

Community Development Report

South West Area Panel, item 9

Committee:	South West Area Panel	Agenda Item
Date:	25 May 2006	9
Title:	Community Development Report	
Author:	Leisure & Community Development Manager	Item for decision

Summary

- 1 To advise the Panel of related community development activities and schemes with which officers have been involved since the previous Panel meeting.
- 2 To bring to the Panel's attention important community based activities that will be taking place during the next few months.

Recommendations

- 3 That the Panel endorses the actions taken by officers to promote greater community capacity and well-being for the community.

Background Papers

None.

Situation

Area Panels Support

- 4 Uttlesford District Council has now appointed officers to support the management of the Area Panels. The Lead Officer overseeing the support for Area Panels is now Gaynor Bradley, Leisure & Community Development Manager, who can be contacted on the following telephone numbers 01799 510348 or 07976 071761, email gbradley@uttlesford.gov.uk. Each Panel has been assigned an Area Champion who will be the point of contact for issues relating to each area and for the South West area the Champion is Sue Hayden who can be contacted on the following telephone numbers 01799 510563 or 07976 071876, email shayden@uttlesford.gov.uk.
- 5 The Area Champion will initially be spending half a day a week based within the South West area to provide members of the community with an opportunity to raise local issues. Arrangements have been made for the Champion to work on Friday mornings from 10.00 a.m. until 12 noon in the Mead Court Sheltered Accommodation in Cannons Mead Road, Stansted.
- 6 The current Chairman of the Stansted Parish Council and the South West Area Panel Chairman, Councillor Geoffrey Sell, intends joining the Champion in community based working on Friday mornings.
- 7 It is envisaged that the Champion will move around the South West Area from time to time.

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Website Development

- 8 A new website page has been developed within the Uttlesford Website specifically for the South West Panel. The Area Champion welcomes input from local people to develop a calendar of events. Information can be emailed to shayden@uttlesford.gov.uk.

Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre, Stansted

- 9 The Leisure Centre will be holding another Open Activities' Day on Saturday 10 June 2006 and all are welcome to attend to find out what is on offer at the Centre.

HELP – Healthy Eating and Lifestyle Programme

- 10 This project being run in the Uttlesford leisure centres is becoming very successful with one Stansted resident having lost a stone in weight and reducing her blood pressure to a normal level after completing the 10 week course. Steve Prosser, the HELP Co-ordinator is working closely with participants to develop activity programmes designed specifically for them. The course is a mixture of individual activities, group sessions and support and very positive comments have been received from those involved in the programme.

The Green Recreation Area, Stansted

- 11 The Council's Tenant Participation Officer held a consultation session on The Green to seek views on the development of facilities for young people. Further work is currently being undertaken to establish costs for possible developments and a report will be presented to the Area Panel when further information is available.

Staffing Update

- 12 At the previous meeting it was reported that the recruitment process was underway for three posts. Two of the posts have been filled, John Starr has been appointed as Community Development Officer (Youth & Arts) and Jennifer Schilling has been appointed as Community Development Officer (Drugs & Alcohol). Both officers have not yet commenced working for the Council but the Panel will be advised when this happens. With regard to the Diversity Officer temporary appointment the closing date for applications is 24 May 2006.