

2nd December 2015

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of progress in designing the Community Empowerment and Resilience Programme, which forms part of the County Council's 'Redefining Your Council' framework for transformation.

Information and Advice

Background

2. In July 2015, the County Council's Policy Committee agreed that a Community Empowerment and Resilience Programme should be added to the portfolio of programmes and projects which would deliver the transformation set-out in the 'Redefining Your Council' framework. This was in recognition of the very significant role that the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) has in shaping and supporting the socio-economic well-being of Nottinghamshire communities.
3. The County Council is not alone in facing the challenges that were a key driver for RYC. Each of the public sector bodies in Nottinghamshire has significant funding challenges and many have their own transformation and efficiency programmes in place which typically include initiatives which aim to improve outcomes for communities.
4. To reflect this, it was agreed that the overarching objective of the Programme would be:

To delay or prevent the need for intervention from the Council and other public services by enabling Nottinghamshire communities to be more empowered and resilient

5. This would be achieved by working with and supporting the VCS to build capacity within Nottinghamshire communities and working more collaboratively with partner bodies in target localities to the same end.

Structure of the Programme

6. The initial thinking about the Programme is that it would have two strands, one universal and a second thematically targeted.

Universal

7. This strand focusses on understanding and strengthening the VCS in Nottinghamshire in order that it can sustain and grow its support to communities.
8. It was generally accepted that there was limited knowledge about the size and complexity of VCS in Nottinghamshire and that that was a weakness in terms of guiding policy and interventions in relation to the sector, its work and development.
9. In order to address this and to provide a baseline for the Programme, the County Council and Nottinghamshire VCS Infrastructure Groups (working jointly as the Nottinghamshire Together Consortium) commissioned a 'Nottinghamshire State of Sector' survey and report to:
 - produce reliable, statistically significant and current data on the sector
 - provide intelligent information on the key issues affecting the sector
 - identify thematic variations in the sector across Nottinghamshire
 - make recommendations on the scope and approach to the Community Empowerment and Resilience Programme in light of key findings
10. Sheffield Hallam University's Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research were appointed to undertake the research. The executive summary of the report is attached at **Appendix A**.
11. The report provides a wealth of information and offers a snapshot of the community and voluntary sector in 2015 as a period of increasing change continues. The key conclusions and messages for consideration, coming out of the study are that:
 - There are a wide range and a large number of organisations operating in Nottinghamshire who are involved in many areas of activity. As such the voluntary sector in the county occupies an important strategic position between policy development, service provision and everyday life.
 - The sector is an important economic player and employer, however there are concerns that suggest the sustainability of many organisations is under threat.
 - There is a mixed picture in Nottinghamshire regarding relationships between the voluntary sector and public sector bodies with the ability of voluntary sector organisations to influence public sector bodies appears to vary depending on service delivery area, geography and personality of commissioners.

- Relationships between the voluntary sector and private sector are at an embryonic state within Nottinghamshire
 - There are elements of collaboration between voluntary organisations in and across Nottinghamshire however barriers exist to collaboration.
 - There is high satisfaction with the support provided by infrastructure organisations but also concern that this support is being eroded.
 - Applying for grants and bidding for contracts still remains a difficult task for the sector and making the JSNA more accessible to groups could help provide valuable local evidence.
 - Lack of funding, volunteering, communication and VCS infrastructure were reported as the key challenges facing the sector in the future.
12. The findings of the study were shared at two partnership events which were held on 20th and 23rd October, 2015 at Newark and West Bridgford respectively. These generated wider debate and explore the opportunities and challenges identified with a view to developing plans for more collaborative working for the benefit of Nottinghamshire's communities. Delegates were asked to consider issues on working together differently, what the key pressing concerns are and how confidence and capacity can be built. An action plan is currently being developed which will form the next steps for the Programme.
13. A total of 165 delegates attended the events. The attendees included: Local & National Community & Voluntary Sector Groups; Funding bodies – The Big Lottery & Lloyds Foundation; Local Authorities from around the County & Nottingham City & a number of Councillors; Commissioner's from the County Council, Clinical Commissioning Groups & NHS Trusts
14. The breadth of representation from the Community & Voluntary Sector covered groups that focussed on the following areas: Environment & Green Space; Hospice Care; Homelessness; Older People; Advice, Advocacy, Welfare & Guidance Groups; Health & Social Care; Children & Families; BME Groups; Domestic Violence; Community Transport; Community Learning; Sports and Self Help Groups

Thematic Targeting

15. Nottinghamshire is a large county, with diverse communities and extensive multi-agency involvement in community capacity building and support (e.g. health; county, district and borough councils; police; fire and rescue etc). One of the key challenges for a Programme of this nature therefore is prioritisation and targeting of effort and resources in order to make the greatest beneficial impact.
16. Experience from elsewhere suggests that it is helpful to focus on a particular geography or theme. For instance, Nottingham City Council is working collaboratively with Nottingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on a Programme called 'Looking After Each Other' (LAEO) which has the objective of *'reducing loneliness and social isolation to delay or prevent deterioration and need for social care intervention and therefore expenditure.'* This ties closely with the Vulnerable Adults Plan for Nottingham City 2012-2015
17. Addressing loneliness and isolation is a priority for the Health and Wellbeing Board and its stakeholders because of its adverse effect on an individual's

health and wellbeing and the resultant implications for health and social care services. It is anticipated that the revised Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) will provide extremely useful and current data on the loneliness and isolation within the County.

18. Initial thinking is that because of its importance, and the synergies and opportunities for joint working that exist with the 'Looking After Each Other' Programme in Nottingham, loneliness and isolation will be a key theme to initially address through the Community Empowerment and Resilience Programme
19. However, it will be imperative to ensure that additional value can be derived given that there are already many interventions and groups running in Nottinghamshire which are helping to address loneliness and isolation. As the Nottinghamshire Loneliness Model (built following the Campaign to End Loneliness) articulates, loneliness is dependent on a wider infrastructure and before applying solutions, it is necessary to identify and assess people's needs
20. It is therefore envisaged that through the County Council's recently commissioned 'early intervention to maintain self-management service' and the emerging integrated community based teams within Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) a rich picture will emerge of the demand / need for services to address loneliness and isolation at a local level. By working with these services intelligence can be used to identify areas where gaps exist and community capacity can be built.

Other Options Considered

21. The Programme has commenced with a State of Sector report to understand more about the composition of the VCS in Nottinghamshire. The intention is to refine thinking and further design the Programme once the findings of the research have been more fully considered and discussions have taken place with key partners about the targeted strand.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

22. The report is to inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of the current position.

Statutory and Policy Implications

23. 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

24. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note progress in designing the Community Empowerment and Resilience Programme, which forms part of the County Council's 'Redefining Your Council' framework for transformation.

25.To comment on the content of the paper and discuss how partners can contribute to the Community Empowerment and Resilience programme.

Councillor Joyce Bosnjak

Chairman of Health and Wellbeing Board

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 23/11/2015)

This report is for noting only

Financial Comments (SES 23/11/2015)

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.

Redefining Your Council Review – Report to Policy Committee (July 2015)

State of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Nottinghamshire - Report produced by Sheffield Hallam University's Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (October 2015)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All