

## **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 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; and
  - 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:

### **Community Empowerment and Resilience - Age Friendly Nottinghamshire Pilot Progress**

9. The concept behind the pilot and wider programme is: "To delay or prevent the need for intervention by partners delivering public services through enabling Nottinghamshire communities to be more empowered and resilient." The evaluation framework, currently in development, will aim to identify:
  - How effective the pilot has been in reducing loneliness and isolation to delay or prevent deterioration and the need for social / health care intervention; and
  - How efficient the pilot has been in mobilising social action by getting individuals and communities to do more to help themselves and each other.
10. The three Neighbourhood Co-ordinators are all now in post and in the process of mapping existing provision in the pilot areas, talking to partners and developing the project plan. This committee will be provided with regular updates on the progress of the plan.

### **Community Commemoration Fund Round 6.**

11. Over 140 volunteer hours have gone into the planning of 450 days of activity across the county. It is estimated that 60,000 local residents and visitors to the county will attend or take part in events that commemorate the Great War. Applications from the latest round

were assessed on 20 January 2017. Contributions totalling £3,200 have been awarded from the Community Commemoration Fund, releasing an additional £2,000 of match funding from various sources assuring successful completion of all the suggested events. Four applications have been approved.

The four successful applications were:

- Newark and Sherwood Play Support Group, supported by Cllr Tony Roberts. Funding will be used for local children to work with an artist to produce a banner. The banner will be displayed in Newark Town Hall. The aim of the project is to show what children of today think the war meant, how it affected local history and how it affects them now by including their drawings and poetry on the banner.
- Perlethorpe Environmental Education Centre, supported by Cllr Mike Pringle. The funding will be used to provide WW1 clothing and resources to support the Great War Activity Programme at the centre. The opportunity to wear and handle relevant resources will provide an immersive experience and reinforce the learning.
- Norwell CofE Primary School, supported by Cllr Bruce Laughton. Contribution towards the transport costs for the planned visit to the Perlethorpe Environmental Education Centre. Pupils will take part in the Nottinghamshire Schools Great War activity programme and explore the trench system that still exists today.
- Queens Royal Lancers and Nottinghamshire Yeomanry Museum, Thoresby Court, supported by Cllr Ian Campbell. Funding will enhance the visitor experience to the QRL and NYM by providing an educational exhibition for all ages of the County's Cavalry Regiments' deployment and involvement during the Great War. This free exhibition, which attracts upwards of 35,000 visitors each year, is hosted at Thoresby Court Yard.

### **Civil and Military Partnership Board (CMPB)**

12. The inaugural meeting took place at Brigade HQ Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell on 11 January 2017. Chaired by the Vice Lord Lieutenant, Col (retired) Tim Richmond. The CMPB is supported by the C&VS Team. The following was agreed:

- The establishment of a CMPB is a critical component of the effective management of Armed Forces Covenant activity across the county, to ensure support to both our military and civilian communities and to promote the integration of the two.
- The work of the CMPB supports not only serving military personnel but also the far greater population of veterans across the county.
- The CMPB provides a valuable opportunity to migrate best practice, share key successes and to benefit from mutual understanding – it is not about centralising control.

### **New Horizon Church – Eastwood**

13. The church is based at Eastwood Academy, has a growing congregation of 300+ and 80+ volunteers in the community delivering a range of projects including youth clubs and a seniors club. They are looking to secure a site for either a new build or refurbishment to provide a permanent base. The C&VS Team has provided advice, offered further support with funding applications and has introduced them to Voluntary Action Broxtowe to consider how the work they do can contribute to the wider needs of the Borough.

### **Hockerton Parish**

14. Following a request for support from Cllr Laughton, the team have had an initial scoping meeting with the Chair of Hockerton Parish Meeting. The Village Hall is an old school room that was built in 1824. It is in poor condition and lacks basic facilities, with no water supply or heating. It is also very small. The village has access to some funding and would like to extend the existing building and secure some land alongside the building for around 12 car parking spaces. The Chair has a meeting planned with the landowner and is hopeful that they will be able to secure the land. The team are helping the parish with some ideas around community consultation and potential sources of funding. The parish will be doing some work around costing the proposals. The C&VS team will also be linking them up with the successful project being delivered at Cromwell, as there are some similarities both with the building and the profile of the local community.

### **Harworth-Bircotes Boxing Centre**

15. This project involved the renovation of a disused building to provide an up to date boxing facility. There is a growing body of evidence which shows that the discipline, structure and exercise facilities offered by boxing clubs can have positive impacts on reducing anti-social behaviour. The C&VS Team has supported the project with advice on governance and funding opportunities and has recently assisted with a funding application to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Safety Fund. The centre had its official opening in January 2017 with Cllr Rhodes and Cllr Place in attendance. Over 70 people were at the opening with considerable local press coverage.

### **Winter Wellbeing Event**

16. On 31 January the C&VS supported an event at The Turner Hall in Mansfield Woodhouse aimed at improving the Health & Wellbeing of elderly people in the area. Over 50 local residents attended. The event gave information and guidance about staying fit and healthy and alternative local services available, with an underlying aim to reduce the need for GP / A&E visits. Services provided by partners and the voluntary sector were showcased and included the Fire Service, County Enterprise Foods, Mansfield ASSIST, the Peaceful Trust and a local pharmacy. The event was attended and supported by Cllr Bosnjak, Cllr Tsimbirdis and Cllr Bell.

## **Community Cohesion**

17. A number of proposals have been developed over the past few months to support the Community Safety Committee's Community Cohesion agenda. Detailed below are projects that are being supported. All the projects meet one or more of the following criteria:
- The activity will contribute to social cohesion, bringing diverse groups together to engage in their communities;
  - Projects must undertake to improve participants' wellbeing;
  - Projects must challenge disadvantage. This can be through the project activity itself or through ensuring inclusion of disadvantaged people in the project activity; and
  - Activities could have a celebratory aspect, "Celebrating diversity".

## **Civilian Life 2 – "Honouring the Covenant"**

18. An event is planned for 2 March 2017 and will be held at The B&Q Distribution Centre, Old Manton Wood Colliery Site, Retford Road, Worksop.

All local authorities in Nottinghamshire have now signed up to the Community Covenant. This timely conference provides an opportunity for local authorities, armed forces champions, health sector, housing sector and key stakeholders to gain an insight into the Nottinghamshire vision for the armed forces community and how local forces charities and organisations are leading the way to support the resettlement and transition of all veterans and their families.

The conference will also allow delegates to share community covenant best practice and examine how local understanding by the public of issues affecting personnel and veterans, and their families, can be enhanced. A key aim is to reduce the disadvantage that some armed personnel experience when resettling back into the community.

## **Voluntary Action Broxtowe (V.A.B.) Reach out and Connect Conference**

19. The C&VS team are working in partnership with Voluntary Action Broxtowe to facilitate an event on 9 March 2017 called Reach Out and Connect.

The conference is designed to bring the community and voluntary sector together. The primary objectives are to promote community cohesion, mapping and gathering local intelligence on the work being carried out by the sector in Broxtowe. This will be achieved by creating new relationships between stakeholders and identifying shared priorities.

## **Learning Disability Mansfield / Ashfield**

20. Three local organisations – Nottingham Mencap, TenFifty and Unanima Theatre Company – all with experience of working with adults with learning disabilities, have come together to make a difference in the key areas of Social Connectedness and Community Safety for people with learning disabilities. The focus of this work will be in Mansfield but will also involve engagement with services delivered in Ashfield.

The project has the following overarching aims:

- Enhanced social networks for people with learning disabilities;
- Stronger prevention and support from mainstream services; and
- Helping to create civic mindedness and safer welcoming public spaces

Work is planned around all of these objectives with a welcome response from the Mansfield Town Partnership who are keen to make Mansfield a safer and more welcoming place for people with learning disabilities.

A further outcome is to develop a series of projects and activities to be delivered during Learning Disability Week 2017. A centrepiece of the activities will be a town centre walk / parade called “One Walk – Equal, Safe & Living Life”.

### **British-Polish Community Radio Station**

21. Following a request for support from Cllr Dobson, the team are working with a project to create a bilingual British-Polish internet radio station with an active website aiming to encourage British-Polish people to actively participate in the cultural and social life of the local community. Based in the Newark area, the goals of the project are:
  - Integration of the Polish community;
  - Celebrate the diversity of local community life;
  - Promote positive images of diversity;
  - Influence the development of cultural and social life in Nottinghamshire; and
  - Educational activities, including language classes / measures to protect and promote health / promotion of voluntary organisations / strengthening cultural ties / information on living in the UK.

### **International Children’s Day – Bassetlaw**

22. An event to mark and celebrate International Children’s Day is taking place on 17 June 2017 at The Canch, Worksop. The event is expected to attract around 1,000 people. Previous children’s days have been very successful with a range of nationalities attending, including English, Polish, Lithuanian, Hungarian, Pakistani and others. The day is seen as a way of bringing the community together by providing free activities for children whilst engaging with the whole family and sharing cultural diversity. Many local partners – NCC, BDC, PCC, and Voluntary Sector – will be supporting the event and will be present on the day.

### **International Children’s Day - Mansfield**

23. The team are supporting plans to hold an International Children’s Day event in the Ladybrook area of Mansfield. The C&VS Team are assisting with the organisation of the day which will be a multi-cultural event, bringing children and families together to help

break down barriers and signpost those who are unable to communicate in English to services that may be able to assist. The event will be based around sharing cultural food and activities for children. It is understood that there are no fewer than 15 different languages spoken in the area including Polish, Latvian, Bulgarian, Syrian, Romanian and Czechoslovakian.

### **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 the Community Safety Committee of work undertaken by the Community & Voluntary Sector Team.

### **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 services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, 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.

**Adrian Smith**  
**Corporate Director, Place**

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### **Constitutional Comments (SMG 02/02/2017)**

The proposals set out in this Report fall within the remit of this Committee.

### **Financial Comments (SES 02/02/2017)**

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None

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

All