

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning, Skills & Community
PPB

DATE: 11 January 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Neighbourhood, Leisure and Sport

SUBJECT: Community Services

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an annual report on the Community Development service for the period up to 31st March 2011.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

i) the report be noted;

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Community Development supports the creation, development and sustainability of independent local community groups. This generates the capacity for effective and inclusive community engagement with council departments and services thus enabling the delivery of many hundreds of community initiatives to tackle strategic objectives and community needs. The Community Development team have both a strategic and neighbourhood role in co-ordinating partnership support to respond to community concerns and create cohesive neighbourhoods which are participative and vibrant with a strong sense of community connectedness.

3.2 Locality working was introduced to the service in April 2010 linked to the expiry of the neighbourhood management initiative. This mechanism involves community development supporting an increased role for partners and community involvement in the Area Forums. Area Forums contribute £45k per annum to Community Development for this support.

4.0 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

4.1 The team consists of 5 FTE with one Senior Officer, 3 full time and two part time CDO's, the budget for Community Development is £232'040, with an income target of £40'450, a net budget of

£191'590. They are neighbourhood based and work to the Area Forum patches. They work alongside community groups helping them develop their skills and knowledge to support community action. This often involves advice and guidance around committee structures, financial arrangements, policies and regulations which need to be developed and observed and assisting in delivery community action. Community development is the only role that has this as its core purpose. It strengthens local belonging and addresses inequalities. It provides a conduit between communities and the public sector which fosters a relationship that:-

- Promotes a strong sense of place, local services really matter to how people feel about where they live and their overall satisfaction.
- Understanding and targeting local priorities – community concerns drive community initiatives and improvement in their neighbourhoods
- Communicates what the Council's doing and proactively seeks views
- Generates community respect – activity brings residents together, the intergenerational work in particular has had a significant impact in breaking down perceptions between young and old in communities resulting in people feeling safer

Community Development has provided efficiency savings of £36,500 in this financial year by reducing the team by one FTE.

4.2 A performance framework is in place for community development activity. In 2010/11 the services performance indicators where:-

Total number of volunteers	3326
Number of groups worked with	150
Number of people benefiting from activity	27193
Number of partners involved	108
Average number of initiatives supported	192
Each quarter	
Funding secured from CD intervention	
From external sources	£252,104.24
From internal sources	£130,515,67
Total funding	£382'529.91

4.3 For every pound it costs to provide community development a further £1.996 is levered into supporting community initiatives. This measure has peaks and troughs over the years. For instance, in the previous year we had Playbuilder funding, and the year prior to that we had a half a million pounds heritage lottery grant. Hence, this figure is lower than previous years however the service still managed to lever double what it costs to provide the service.

5.0 GRASS ROOTS DELIVERY

Ward Members receive quarterly briefings and annual reports on Community Development activities across the Borough. Below is a snapshot to give a flavour of neighbourhood activity extracted from the Annual Reports.

5.1 **Broadheath, Ditton, Hough Green & Hale**

- Hale Village Hall Management Committee, supported group to comply with monitoring from Awards for All funding and co-ordinated with Adult Learning to provide successful IT course for beginners.
- Hale Breakfast Club, advice provided to group on funding sources and sustainability.
- Orchard House, advice on funding and engaging with Area Forums. Successful funding application for new garden equipment for young people residing at the house.
- Hough Green Scouts, support to source funding for venture scout camp.
- Hough Green Brownies, support to source funding for holiday fund, equipment & storage.

5.2 **Appleton, Kingsway & Riverside**

- Victoria Park Consultation on a proposal to improve play facilities for young people, overwhelmingly positive response with consultation report supporting an application to WREN for funding.
- St Bede's Jubilee Club, signposting partners to this group to further support the number and type of activities on offer for older people. A really vibrant group benefiting older members of the local community.
- Crazy Pavers, residents of Milton Road housing scheme working together to transform the outdoor space for the benefit of residents, their families, staff & visitors.
- The Boys Brigade, support for funding for a new mini bus and management arrangements to enable West Bank Community Forum, St Mary's Church and the school to utilise the mini bus
- New Shoots, lead support to this community initiative to provide fresh fruit and vegetables at low cost. Supported the expansion to eight food clubs across Halton and the submission of a lottery grant. Ongoing support to identify future sustainability.
- Co-ordinated Area Forum themed event on Employment & Welfare held in January 2011.

5.3 **Birchfield, Farnworth & Halton View**

- St Lukes Scout & Guide Group, support with venue management, focus on energy savings & efficiency to reduce costs and contribute to sustainability.
- Widnes North Residents Association, support to a new group to develop constitution, policies and procedures. Delivered committee skills training and assisted with funding applications.
- Friends of Crowwood, joint work with Groundwork Mersey to refurbish bowling green. Lead role on consultation for new play area and provided a community fun day for a launch event.
- Widnes Rugby League Heritage Society, ongoing support focussing on charitable status and funding to host school visits programme.
- Mencap, funding support for Link Youth Club and ongoing general community development support to the group.
- Co-ordinated Area Forum themed event on Older People in January 2011.

5.4 **Grange, Heath, Halton Brook & Mersey**

- Zipper Club, ongoing CD support focussed on developing an Equal Opportunities policy, funding support and monitoring processes for successful grant funding. Engaged group in Grange Green Fayre, Grange & Runcorn Christmas Fayres. Membership growing, vibrant group now receiving grants from HBC for work with Carers.
- Grange Community Forum, new partnership group, facilitation and ongoing community initiative support. Strong commitment from partners, Members, Community groups and local organisations to work jointly for improvements & community events.
- Ragheed Group, this group brings together people from different faiths and cultures in St Edwards Parish. CD support on funding applications and improvements to St Edwards Church Hall.
- T H Brown Trust, ongoing CD support to Management Committee and funding support to improve accessibility and modernise the building. In total, over £70k of funding secured from CD support.
- Runcorn Boys Club, assisting the club to seek funding for building refurbishment. The club is a long standing prominent facility in the local community, an anchor for community involvement in this area. Strong link to Heath Rangers, a junior football club also engaged in CD support.

- The Deck Community Forum, CD support to set up this new group consisting of tenants, owner occupiers and landlords. Provides a mechanism for those residing and those who have a stake in the development to come together to tackle issues. Ongoing CD support continues.
- Co-ordinated Area Forum themed event in February 2011 with an Intergenerational theme.

5.5 **Halton Castle, Norton North & South, Windmill Hill**

- Castle Kids Fun Club, a new group requiring a high level of CD support in becoming formalised i.e constitution, financial procedures, safeguarding, managing volunteers, committee skills, securing funding.
- Friends of St Augustines School, a new group supported to develop a constitution, delivered skills training and funding advice.
- Castlefields Community Centre User Group, support to centre users and local groups to be involved in community centre activity & initiatives and have a key role in planning for the new community centre at the heart of Castlefields regeneration.
- Murdishaw Community Centre Project Group, ongoing CD support to the limited company with charitable objectives ensuring governance & company law requirements met. Funding support and the delivery of community events at Easter, Summer, Halloween & Christmas.
- Another Chance to Care, a new group requiring support to become formalised, membership growing and group providing a valuable support network.
- Co-ordinated themed Area Forum event on Drugs & Alcohol issues in February 2011.

5.6 **Beechwood & Halton Lea**

- Dorset Gardens, funding support for activities, linked with local Youth Club and Sports Development to support integrated approach.
- Canal Boat Adventure Project, funding support to secure £56k lottery grant & helped them to develop an action plan for a project with Young Carers.
- Hallwood Park School, support for the school garden & clean up project, 6 raised beds erected, restored the potting shed and prepared the plot ready for harvest, thank you ceremony with the Mayor to thank the volunteers. The area has been free of vandalism and fly tipping thus far.
- Halton Lodge, support to the centre management group to run independently. Assistance to develop a marketing strategy to attract increased centre users and partner

involvement.

5.7 **Daresbury**

- Moore Parish Council, funding advice and event management support for village community events.
- Haddocks Wood, support and advice to the Allotments Association, linked to broader community initiatives i.e Hallwood Park school garden project.

5.8 A service evaluation is carried out annually, for the period 2010/11 the Research & Intelligence team carried this out. 89 responses were received, a 62% return rate. This indicates those that utilise the service place a high value on its provision. The responses demonstrated:-

- 96 % responded to say CD support had a positive effect on their group
- 73 % responded to say they had received support and funding as a result, 8% had not applied for funding
- 98% of respondents stated they would recommend the service to other groups

The elements of the service they used most are:-

- Applying & managing funding
- General community development help and information
- Networking support

The suggestions for future service improvement were:-

- Advertise service more
- More staff in team
- Nothing, good service
- None, they do a top job, the service is spot on.

Some comments received in the evaluation were:-

- "Wide knowledge base, practical help with form filling, can save volunteers a lot of time wasting by trawling about for information. Can provide encouragement to small groups by getting along side and promoting the "yes we can" factor!.
- "The CDT's most valuable contribution is talking through the national, regional and local implications of funding bids and the strategic thinking processes behind them. They have also helped me understand why some bids have been unsuccessful and how I can address these issues in future. Training events are always welcome and well organised and CDT lets me know about new funding opportunities which could be missed under normal circumstances."
- "The service is excellent, long may it continue."

- 5.9 Community development co-ordinates a Practitioners Forum for officers whose job entails community engagement activity. The forum has been in existence now for seven years and has a valued role in networking, sharing best practice, sharing training and identifying areas for joint working in Halton.
- 5.10 Funding has increasingly become core to the Community Development role. The service leads on providing funding market places supported by colleagues in External Funding. These events are always popular with many enquiries for follow up support in accessing funding. This has been a useful mechanism to link with groups who aren't receiving on-going community development support.
- 5.11 The Community Development service also administers grants for Starter, Community Development and Voluntary Youth grants. The grant breakdown for 2010/11 was:-

5.11.1 **Starter Grants & Community Development Grants**
Budget of £6,500

Group	Awarded
The Ragheed Action Group	£400.00
H.A.L.D.S.	£150.00
Pathways	£150.00
Runcorn Carnival Support Group	£150.00
The Deck Community Forum	£150.00
Halton Manic Depressive Fellowship	£375.00
Halebank Angling Club	£150.00
The Commitments Council	£400.00
The over 60's Club	£200.00
The nimble Thimbles	£150.00
St Georges Court tenants Association	£150.00
Halton haven Hospice	£400.00
Stockswell Farm Court Residents Association	£150.00
Riverside Royals Co-operative	£400.00
Friends Of St Augustines	£150.00
Farnworth Village Chronicle	£150.00
Cultivate	£200.00
Crazy Pavers	£150.00
Hough Green Millenium Arts Project	£345.00
Time 4 us	£150.00
Runcorn Grangeway Wednesday Sequence Dance Group	£400.00
Castle Kids Fun Club	£150.00
Halton LGBT	£150.00
Halton Adults with Learning Difficulties Support	£350.00
Hallwood Park Community Forum	£400.00
Halton Carers Centre	£350.00
St Edward's Parents, carers and Tots Group	£381.00

Southlands Court residents Group	£199.00
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Total Expenditure £6,301

Voluntary Youth Grants – Group & Bursary Support

5.11.2 Budget of £18,980

Group	Amount
Bursary - Dance	£250.00
Moorfield Jouiior Bowls	£600.00
Lord Taveners Woodside Youth Centre	£600.00
YouthGrant	£250.00
10th Widnes Scout Group	£600.00
YouthGrant	£0.00
Bursary – Theatre School	£150.00
Bursary - Expedition	£250.00
Bursary - Dance	£250.00
Halton Lodge Community Group	£600.00
Bursary – Youth Theatre	£250.00
Halton Brook carnival Committee	£400.00
Moorfield Cricket Club	£0.00
Bursary – Bolshoi Ballet School	£8,000.00
4th Widnes (St Bede's) Scouts Group	£0.00
Widnes District Scout Council	£300.00
17th St Lukes Brownies	£300.00
1st Moore Scout Group	£500.00
Canal Boat Adventure Project	£600.00
Bursary - Music	£250.00
Friends of Runcorn Hill	£250.00
Xscape Explorer Scout Council	£600.00
HT KT (Holy Trinity Tots and Kids)	£600.00
Bursary - Music	£250.00
Bursary - Dance	£250.00
Four Estates	£400.00
Runcorn & Frodsham Mencap	£295.00
Bursary - Dance	£250.00
Northwest Cheshire Scout Fellowship	£110.00
Halton Komets	£600.00
Bursary – Performing Arts	£250.00
Bursary - Dance	£250.00
Bursary - Scouts	£250.00
1st Halton Scout Group	£0.00
Halton Academy of Martial Arts (HAMA) Taekwondo	£600.00

Total Expenditure £18'855

5.11.3 In the past two years Community Development had a service level agreement with Older Peoples Service to deliver focussed intergeneration activity. During that period the activity delivered:-

	TOTAL
Numbers of individuals over 55+ involved in community activity	940
Numbers of individuals over 55+ benefitting from community activity	2532
Number of people aged 18-55 benefitting from IG activity	1099
Number of people under 18 benefitting from IG activity	2226
Number of people under 18 involved in delivering IG activity	456
Number of people 18-55 involved in delivering IG activity	440
Number of people over 55 involved in delivering IG activity	288
TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT	5687

5.12 This work provided a platform for both short term and long community initiatives involving both young and old. Indeed some groups and activities have become firmly established and are no longer labelled "intergenerational". They are simply seen as part of the fabric of community activities. The Moorfield Bowls, Halloween events, Castlefields story, G-Way Café and Mencap are examples of this. This work has supported the development of the Intergenerational Framework for Halton.

6.0 FUTURE CHALLENGES

6.1 The Community Development service supports the growth and sustainability of civic community engagement. It starts at a grass roots neighbourhood level and is core to the government notion of localism and indeed the previous labour governments empowerment agenda. No other service exists to create and support active communities but many require the platform of community development to reach communities, consult and engage or deliver services in our neighbourhoods. The service often reaches the parts other stakeholder and services simply can't reach.

6.2 Community Development has an income target of £40'450. This will be achieved through the Area Forum funding contribution to supporting locality working for 2011/12. In the past few years it has

also been met through Service Level Agreements for Intergenerational activity and support to Neighbourhood Management. The service needs to identify future income opportunities to support the sustainability of the service.

- 6.3 Community Development is leading a piece of work to develop a social accounting model for Halton. This would further the existing performance management framework providing a social return on investment model. The service already demonstrates the level of activity, funding acquired and volunteer involvement however extending the performance management will help us better articulate the impacts of the service on service provision from an economic, social and environmental perspective.

7.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

7.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Community services deliver Halton's Got Talent each year engaging with hundreds of young people, signposting to culture and performing arts activities and showcasing youth hubs to increase participation. Intergenerational activity generating cohesion between young and old in communities. Grants for voluntary youth groups and bursary support provide benefits in activities being accessed and opportunities for young people being realised.

7.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Employment within the service areas. Volunteer opportunities and skills development in committee skills, capacity building, fundraising, consultation, etc. Support to adult and lifelong learning for community groups and neighbourhood delivery.

7.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Community development supports a whole area approach to health and wellbeing linking appropriate partners and stakeholders to work jointly with all sections of Halton's community responding to health issues, i.e zipper club, alzheimers group, lunch bunch, Halton happy hearts. This approach raises awareness of health issues and empowers communities to be proactive. Examples of this are support to New Shoots fruit & vegetable initiative, community gardening & allotment projects, patient support groups and liaison with the Health Improvement Team.

7.4 **A Safer Halton**

A sense of community and community connectedness reduces residents fears of crime where they live, they are likely to feel a stronger sense of belonging and safety in an environment where the communities know each other, are active and there are established links to other stakeholders like police, housing, community wardens, etc. Community Development attends Tasking & Co-ordination to

contribute to a co-ordinated approach

7.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Community development contribute to wider community initiatives and regeneration in the areas they are sited. There are numerous community gardening and local environmental projects across the service working jointly with key stakeholders. The service has a key role in Castlefields Regeneration which is now ten years into the programme. Delivering community development within the neighbourhoods linking into the Area Forums provides a mechanism for local people to influence improvements for their area and translate aspirations into objectives.

8.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 The service has a robust performance management mechanism.

9.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 The Community Development service is open and accessible to all of Halton's Community. The service supports both groups providing general community initiatives and those who represent marginalised sections of the community, i.e Halton Umbrella providing a network for black, minority and ethnic residents, many groups who exist to support disabled, support those suffering severe ill health, etc.

10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act