



LAP/DA/REF/NO. 42

Bellshill & District Community Forum
Report to Local Area Partnership
December 2010



Background

The Community Forum has held 4 business meetings since the last LAP:

- Thursday 19th August
- Thursday 16th September
- Thursday 21st October
- November 18th November – Annual General Meeting
- December 16th – Cancelled due to adverse weather conditions

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

AGM

At their recent Annual General Meeting, Bellshill and District Community Forum elected the following Executive Committee members:

Tom Leggate – Chairperson
Laura Campbell – Vice Chairperson
Jimmy Mallaghan – Honorary Secretary
Colin MacFarlane - Treasurer

Bellshill and District Community Forum will continue to meet from 6.30pm-8.30pm on the 3rd Thursday of every month, please contact Laura Campbell on 01698 747483 or laura@ymcabellshill.co.uk to confirm a venue.

Community Forum Update – The Last 12 Months

Carers Information Day

Bellshill & District Community Forum in partnership with Bellshill Locality NHSL organised a Carers Information day on the 18th March 2010 at the Bellshill Cultural centre. A wide range of organisations provided information stalls including Carers Together, Disability Forum, Princess Royal Trust Lanarkshire Carers Centre, Citizens Advice Bureau, Partners in Play, NHS Lanarkshire Carers Support Team, Lanarkshire Links, Young Carers Project, Clubnet, Fire Safety, Lanarkshire Community Food & Health Partnership. Health checks and complementary therapies were also available. Everyone who registered was entered into a prize draw and three lucky winners got Tesco Vouchers. The day was a huge success with over a hundred people attending. **A second Carers Event will take place on 21 February 2011 at the Bellshill Cultural Centre.**

Bellshill Street Fayre

On the 29th 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. Residents were encouraged to complete a questionnaire which entered them into a prize draw with brilliant prizes on offer: 2 children's bikes and a £20 Argos voucher which were donated by NHS Lanarkshire and Bellshill Tesco. The 3 winners received 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

Bowel Screening Presentation

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 17th 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.

Deafblind Awareness Training

The Community Forum participated in a deafblind awareness training course in June to help support deafblind participation in local community planning. The training was delivered by Deafblind Scotland and provided an excellent insight into the issues faced by deafblind people and the best way to support their participation in community activities.

Blue Light Discos

The Forum is involved in co-ordinating 4 Blue Light Discos yearly. The discos are held at the Sir Matt Busby Sports Complex and continue to be a successful mechanism to provide a safe drug and alcohol free environment for young people to have fun. The discos engage with 100+ young people each time. A wide range of partners are involved in the organisation of the events including, Strathclyde Police, National Health Service, North Lanarkshire Leisure, Bellshill & Mossend YMCA, Community Learning And Development, SideKicks, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Young Carers, Coakley Buses, The Crime Prevention Panel and the Forum itself. Evaluations taken from the young people on the night have highlighted that young people want the discos to continue.

Keir Hardie Friday Night Project

In addition to the Blue Light Disco the forum also supports "*The Keir Hardie Friday Night Project*" which 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. The project is aimed at young people aged 12-18 years old. Currently over one hundred young people attend the project each week.

North Lanarkshire Doorstep Crime Initiative

The Forum contributed to the launch of a new doorstep crime initiative which looks to close the door on doorstep crime. The official launch took place on 4th August and included the release of a booklet containing practical information on security; a no cold calling sticker to warn off potential criminals; and a DVD featuring TV personality Ford Kiernan. Other partners involved in the project include Strathclyde Police, North Lanarkshire Council (Social Work, Environmental Services and Trading Standards), North Lanarkshire Bogus Callers Task Force, NHS Lanarkshire, Stow College, STV and The Federation of Master Builders.

Future Community Forum Meetings

The dates of the next Community Forum meetings are:

Thursday – 20th January
Thursday – 17th February
Thursday – 17th March
Thursday – 21st April

For further information on the content of this report, please contact Carmen Mair on 01698 747483 or carmen@ymcabellshill.co.uk