

## **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:

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

9. As people get older they face increasing challenges. An age friendly community with policies, services and structures which take account of the physical and social environment, brings huge benefits.
10. 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
11. The objectives of the programme are to foster a whole community approach which has co-design and collaboration as its core values and which encourages and enables a resilient Voluntary and Community Sector [VCS] across Nottinghamshire to empower residents to co-design and co-deliver local services.
12. Following a robust recruitment and selection process, three Neighbourhood Co-ordinators have been appointed with an anticipated start date of 16th January 2017. The pilot will run for 18 months, focusing on areas of the county with a high prevalence of loneliness.

## **Mansfield Woodhouse Community Allotment**

13. Mansfield Woodhouse Community Allotment has been supported by the Community & Voluntary Sector team along with Mansfield District Council and Bowring's Transport. It has

been funded by Nottinghamshire County Council's Supporting Local Communities Fund. The project aims to support people with disabilities in growing fruit, vegetables and flowers in specially-built raised beds. Many local residents are actively using the allotment and the group are now in a position to apply for Lottery funding in order to extend the site to incorporate a compost toilet, polytunnel and possibly a classroom.

### **Getaway Club – Stapleford**

14. The Community & Voluntary Sector team is supporting the Getaway Club to find new volunteers and providing advice to help improve systems and governance which could help them secure funding and further support. The club, operating out of Stapleford Youth Centre, provides a weekly 2 hour session for adults with learning disabilities and has around 40 regular attendees, mainly from across Broxtowe. It has been successfully delivering activities and social events for over 20 years. They have a couple of committed volunteers but are incredibly stretched and are in need of new volunteers.

### **Kingsway Hall – Winter Warmer Event**

15. The Community & Voluntary Sector team provided support to Kingsway Hall to organise a Winter Warmer event on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Cllr Alan Bell & Cllr Colleen Harwood supported the event. The Chairman of the Council, Cllr Yvonne Woodhead and Cllr Joyce Bosnjak attended the event which was well attended by local elderly & vulnerable residents. A hot meal was provided and key guest speakers spoke about current issues that might affect local communities, including information from Trading Standards on recognising which scams are being used at present. Agencies in attendance included Notts Fire & Rescue; County Enterprise Foods; Mansfield District Council Assist Team; Jigsaw and Age UK Nottinghamshire. Entertainment was provided free of charge by a local singer.

### **Soldiering on Awards 2017**

16. The Veterans Information Network Nottinghamshire (VINN), supported by the C&VS team, has been shortlisted as a finalist for the 2017 Soldiering On Awards under the 'Working Together' category. Two representatives have been invited to attend a Finalist Reception at the House of Lords in February 2017. This Reception will be attended by Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL and Debra Allcock-Tyler Chief Executive Officer of the Directory of Social Change.

### **Cromwell Village Hall**

17. The C&VS team have been working with this community throughout 2016 as a result of a request from Cllr Laughton to assist them with funding applications to refurbish the hall in Cromwell near Newark. This is a listed building and the village have been trying to secure funding since 2012. The committee leading this have been very successful with community engagement and over the past four years have raised several thousand from community events and regular endowments. When the Community & Voluntary Sector team were asked to get involved the community had just had a disappointing funding rejection and were about to submit two further bids to Awards for All and WREN. All applications were approved in October and will provide £7,500 to replace the windows and doors and WREN had approved a grant of £43,000 which will pay for the full refurbishment of the building including a new floor, damp-proofing and new electrical system, toilets and a new kitchen.

## **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 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**

- 1) To note the work undertaken by the Community and Voluntary Sector Team.

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

### **For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments**

21. The report is for noting only

## **Financial Comments (SES 21/12/16)**

22. 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