

Project: Health Development Worker – Swinnow, Heights and Gambles

Quarterly Progress Report:

This report summarises progress in provision of community support and capacity building to the Swinnow plus the gambles and the Heights estates. It was anticipated that this would be achieved through 1) placing a Health development worker in the areas for 18.5 hours per week and 2) running activity sessions in suitable venues in the areas to stimulate involvement and community cohesion. Progress is reported under the following subheadings: i) progress over the past 3 months; ii) summary of primary objectives; iii) project outputs, iv) issues; and v) targets for the next 3 months.

1. Progress over the past 3 Months

- Community Action group meetings over the last months have attracted several local residents. Residents have started to find their voice, take on responsibilities and suggest/ help organise events and are close to being ready to run meetings themselves. As the residents focus was almost entirely on regenerating the community centre, a decision was made to make the meetings a Community centre steering group, with an aim to start up a management committee early in 2013.
- Partnerships have been sought with other organisations within Swinnow and a structure for the steering group which will facilitate involvement from other organisations and individuals who can support the aims of the steering group in the longer term.

2. Summary of Primary Objectives

- 2.1. To improve links between the local organisations and the community centre in Swinnow and surrounding area by running activities and developing groups, especially those supporting intergenerational work.**

EVENTS HELD

- Family Fun day 15.09.12 In partnership with: Community Police, sunshine club, Rycroft residents association, children's centre, Bramley Cavies rescue and local residents

£170 was raised towards improving the centre

- 'World' cafe type consultation events 22.09.12 – designed to get residents talking to each other about local issues and ways forward to improve community life.
- Apple pressing day 22.09.12, run by Pudsey land share organisation with input from HLN.
- Community Clean up day 13.10.12, in partnership with Community Police, Rycroft residents association, with help from Councillor Coulson and Councillor Lewis. All hands on deck to cut back overgrown bushes and uplift weeds to improve the area outside the community centre visually. Commitment from local councillors to ensure the appropriate services do not allow the area to fall into neglect again. Also plans to support the development of a children's community garden in the area.
- Halloween event 26.10.12, aimed at families with young children with dancing and healthy versions of Halloween snacks, also to showcase the sort of activities that the centre could be used for in future.
- Coffee morning 17.11.12, Launch of membership drive to encourage local resident to 'save there community centre'

MARKETING

- A newsletter was published by volunteers highlighting the various upcoming activities, events and volunteering opportunities for residents. This was distributed at local events and resources including the local doctor's surgery.
- Distributed leaflets door to door for the following events along with local volunteers: Coffee morning at community centre, Opportunity knocks events run by the NHS, Christmas event run by local charity 'Bramley cavies rescue'

2.2. To encourage and build a bank of volunteers to run activities within the centre.

- Bank of 14 local volunteers established in the Swinnow area. Worked with these volunteers at various times on the above events, plus a team of 4 volunteers from the Healthy Living Network. A core of approx 8 volunteers now regularly attend meetings and get involved in events when they are available.
- Worked in depth on a one to one basis with local resident volunteers as well as hosting meetings such as the 'world cafe' event to encourage residents to identify local issues as well as the skills and resources available within there own community to help them move forward as a group to tackle issues.

- Coffee morning held to encourage a variety of ways to support community life and to engage residents in discussions with each other on the potential of the centre for volunteering opportunities.

2.3 To build capacity and develop sustainability and involvement of the local community in heights and gambles areas.

- Mapping of all activities, programmes, venues and events within the gambles and the Heights areas
- From mapping process identifying gaps in provision, prioritising need, and looking for opportunities for partnership work
- Meetings on going with all community workers to discuss local issues and needs and best ways to work in partnership
- Identified need for better communication to local residents of what activities are already in place. Looking into possibilities for creating a community newsletter run by local volunteers.

3. Project Outputs

Summarise progress milestones/deliverables achieved during the last 3 months.

Swinnow

- Steering group established which is working to gain 200+ local 'members', both adults and junior members. Adult members can then vote in a management committee for the community centre. Approx 80 members joined at the time of writing.
- 14 local residents recruited as volunteers who helped set up and run a variety of community events and meetings.
- Good working partnerships established between new steering group and: Community police, Bramley Elderly Action, Swinnow live at home, Swinnow children's centre, Rycroft residents association, Youth services, Pudsey land share organisation, Fairfield community centre and the local Co-op supermarket.

Gambles and Heights

- Mapping of activities and programs in area 90% complete.
- Good relations established with all major agencies and community representatives.

- Opportunities identified at Neighbourhood Policing team forum meeting for skills exchange scheme plus need for better communication using online technology rather than traditional forums, plus raising aspirations and pride in the area with 'good news' publicity . Partnerships to look at ways of working on these issues are planned for early 2013.

3. **Issues**

Swinnow

- Access to the community centre still remains highly problematic and a barrier to agencies and local residents using it as a venue for regular activities.
- Loss of the local schools engagement worker post, who worked in partnership with HLN. Carol to hold talks with School head to ensure links and partnership work remains in place with steering group.

Heights and Gambles

- Lack of suitable central venues for activities to be run from. Central church in bad sate of repair and health and safety issues around subsidence. This also means a lack of an intergenerational focal point for volunteering opportunities to be created.
- Apathy in area due to many activities being tried in area but a lack of continuity. Also dissolution with the community centre being closed down 5 years ago and no replacement being found.
- Lack of community forums to bring together different generations and areas, to discuss and work on issues in partnership. These have been tried many times in the past, but again a lack of a central focal point for activities resulted in a split between the 2 areas.
- One venue which has good facilities is the working men's social club, but unfortunately membership is now closed. Also as a membership organisation it is not ideal for community events as it could have a non inclusive reputation putting a large segment off the community off getting involved. As a venue that serves alcohol this is also a possible barrier to community involvement for many people and families for a variety of health and religious/ideology reasons.

4. Targets for the Next 3 Months

Swinnow

- Start up a management committee of local residents in place for the community centre by March 2013
- Establish long term support for the steering group from a wide range of local agencies and charities plus local councillors
- Ensure all committee members gain training in aspects of committee work and running a community facility
- Continue to work with a wider range of local volunteers in partnership with the committee, to help plan a range of community events and activities for all age groups throughout the year.
- Heights and Gambles
 - Hold a community consultation to ascertain interest in skill share and local volunteering schemes.
 - Work with key partners on development of a skill share system and offer support for new volunteers in this scheme
 - Work towards improving online methods of communication across the whole of both areas, where possible bringing in local volunteers in order to ensure its sustainability.
 - Start activities in appropriate venues around skill sharing.
 - Offer follow on advice and support for any individuals wishing to continue in the skill sharing scheme.