



Bellshill & District Community Forum
Report to Local Area Partnership
October 2011



Background

The Community Forum has met twice since the last LAP:

- Saturday 27th August
- Thursday 15th September
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This paper aims to give LAP members an update on Community Forum activity over the past few months.

Community Forum Update

Due to the summer recess the Forum has only had one meeting and one Business Planning event.

Bellshill Street Fair

On the 27 May 2011 forum members were in attendance at the annual Bellshill Street Fayre and despite the disappointing weather the Fayre was adjudged by all a great success and those, forum members, in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the weekend. Bellshill and District would wish to extend our gratitude and support to the members and supporters of the Community Council and in particular Duncan McLeod for his unstinting efforts in organising and promoting this important local event.

Business Planning Event

The Bellshill and District Forum participated in a Business Planning Event on the 27 August. Organised by the Bellshill Health Improvement Team and facilitated by that team and the Community Engagement Officer the aim of the day was to reflect on the previous year's successes and build on these to produce a business plan for the North Community Health Partnership budget of £10,000.

All-in all it was a very enjoyable and productive session that was well attended by our membership. We believe that the day achieved its aims both of identifying a number of projects and opportunities that the forum can be involved in and will meaningfully support wider engagement in the Bellshill.

Ten programmes of work were agreed and all the identified projects will contribute to increase the health and wellbeing of our diverse and complex communities.

Men's Health Event (March 2012)

Building on last year's success we will be supporting an event specifically for men to raise awareness about the mental health and wellbeing issues. We will be consulting with men about their health needs and understanding of health issues, support and services. Additionally, we hope that the information gathered will be used to inform future service provision.

International Women's Day (March 2012)

Raise awareness of an identified women's theme. The female members of the Community Forum will again be encouraged to get involved in the planning. This will include learning about the theme for 2012, identifying & prioritising women's health issues, identifying local services to signpost to and experiencing the challenges of partnership working.

Calendar of Health Events

This will be the Forums fourth annual health calendar supporting collaborative health events. The Calendar demonstrates a joined up planning approach with our partners avoiding duplication.

Carers Event (Feb 2012)

Due to the success of 2 previous events the Forum have agreed to further support this as an annual event. Working in partnership with Princess Royal Trust Lanarkshire Carers, a local Carers Information day will be organised during Carer's week in Feb 2012. The aim is to raise awareness of support services with 14 organisations, both local and national, promoting their services for carers including finance/benefits, training, volunteering, respite care, employment, health etc

Blue Light Disco (BLD)

The BLD delivers a range of targeted prevention programmes and diversionary activities for young people in conjunction with 12 partner agencies. There are 4 discos per year.

The discos provide a safe drug and alcohol free environment for young people to have fun. A wide range of partners are involved in the organisation Community Forum, Police, Health, NL Leisure, CLAD, Cardinal Newman pupils, Side Kicks, Fire and Rescue, Regeneration, Young Carers, Voluntary sector, Young Scot, Generation Youth and Coakley Buses. A range of benefits have been documented;

- **Reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour** Up to 50% reduction recorded by Police on the evenings the BLD takes place.
- **Increased Awareness of Lifestyle Issues** Targets smoking, alcohol and, mental wellbeing. All 4 discos this year averaged 300 young people. These numbers have grown from the 37 who attended the first disco.
- **Local Activities for young people** Identified gap in activities for 10 – 16 years. Provides fun interactive activities and health information.
- **Reduction in Territorialism** Addressing territorialism by providing free transport to bus young people in from different parts of Bellshill
- **Consultation with young people** Partners collate questions and issues raised by young people themselves and feedback to services working with young people
- Young People sit on planning group and organise music and input to event

Multi Faith Celebration (Dec 2012)

The Multi-faith celebration will allow women of different backgrounds and religious beliefs to socialise learn about each other's faiths and enjoy the celebrations.

The event will be supported and funded by the Bellshill, Motherwell and Wishaw District Community Fora, and organised by the Bellshill Health Improvement Team and Humjolie in partnership with Princess Royal Trust Lanarkshire Carers Centre and Terrence Higgins Trust. The range of benefits includes the opportunity to;

- **Promote diversity, tolerance and respect**
The celebration provides an environment where women can learn about each others culture and faith. Over 150 women & children attended Lanarkshire-wide and more are expected at the next event.
- **Building Trust and Cross Cultural Friendships**
As a result of this and similar multi cultural events, 12 South Asian women went on to attend IWD event which, to date, had only been attended by white Scottish women. The South Asian women will be invited to the next IWD event and will be consulted about the theme .
- **Consultation**
This will be the third multi-faith celebration and has grown out of feedback obtained at both the 2010 and 2011 event. The Celebration provides an opportunity to consult with South Asian women on health and wider issues.

Film Project with 16+ Hubs

Working with Community Learning & Development and 16+ Hubs to write, perform in and produce a short film on their chosen health topic. The focus will be on young people's own experiences around this health issue and will result in an educational DVD for other young people.

- **Improved Knowledge, Skills and Confidence**
Young people will gain valuable experience in the production of the DVD. Young people will be able to discuss issues that are important to them through the DVD. Young people will be more self aware in their role within the community. Improvement in skills such as problem solving, team working and practical skills. Improved confidence for the young people involved.

Heart Health Programme with Young People (Oct 2011-Mar 2012)

The aim of the programme is to increase knowledge and skills in heart health and stroke with young people.

The Bellshill & Mossend YMCA will deliver a 6-month drop-in programme on fitness and nutrition for 110 young people aged 11-18 years. The programme will highlight the relationship between diet, fitness and nutrition and physical health and wellbeing. Knowledge and skills will be gained through fun and interactive activities. The aim is to encourage young people to take better care of their physical health and wellbeing. This will be a pilot project.

Publicity and Marketing

BDCF is currently not representative of its communities. There is a need to recruit new members and communicate with the people of Bellshill about the important role of the Community Forum and to market examples of the good that work already been done. This will be addressed through the following;

- Produce an information leaflet
- CF members to market the role of the BDCF at relevant partnership events throughout the year.
- Press Adverts
- STV Bellshill website
- Update the BDCF website

Benefits will include increased in membership

Membership has recently fallen in numbers and as a result the BDCF is currently not representative of its communities. This year there will be a drive to recruit a wide range of new members

An increased understanding of the role of BDCF through leaflet, banner website and press advert we can communicate to local people they have an opportunity to influence local government by attending the BDCF.

Identifying local needs will be improved by increased participation of new members bringing their issues to the table. Also consultation at a range of funded events will identify local needs which will be fed back to the LAP and relevant partners and services.

The Viewpark Glen: A Community History Project

The BDCF will fund a banner telling the story of the historical significance of the Viewpark Glen, part of the Douglas Estate. This is only one part of the ongoing work currently being carried out by the Viewpark Conservation Group. This is an intergenerational project and the story will be shared within Viewpark schools and Bellshill libraries. Benefits include;

- **Increased Community Knowledge and Pride**
Sharing information about the historical significance of the Viewpark Glen and the recent conservation work will encourage local children and young people to take pride in this interesting and beautiful part of their community.
- **Reduction in Anti Social Behaviour**
By learning about and taking pride in the Glen local children and young people will be less likely to participate in vandalism and anti social behaviour within the Glen
- **Inter-generational Work**
This provides an opportunity for interactive learning and sharing knowledge and experiences across the generations, linking the past present and future conservation of the Glen.
- **Increase Use of Glen Walking Paths**
Raising awareness of the conservation work
- addressing anti social behaviour

- creating pathways for walks
- cleaning out the woods and river

This will encourage more local people to view the glen as a safe place to walk.

The Forum hope that these events and the associated activity will not only prove beneficial to the communities but also build knowledge, skills & confidence individual members and enhance the role of the Bellshill and District Forum.

Future Community Forum Meetings

The dates of the next Community Forum meetings are:

Thursday – 20 October

Thursday – 17 November

December's date & time to be confirmed

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