

Area 1 Committee Report

Overview

This report covers the period July 2018 until the end of September 2018.

The Area 1 consortium includes the Toy Library, Think For The Future, Bulwell Healthy Living Centre, Top Valley Community Centre, Snapewood Community Centre, Crabtree Community Centre, Life and Right Track Social Enterprise.

With the Area Based Grants funding provided by Nottingham City Council the consortium are able to provide activities to the local residents. These range from the Community Centres, Youth Work, supporting people back into work and those who are less abled residents to access support.

The consortium has exceeded the targets set within the ABG Grant demonstrating great value for money.

As part of the Holiday Hunger initiative by Nottingham City Council we were able to feed 247 young people in Bulwell, this was a meal for each of the 247 young people.

Community Centres

Within the area the Community Centres have been continuing their excellent work. They have had over 10,000 residents through their doors and have held sessions for older residents attracting over 500 residents to these sessions.

Within the area delivered through the community centres is a wide range of activity. For example, Karate, Zumba, Slimming World, Coffee Mornings, Children's Dance sessions, sessions delivered by the local college to better support residents, Church groups, Job Clubs, Youth Groups, Boxercise and sessions by Small Steps Big Changes.

Sessions targeted to support the health of local residents, for example Pain Support and Bulwell Heart support Group are also a feature in the area.

The community centres are vital in providing safe spaces for local residents to engage with services they may not have access to without the centre. Coming up to Christmas they also have a key role in supporting residents and reducing loneliness, and providing local people activities. These are areas in which as a community we can be truly proud.

Employment Support

Right Track Social Enterprise are providing support with people looking to get into work, we hold 2 job clubs each week, one at Right Track in Bulwell and one within the Riverside supported by the Library service who are a vital partner for all services within Area 1, and especially their passion for the local residents.

Right Track Social Enterprise also provide information and advice for voluntary organisations, over the quarter we have held 4 open days and supported 2 local organisations in developing wider partnerships or information to enable them to move forward.

Through the employment support we have enabled 22 people in the quarter to move into employment from April this gives a running total of 26 people, 36 into training in the quarter, giving a running total of 76 and 2 into volunteering. Residents can also call between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday for advice. We work closely with other partners to provide ongoing support such as Building Better Opportunities and Step Into Work.

LIFE

We have recently engaged with Life who will be funded through ABG to provide support for improving independence. LIFE is a learning provision for adults aged 19+ with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, starting in 2007 opening only 2 days a week, by year 5 had 65 students in 2014 they moved into the centre of Bulwell and provide a venue for adults to develop new skills, make new friends and improve their life, as an area its fantastic to have them offering support to our local residents.

In Quarter 2 July to September running a total of 6 sessions they have been working with a group of 8 students who have been looking at personal safety, they invited the community police to meet with their students and talk about the importance of safety and what to do in the event of problems occurring. This has been useful as it builds stronger links with the police and students with learning difficulties and helps to break down some of the often pre-conceived thoughts surrounding special needs.

The Toy Library

The Toy Library, another example of an organisation dedicated to supporting local residents, offers a wide range of ever growing services and for local families a place that is vital.

Over the quarter the Toy Library has held 2 weekly play sessions, a trip to Markeaton Park, Parent Volunteer Activity Training Days and Parent Volunteer Safeguarding Training.

There has been a total of 27 play sessions for children, involving 7 parent volunteers. The number of children aged 5-13 accessing play opportunities was 166.

To give an idea of the great work the Toy Library please read just one of their many stories of helping people. (names have been changed to protect identities)

TOY LIBRARY CASE STUDY

Luke (aged 9 not his real name) is second youngest of a family comprising, mum and 3 brothers. He has been attending the after school club for 18 months.

Luke has autism and anger management issues and struggles making friends and maintaining relationships.

He gets very emotional and angry at times and finds it very difficult to recognise the difference between play and being bullied.

We encourage Luke to take part in team games for confidence building and working together with his peers. These games have helped in the development of his social skills and we have found that he is interacting better within group settings.

He is learning to stop and think before acting in anger and will take himself off and think things through whatever the issues are before acting out.

He can be very creative and loves making things from scrap materials, He enjoys and benefits from one to one support he is extremely happy when he achieves a personal goal.

When Luke was new to the project he was a very angry emotional young man that was in the centre of fights and conflict between other children. He is steadily improving to manage his emotional out bursts and I feel within time his confidence will carry through to his school life and family environment.

Think For The Future

Think For The Future (TFTF) are funded through ABG to provide youth activities, over the quarter they have provided outreach focused on crime 'hot spots' including South Glade and Tesco Top Valley.

Throughout the summer they ran, an outdoor youth group at various locations across Bulwell including Bulwell Bogs and the Crabtree Estate.

Crabtree youth group sessions focused on sports activities and competition. They showed the world-cup games in the evening followed by football-related competitions such as a crossbar challenge during half-time and providing snacks for all participants. Outdoor sessions provided water for all to ensure everyone stays hydrated. Outdoor sessions included water fights, sports activities, a picnic and chill and chat sessions.

The girls group continues to focus on targeted work that meets the girls' weekly needs with their self-esteem, relationships and diet. They have introduced them to Mindfulness and how they can build it in to different parts of their daily lives e.g. mindful eating, mindful walking, mindful working, etc- but this teaching and learning is still in progress. TFTF still have concerns regarding body image, but through providing water and fruit at sessions, they have seen a notable decrease in their bad eating habits.

Think For The Future have received donations from Notts County Football Club for their upcoming community game in the last quarter of the year, securing 50 tickets for our Bulwell youth participants. They have also received donations of cinema tickets from Savoy Cinema and Adventure Golf.

144 young people across the quarter have engaged with TFTF.

TFTF have had lots of parents coming up to their outreach team to say thank you for the work that they are doing and stating that they feel that much safer knowing that the team are about when their children are outdoors playing in the parks. Young people themselves who are particularly tough on first approach/ communication have become excited to see the team back again week-by-week and are starting to engage with them about their activities

Conclusion

Reports can just be a collection of numbers and data, we need to recognise that these numbers represent sessions and more importantly the number of local residents, ABG funding is supporting thousands of local residents every quarter and as a consortium we are proud of the work delivered within the area and proud to part of a partnership with councillors and Nottingham City Council.

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