

**North Yorkshire County Council
Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee**

30th August 2018

Stronger Communities Programme Report

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. To inform the committee of the work of the Stronger Communities programme in the Harrogate & Knaresborough constituency area linked to the priority area of older people and adults.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. The Stronger Communities programme, working with a wide range of partners from within the council, health and from the voluntary and community sector, agreed a strategy in 2017 and published the investment prospectus 'Inspire-Achieve-Innovate'¹ in July last year. The work of the programme and any projects supported through it will need to demonstrate they are making a positive contribution to one or more of the following outcomes:

- Reduced inequalities
- Improved social connectedness
- Improved social, physical or emotional well-being

- 2.2. The four priority programme service areas are;

- Libraries
- Community Transport
- Children, Young People & families, and
- Older People & Adults

Creating networks of community owned services and facilities to help older people and adults in need of some additional support live longer and healthier in the communities they call home.

3. Projects supported by the Stronger Communities programme

- 3.1. A number of projects have been supported in the area that contribute to the service priority of older people and adults and which contribute to the three programme outcomes. Some examples of the type of support delivered are included below:

- 3.1.1. **Bilton Wellbeing Hub** – The programme worked alongside North Yorkshire Sport (NYS) to help them relocate to Bilton Youth Centre. The support has helped NYS develop their offer and is working to position the building as a health and well-being hub that will serve the local community.
- 3.1.2. **Well-being café's celebration event** - This project celebrated the success of four volunteer led well-being café's that have been established across the Harrogate area with some support from Dementia Forward. The event provided an opportunity for them to network and share good practice.

¹ [Inspire-Achieve-Innovate Prospectus pdf](#)

- 3.1.3. **Woodlands Intergenerational Project** – Volunteers from Woodlands Methodist Church have partnered with Willow Tree Primary School to provide a weekly intergenerational breakfast club, inviting children from the primary school and residents from a local extra care facility. Food is sourced from the church community garden and the Harrogate food redistribution charity.
- 3.1.4. **Orb Community Arts and Pioneer Projects** - The project supports the development of a strategic and operational partnership between two valued organisations to establish joint management processes and a closer alignment of working practices. The aim is to develop consistent services to a broad range of vulnerable individuals across the Craven and Harrogate Districts.
- 3.1.5. **Chain Lane Community Hub** – This project will engage with local people to gain a greater understanding of their needs in order to set a focus and direction for the future development of the hub. The aim is to raise the profile of the hub, ensure it is meeting local needs and gaps in current provision and develop more “community ownership”. It builds on previous work such as the setting up of Dancing for Well-being.
- 3.2 To ensure as many communities as possible are able to take advantage of the opportunities offered by Stronger Communities and to generate local social action the Programme is running a series of ‘pop-up’ promotions across the county in September. The ‘Get Inspired’ event for the Harrogate District will take place in Boroughbridge Community Library on Saturday 8th September.

4. Achieve Programme – Spatial Priorities

- 4.1. The main work-stream of the programme – Achieve Together – prioritises a limited number of geographical areas to work at scale with community partners on a range of outcomes relevant to that community and that deliver against the council’s priorities. In the Harrogate & Knaresborough area, two Achieve projects have been identified for 2018/19:
- 4.1.1. **Boroughbridge/ Dishforth/ Great & Little Ouseburn /Green Hammerton (area to the east of A1)** – The Delivery Manager is proactively engaging with voluntary and community organisations within this locality to both build a picture of needs, gaps and opportunities and to identify partners to work with the programme to design and deliver a range of community initiatives. Partners will be supported to improve their longer term sustainability and develop their ambitions.
- 4.1.2. **Knaresborough East/Starbeck/Knaresborough Road/ Granby/ High Harrogate/Woodfield/New Park (A59 Corridor)** – The Delivery Manager is seeking opportunities to engage with voluntary and community organisations in these residential areas with a focus on reducing social isolation and loneliness. One project being developed is the request from community organisations in Starbeck to establish a VCS network.

5. Strategic Work

- 5.1. As part of the Council’s on-going transformation agenda and the need to meet ever increasing demands on services with reduced resources, the programme is working with Health and Adult Services to identify opportunities where working more with communities and the third sector could add value to or augment existing social care provision. This is particularly

focussed in areas where it is difficult to recruit social care staff or where the market is under-developed. Potential areas of interest include non-regulated domiciliary care provision, micro-enterprise, delayed transfer of care solutions as well as the potential to build on the current preventative offer.

- 5.2. It is recognised that each area will have some unique and specific challenges. Historically in this area there had been a higher than average (for the county) investment in the voluntary and community sector in prevention contracts prior to the recent re-commissioning of services. Support, through both Stronger Communities and from Community First Yorkshire, is being offered to local VCSE organisations that have been impacted by the recent changes in order to help them survive and thrive.

6. Recommendation

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

Liz Meade

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16th August 2018