

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning and Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 23rd September 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community & Resources

SUBJECT: Community Development Service Annual Report for 2018/19

PORTFOLIO: Community & Sport

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the operational delivery for the Community Development Service for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

2. RECOMMENDATION: That:

- 2.1 Members consider and comment upon the report.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Community Development service helps support local community groups or organisations with their formation and facilitates the delivery of community led initiatives and activity. The team also have a combined role in managing Area Forum projects delivery; enabling elected Members to respond to community concerns and aspirations. The combined role generates effective community engagement with Council departments, services and partner organisations and contributes to building resilience in Halton's communities.

4. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 The Team's Officers are neighbourhood based. They work alongside community groups to support them to develop their skills and knowledge to promote community action. This often involves providing advice and guidance around committee structures, financial arrangement, policies and regulations which need to be developed and observed and assisting in delivery of community action. This is the only role that has these functions as a core purpose. Community Development activity strengthens local belonging, addresses inequalities and 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 residents feel about where they live and their overall satisfaction.

- Understanding and targets local priorities - community concerns drive community initiatives and improvements in their neighbourhoods.
- Communicates what the Council is doing and proactively seeks engagement.
- Generates connected communities to create a sense of belonging and facilitating community resilience.
- Generates community respect and civic pride through activity brings residents together. Intergenerational work in particular has had a significant impact in breaking down perceptions between young and old in communities resulting in people feeling safer.

4.2 Seeking out funding opportunities and securing successful bids has become increasingly core to the Community Development and Project Officer role; which is particularly important in the current economic climate. A performance framework is in place for community development activity. In 2018/19, the Service's performance against each indicator can be seen in the Table below.

	2018/19	2017/18
Total number of volunteers	303	312
Number of groups worked with	71	67
Number of people benefiting from activity	2563	3825
Number of events/initiatives supported	13	9
Funding secured from CD intervention		
From external sources	£527,696	£101,520
From internal sources	£68,547	£68,633
TOTAL FUNDING	£596,243	£170,153

4.3 In 2018/19, for every pound it cost to provide the Community Development service, £4.18 was levered in to support community groups and initiatives. Levels of 'levered in' funding fluctuate over the years with bids translating into funds being brought into the Borough often involving lengthy timescales. In the previous operating year this figure was £1.19 and the year before it was £0.68. During both of these years the Service team was operating at reduced capacity. The 2019/20 figure will see a healthy increase as the service has already secured higher levels of external funds.

5. GRASS ROOTS DELIVERY

5.1 The following section provides some examples of projects and groups that the Community Development (CD) Team are working in partnership across the borough:

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

Friends of Lynton Green: Support and advice provided to residents around establishing a group and developing appropriate policies and procedures.

St Michael and St Thomas Church: Support with funding applications to enable the Church to make improvements to their community space.

Hough Green Allotments: Support provided to enable the group to complete monitoring information required for Lottery 'awards for all' funding stream to ensure compliance with the grant they received. Further support with funding bids for a compostable toilet, solar panels and equipment so that the group are self-sufficient on site was also provided..

5.1.2 **Appleton, Kingsway & Riverside**

St John's Church: Advice provided to the group to support them with an 'awards for all' funding application to upgrade the heating system in their community space. Assisted further on consultation that was required to evidence the need for the work.

Friends of Spike Island: Support and advice provided to interested parties around establishing a group and associated governance. Also provided assistance to complete funding applications to enable the group to provide for a number of events for the local community.

Family Nurse Partnership: Provided support and advice for a Christmas party being provided for young parents and their children.

5.1.3 **Birchfield, Farnworth & Halton View**

St Luke's Church: Worked alongside External Funding Team to support the Church with a variety of funding bids including advice on required consultation to improve community facilities at the Church.

St Ambrose Church: Supported the group with a successful Area Forum application which enabled new flooring to be installed. This particularly benefited their Sanctuary Group which is a project to help people who are struggling with their mental health.

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

Halton Zipper Club: Worked with the group to assist them as changes were made to the affiliating body. Developed links with relevant Council departments and partner organisations on behalf of the group so that they could work more closely, share information and attend meetings.

Heath High School: Support provided to organise a community day. Funds were sourced and students partnered with community organisations that they could work with.

Love Where You Live: Worked with ward Councillors, Waste Management and a range of organisations in the area to co-ordinate a community clean up event where 40 people attended and improved their local environment.

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

Friends of Halton Village: Worked with interested residents to set up the group and get it established. Provided support and guidance around governance including relevant policies and procedures.

Murdishaw Over 60s Club: Supported the group to increase their membership numbers and assisted them with a successful Area Forum application to host a Christmas event.

Windmill Snappers: Assisted the group in becoming established with correct policies and procedures. Also advised on a range of smaller grant applications to help them get started with projects.

5.1.6 **Beechwood & Halton Lea**

Hillview Women's Group: Assistance was provided to the group to run a recruitment drive and source funding to hold some events. Numbers increased by 20, which doubled their membership, and will ensure the group remain sustainable.

City Arts: Supported the group to secure some funding to purchase essential resources and infrastructure equipment.

5.1.7 **Daresbury**

Milner Institute: Worked with the group on the redevelopment of the centre and looking at functionality of the space. Supported various funding applications to enable the work to commence.

6. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

6.1 The Community Development Service also administers Starter and Development grants for community groups. In 2018/19, four new groups were supported with a starter grant and six existing groups were supported with a development grant to assist with their project/group costs. A breakdown of expenditure is set out in the table overleaf:-

Starter Grants & Community Development Grants

GROUP NAME	PROJECT	GRANT AWARDED
Starter Grant		
Pixel Perfect	Start Up Costs	£150.00
Carousel Mutual Aid	Start Up Costs	£150.00
A Better Tomorrow	Start Up Costs	£150.00
Fortuna Female Society	Start Up Costs	£150.00
TOTAL Starter Grant		£600.00
Development Grant		
Open Door	Holiday Project – Activity and Meals	£400.00
Years Ahead	Equipment & Resources	£400.00
Cathie Stankevitch Foundation	Heating Costs	£400.00
A Better Tomorrow	Equipment	£400.00
Windmill Snapper Amateur Photography	Exhibition & Resources	£300.00
Fortuna Female Society	Event	£398.00
TOTAL Development Grant		£2,298.00
TOTAL		£2,898.00

7. AREA FORUM PROJECTS

- 7.1 As referred to in paragraph 3.1, Community Development & Project Officers also manage Area Forum project applications and delivery. Area Forum money can often help to lever other funding into the borough as match funding; for example, third party contribution for Wren applications.
- 7.2 An annual report on Area Forums is presented to Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board, which provides full details of expenditure, match funding, evaluation and case studies. Summary details of expenditure are provided below.
- 7.3 Summary of spend by each Local Area Forum;

Local Area Forum	Total Budget	Total Spend
1 - Broadheath, Ditton, Hale & Hough Green	£46,910.59	£42,019.32
2 - Appleton, Kingsway & Riverside	£64,172.35	£26,530.16
3 - Birchfield, Farnworth & Halton View	£74,694.18	£39,187.71
4 - Grange, Halton Brook, Heath & Mersey	£63,310.44	£49,892.11
5 - Halton Castle, Norton North, Norton South & Windmill Hill	£60,771.91	£36,120.10
6 - Beechwood & Halton Lea	£33,041.62	£19,059.24
7 - Daresbury	£12,436.55	£9,488.16
Totals	£355,337.64	£222,296.80

7.4 The Projects funded through the Local Area Forums are wide and varied, and have been categorised into a number of key areas, which are listed in the following table:-

	Children & Young People	Community Events	Community Resources & Equipment	Community Initiatives	Improved Parks	Pedestrian & Highway Improvements	Community Safety	Total
AF1	£5,000.00	£0.00	£7,959.66	£15,200.00	£7,600.00	£0.00	£6,259.66	£42,019.32
AF2	£280.00	£7,000.00	£5,522.16	£6,645.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	£6,083.00	£26,530.16
AF3	£6,726.48	£0.00	£12,340.23	£900.00	£7,600.00	£2,550.00	£9,071.00	£39,187.71
AF4	£11,478.00	£855.00	£14,448.80	£7,476.90	£7,600.00	£0.00	£8,033.41	£49,892.11
AF5	£1,760.00	£3,707.50	£15,551.60	£8,101.00	£0.00	£7,000.00	£0.00	£36,120.10
AF6	£6,782.00	£419.00	£11,858.24	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£19,059.24
AF7	£4,023.02	£0.00	£5,465.14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£9,488.16
Total	£36,049.50	£11,981.50	£73,145.83	£38,322.90	£22,800.00	£10,550.00	£29,447.07	£222,296.80
%	16	5	33	17	10	5	13	100

7.5 The projects funded through the Area Forum contribute to one or more of the Council's priorities as detailed in the table below. As can be seen from the table below, the highest allocation of funding is towards Environment and Regeneration projects which accounts for 38% of total expenditure.

	Healthy Halton	Environment & Regeneration	Employment, Learning & Skills	Children & Young People	Community Safety	Total
AF1	£2,683.90	£26,401.82	£5,275.76	£5,000.00	£2,657.84	£42,019.32
AF2	£427.35	£8,137.10	£4,602.71	£7,280.00	£6,083.00	£26,530.16
AF3	£1,580.00	£16,532.10	£5,278.13	£6,726.48	£9,071.00	£39,187.71
AF4	£5,420.27	£18,625.73	£6,334.70	£11,478.00	£8,033.41	£49,892.11
AF5	£7,649.63	£13,198.80	£7,991.67	£7,280.00	£0.00	£36,120.10
AF6	£6,664.48	£0.00	£5,193.76	£7,201.00	£0.00	£19,059.24
AF7	£2,843.11	£1,530.00	£1,092.03	£4,023.02	£0.00	£9,488.16
Total	£27,268.74	£84,425.55	£35,768.76	£48,988.50	£25,845.25	£222,296.80
%	12	38	16	22	12	100

8. SERVICE EVALUATION

8.1 A service evaluation is carried out annually with assistance from the Council's Customer Intelligence Unit. This was conducted in April when feedback on the service received in 2018/19 was requested. The feedback demonstrated that:-

- 97% of respondents stated that Community Development support has made a difference to their group
- 85% of respondents rated the service as excellent and 15% as good
- 100% of respondents would recommend the service to other groups

The elements of the service that groups stated were most beneficial to them were:

- Funding Advice & Support
- General Support, Advice & Knowledge
- Governance Advice including how to establish a group

8.2 Open comments were received for a number of questions and a snapshot of responses is below:

Did receiving help from the Community Development and Project Team make a difference to your group?

With their guidance we have been able to successfully get funding for a new kitchen, disabled access, LED lighting and a projector and screen to set up Movies in Moore for community get-togethers and raise funds for the upkeep of the 112 year old building.

Just being able to check things and have a second opinion. I am new to both grants applications, bids and running a group. I could rely on the team for practical help and advice.

With the help we got we were able to get constituted and begin our journey.

Working with the team has made connecting with other local community groups so much easier! They have provided invaluable support and advice from pointing us in the right direction for funding pots to helping with risk assessments when co-ordinating events. Knowing that we have someone to get in touch with, that has answers, or will out answers has been brilliant!

What did you think was most useful about receiving help from the Community Development Team?

Advice and help with the constitution and setting the group up. The grant we have just received, thank you.

Face to face meetings to discuss our project and the ability to signpost us to various options for grant funding.

*Were positive and gave us self-belief, enabled in a friendly and caring manner. Always willing to give advice when asked.
The support they give and the knowledge they bring to the discussion which strengthens the confidence we have in working with them.*

It was the guidance we received with our application form. Nothing was too much trouble and any queries we had were answered very quickly and efficiently. Communication was excellent.

If you could improve one thing about the service offered what would this be?

63% of responses either suggested no improvements or indicated that the service should remain as it is.

Perhaps an online list of possible grant/fund providers

More promotion of the service within schools

There were also a couple of suggestions of specific support required and Officers will follow these up with the relevant groups.

9. STRATEGIC APPROACHES

9.1 The Community Development Service;

- Works in close collaboration with the Community Centres service to support community led activity in Council venues and provide vibrant hubs with a wide offer for local residents;
- Has provided lead support to the Community Shop initiative to secure a social supermarket in Halton. The site and capital funding has been secured and the Community Shop is scheduled to open in December 2019; this will be the first one in the Liverpool City Region;
- Is supporting the delivery of the Halton 'Well North' programme; which is providing investment of public health funds to help improve health outcomes. Community Development is leading on the Windmill strand of the programme; the ward within the Borough identified as having the most challenging health outcomes;
- Provides support to the Council's approach for the re-settlement programme of Syrian Refugees. The service is a member of the multi-agency forum and provides local briefs for each new arrival in the Borough to assist families with orientating themselves in their new surroundings;
- Assisted with the multi-agency response to the high profile murder in Halton Village in September 2018. Supporting communication with local community groups, co-ordinating additional outreach provision with relevant agencies and arrangements for community events. This has generated longer term involvement and support with a community focus on tackling weapons;
- Provides a strategic approach to community engagement in Halton. It enables Council departments and partner agencies to engage with local communities and supports the third sector infrastructure that provides the platform for community involvement in Halton.

10. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Financial and Resource implications are detailed within the report.

11. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no Policy implications arising from this report

12. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

12.1 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, and Halton happy hearts. This approach raises awareness of health issues and empowers communities to be proactive and build resilience. Examples of this are support to community gardening & allotment projects, patient support groups and liaison with the Health Improvement Team.

12.2 Halton's Urban Renewal

Community development contributes 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. 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. The report highlights the high level of area forum funding that is provided as a contributing to environmental improvements in the Borough.

12.3 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The service works with volunteers; facilitating skills development in committee processes, capacity building, fundraising and consultation. Close working with the Community Centres service also provides volunteer opportunities. Support is also provided for adult and lifelong learning for community groups.

12.4 Children and Young People in Halton

Community Development activity benefits all ages of residents with many initiatives directly supporting children and young people or having intergenerational approaches.

12.5 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

13. RISK ANALYSIS

13.1 There are no significant risks associated with this report.

14. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

14.1 There are no equality and diversity issues as a result of this report as the Local Area Forums and grant support opportunities are open and accessible to all members of Halton's community.

15. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

15.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.