

Bramley Elderly Action

Bramley Elderly Action has always valued partnership working across the area and the District Partnership and related networks (including Leeds Voice's Community Empowerment Network) have enabled us to build on this. As well as having a strategy to work to (originally the Strategy for Success, now the LAA), bringing together key agencies through the various networks has enabled us to develop effective working relationships in the statutory and voluntary sector. This enhances the work that we do through our core funding, service level agreements and grants through trusts etc to improve the service that we provide to our 1,100 members.

We are fortunate that for the past year we have received funding from the Area Committee to do some specific community development work with community partners. This includes working with Fairfield Community Partnership to support their development of an extremely successful lunch club, links with local PCSOs, attendance at summer fun days, Christmas activities at local schools and churches as well as developing links with our local PCSOs. We have also established a men's group, meeting regularly at Fairfield Community Centre (and other licensed venues!). All of these activities take a great deal of time to organise and support and as the funding we receive from elsewhere becomes more and more restricted this limits the amount of additional work we are able to do. The grant from the Area Committee and the relationships we have developed within the community have given us the capacity to do this.

We are also fortunate to have had the capacity to be involved directly with the Partnership through having a member of staff as one of the community and voluntary sector representatives and as 'theme champion' for culture. There have been many benefits to this but involvement with the 'I Love West Leeds' Festival has been especially rewarding.

Capacity and sustainability continues to be a major issue for us, as it is for all agencies and with this in mind we have established a social enterprise to try to provide a sustainable income for the charity as well as having social benefits for our members and the community. Our links with the District Partnership have undoubtedly been of benefit here as we have been able to forge successful relationships with local businesses and other agencies. Elite Forwarders have been a vital resource to us, providing expertise and support in many other ways that we could not have managed without.