



**Bellshill & District Community Forum**  
**Report to Local Area Partnership**  
**April 2011**



## **Background**

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

- Thursday 20 January
- Thursday 17 February
- Thursday 17 March

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

## **Community Forum Update**

**Bellshill and District Forum has supported the following events.**

### **Multi Faith Celebration 12 February 2011**

This is the second Multi Faith Celebration supported and funded by the Bellshill, Motherwell and Wishaw District Community Fora, and organised by Humjolie (Lanarkshire South Asian Women's Support Group), NHS Lanarkshire, Princess Royal Trust Lanarkshire Carers Centre and the Terrence Higgins Trust .

The Muslim festival of Eid, the Hindu festival of Diwali and the Christian festival Christmas fell in close proximity giving Humjolie the idea for the Multifaith celebration- one of their most successful events yet.

The event saw over 150 women and children of all faiths and beliefs from all over Lanarkshire attend the celebration (30 more than last year). The Multi-faith event allowed women of different backgrounds and religious beliefs to socialise, learn about each other's faiths and enjoy the celebrations.

Using a tableau of songs the organisers delivered a message of love and tolerance and desire for a world in which we respect and love each other despite the differences in our culture, religion and way of life.

Health information stalls, Zumba workshops and health checks were on offer and Bollywood Dance, a fashion show and a female DJ playing world music also entertained the women.

The Celebration raised £300 and the Bellshill Mosques donated £2,500 for the Wishaw General's Children's ward.

### **Carer's Event 21 February 2011**

This Carer's Information Day was funded for the second year by the Bellshill and District Forum and supported by the NHS Bellshill Health Improvement Team. Over 50 carers dropped in and the Princess Royal Trust Lanarkshire Carers Centre recruited 2 new members. A wide range of services were invited to provide carer's

with information and advice. These included Carers Together, Disability Forum, Princess Royal Trust Lanarkshire Carers Centre, Citizens Advice Bureau, Partners in Play, NHS Lanarkshire Carers Support Team, Alzheimers Scotland ,Lanarkshire LinksYoung Carers Project, Enable, SAMH, Clubnet, Fire Safety and Lanarkshire Community Food & Health Partnership who provided fresh homemade soup. Motherwell College also provided head and neck and back massage.

### **International Women's Day 10 March 2011**

A group of 48 Bellshill women got the chance to celebrate International Women's Day by making a trip to New Lanark. Funded by The Bellshill and District Community Forum and organised by the NHS Bellshill Health Improvement Team and Community Learning and Development. The free event marked the centenary of the first International Women's Day (IWD) and the theme was improving access to Education and Science.

All the women got the chance to hear about the history of New Lanark and its founder Robert Owen. Owen was very pioneering with regards to women's rights childcare, workplace nurseries, employment training and education. Social inclusion and early intervention are still very much part of our work today and we wanted to give local women a chance to visit a place ahead of its time. For many women the lack of access to these things are still a barrier and the trip highlighted that people have been dealing with and addressing this for hundreds of years.

### **There are no further community forum Issues for Consideration at LAP**

The dates of the next Community Forum meetings are:

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May