

Bellshill Area Local Area Partnership Third Sector Update Report

From: North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group

To: Bellshill Area Local Area Partnership Members

Date: Activity to December 2013 included in report

Prelude: This quarter's report has been tailored to focus specifically on Reshaping Care for Older People third sector activity, and good news stories relating to the local third sector.

1.0 RESHAPING CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE CHANGE PLAN THIRD SECTOR ACTIVITY

1.1 Introduction to Change Plan and Third Sector Involvement ↻

The Reshaping Care for Older People Change Plan is a significant four-year Scottish Government investment (introduced in 2011) to help divert spend from acute health care services to precautionary and preventative measures due to the expected increase in the older people's population in years to come. Alongside local authorities, local NHS services, and the independent care sector, the third sector was identified as a key partner nationally in the Change Plan process.

In North Lanarkshire, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (as the Scottish Government's local Third Sector Interface) signs off the Change Plan on behalf of the voluntary sector, and works in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire and the local independent care sector to make a positive impact through the Change Plan.

1.2 Community Capacity Building and Carer Support ↻

A key strand of the Reshaping Care for Older People Change Plan is Community Capacity Building and Carer Support. These are recognised areas which the voluntary sector has significant knowledge and expertise in, and is able to contribute to in relation to the Change Plan. Such is the importance of the third sector's contribution to these areas, the third sector in North Lanarkshire was allocated a devolved budget of 20% of Change Plan resources to lead on delivery of Community Capacity Building and Carer Support priorities. This budget is hosted by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on behalf of the local third sector. The primary focus of all Community Capacity Building and Carer Support work centres around meeting personal outcomes for older people and their carers.

To efficiently manage the distribution of this budget, North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group endorsed the establishment of a Third Sector Locality Partnership Development Programme. This involves Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire overseeing and supporting a partnership of six local third sector organisations to act as lead organisations for Community Capacity Building and Carer Support within six geographical localities in North Lanarkshire. The Locality Partnership Development Programme commenced in April 2012, and is now approaching the final stages of its second year of delivery.

Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre is the lead third sector organisation for the Bellshill area under the Locality Partnership Development Programme. The organisation, which delivers a range of community, befriending and day care services for people in the Bellshill area, is ideally positioned to undertake this role and has vast experience of supporting older people in a variety of ways.

As the local third sector lead organisation, Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre hosts a local

consortium - a local group with partner representation from statutory partners, older people, and carers - to facilitate the distribution of funds. A locality activity programme budget of £15,000 is provided to the Bellshill consortium each year. The Bellshill consortium is able to 'co-commission' whatever service, support or programme best meets local needs.

A range of local projects have been funded by the Bellshill consortium, who recommend awards after key consideration as to how the investment made will contribute to the wider Change Plan (the ethos of the Change Plan is for every £1 spent to be balanced with a £1 saving in hospital care).

To avoid duplication of similar projects supporting older people in the Bellshill area and to offer an activity-based focus, ten thematic strands for Community Capacity Building and Carer Support have been established. These are advocacy, carers and carer support, community based palliative care, community food, community transport, dementia support, digital inclusion, home-visiting and befriending, physical activity, and volunteering development. A thematic lead organisation has been identified for each strand.

Moreover, locality and thematic leads have used Community Capacity Building and Carer Support investment to lever additional funding, build the capacity of local voluntary sector groups, take an asset based approach, and share best practice.

Irene Gibson at Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre is the lead locality contact for third sector activity relating to the Reshaping Care for Older People Change Plan. Irene can be contacted on 01698 523258, or by e-mail at irene@oncbellshill.org.

1.3 Change Plan Investment Making an Impact in the Bellshill Area ☺

Back to Basics digital inclusion classes, which combine a conventional chin-wag and cup of tea with tutorials on platforms like Skype and Twitter, was one of a number of services showcased at a special open day hosted for the older people of Bellshill.

The open day, which took place on Monday 9 December 2013 at Bellshill Cultural Centre, was arranged through the Reshaping Care for Older People Change Plan and provided useful information about supports, clubs and services for older people in the local area.

A host of third sector organisations displayed information about their services at the event, with Police Scotland also on hand to present information about how to prevent door step crime for elderly residents.

Members of older people's groups also engaged with Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre on the day to find out how they could access support and funding to develop their current activities through the Reshaping Care for Older People Third Sector Locality Partnership Development Programme.

The Back to Basics digital inclusion classes, provided by Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre, have helped over 65's from Bellshill lose their fear of computers and learn how to do new things, such as order shopping online and use social media like Facebook.

As well as helping older people develop computing skills, Reshaping Care for Older People investment has also supported third sector organisations in Bellshill to provide a raft of other valuable services, including an activity club for older men living alone and a memory café for people affected by dementia and their families.

Services funded by The Locality Partnership Development Programme include a Bellshill Locality Activity Resource Library, which offers resources for a variety of groups working

with older people including holistic therapy sessions, creative arts and storytelling, arts and crafts sessions, health and wellbeing sessions, and DIY workshops.

Meanwhile, a 'Get Involved' Activity Programme has been established at Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre to promote fitness, learning, leisure, health and wellbeing for over 65's thanks to The Locality Partnership Development Programme, with Health and Beauty also funded to provide a Keep Fit programme for older people.

2.0 THE THIRD SECTOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE: A POSITIVE STORY TO REPORT

2.1 Bellshill Employee Volunteers Go Green to Help RSPB ↻

A team of enthusiastic Bellshill workers swapped the office for the outdoors to give a day's environmental volunteering at a much-cherished local Nature Reserve.

A team of ten staff from Virgin Media Customer Service Centre in Bellshill endorsed the company's excellent reputation in Corporate Social Responsibility by contacting Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire to explore the option of undertaking some employer supported volunteering.

The staff considered a few volunteering options before deciding that going green would provide them with a fun, refreshing and worthwhile challenge.

Virgin Media released the staff from work on Thursday 8 August 2013 to participate in a team volunteering challenge to support RSPB Scotland with the preservation of the scenic Baron's Haugh Nature Reserve.

RSPB is one of the country's most recognisable charities, carrying out a power of valuable work across Scotland for the good of the environment and birds. For many years, the organisation has taken a keen interest in ensuring the conservation of Baron's Haugh, a naturally beautiful wildlife haven on the banks of the River Clyde, nestled next to urban Bellshill and Motherwell.

The hard-working volunteers – who were notably willing to get their hands dirty in the name of a good cause – undertook an extremely important yet particularly unglamorous job of helping rid the Nature Reserve of a particular type of damaging weed which was affecting natural growth in the area.

Excellent results were achieved with a huge volume of the undesirable growth safely removed by the end of the day in preparation for the Nature Reserve's lush greenery to flourish again.

Virgin Media is one of Bellshill's leading companies for dedicating time to employer supported volunteering. Other local companies who have demonstrated excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility include Warburtons and Greggs.

Meanwhile, Woodlands Estate Residents Association was recognised earlier this year for its outstanding work in clearing a local eyesore and creating a new Community Garden in the Bellshill area.

The organisation, which aims to create a safe and environmentally friendly area for local residents of Woodlands Estate, was presented with a Beautiful Scotland Award for completing this excellent achievement in just two years of operating as a Residents Association.

3.0 VOLUNTARY SECTOR UPDATES FOR LAP MEMBERS

3.1 Bellshill Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network ☺

The next Bellshill Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network Event has been scheduled for Friday 7 March 2014 from 1.00pm-4.00pm at Bellshill Cultural Centre, John Street, Bellshill, ML4 1RJ. Feedback on LAP activity will be provided to local volunteers and voluntary sector organisations at this Event.

An invitation is extended to LAP members who would like to attend to find out more about the third sector in the local area. For further information or bookings, please contact Craig Russell at Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on 01698 358866 or e-mail craig.russell@vanl.co.uk.

3.2 Voluntary Sector Children and Families Event ☺

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, on behalf of North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group, is hosting a special local authority-wide event for the voluntary sector focussing on children and families structures at Sir John Wilson Town Hall, Airdrie, on Friday 17 January 2014.

The event will include an update on the Voluntary Sector Children and Families Network, an Early Years Collaborative update, and a GIRFEC (Getting It Right For Every Child) update, as well as incorporating a series of activities to gauge ideas and feedback from the voluntary sector with relation to supporting children and families. Further information can be obtained by contacting Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on 01236 748011, or e-mailing info@vanl.co.uk.

3.3 Local Volunteers Nominated for Queen's Baton Relay Honour ☺

Voluntary sector organisations in the Bellshill area have been busy nominating deserving and outstanding local volunteers to be considered for the honour of participating in the Queen's Baton Relay, which will pass through North Lanarkshire this summer ahead of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. All individuals nominated will be considered by a specially-formed North Lanarkshire selection panel in the New Year. The panel will include mandated third sector representation.

3.4 Volunteer Scotland Re-Launched ☺

Individuals in the Bellshill area interested in giving time to volunteering can search a local database of volunteering opportunities by visiting Volunteer Scotland's re-launched website at www.volunteerscotland.org.uk.

The new website, which went live in December 2013 and will be officially launched at Volunteer Scotland's AGM in the New Year, combines information previously included in the old Volunteer Scotland, Volunteer Development Scotland, and CRBS (Central Registered Body in Scotland) websites. Volunteer Development Scotland is now trading as Volunteer Scotland.