

North Yorkshire County Council
Craven Area Committee

8th February 2018

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 Interesting and valuable projects are being developed and funded across the programme's other service priorities, some of which are district wide.

i) **Inspire**

Grants of up to £1000 to support and encourage people to get involved in their local community by developing new services, events or activities that help to increase social interaction, encourage neighbourliness and improve the well-being of individuals and communities. N.B Inspire grants cannot be used to fund capital projects such as village hall repairs.

One new grant has been awarded (7 in total):

- Voices of Craven - an arts initiative which aims to use music and in particular singing to promote rural regeneration and combat isolation among inhabitants of Craven

The Inspire grants offer communities a real opportunity to be active and start new activities in their areas. In order to encourage as many communities as possible to benefit, Members support to promote Inspire grants in their divisions is welcomed.

ii) **Achieve**

- Compass – <https://www.compasshub.com/> this is an online collaborative and referral platform for the voluntary sector. There will be a short presentation to councillors during Area Committee. The specification for the lead organisation for Craven has gone out and submissions are due in on 9th Feb.
- Other Achieve projects are likely to be focused on:
 - Transport
 - Loneliness and isolation
 - People with learning difficulties

3. Stronger Communities Projects

- 3.1 Update on community building in Skipton: the Swadford Centre trustees are working with Age UK North Yorkshire and Darlington, the organisation likely to become sole tenant of the Centre. This should lead to much more provision for older people in the south of the district.
- 3.2 Community development work in North Craven – the delivery manager has been working with a group of local people to explore the potential to improve community transport. The NYCC dial a ride service was underused due to lack of awareness, booking system issues and cost. Agreement has been gained with transport colleagues to:
- i. Use the community transport Go Local branding to give the bus an identity to raise awareness
 - ii. Trial a 50% reduction in fares for short distances (1.5 mile radius from the centres of Ingleton, Bentham & Clapham)
 - iii. Develop a promotional campaign to raise awareness of the bus and promote the price reduction.
- 3.3 South Skipton - the delivery manager supports the cross sector Greatwood & Horseclose Wellbeing Group. Evoke Recovery Network and Rees Fitness have been commissioned to deliver Healthy Horizons and Mood, Food and You courses. The latter is a rolling programme with an exercise element. Good take up of both.
- 3.4 The community centre manager was supported to complete a grant application to the Peoples Health Trust for 'Social Sunday', a monthly community lunch at the community centre together with funding for speakers and trips; awaiting outcome.
- 3.5 Sutton Loneliness Project – this has come out of the Craven Care Models Group initiated by Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven Clinical Commissioning Group. The delivery manager has been part of the planning task and finish group. Sutton Parish Council is now taking a leadership role, supported by active members of the community. An awareness raising event for public and professionals is planned for March, to be followed by a door knock on selected streets in Sutton (using a good model developed by Wirral Age UK).
- 3.6 Collaborative work with Community First Yorkshire – VCS network event held in December had good attendance. Next event planned for March in Settle. Groups of all sizes will benefit from receiving the CFY newsletter they just need to email info@communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk

4. Library Transition Programme

- 4.1 The Delivery Manager continues to support the community organisations managing libraries with advice and training, helping them to achieve their broader and longer

term ambitions for their communities. Work focuses specifically on Settle and south Craven. The Craven Libraries Network meeting was well attended and will now be held on a 6 monthly basis.

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:

North Yorkshire Connect - North Yorkshire Connect has been developed in a partnership between the 2020 Customer Programme and the Stronger Communities Team, and built in house by the development team within Technology and Change. It will contribute to key priorities of the County Council by helping to reduce social isolation, using technology to enhance the way we work, and encouraging more people to go online for help and support.

Physical Activity - commissioning began in early 2017 for a new community based physical activity service on behalf of Public Health to provide age and physical ability appropriate activities across North Yorkshire for adults who are at risk of falls, increasing frailty, or loneliness and social isolation.

A joint bid by North Yorkshire Sport (lead) and REACT (Age UK) was the preferred choice of the evaluation team. Over the next three months NYS and REACT will engage with health and care sector colleagues, map existing universal provision in the county, establish the referral pathway and begin to advertise and market the service (including naming and branding).

Go Local - Since the launch of the Go Local brand, a formal CT provider network group has been formed, Chaired by a Community Transport Operator, the group has decided to further develop the website, run a volunteer recruitment campaign, establish social media presence, produce a joint promotional leaflet and develop a Go Local 'Quality Mark 'that all providers using the brand will sign up to. This will ensure that all CT providers will work to a set of service standards thus improving the overall quality of their services.

Review of Prevention Services – the Delivery Manager sits on the HAS Wellbeing and Prevention Review team. Commissioning proposals based on feedback from the stakeholder event have been agreed by HAS Leadership Team, and have been subject to consultation.

6 Recommendation

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

Marion Tweed-Rycroft
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