

Committee: Council

Date:

Title: Report of the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Partnerships

Tuesday, 9 April 2019

Report Author: Councillor Vic Ranger, Portfolio Holder for Communities and Partnerships

Summary

1. This report summarises the key activities for the financial year 2018/19 in the Communities and Partnerships portfolio.

Recommendations

2. None

Financial Implications

3. None

Background Papers

4. None

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	The report details community safety activity
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

Health and Wellbeing

6. Uttlesford Health & Wellbeing Board launched its refreshed [Health & Wellbeing Strategy \(2019-2022\)](#) in February 2019. The Strategy reflects our growing communities, including the proposed new garden communities. Throughout 2018/19 the council and its partners continued to support the Livewell campaign which provides information for people across Essex on ways to improve their health.
7. [Dunmow Dementia Café](#) launched in May 2018. It has been a great success – it started in Uttlesford Community Hub but has recently moved to Rowena Davey Centre as the group needed a larger venue. This was organised by Uttlesford Dementia Action Alliance, in which the Council plays a key role.
8. [Dementia Friendly Uttlesford](#) website launched in February 2019 to promote information and activities for local people with dementia and their carers. This was another project to come out of the Uttlesford Dementia Action Alliance
9. Uttlesford District Council signed a [Time to Change](#) pledge in October 2018 to reduce stigma around mental health within the workplace. Since then, mental health first aid training has been organised for all managers and mental health awareness training offered to all staff.
10. Walking Netball (a project funded by the Active Uttlesford Network) launched in May 2018 for men and women to enjoy a slower-paced version of the game

Youth Council

11. During the year, six new Uttlesford Youth Councillors were recruited, including three from Forest Hall School in Stansted and two who live in the district but attend school out of locality.
12. The focus for the young people will be involvement in housing and the planning process with the main focus on the proposed New Garden Communities. Allowing the young people to become involved in new and fresh topics will hopefully encourage more into the democratic process. Council officers are working with the Youth Council to establish working groups for planning and also for constitutional matters and mental health.

Community Safety Partnership

13. The High Sheriff visited the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in June 2018. He visited two projects, Crucial Crew and Drinks with Community Links. He complimented the strength of the Partnership and paid a second visit during the #safewellsecure community engagement event held in Saffron Walden in September.
14. During August the Partnership held its two-day Summer Spectacular event. These were used as a diversionary activity to deter youths from causing Anti-Social Behaviour during the summer holidays. More than 300 young people

between the ages of 11 and 16 registered for the two events. Consideration is being given to repeating the Summer Spectacular in 2019.

15. The Council has organised and hosted J9 domestic abuse awareness training for more than 200 people in the district, including Council staff, during the year.
16. More than 850 Year 6 pupils attended the Crucial Crew project, through which the Council and partner organisations deliver key safety messages and scenarios, including anti-bullying and cyber safety.
17. During 2018/19, 11 Drinks with Community Links events have been held at venues across the district, which give people the opportunity to meet officers from the Community Policing Team and others.
18. The CSP is working with theatre group Hyperfusion to establish a programme of workshops for all year groups within the district's secondary schools. The workshops will address "hidden harm" issues such as child sexual exploitation, trafficking and grooming. The workshops have the potential to reach more than 4,000 children.
19. Following on from the community action zone work that was undertaken with The Young Foundation, an initial 'Good neighbours' project meeting has taken place in Great Chesterford. Working with members of the community, officers will have a supporting role in identifying community leaders to lead the good neighbour project.

Grants

20. Every year the Council awards hundreds of thousands of pounds in grants to help a wide range of charitable and voluntary organisations and individuals doing essential work in the community.
21. The largest of these grant schemes is the Voluntary Support Grant, which in 2018/19 awarded £300,000 to 11 organisations, including the Citizens Advice Bureau, Support4Sight, Uttlesford Community Travel and the Centre for Voluntary Service Uttlesford.
22. Other grant schemes include the Sports and Cultural Grants, recipients of which ranged from football, rugby and cricket clubs across the district to an open gardens initiative in Manuden, and Youth Grants, which help fund projects directly benefiting young people in Uttlesford.
23. In addition, the New Homes Bonus Ward Member Initiative saw more than 130 separate organisations and projects receive funding directly from ward councillors. In total, the Council awarded more than £540,000 in grants during 2018/19.

Day Centres

24. In 2018/19 the Council has taken on the direct running of the Garden Room in Saffron Walden and Cutlers Kitchen in Stansted. Arrangements have been put in place to transport users of Takeley Day Centre once a week to Thaxted for

meals, at no cost to users or the Council. The building in Takeley continues to be used by hirers.

25. Discussions are taking place with representatives of the Rowena Davey Centre in Dunmow and Stansted Day Centre to establish the most appropriate future operating models to ensure the continued success of these facilities.

Saffron Walden Museum

26. The application to the Heritage Lottery Fund under its Resilient Heritage grants programme has been successful. This is the first stage of the long-term development programme which aims to increase visitors, community engagement and income and make the Museum more sustainable in the future.
27. The award is for a grant of £51,300 with a further £10,000 contribution from Saffron Walden Museum Society Ltd. The project will fund an audience development study to provide an in-depth analysis of the Museum's actual and potential visitors and a feasibility study with options appraisal and business plan, to determine the optimum way to develop the Museum and provide a costed plan. Other strands of the project include developing the fundraising capacity of the Museum Society, which uses its charitable status to raise money for capital projects, and to support and mentor Museum staff and volunteers.
28. The opening phase of Resilient Heritage work is expected to take 18 months to complete, finishing in December 2020. The Museum and the Museum Society will then be equipped to prepare major funding applications for the next phases, which will involve extending and improving the Museum building, displays and facilities, and associated activity programmes.