

North Yorkshire County Council**North Yorkshire Area Committee for Ryedale****November 2017****Stronger Communities Progress Report****1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To update Ryedale Area Committee on the work of the Stronger Communities programme.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 Since the last Area Committee the Delivery Manager has continued to work with community organisations interested in the Inspire and Achieve parts of the Stronger Communities Prospectus. A couple of projects are being developed that will cover Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale areas jointly. Work continues to support Ryedale's Community Libraries.

3 Community Library Programme

- 3.1 The Delivery Manager continues to support Norton, Helmsley, Kirkbymoorside and Pickering Libraries, in order to consolidate achievements made by groups since April 1st 2017.
- 3.2 The Stronger Communities Team will be helping to facilitate the Community Library Conference planned for November 22nd 2017 at Harrogate Pavilions. The Ryedale Delivery Manager will be delivering a workshop on Funding and Income generation.
- 3.3 Working with Library Service staff, the first reviews of Service Level Agreements are being completed. This will be an informal process to identify any areas where support may be required from either side of the agreement.

4. Stronger Communities Projects

- 4.1 **Inspire** - Since the launch of the Stronger Communities Prospectus over the summer, several new Inspire projects have been funded:
- Wintringham Village Hall – funding of £1000 provided to support the creation of an IT hub to enhance digital skills in the community.
 - Community Learning Pilot – Norton on Derwent - £900 provided to support a pilot of community learning including handicrafts, IT and languages.

- Middleton and Aislaby Village Hall – £800 funding provided to help delivery of 'Village Lunches' to older members of the local community.

4.2 **Achieve** - a number of projects are currently being developed with a range of voluntary & community sector groups across the area. Some require a period of development and assistance prior to submission of a formal application for funding. They cover areas such as:

- * Norton Hive community garden
- * Disability Access Project across Scarborough and Ryedale
- * A Digital skills project with Age UK
- * Provision of Disability Information, Advice and Guidance in Ryedale

5 Strategic Projects

5.1 The Stronger Programme is also currently undertaking a number of county wide strategic projects that will benefit the communities of Ryedale.

North Yorkshire Connect - the new community directory for North Yorkshire officially launches at the Wider Partnerships Conference on 3rd November. North Yorkshire Connect has been developed in a partnership between the 2020 Customer Programme and the Stronger Communities Team, and built in house by the development team within Technology and Change. It will contribute to key priorities of the County Council by helping to reduce social isolation, using technology to enhance the way we work, and encouraging more people to go online for help and support. It's a resource for people of all ages and the professionals working with them, helping to build self-reliance in communities and supporting customers to access services and information for community and voluntary organisations online.

Physical Activity - commissioning began in early 2017 for a new community based physical activity service on behalf of Public Health to provide age and physical ability appropriate activities across North Yorkshire for adults who are at risk of falls, increasing frailty, or loneliness and social isolation.

A joint bid by North Yorkshire Sport (lead) and REACT was the preferred choice of the evaluation team. Over the next three months NYS and REACT will engage with health and care sector colleagues, map existing universal provision in the county, establish the referral pathway and begin to advertise and market the service (including naming and branding).

Go Local - the Go Local brand and video were launched at the Stronger Communities summer roadshows where it received strongly positive feedback. Since the launch, a formal CT provider network group has been formed, Chaired by a Community Transport Operator, the group has decided to further develop the website, run a volunteer recruitment campaign, establish social media presence, produce a joint promotional leaflet and develop a Go Local 'Quality Mark 'that all providers using the

brand will sign up to. This will ensure that all CT providers will work to a set of service standards thus improving the overall quality of their services.

6 Events & Networks

- 6.1 **Hovingham Community Event** – the Delivery Manager helped to facilitate this event, in partnership with Ryedale DC and Community First Yorkshire, which included the presentation of the new Public Health report – Healthy Transitions – Growing Old in North Yorkshire, delivered by Dr Lincoln Sargeant.

The launch of the report and associated press release stimulated interest in the media. Norton Hive was very pleased to be chosen by BBC Radio York to host some interviews with local volunteers and the Delivery Manager.

- 6.2 **NYMNP LEADER Programme** – the Delivery Manager attended a presentation of the programme as it moves into a phase of supporting community projects after funding mainly agricultural and forestry projects.
- 6.3 **Ryedale Community Agency Forum** – this is a very successful quarterly network meeting of a cross section of community support organisations. Attendees come from the voluntary sector, local faith groups, NYCC services (Children’s Centre, Living Well etc), Health professionals and District Council representatives covering Housing and community partnerships. The Delivery Manager facilitates and chairs this Forum.
- 6.4 **Visiting Stronger Communities Projects** – a programme of opportunities for elected members to visit a project in each District is being drafted. County Council Chair, Helen Swiers, will be attending each one. Further information on this will be issued imminently.

7 Recommendation

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Area Committee notes the contents of this report.

Sarah Robinson
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October 31st 2017