

North Yorkshire County Council
Craven Area Committee

21st September 2017

Stronger Communities Progress Report

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update Craven Area Committee on the work of the Stronger Communities programme.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 The Stronger Communities Delivery Manager continues to support community library groups and voluntary sector organisations across Craven.
- 2.2 The programme's new investment strategy was launched at well attended (approx. 70 organisations in total) roadshows in Settle and Skipton in July 2017. The prospectus provides information on three new approaches to Stronger Communities support:

i) **Inspire**

Grants up to £1000 for local, community led social action, events and small pilot projects.

Three Inspire grants have been awarded to date:

- To create a website for Craven Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum which will be an online information resource
- Funding towards the costs of the Ingleton Autumn Light Festival
- Funding towards the cost of promotional events and supporting information for Grassington Hub

ii) **Achieve**

This is the main programme of support replacing the former main programme. The approach is that of co-design and co-production and projects will be evidence or need led, will include mandatory capacity building for VCS partners and is aimed at developing longer term projects capable of delivering at scale.

A project that is actively under consideration is the implementation of an online collaboration platform that will enable more effective joint working amongst voluntary sector organisations. The platform has been designed by South Lakes Age UK, and recently rolled out across Cumbria with funding from Cumbria Public Health.

Another potential Achieve Project is around collaborative use of a community building in Skipton by a range of voluntary sector organisations. The building requires some capital

expenditure and there will need to be development work around equitable use of the building. It is hoped that this approach would create a multi-use building offering a wide range of opportunities for older people, people with learning difficulties and people with mental health needs, including work and training opportunities.

iii) **Other Grants Awarded between May - July 2017**

- Skipton Extended Learning For All - £4,480 to work with a consultant to develop a robust monitoring and evaluation methodology. This in turn will lead to the production of high quality data about the value of their service which should then be of use in securing funding.
- Craven Development Education Centre - £1,475 to provide a legacy from the Celebrate Craven project of 50 books which will serve as permanent record of the event, and will be distributed to libraries in Craven, through the Craven Museum Service and through resource libraries held by partner organisations.

3. Library Transition Programme

- 3.1 The Delivery Manager continues to support the new community organisations managing libraries with advice and training, helping them to achieve their broader and longer term ambitions for their communities. All the libraries are doing well despite experiencing some initial teething problems. Each library is looking for additional volunteers to help with the range of operational aspects of running the library including developing a web and social media presence, events management, running IT and craft groups. Settle Library is holding a launch event on the 21st October. Richard Flinton has visited Bentham Library.

4. Stronger Communities Projects

- 4.1 **Discovery Event for Bentham, Burton and Ingleton GP Practice Area**
This event was held on the 7th June and attended by upwards of 50 organisations and individuals, including clergy, head teachers, Parish and District Cllrs and a range of voluntary sector organisations. A working group was subsequently formed, and decided to focus on transport, as this is such a big issue for members of the community without their own car. There have been three subsequent meetings and we are now putting a survey together which will help us decide on a way forward.
- 4.2 **Greatwood & Horseclose**
CCG funding of £10,000 has been secured by the Health & Wellbeing Task group chaired by the Delivery Manager to deliver fitness programmes and mental health support to residents of the Greatwood and Horseclose estates in Skipton. The details of the programmes are being finalised with a view to starting activity after half term.

5 Strategic Projects

- 5.1 The Stronger Programme is also currently undertaking a number of county wide strategic projects will benefit the communities of Craven:

- **Community Transport branding and marketing** – the programme commissioned a public transport marketing agency to develop a North Yorkshire community transport brand and promotional film that can be used by all providers in the county. The Go Local Community Transport Advert – North Yorkshire can be seen on You Tube https://youtu.be/NbM26_FI6IE.

A Go Local and Community Transport Working Group has been created to decide upon the other marketing materials and a marketing strategy for promoting community transport.

- **Physical Activity Programme for Older Adults** – currently being commissioned on behalf of public health this will provide age and physical ability appropriate activities for adults who are at risk of falls, increasing frailty or loneliness and social isolation.
- **NY Connect** – the new online directory of services, facilities and voluntary sector organisations is now live and can be found at www.northyorkshireconnect.org.uk
- **Review of Prevention Services** – the SCDM for Craven is the programme lead for helping to shape the new Health and Adult Services prevention services contracts. A stakeholder event is being held this month to provide more information about the Wellbeing and Prevention review and outline proposals for a future approach to investment into community-based support

6 Recommendation

6.1 It is recommended that the Area Committee notes the contents of this report.

Marion Tweed-Rycroft

Stronger Communities Delivery Manager (Craven)

12th September 2017