

27 September 2016**Agenda Item: 5**

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 are to work 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:

Cromwell Village Hall

9. A decision is still awaited on the £43,000 application to Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd. (WREN) for the refurbishment of the Village Hall. In addition to this the group is awaiting a decision on an application to the Big Lottery through "Awards for All" for around £8,000 for the replacement of windows and doors on the building. On-going support is being provided to the group and local County Council member.

Harworth-Bircotes Boxing Centre

10. This project involves the renovation of a disused building to provide an up to date boxing facility. There is a growing body of evidence that shows that the discipline, structure and exercise facilities offered by boxing clubs can have positive impacts on reducing anti-social behaviour. Learning to box in a controlled environment can reduce participants' likelihood to cause trouble in wider society. Over £50k has already been raised and spent on the project, including support from local business, Bassetlaw District Council and the County Council. The building is near completion and funding is now being sought for a paraplegic training station.
11. The Team are supporting the Centre with advice and information on funding opportunities and are currently looking at applications to Awards for All and the Coalfield Regeneration Trust.

Bellamy Summer Spectacular

12. The team helped plan, coordinate and support the event in the precinct on Bellamy Road. Over 300 people attended with a wide range of community groups and service providers creating a market place of information stalls. Groups attending included the British Legion, Bellamy Allotment Association, Environmental Health, Fire Service, Neighbourhood Wardens and the Police. The aim of the day was to ensure that positive messages were relayed to residents through the Fire Service, Police, Environmental Health and a range of other services

Coddington Village Hall

13. A very unusual and interconnected historic pair of buildings comprising of the original (1885) corrugated iron clad Reading Room and the later (1953) Coronation Hall. The buildings are under the custodianship of a very active and able committee who have over numerous years secured funding to secure the fabric, insulate and improve facilities for users. The demand for the buildings far exceeds the available time and space and as a result the committee are keen to expand and reconfigure the space. A couple of potential major funders have been identified, as the initial estimate of the costs of the proposals is £126,000. The C&VS Team are assisting with identifying shortfall funding and configuration of funding pots to help move the project forward.

North Leverton Health and Wellbeing Hub

14. The scheme aims to combat social isolation in the North Leverton area of Bassetlaw, in partnership with the Church of England, through the provision of activities and access to information on local services. The scheme has successfully involved local people in activities such as community coffee mornings, exercise classes and guest speakers. Following a local survey new activities are being considered including adult education which will further reduce social isolation.
15. The funding for the temporary post of Hub Community Worker comes to an end in October 2016 and work is underway to recruit volunteers to sustain the Leverton activities. The wider scheme will continue with the support of the Rural Community Action Network (RCAN) funded via the Nottinghamshire Together Partnership, which is grant aided through NCC's grant aid programme. This will focus on the villages of Misterton, West Stockwith, Beckingham, Walkeringham and Gringley on the Hill. The CV&S Team have supported the work from the start of the project and will continue to do so including promotion of the Hub at a community event on the weekend of 10th September 2016.

Selston Sculpture Walk

16. Progress on developing a Heritage Lottery Fund application is being made. The C&VS Team visited the route and took photographs of proposed locations for the sculptures, which were used to create a PowerPoint presentation for Highways to consider the suitability of the locations. Highways have confirmed that the locations are all suitable and, subject to provisos around maintenance and insurance, they are willing to give the necessary permissions to support the application.

Promoting Community Cohesion

Maun Refuge [Mansfield – Syrian Refugee Support]

17. NCC, Mansfield DC and Vision met with the group to agree a package of support to enable free education (primarily in English, but also citizenship, parenting, work readiness etc.), for all current and future adult Syrian refugees housed in Mansfield and to devise ways of sharing ideas and pooling resources to enable this to happen. Vision will draft a programme specifically for Syrian refugees (with certification for successful participants) that includes:

- English for people with limited English;
- Discrete courses for an intermediate stage that is mainly English but also covers many relevant subjects and is adaptable to students' needs;
- Access to core provision at West Nottinghamshire College.

18. Funding from the Community Cohesion budget for relevant events will be agreed, plus staff to help the group find funding and connect with activities. Inspire have agreed to provide space at Mansfield Library to support childcare.

Learning Disability Week 2017 – Week Commencing 19 June 2017

19. The team are currently working with two organisations on initial plans for a series of events in Mansfield during Learning Disability week in 2017. Liaison with a wide range of partners has begun and the establishment of a steering / planning group has been developed. The initial plans are to hold a high profile activity every day culminating with a parade and activities at the end of the week.

TenFifty

20. 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 within 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 team is supporting the organisers to secure sponsorship. The team have identified the top 20 companies in Mansfield / Ashfield and have drafted a sample letter seeking sponsorship. The team have also supplied details of useful contacts within the business community including Mansfield BID and Mansfield 2020.

English/Polish Internet Radio Station

21. Working with a community radio project to create a bilingual Polish/English internet radio station with an active website in order to encourage Polish/English participation. The project will be used to assist integration of the Polish community by promoting positive images and educational opportunities, as well as providing information on health, British law and living in this country etc. The C&VS Team are supporting the project by providing information on funding opportunities and securing a suitable venue - early indications are that the station will be based in the Newark area.

Veterans & Armed Forces Support/Nottinghamshire County Council Armed Forces Champion

Reservist Day

22. September 8th was Reservist day. Cllr Ian Campbell a serving reservist with the RAF and NCC's Armed Forces Champion was highlighted by the East Midlands and Reserve Force and Cadet Association EMFRCA, as a positive case study to be promoted nationally.

Merchant Navy Day

23. Former members of the Merchant Navy and civic dignitaries joined the Chairman of the County Council, Cllr Yvonne Woodhead to raise the Red Ensign [national day of commemoration] at County Hall on Monday 5th September.

New one-stop-shop online support for Notts forces veterans

24. On 8 September, Nottinghamshire County Council launched a new online, one-stop-shop of support for local armed forces personnel, reserves, veterans and cadets.

The website, www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/supporting-armed-forces, highlights some of the ways in which the County Council is supporting current and former services personnel and their families through the Nottinghamshire Community Covenant.

It also acts as a portal for the many organisations, charities and public services available in the county, including support with:

- Combat stress and mental health issues
- Welfare benefits
- Finances and debt
- Housing and property adaptations
- Training and careers.

Other Options Considered

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

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

27. 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

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

Tim Gregory

Corporate Director, Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Cathy Harvey

Community and Voluntary Sector Team Manager

T: 0115 977 3415

E: cathy.harvey@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (SLB 06/09/2016)

This report is for noting only.

Financial Comments (SES 09/09/16)

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