

Report to:

**Council**

Agenda  
Item

**10(b)(v)**

Meeting Date: 06 January 2015

Public/Private\*: Public

Title: **Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder's Report –  
Councillor Jessica Riddle**

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## **Customer Services**

### Universal Credit

Universal Credit went live in the Carlisle City Council area on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Those customers eligible to qualify for Universal Credit payments include claimants who are newly unemployed, single and under 25 years of age with no complex needs and couples with no children and no complex needs. Families are currently being tested in the Universal Credit pilot sites and it is envisaged that this group will be rolled out more widely into Universal Credit in the New Year. Universal Credit replaces six separate benefits – Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit and Housing Benefit.

The Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) have asked local authorities to deliver personal budgeting support and debt advice to those claimants of Universal Credit who need assistance. Carlisle City Council will work with the Citizens Advice Bureau to provide an advice worker, based at the Civic Centre who will advise and assist those customers who need help. This will be funded by the DWP. This will also enable Carlisle City Council to identify what other assistance is needed to support our vulnerable citizens.

## **Equality and Diversity Policy**

The Council is reviewing its approach to equality to ensure that it reflects current legislation and best practice. The review is considering what the Council is currently doing to promote equality and our plans to continue this work in future. The Council proposes to refresh its approach by building on its achievements and streamlining its policies and

practices. The plans will be open to consultation in the new year and aims to be completed by April 2015.

## **Crime and Disorder**

### Bonfire Night / Operation Roman Candle

On the 5<sup>th</sup> November a community bonfire took place on Dowbeck Road. The event was co-ordinated by Riverside Housing Association, in partnership with Carlisle City Council, Cumbria Constabulary and Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service. Riverside hailed the event a success and estimated that between 250 and 300 people were in attendance. The feedback was very positive and a number of residents have already come forward to set up a new community group. The group is hoping to organise a variety of events, commencing in December 2014 with a children's party. Operation Roman Candle took place between Friday, 24 October and Thursday, 6 November. Early analysis identified a reduction in both anti-social behaviour and nuisance fires across the District.

### Community Centres

The business planning cycle for community centres is coming to a close. The process requires each community centre to submit a business plan and other associated documents to the City Council by the 15<sup>th</sup> December.

### Community Safety Partnership

The Countywide Community Safety Strategic Assessment is in the process of being finalised. The report provides responsible authorities with an understanding of patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse across the County and will be used by the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnerships to produce the partnership plan for 2015/16.

## **Homelife Carlisle**

Homelife Carlisle have been successful in securing a grant of £1000 from ESH charitable trust communities fund to assist with helping households who have hoarding issues. The grant will be used for small scale interventions such as assistance with clearing properties. It is envisaged that the grant will complement the assistance already provided through Homelife such as providing 'deep cleans' and ongoing cleaning service and joint working with partners, including Health and Social Care. The project will also feed into the work of

the new Cumbria Hoarding Partnership. Not only will the grants improve the well being of individual households, they will have much wider impact on local communities.

### **Northern Silver Screen Awards**

Carlisle City Council's Women and Families accommodation service at Water Street, in partnership with Fair Food Carlisle, beat off strong competition from Local Authorities and Housing Associations to win the Northern Silver Screen award, 2014 for Building Community Capacity.

A professional chef works with local volunteers, using local produce, including food grown in Water Street Garden, to prepare food in Water Street Kitchen for distribution to people in need of a hot meal.

People living in Water Street get the opportunity to develop skills in growing food, preparing food and basic cooking skills. While interaction with volunteers builds confidence, and helps clients to engage with the support offer. This in turn, helps people who are homeless to overcome barriers that prevent them from making positive changes in their lives. Any excess meals are frozen and are used to support rough sleepers.

Awareness raising among health, social care and housing practitioners has created additional capacity to enable community meals direct to increase its offer to all older people – not just those assessed as requiring the service. Since its inception in April 2014, take up has increased from 20 people to 35 people and the number of volunteers has increased to 25.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

Carlisle were asked to present 3 projects at the World Health Organisation International Healthy Cities Conference following the acceptance of 5 abstracts amongst 200 other applications:

- Hospital at Home & Community Neighbours combined
- Carlisle Doorstep Walks
- A Healthy City Week approach
- Food as a vehicle towards improved health and well-being for the people of Carlisle

5 full reports were submitted and accepted.

Over 56 different countries took part in the event, which was attended by World Health Organisation advisors, politicians, Ministers for Health, Minister for Tourism, etc.

Carlisle was held in high regard for the positive work it has done and features in “Promoting health and equity – evidence for local policy and practice – summary evaluation, as well as the Congress book.

The **Declaration for Healthy Cities**, was elaborated during the conference and signed by all Mayors and senior political representatives of cities present; the declaration also calls on ***“all city and health leaders and everyone who lives in urban settings to join in this endeavour to create a healthier and sustainable future”***.

Carlisle was presented with a certificate expressing gratitude for its commitment and contribution to the European Network in phase V between 2009-13. This was presented by the *Director of the Division of Policy and Governance for Health and Wellbeing World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark.*

The Carlisle Doorstep Walks programme has applied for national accreditation to Walking For Health, which gives recognition to good practice and standards. The scheme held a successful Christmas gathering with over 70 people in attendance. Referrals have been taken from a range of organisations.