



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



Background

“Bellshill and District Community Forum aspire to respond to the needs, issues and aspirations of its communities, whilst developing a socially inclusive, healthier community”

The Community Forum has met twice since the last LAP:

- Thursday 20th October
- Thursday 17th November

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

Community Forum Update

1. Health Spend

Bellshill & District Community Forum have met and agreed the spend of the North Community Health Partnership budget of £10,000 for 2012-13. The main focuses are youth engagement, carer’s event, men’s health event and publicity.

2. AGM

Bellshill & District Community Forums Annual General meeting will be held on Thursday 15th December in the Skye Suite of Bellshill Academy. Copies of the accounts will be available on the evening.

3. Publicity and Marketing

The forum had recently identified that it is currently not representative of its communities. As such the Forum has produced a new leaflet highlighting the aims of the forum, recent successes and ways in which people can get in contact/involved. After the AGM, the focus will be to get as many of these leaflets distributed as possible.

The Forum has made good links with STV Bellshill who have highlighted meeting times/location on their website. Both STV Bellshill and the Bellshill Speaker agreed to highlight the upcoming AGM.

4. Blue Light Disco (BLD)

The Blue Light Disco initiative was introduced to North Lanarkshire in early 2008 and has been built upon by strong partnerships within the locality area to

improve and enhance opportunities for young people. It provides a safe environment for young people to enjoy themselves and gain access to information and support from a variety of local partners. The locality team within Bellshill and surrounding districts is a prime example of partnership working at its best due to the unique variety of different agencies involved and the commitment they bring to improve the lives of young people within the district.

As the Forum contributes financially to the discos, they engaged with the disco attendees to establish what issues the young people feel affect them in their area. The most common themes were: alcohol & drugs, gangs, violence, smoking and having nothing to do.

The next Blue Light discos are 10th December and 18th February.

5. Multi Faith Celebration 2011 - Promoting Diversity, Tolerance and Respect

Bellshill-based group Humjolie organised their fourth annual multi-faith celebration in the John McCormack Community Centre in Carfin on November 26 and welcomed women of all ages and backgrounds for a night of dancing, fashion, health information and fun. Bellshill and District Community Forum, Motherwell Community Forum and Wishaw, Murdston and Fortissat Community Forum and NHS Lanarkshire Health Improvement funded the celebration.

The celebration marks the time of year which sees Eid, Diwali and Christmas being celebrated by those of different faiths. The night featured Highland dancing, Bhangra, a Bollywood dance medley, an Afghani folk dance and a fashion show. Each year gets bigger and better and has grown from 20 at the first celebration to 170 women at the recent event.

Myra Murray, manager of Community Learning and Development, Bellshill locality, said: "As a community learning and development worker, I feel that what Humjolie have done illustrates community perfectly through the multi-faith, multi-cultural community involved in the event. Learning through the shared experiences and development is the challenge Humjolie are setting all of us. To take forward their vision outwith the event and into our everyday lives to create community cohesion and mutual respect."

The event also featured an impressive raffle prize draw, with money raised going to Looked After and Accommodated Young People in the Coatbridge locality.

NHS Lanarkshire organiser Anila Ansari said: "I hope NHS Lanarkshire, community learning and development and the community forums will continue to support Humjolie so the multi-faith celebration becomes a yearly event and that the different communities in Lanarkshire – including the ones who maybe don't know of the event, such as the Polish and Congolese communities – will take part."

The event also promoted the work of the Community Fora and encouraged the women to attend their local meetings and bring their issues to the table.

6. Calendar of Health Events 2012 - Joined up Working

Bellshill and District Forum's fourth annual health calendar has been sent to the printers to be ready for distribution by the end of the month. The aim of the calendar is to support collaborative health events in 2011/2012. For the second year this will be North East Unit collaboration with Bellshill, Motherwell and Wishaw Fora and the NHS Health Improvement Teams and Graphic Designer.

The Calendar ensures a joined up planning approach with partners for health improvement events throughout the year, prevents duplication and is used by all partner agencies to encourage partnership planning for national and local events within the area. The main partnership vehicle for disseminating the calendar is the Local Area Partnership and the Local Area Team. The calendar also benefits in other ways;

Raising the Profile of BDCF & Bellshill Locality

The calendar is used by all partner agencies to raise the profile of the BDCF and the Health Improvement work within Bellshill Locality.

Build Knowledge, Skills & Confidence

Community Forum members are involved in collating dates of national and local health programmes, multi faith religious celebrations, and local community events to be highlighted in the calendar

Single Outcome Agreements

The calendar contributes to the following SOA's;

Local Theme 5 Health & Wellbeing

National 6 & 7

Local Theme: Community Engagement: Stronger and more Participative Communities National 11

Local Delivery Plan

The calendar contributes to the following parts of the LDP;

Healthy Eating & Physical Activity

Alcohol & Substance Misuse

Mental Health & Well Being

Tobacco

Sexual Health & Blood Borne Viruses

Patient Focus Public Involvement

7. Future Activities

As mentioned in previous reports, the Forum will be working on the following activities prior to the end of this financial year:

Carer's 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

Men's Health Event (March 2012)

Building on last year's success the forum will be supporting an event specifically for men to raise awareness about mental health and wellbeing issues. Local men will be consulted regarding their health needs and understanding of health issues, support and services. It is hoped that the information gathered will be used to inform future service provision.

International Women's Day (March 2012)

Always a popular event, the forum will continue to support International Women's day. the theme of which still has to be agreed.

The forum looks forward to providing feedback on the success of all these activities.

8. Future Community Forum Meetings

The dates of the next Community Forum meetings are:

Thursday – 15th December (AGM)

Thursday – 19th January

Thursday -16th February

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