Dream Centre
  - Debt Advice & Life Skills Project – CAB Supported
  - School Holiday Lunch Club
  - After School Club
  - School Holiday Lunch Club
  - Haven Eagles – Over 50's Group
  - Job club
  - Clothes Bank
  - Community Choir
  - Food-bank
  - Furniture Bank
  - Homework Club
  - Community Café



11. The CVS Team have been working with the Haven Centre and colleagues from NCC Property on a long term arrangement to maintain the community benefits and realise the value of the capital asset for the Council. Work is progressing well and it is hoped that a solution will be considered by the May 2016 Finance & Property Committee.

### **Bellamy Estate**

12. The CVS Team with partners have worked with Severn Trent Water to install 2 large sewerage rings on either side of the locked bollard that were sited on the Old Newark Road area in order to reduce fly tipping that was happening on a regular basis. The locked bollard has since been rammed and snapped so these fly tippers are quite determined to continue using the site to dump rubbish.
13. The intention is to speak with Severn Trent again to see if they might be able to put a third ring in place to prevent further incidents.

### **Oak Tree Estate**

14. The Fire Service have been working very closely with the Infant School with firefighters supporting the literacy sessions at the school. This is a way of making the children aware of what the Fire Service do and how important it is not to play with matches etc. The partnership group plans to extend this approach and invite the Police and District Council Warden Services to join the initiative. The aim is to have a positive effect on the children where rapport and trust will be built, hopefully reducing anti-social behaviour on the estate.

### **Collingham Village Hall**

15. The local community are looking to refurbish and develop the Memorial Hall, Cllr Dobson asked if there was any help the CVS Team could provide. Details of seven potential grant funding organisations have been provided and the offer of help to submit applications has been made.

### **Commemoration event - Battle of the Somme.**

16. 2016 marks the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. The commemoration is being led by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on behalf of the UK Government in partnership with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Royal British Legion to build a programme of events which reflect the significance of the First World War Somme campaign.
17. The Somme was one of the bloodiest battles of the First World War, resulting in over one million casualties. There will be a range of events taking place in the UK and France to mark the centenary period, for which more information will be available in due course. The CVS Team are working on a commemoration event to be held at County Hall on 1 July 2016.

### **Promoting Community Cohesion**

#### **Manton Estate**

18. Community cohesion in Manton has been supported with an award £10,000 from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Part of the award was used to hold an event on the 19 March 2016. The event was supported by the CVS Team where more than 70 local people,

Polish and English joined together to share cultural experiences whilst celebrating Easter and encouraging social integration.

### **Netherfield Forum Events**

19. Through the Community & Voluntary Sector Team, the Council is working with the voluntary and community sector to engage them in the planning and delivery of services by helping to build capacity and confidence to drive improvements in quality of life, influence decisions which affect them and consider their role in the delivery of services. This includes:
20. Working with the Netherfield Forum the team are supporting two community events provisionally titled “Our Community”.
  - Saturday 14 May – Loco Youth “Our Community” Open Day
  - Saturday 16 July – St George’s Centre “Our Community” Open Day
21. The purpose of the events is to engage the diversity of the local community and help develop a stronger sense of community for everyone. Planning is underway to develop activities that encourage the sharing of experiences incorporating cultural exchanges, language, food, and music. This in turn will strengthen community relations, highlight positive actions and promote social cohesion alongside reducing mistrust and anti-social behaviour.

### **Community Empowerment & Resilience Programme (CERP)**

22. Members will be aware that a key part of the CERP was taking forward the findings from the State of the Sector Report produced by Sheffield Hallam University in October 2015. Four events have been held with a combined audience of 300 participants. The key areas for development have been identified:-
  - Coordinating the Sector Voice
  - Enabling Social Action
  - Sector Solutions to the Volunteering Gap
  - Understanding & Mastering Commissioning Success
23. The next steps include establishment of cross sector working groups to develop action plans and establish measures of success.

### **Other Options Considered**

24. The report sets out how the Council priorities are being addressed.

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

25. To inform Members of Community Safety Committee of work undertaken to support the community and voluntary sector in Nottinghamshire

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

26. 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**

27. To note the work undertaken by the Community and Voluntary Sector Team.

**Tim Gregory**  
**Corporate Director, Place**

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## **Constitutional Comments**

This report is for noting only

## **Financial Comments (SES 01/04/16)**

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from 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