

**North Yorkshire County Council
Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee**

14th March 2019

Stronger Communities – Community Showcases

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on the Stronger Communities Programme linked to the committee's theme of interest regarding the sustainability of and access to local health services and what makes communities sustainable and places in which people want to live and work; and to showcase the work of key delivery partner organisations: Pioneer Projects working collaboratively with Orb Community Enterprise and Community House in Ripon an example of a key Community Hub.

2.0 Background

- 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'. The work of the Programme and any projects supported through it will need to demonstrate that they are making a positive contribution to one or more of the following outcomes:

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

- 2.2 The scope for transforming the Council's services from traditional direct service delivery models to those that are more collaborative in their design, production and delivery is substantial; therefore the four priority programme service areas are:

- Libraries;
- Community Transport
- Children, Young People & Families, and
- Services for Older People and Adults.

- 2.3 The committee has previously expressed an interest in the sustainability of local health services and how people access them in the context of the overall sustainability of our very rural communities. The Stronger Communities showcases will seek to illustrate how the support of this programme and the Council can enhance the role that the voluntary and community sector can play in enabling access to sustainable services and support so that people can optimise their health and wellbeing, particularly people experiencing mental ill health.

3.0 Community Showcases

Pioneer Projects

- 3.1 In 2015 Pioneer Projects, an organisation with a history of delivering acclaimed

services to people experiencing dementia and their family carers was in difficulties. The organisation had lost focus, funding was critically low, and the future of the organisation was at risk. The Stronger Communities Delivery Manager (SCDM) was concerned to prevent the loss of a key delivery organisation one that was considered to be a crucial and valued organisation serving people in North West Craven. There was also concern that the district of Craven would lose another smaller, locally based organisation, with embedded grassroots connections and that good local knowledge that regional providers typically do not have. This helps ensure that delivery is aligned with local need and does not duplicate other provision.

- 3.2 Recognising them as a potential key community anchor organisation, Stronger Communities has worked with Pioneer since 2016 with investment in capacity building support. Consultancy was funded to write and then implement a Business Plan, and Stronger subsequently funded a strategic director post to enable collaboration with The Orb in Knaresborough.
- 3.3 The presentation will show how this has paid dividends in:
- Enabling Pioneer Projects to maintain and expand service delivery
 - Developed Pioneer as a local 'anchor' organisation
 - Ensuring the sustainability of Bentham library
 - Pioneer securing a contract to deliver mental health support across Craven
 - Pioneer securing a contract to lead the implementation of Compass E Hub
 - Pioneer leading voluntary and community sector collaborations
 - Orb being able to learn from the success in Craven and start to develop a similar model for Harrogate district.
- 3.4 Stronger Communities investment has directly led to the creation of sustainable health and wellbeing provision for people living in Craven.

Ripon Community House

- 3.5 Ripon Community House was formally the Hospital Wing of the old Workhouse on Allhallowgate in Ripon. The building was renovated in 2006 and is now run by a charity, Ripon Community House Limited, the building is a community facility for the benefit of Ripon and the surrounding area. Ripon Community House offers a safe environment and facilities for all sectors of the community.

The facility is increasingly becoming a key Community Hub for the Ripon area. Alongside office space used by voluntary sector organisations the centre hosts adult education classes, health provision for babies and families, physical exercise sessions and has received financial support from Stronger Communities to assist with moving the Ripon Food bank into the building in order to ensure its sustainability, prior to this the Food bank was run from an individual's property.

- 3.6 The Stronger Communities Delivery Manager is working with them to develop some shared ambitions and to identify how the programme can best support them to continue to deliver services for the people of Ripon and strengthen its role as a community anchor organisation.
- 3.7 The presentation will show how Ripon Community House fulfils its vision as the hub for community life in Ripon and the surrounding villages.

4.0 Point for discussion

4.1 How can NYCC continue to support communities in the most effective way possible to ensure they are sustainable and places where people want to live and work?

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 It is recommended that Members note the content of this report.

Marion Tweed-Rycroft
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26 February 2019