



AGENDA ITEM No.....6.....

**Bellshill & District Community Forum**  
**Report to Local Area Partnership**  
**July 2010**



## **Background**

The Community Forum has held three business meetings since the last LAP:

- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June

This paper aims to give LAP members an update on Community Forum activity over the past few months.

## **Community Forum Update**

### Local Area Team/Community Safety Sub Group

The Forum has been appointed a new Community Engagement Officer; this has enabled the Forum to re-establish a direct link with the Local Area Team and Community Safety Sub Group.

### Bellshill Street Fair

On the 29 May 2010 the Bellshill and District Community Forum attended the biggest and busiest Street Fayre in years. In partnership with the NHS, Police and Tesco they recruited for new Forum members and took the opportunity to consult with local people about what services, advice and support they needed for themselves and their family. These issues included smoking, stress management, childhood obesity and physical activity as well as the wider issues of transport, community safety, and housing.

Residents were encouraged to complete our questionnaire which entered them into a prize draw with brilliant prizes on offer: 2 children's bikes (one boy's and one girl's) and a £20 Argos voucher which were donated by NHS Lanarkshire and the new Bellshill Tesco.

The 3 winners will receive their prizes from Tom Leggate MBE, Chair of the Bellshill and District Community Forum. The questionnaires will be collated and the information will feed into the Community Forums Development Plan for 2010-2013

### Blue Light Disco

The Blue Light Disco held on Saturday 12th June was a great success with over 140 young people attending. The disco was held at the Sir Matt Busby Sports Complex and has merged with the successful 'Saturday Sports Scene' project. Education and Information was provided by Bellshill & Mossend YMCA, Oral Health, Holistic Therapies and Fire Services. Evaluations taken from the young people on the night have highlighted that young people want the discos to continue.

The Blue Light Disco (BLD) continues to be a successful mechanism to provide a safe drug and alcohol free environment for young people to have fun. Alcohol free cocktails provided by Bellshill & Mossend YMCA went down a treat.

A wide range of partners have been involved in the organisation of this event including, Police, National Health Service, North Lanarkshire Leisure, Bellshill & Mossend YMCA, Community Learning And Development, Side Kicks, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Regeneration, Young Carers, Voluntary sector, Young Scot, Coakley Buses, The Crime Prevention Panel and the Community Forum.

#### Keir Hardy Friday Night Project

In addition to the Blue Light Disco the forum also supports "*The Keir Hardy Friday Night Project*" this is co-ordinated by a multi agency steering group. The project offers free workshops in football training, cheerleading, dance, gym work, games and health and beauty. Currently over one hundred Young People attend the project each week.

#### Bowel Screening Presentation

Bowel cancer (also known as colorectal cancer) is the third most common cancer among men and women and is second only to lung cancer as a cause of death in men and women together.

The Bowel Cancer Screening Programme started in Lanarkshire almost one year ago in August 2009 and targets all men and women between the ages of 50 and 74 years old. The introduction of the Bowel Screening Programme will allow earlier detection of colorectal cancer before people develop symptoms suggestive of the disease.

The key challenge for the success of this cancer screening programme is to ensure that the target group (all men and women between the ages of 50 and 74 years old) is aware of the programme and has good knowledge and awareness of the key messages.

To raise awareness of the screening programme, community champions have been trained by the NHS to go out into the community and deliver the key messages. The Forum invited a community champion to present at their meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> June, forum members will be able to pass on their new knowledge to friends, family and colleagues therefore improving bowel screening awareness within the local community.

#### **Future Community Forum Meetings**

The dates of the next Community Forum meetings are:

Thursday – 15<sup>th</sup> July  
Thursday – 19<sup>th</sup> August  
Thursday – 16<sup>th</sup> September  
Thursday – 21<sup>st</sup> October  
Thursday – 18<sup>th</sup> November  
December's date & time to be confirmed

For further information on the Community Forum, or the content of this report, please contact Carmen Mair on 01698 747483.