

PORTFOLIO:

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

**COUNCILLOR
JACQUELYNE GEDDES**

THE WELLBEING TEAM UPDATE

The Wellbeing Team continue to be extremely busy planning for such events as the Olympic Torch Relay and Music City. A Work Plan was circulated to all Members outlining roles and responsibilities and I would like to remind Members if they need any further information the Team are located on the 7th floor & would be happy to speak to them to see what support can be provided.

The Community Development Officer for Enterprise is leading and supporting a number of Initiatives including:

Community Centres

- Continue to liaise through the Federation of Community Associations & the Centre Managers meeting to support and enhance provision in Community Centres. (i.e. Providing training opportunities, working in partnership to kick start new activities).
- IT training is currently being offered to all centres, so they can independently manage their own web sites.
- Through the Federation, training needs are being assessed; relevant training opportunities will then be offered through Cumbria CVS.

Carlisle Music City - June 4th – 10th

- A high profile festival with 30 local venues now on board, to deliver a showcase event during the week June 4th – 10th.
- Workshops & street performances will take place in the town centre on June 8th & 9th.
- Discussions are under way to hold an event in Bitts Park to close the event on June 10th.
- Virgin Trains are interested in being part of Music City and have offered the use of Carlisle Railway Station. Commuters arriving at the station will be greeted by music as they arrive in The Music City. There are also plans

to pipe music through the tannoy system and someone to sing train destinations.

The Olympic Torch – Route Animation

- 59 community groups have now been recruited to line the route.
- 18 performance groups will create a community festival atmosphere in the town centre, creating a free event which will start before the arrival of the torch.
- A map is currently being produced showing where all groups will be placed (leaving room for the general public).
- On April 21st, in conjunction with Multi Cultural Carlisle, flag and banner making workshops will be held in the city centre.
- Every cultural group represented in the city will have its national or cultural flag on display on the day of the relay.
- Seminars have been attended with partners from around Cumbria with the aim of sharing good practice.

The Community Development Officer for Sport and Physical Activity is also leading on a number of initiatives

Promoting Sport and Physical Activity including:

- Re-designing the sports development sections of the Wellbeing Team's website to make them more 'user friendly'.
- Working with the Communications Team to develop a booklet to celebrate and promote local opportunities for the community to try out Olympic activities. This will promote, local sports clubs, sessions and the one off activities that are being planned to maximise the Olympic legacy.
- Contacting Clubs and national governing bodies of sport to invite them to part of the torch relay celebrations at Bitts Park. England Hockey, the LTA (Lawn Tennis Association), England Netball, CLL (Carlisle Leisure Limited), Carlisle Squash Club, Carlisle Aspatria Athletics Club, Chatsworth Tennis Club, England Athletics, Active Cumbria and England Rounders have so far confirmed they will be part of the evening.

Current and Future Projects

Delivering and planning the delivery of a range of sports projects including:

- Junior tennis competitions being held at Bitts Park Airdome during half term for children aged 5-16.
- Tutoring a tennis leader's course during half term. This will be a good opportunity for young people to gain a qualification and will create a pool of young volunteers for our community tennis programme.
- A course funded by the Carlisle competition manager to be delivered to Trinity School; again this will create young leaders who can be mentored.

- Delivering tennis camps, Startrack athletics camps and hockey as part of the Easter Go 4 it, held in partnership with the Carlisle SPAA (Sport and Physical Activity Alliance).
- Planning sports activity delivery in schools and the community; identifying children who are unable to afford access to central venues such as Bitts Park and the Sheepmount. Also hoping to fund sports coaches, who will deliver community sessions, using tennis and athletics as a delivery tool.
- Delivered free tennis coaching opportunities to; Kingmoor School, Belle Vue School, Hayton School, Stanwix School and Caldewlea School.
- Holding positive meetings with Sport England as Carlisle is a priority authority. Possible funding opportunities have been discussed as part of their new youth and community strategy.
- After meeting with the Sports Council, plans are underway for this year's Carlisle Sports Awards. The date and venue have been confirmed and will be announced by the Sports Council soon.
- After recently meeting with Active Cumbria, Carlisle Leisure Limited and the University of Cumbria, a programme is now being planned for local coaches.

The Community Development Officers for Inclusion continue to deliver a range of projects. These include

Trinity Multi-Use Games area

The new games area was opened at the end of January, with a full turn out of children and partners. 28 children from Caldewlea School came along and had the opportunity to take part in both a tennis and basketball coaching session. All contributing partners to the project also attended the session and the opening. The site was opened by Cllr Bloxham alongside a pupil from the school. Full media coverage was received, through TV, BBC radio and local newspapers.

Operation Stay Safe

The second Stay Safe initiative was held on the evening of the 10th February and was organised by the Castle Trust, a joint initiative between Children's Trust agencies who operate within North Cumbria. The operation involved the identification, support and removal as appropriate of vulnerable children and young people from streets/public areas of Carlisle, predominantly within the Castle Ward.

Working in partnership with the police, an officer jointly patrolled the city centre to engage with young people who were potentially putting themselves at risk. If a young person was deemed to be at risk they were asked to go to Carlisle College, which, for the purpose of this operation, was acting as the place of safety. Parents were contacted and a range of agencies were available to give advice and support. It is proposed that 4 similar operations will be held in Carlisle throughout the year.

Active Cumbria

Officers from the Wellbeing team have also been asked to sit on the Active Cumbria's Executive Committee, to represent all other Local Authority Community Development Teams. The committee will set the agenda and address issues surrounding current and existing work programmes and also new initiatives, which affect local authority teams and national governing bodies in the county. A working group made up of the different partners will then use this information to drive forward their work programmes.

Future Projects

Bike/Skate

Work is continuing in partnership with Brampton Parish Council and William Howard School to deliver a bike track and skate park project for local young people. Research and development plans are under way to enhance existing facilities and the opportunities for new ones. Some exciting times are ahead as both parties are really pro active in supporting and exploring opportunities which will benefit the community.

Alley Play

The process of pulling together the Alley Play Project is under way. This is a joint project with the County Council and will be piloted in Denton Holme. The project aims to utilise gated spaces, making them a safe space for young children to play in. The aim is for it to be run in the Easter holidays

The Community Development Officer for Young People has led on various initiatives involving young people including:

ABSTRACT

Abstract's 1st birthday party on the 13th January 2012 was a huge success and over 50 young people accessed the event at the University of Cumbria. They are currently working extensively on their 5th edition with a special feature around 'staying safe'. This is due out at the end of March 2012.

Indoor Skate Event

The indoor skate event at the Sands Centre on the 2nd December was a huge success and attracted over 70 young people. It is hoped this number will increase to over 100 at the next event on the 11th May 2012.

Youth Council

The Youth Council decided that the Young Mayor would be chosen from their committee members and would be rotated between the Vice Chair (Alex Sargeson) and one other member (from Laura Pugh, Simon Boothroyd or Jordan Little). This will then enable organised and supervised duties to commence with the current Mayor of Carlisle. Due to study commitments, the Chair of the Youth Council has declined to stand as Young Mayor.

The group are also focusing on producing a document of 'What's On' for young people in and around Carlisle to submit to ABSTRACT magazine. They

are also looking at addressing the outcomes from the survey they conducted – lack of transport for young people in the area was high on the priority list.

Youth Exchange

This year's youth exchange will happen in July/August 2012 in Slupsk in Poland. The meetings for this project have commenced again and delivery of qualifications and fund raising opportunities are being looked into for the young people to become involved with.

Gypsy and Traveller Engagement

The Community Engagement Officer for Health has been engaging with agencies at the Harker Dean Gypsy and Traveller site, looking at what provision is needed, through consultation with the community and will help provide what is identified to the children, young people and adults who live there.

Harraby Youth Club

The development of a more structured programme is being looked into at Harraby Youth Club where young people who are NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) or at risk of being NEET will be able to get involved in a number of interactive activities around health and wellbeing, gaining specific qualifications that will support application forms into further education, training or employment.

Homeless Peer Mentoring Project

Work is taking place in partnership with the Homeless Team and Connexions to develop a project designed to help reduce the amount of young people who find themselves homeless or prematurely independently living. The idea is to consult with a small group of young people who have been in the position of independently living or homelessness, discuss with them what 'gaps' they felt needed to be addressed by services and organisations and then develop a programme that they can then deliver through peer mentoring to other younger young people in schools.

Community Development Officer for Health

Carlisle Cooks!

20 participants from community organisations throughout Carlisle attended the 2 day Carlisle Cooks! Let's get Cooking training programme. 15 of these organisations have applied for Associate Club status with Let's get Cooking, allowing them all to access funding of £500 each. This money can be used to buy equipment and ingredients to begin running cookery courses throughout the community. Support will be given to those who attended the training, aiding them with establishing cookery groups.

Community Champions

Work is taking place in partnership with the PCT (Primary Care Trust) to recruit and train volunteers to become Community Champions. This will be a pilot in the Botcherby and Currock wards. The aim is to increase the number

of people presenting at their GP's with concerns, to either rule out cancer or ensure early diagnosis and treatment.

Young Parents' Group

Discussions and plans are being put in place to establish a Young Parents' Group in Brampton. This has been strongly supported by the community centre and Barnardos. The next step is to gauge support from the local health visitors.

Breastfeeding Friendly Premises

Working along with the Infant Feeding Co-ordinator and breastfeeding support volunteers to recruit more Breastfeeding Friendly premises. This will involve premises in Carlisle displaying Breastfeeding Welcome stickers and be part of a Breastfeeding Friendly Directory for Carlisle. Part of this process involves getting the Breastfeeding Support Group constituted so they can apply for funding and become sustainable.

Art students & hostel clients

A project is being coordinated which will engage students from the Art College with clients from St John's Street Hostel. This will result in a piece of art work which will be displayed at Shaddon Gateway centre. This will be the foundations of building a relationship with students and volunteering opportunities at Shaddon Gateway centre.

Customer Contact Centre

Carlisle City Council has been in talks with Cumbria Constabulary with a view to the counter service in the Civic Centre being delivered by City Council customer contact staff. The Acting Chief Constable, Stuart Hyde, has now agreed to go ahead with this innovative step in service delivery. It is envisaged that this will take place from 1st April 2012. A joint marketing campaign is being devised between the City Council and the Constabulary to promote partnership working within the City. The aim of this strategy is to deliver excellent services for the citizens of Carlisle at a single point of contact whilst maintaining efficiencies for partners.

National Association of Councillors (English Region) Austerity Measures and the Welfare Reform Bill Conference. 24, 25 & 26 February 2012

I attended the NAC (English Region) Conference in Harrogate from 24 to 26 February. Please contact Jane Walshe if you'd like to see the papers from this conference.

**Councillor Jacquelyne Geddes
Community Engagement Portfolio Holder**