

8 November 2016**Agenda Item: 7**

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 the most 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:

Nottinghamshire Heritage Forum

9. Official confirmation has been received that the Forum has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of £23,100 to enhance the Somme film shows. The C&VS Team will be working with the forum and community hosts, who will each organise another Notts WW1 Home Front project between now and 2019. The forum will use the data collected from these and existing events to decide if a mobile museum, 'Nottinghamshire Life', would be achievable and sustainable.

North Leverton HUB

10. The pilot project to combat social isolation came to an end in October 2016. Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN) representatives attended a meeting to explain continuation of the project after October. RCAN are funded through NCC Grant Aid to expand the project to Sturton and Misterton and work with volunteers to develop sustainability. The C&VS Team are working within the partnership to continue contributing to the project and are currently investigating funding sources to improve working arrangements and to investigate the possibility of adult education being delivered in the Leverton area.

Oaktree Lane Youth Project

11. Two residents from the Oaktree Lane estate in Mansfield, with experience in youth work, are keen to set up a Youth Club. The C&VS Team are currently working with the Youth Service and Oak Tree Primary School to establish a partnership that will explore options. The main challenge is finding a suitable premises, so a mapping exercise is now underway to address this concern.

Firbeck Colliery Community Memorial Garden

12. Firbeck Main Colliery was first sunk between 1923 and 1925, closing 43 years later in 1968. During the life of the Colliery, 61 Miners died. A committee of local people, including former miners, are seeking to create a memorial garden in memory of the 61 who were killed. They have developed a real momentum with some local fundraising activities and have the support of the parish council. They are looking to raise in the region of £30,000. The C&VS team are supporting the project and have offered assistance with identifying funding and support with applications. Assisting them with identifying shortfall funding and configuration of the jigsaw of funding will help move the project forward.

Oasis Men's Group

13. A meeting has taken place between a member of the C&VS team and the OASIS project. OASIS is a self-help group based in Kilton, for male survivors of sexual abuse. Support has been offered to explore funding opportunities with the aim of expanding the service to Worksop. The C&VS team have been supporting the group to identify a couple of Trust Funds that may consider offering some financial support and have also offered to review any applications that are made.

TenFifty

14. TenFifty is a monthly night club event in Mansfield that supports adults with a learning disability to experience the night club scene, develop new social networks and have fun in a safe environment. The events cost in the region of £600 each to run, with some of the costs being met from subscriptions from those attending. However, many people with learning difficulties are not financially independent, so the C&VS team is supporting the organisers to secure sponsorship from local companies. The team have identified the top 20 companies in Mansfield/Ashfield and have drafted a sample letter seeking sponsorship.

Voluntary Sector Engagement

15. The team have recently been engaged in the planning and delivery of services, providing input to several strategic meetings, conferences, workshops and annual general meetings. This follows the engagement strategy and priorities set out by the County Council, which ensures that the voluntary sector sustain their own capacity to respond to the challenges which Nottinghamshire faces. These include:
- Bassetlaw Rural Conference on 22 September 2016 at Town Hall, Retford
 - Newark and Sherwood Community and Voluntary Service (N&S CVS) Older Persons event, 28 September 2016, Salvation Army Balderton. Present at the event were 14 service providers and 60 residents who discussed service provision and future needs.
 - Community Empowerment & Resilience Programme – Steering Group, CERP, event. 29 September 2016. Action points centred on the, adoption of goals and strategy, review of communication and feedback mechanisms, and next steps.
 - Armed Forces Mental Health Conference and Networking event. 30 September 2016, Chetwynd Barracks. Attended by 72 delegates. Key note speaker Lt Col Stewart Hill retd (who suffer a traumatic brain injury whilst in Afghanistan and has since become involved in a number of projects including Walking with Wounded and Invictus Choir) opened the event. The theme of the day was **Meeting the mental health needs of our armed forces**

community'. There were 7 guest speakers, who highlighted the role of the Armed Forces in the transition and resettlement of service leavers, The National Health Service response to the Armed Forces Covenant, barriers to engagement and support given by Veterans UK. Two points raised by delegates have provided additional information to be included on our supporting armed forces webpage. These are direct links to the NHS Mental Health services and the Probation Service (criminal justice service).

- HealthWatch Commissioners Central. 6 October 2016, Leicester. Development day that looked at collaboration, re-commissioning and governance models across the HealthWatch network.
- Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service, RCVS, AGM. 18 October 2016. This was well attended (75 people) with a partner market place highlighting health and social care related services in Rushcliffe. Presentations were received from a service user of the community transport scheme, the local Rotary Club and the local Patient Participation Group. RCVS are looking in the long term at a transformation programme over the next two years to make the organisation sustainable and have engaged a consultant to lead on this work – the team have agreed to meet with her and discuss the approach and explore possibilities.

Armed Forces Champion

Soldiering on Awards

16. The Veterans Information Network Nottinghamshire (VINN) has been nominated for the "Working Together Award" in recognition of an individual, team or organisation that has demonstrated an enduring commitment and collaborative approach to supporting the sector within the wider community. In particular, Nottinghamshire County Council has been praised for the development of a webpage on its public website which supports the armed forces by providing an accessible tool offering support and information to those working with the Armed Forces Community. The nomination has been made by The Royal British Legion – East Midlands as a model of good practice.

Community Commemoration Fund

17. Some 293 volunteer hours have gone into the planning of 139 scheduled days of activity across the county. It is estimated that 1,900 local residents will attend or take part in events that commemorate the Great War in their community. The qualifying period for activities is August 2016 to January 2017. Contributions totalling £4,000 have been awarded from the Community Commemoration Fund, releasing an additional £1,819.50 of match funding from various sources assuring successful completion of all the suggested events. Activities include:
 - As part of a history project children from Asquith Primary School will learn about the Great War and then develop a memorial garden consisting of a memorial plaque and seat. To show case what they have learnt, pupils will host a Great War themed assembly in front of parents, family and invited guests.
 - St Marys' Bell Ringers, Blidworth will purchase a Peal Board¹, where the details of 54 local men will be recorded and placed in the local church. At an appropriate date the bells will peal to signify the passing on each of those killed in action.

¹ Peal Board: a record on a wooden board, metal or stone plaque, often to mark a historical event such as a royal occasion or the death of a soldier.

- Farnsfield Bell Ringers on the anniversary of each death of a local serviceman killed during the Great War, will quarter peal² St Michael's church bells. To mark this event the group will purchase a Peal Board, which will be erected in the local church to act as a permanent reminder.
- Edwinstowe St Mary's Bell Ringers will erect a permanent Peal Board on the wall of the ringing chamber in the church, to record the 31 quarter peals that have been rung.
- Sutton Youth Radio are delivering five workshops in Ashfield secondary schools that specifically focus on the communication methods used at the time of the outbreak of the Great War and how it compares to today. Students who have taken part will then have a chance to describe their experiences on air to an estimated audience of 25,000 listeners.
- Netherfield Forum are hosting an intergenerational commemoration event consisting of: Gedling Homes Choir, music of the day, an exhibition, a Royal British Legion film show and samples of food of the day.

Other Options Considered

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

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

20. 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

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

Tim Gregory

Corporate Director, Place

² A Quarter Peal consists of ringing 1,260 changes and typically lasts for about 45 minutes.

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

This report is for noting only

Financial Comments (SES 19/10/16)

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