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Eildon Area Partnership



MINUTE of Meeting of the EILDON AREA PARTNERSHIP held in the Scottish Borders Campus, Galashiels. on Thursday, 14 November 2019 at 6.00 pm

Present:- Councillors G. Edgar (Chairman), A. Anderson, K. Drum, E. Jardine, 23 Partner representatives, Community Councillors, officers and members of the public.

Apologies:- Councillor S. Aitchison, Councillor D. Parker, Councillor H. Scott and Councillor E. Thornton-Nicol.

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership and thanked Community Councillors, Partners and local organisations for their attendance. Localities Development co-ordinator Kenny Harrow was introduced, who would be supporting Eildon Area Partnership in the future.

2. **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2019**

The Minute of the meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership held on 12 September 2019 had been circulated. A summary of the discussion on 'Community Transport: solutions and actions' was attached as an appendix to the Minute.

3. **EILDON LOCALITY PLAN UPDATE**

Copies of the draft Eildon Locality Plan had been circulated with the agenda and paper copies supplied at the meeting. Mr Harrow explained that the plan had been updated and re-worded to reflect priorities identified in round table discussions at previous meetings of the Eildon Area Partnership. Included in the document was an action plan which would evolve over time. In response to a question from the representative from Ettrick & Yarrow Community Council about how the plan would tie into the Council's budget process the Chairman explained that Councillors would look at the themes from communities throughout the Borders and take these into account when looking at budget priorities. The public also had the opportunity to engage in the budget process through the on-line budget simulator.

4. **THEME: HEALTH, CARE AND WELL-BEING - SOCIAL ISOLATION AND REDUCING LONELINESS**

4.1 **Health Care and Well-being – Social Isolation and reducing loneliness**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Sarah Horsman, SBC Occupational Therapist based in Galashiels and Harry Cotterill from the British Red Cross to talk about the community-led support programme 'What Matters Hubs'. There were several 'What Matters Hubs' across the Borders with the 'mother' hub being in Galashiels. Leaflets were provided at the meeting giving details of opening times of hubs and information about how the hub could provide information and assistance. The hubs offered drop-in sessions, a meeting point, networking and the facilitation of meetings with professionals, para professionals and people from community groups and voluntary organisations across the Borders. What Matters Hubs were supported on a regular basis by the British Red Cross, with other providers attending when possible. Mr Cotterill outlined some of the work taking place as part of this initiative. Assistance was given to clients to find support

needed, such as equipment, transport or additional help to enable them to remain in their own home. Advice and information was provided about support available and events happening in their local area. Health and Social Care staff could also signpost people to relevant services. Mr Cotterill went on to give more detailed examples of work carried out in connection with assisted discharge from hospitals and joint work in liaison with services such as the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service and MacMillan Cancer Support. Although people of all ages may be eligible for assistance from What Matters Hubs the majority of clients were over 60 years of age. Eligibility was based around criteria which took into account each person's circumstances. Mr Cotterill spoke about the need to also reach out to outlying areas and assist with provision of access to community hubs. Transport was often provided through Borders Community Transport but more volunteer drivers were needed. Ms Horsman referred to the development of community hubs in smaller settlements within the Borders and gave examples. The community at Ettrick Bridge managed their own community hub which had originally started as a 'pop-up' facility. What Matters Hubs also worked closely with Telecare in making increasing use of technology in the care environment. Ms Horsman and Mr Cotterill answered questions about the expansion of the initiative to other areas and how what Matters Hubs should be best promoted. The presentation and contact details would be circulated following the meeting.

- 4.2 Following the presentation, the Chairman thanked Ms Horsman and Mr Cotterill for their attendance and invited those present to take part in a round table discussion about how to tackle social isolation and loneliness in the community. A summary of the output of the discussion is attached as an appendix to this Minute.

5. **EILDON COMMUNITY FUND**

Locality Development Co-ordinator, Gillian Jardine, referred to documents which had been circulated and which were available at the meeting giving an overview of the Interim Community Fund and internal and external funding sources in the Eildon area and the current balances available. Attention was drawn to fast-track applications which had been approved, from Burgh Primary School Parent Council (£1,500) and Earlston Paths Group (£1,360.80). Ms Jardine then asked for consideration of the application from the organisation Stable Life for a grant of £20,000 to part fund Stable Life's annual rental cost and additional estate overhead costs of £41,228 for 2019/20. On the assessment form, which had been circulated and which was available at the meeting, the organisation gave an explanation of other funding sources and funds which were ring-fenced. Stable Life supported annually around 100 disadvantaged young people aged 10 -18 years. Of the 104 young people referred last year 57 came from the Eildon area. The application went on to give detailed information about the benefits of the project, support of the wider community, efforts to source funding and income generation. Following assessment of the application the officer recommendation was to approve the application in full subject to a requirement for Stable Life to refresh their Business Plan and continue to explore income generation opportunities to reduce reliance on grant funding and to ensure core costs could be met. The Chairman allowed 10 minutes for those present to discuss the application and receive answers to their questions, following which the recommendation to approve the funding application was agreed.

DECISION

AGREED to grant £20,000 from the Eildon Community Fund to Stable Life, subject to a requirement to refresh their Business Plan and continue to explore income generation opportunities to reduce reliance on grant funding and to ensure core costs could be met.

6. **COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ACT UPDATE - EASY READ PACK**

Mr Harrow directed those present to easy-read summaries which had been provided about the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act. The quick guides gave information on the most significant parts of the Act including national outcomes; community planning; participation requests; community right to buy; asset transfer requests; delegation of

Forestry Commissioner's function; Football Clubs; Common Good Property; Allotments; participation in public decision-making; and on non-domestic rates

7. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Chairman asked that suggestions for future agenda items for Eildon Area Partnership meetings to be forwarded to the Locality Development co-ordinator at kenny.harrow@scotborders.gov.uk

8. **OPEN FORUM**

There were no questions for Elected Members

9. **CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8.10 pm

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Eildon Locality Plan – Health, Care and Well-being: Social Isolation and Loneliness

Suggestions made:

- Improve communication and visibility of local groups and services
- Multi-use venues and facilities, including new school campuses
- Increase number of leisure activities, including dementia friendly walks
- Have more family events
- Have community champions
- Talk to your neighbours
- Have more informal volunteering
- Support people to develop their digital skills & offer better access to the internet
- Improve community transport so people can access groups
- Expand outreach services eg What Matters Hubs

Identify what the gap is (e.g. age group, geographical area)?	What can be done to address the identified gap?	Who would take this forward – we need key champions/organisations	What support would be needed (financial, time, resources etc), and what would this look like?	What would the benefits be to the community/individuals?
Young People can't access after school provision as there is either no busses or their free bus pass doesn't cover attending provision.	Provide a longer running bus service that connects with after school provision. Allow free bus passes to be used outwith school hours for young people that would allow them to attend after school provision and youth clubs.	Transport (Tim) Education department	Capacity to think outside the box and look at alternate options Volunteer drivers so that community transport can be accessed	Young people have the option to attend a variety of different groups and feel more connected in their community. Have access to educational activities and the option to socialise with peers
Youth clubs not covering all areas in the locality thus making it difficult for young people to attend	Central point of information so that all young people and members of the community are aware of what's on and when. Provide free travel for young people so that they can attend youth club sessions	Online Borders – The Bridge Education department	Financial support to support free bus passes for young people. Ability of staff to important date and make sure online borders system is up to date	Young people have access to youth clubs and feel part of their peer group. Attendance at youth clubs will increase and could reduce perceptions of anti-social behaviour.

Young (new) parents not being connected in their community	Engage with those parents that aren't attending parenting support. Provide information on all available opportunities	Community Learning and Development Health visitors identify vulnerable new parents Online borders and local early years network can provide information of all activities in the area	Staff time to undertake engagement and outreach	New parents feel supported in their community.
The working poor	Supported transport costs to those that are on a low income so that they are able to maximise their earning. Encourage and sign up all employers in the Eildon Locality to the living wage	SBC have signed up and will hopefully pressurise others to follow suit.	Finance to support organisations to sign up to the Living Wage.	Families will have more income to spend within their community
Very few home care staff available to support people at home	Recruit staff on flexible basis or pay travel	SB Cares	Investment in recruitment – come out locally to meet people	Fewer admissions to hospital/ Care homes
Improve Broadband speeds in rural areas	Better understanding how other communities are addressing this i.e. Is there a means to organise a community bulk buy, run our own Community broadband Clearer timescale for R100 programme and when/where it will cover	Economic Development Mobile Providers Community Development Trusts Scottish Government	Co-ordination support Infrastructure	Increase access to services i.e. Reduce isolation with greater opportunities for interaction
Better transport and well published	From upper yarrow (cappercleuch) + Upper Ettrick + Weekends (Sat)	Community Council Passenger Transport School Transport	Staff time to look at best means of communicating within rural communities – beyond digital given restrictions.	Greater access to services Enable individuals to stay in own homes longer Reduced Social Isolation

Community Café in Earlston is well attended by older community members attend but not by those of a younger age	Younger aged residents used to attend which was really positive for everyone. Need to re-engage with this age group and find out why they don't attend / what would encourage them to re-attend	Organisers of the community cafe		
Older community members not always comfortable with IT and therefore miss out on local information	Consider different ways of recording & sharing information	What Matters Hub / Red Cross may can become a central point where people access information. Need to promote the Hub so people know to attend	Need the support of partner organisations to help promote the Hub and engage their service users. Partners can also supply what's on information to the Hub	People have the option to participate and therefore feel included and involved. Also helps them to access any required support
Age Groups (+ Veterans groups)	Set up new groups & identify those already Working	Legion, Firm base	Funding, Volunteers organizers	More intergenerational contact. Greater contact across generations Learn more local history
Transport	Make transport readily available in area not served by public transport	SBC, voluntary transport organisation taxi/public	Funding, volunteers vehicles	Greater connection between communities

CASE STUDIES – EXAMPLES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY		
'Community Connections' – Outside the Box	Community Connections is a new project that is based in two rural areas in Scotland: – Eaglesham and Waterfoot in East Renfrewshire – Brechin, Edzell and the Northern Glens in North Angus Community Workers will bring together groups, activities and services that are used by the whole community, particularly older people and people who may feel isolated or disconnected from their community. In North Angus, we are also working alongside groups and services that support people living with dementia.	
'Museums on Prescription' Canterbury Christ Church University and	Museums on Prescription is the first scheme of its kind in the UK to tackle health inequalities by directly linking up museums and referrers from health, social care and third sector organisations.	

University College London	New programmes of museum-based, creative activities for lonely, older adults aged 65-94 years at risk of social isolation, have been designed to improve the mental and psychological wellbeing and social inclusion of older adults.	
Recovery Devon CIC	They were awarded £7,500 to create 'Happy to Share My Table' cards that people can use in cafés and other public spaces to let others know that they welcome the company of strangers. The project aims to reduce social isolation and loneliness by enabling people to connect and build positive relationships.	
'Good Neighbours' The Voluntary Organisations Development Agency (VODA) in North Tyneside	The Good Neighbours project recruits, trains and supports volunteers to carry out a variety of practical tasks commonly associated with those carried out by a 'good neighbour'. From small household tasks to helping run errands or assistance with shopping, no long-term commitment is needed from volunteers, just the desire to help local people who need it. Good Neighbours volunteers receive training, support and get together regularly to discuss their role and share experiences	
'The Voice That Makes a Difference' Northampton	They were awarded over £115,000 to bring over 1,000 young disabled people together to enjoy films by providing 24 screenings at local cinemas over three years that include British Sign Language, subtitles and audio description. This will make the cinema accessible to all. The funding will also provide workshops in drama, music and technology to support young people with disabilities to build their confidence and skills.	
'Vintage Vibes' Lifecare Edinburgh and The Broomhouse Centre and Enterprises	Started in 2015, Vintage Vibes tackles isolation and loneliness among over 60s (called VIPs) in Edinburgh by creating long lasting one to one friendships offering support, companionship and the opportunity for VIPs to be more socially connected and active in their local community	