

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD			
Report Title	Lewisham Community Connections – interim evaluation and update		
Contributors	Lewisham Community Connections Adult Social Care	Item No.	4
Class	Part 1	Date:	25 November 14
Strategic Context	Community Connections contribute to the aims set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy to provide integrated health and social care services across sectors including the voluntary and community sector.		
Pathway	The Health and Wellbeing Board considered the voluntary and community sector contribution to health and social care integration at its meeting on 25 March 2014.		

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides members of the Health and Wellbeing Board with a summary of the interim evaluation of the Community Connections project. It focuses on the element of the project delivered by a consortium of voluntary sector providers, led by Age UK Southwark and Lewisham.

2. Recommendations

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the Community Connections Interim Evaluation report.
- 2.2. Agree the areas for further work and development highlighted in the Interim Evaluation report.
- 2.3 Consider whether there are other ways in which the Community Connections project could contribute to meeting the strategic priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

3. Strategic Context

- 3.1 The aims and outcomes of Lewisham Community Connections are about enabling older people and vulnerable adults to sustain their independence, to be integrated in their community and to reduce their reliance on statutory service provision. Therefore the Community Connections project makes a strategic contribution toward Shaping our future –Lewisham’s Sustainable Community Strategy and in Lewisham’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

3.2 Community Connections also has the potential to assist in the implementation of the Care Act 2014 in Lewisham.

4. Background information

4.1 In November 2013 Lewisham Council funded a Consortium led by Age UK Lewisham and Southwark (AUKLS) to deliver Community Connections (CC) for an 18 month programme.

4.2 CC is a preventative community development programme aimed at supporting any vulnerable adult in Lewisham who may benefit from services to improve their social integration and wellbeing. Individuals are supported through person centred plans to identify their skills and interests as well as what is important to them. Individuals are then matched to relevant groups and organisations in their local area. The project aims to support 1,200 individuals in the initial 18 month period.

4.3 CC also works with local community based organisations to assist in their development and capacity building. This is key to the overall success of the work to ensure that there are strong and sustainable organisations, networks and activities in place so that individual older people and vulnerable adults can access the support and activities they are looking for. The project aims to be in contact with 160 groups, forums and organisations, including planned development work with 40 community groups, in the initial 18 month period.

4.4 The CC team are employed by AUKLS and Lewisham Disability Coalition, but are located with Adult Social Care in Lawrence House.

4.5 The recruitment and support of volunteers for the CC project is led by Volunteer Centre Lewisham under a separate contract.

4.6 An interim evaluation report was commissioned in October 2014 to look at progress and impact of the first 10 months work.

5. Key findings from interim evaluation report

5.1 The project has started successfully, and is well known across the borough.

5.2 CC brings together information about community resources that were previously unknown to health and social care.

5.3 515 individuals have been referred to the project between November 2013 and September 2014.

- 5.4 86% of service users report an increase in their wellbeing following support from CC. However further work will be needed to monitor sustainability in reducing social isolation.
- 5.5 Volunteer Centre Lewisham launched a new Befriending Service on 1st October in response to needs identified by CC.
- 5.6 Development visits have taken place with 160 community groups and organisations in Lewisham and detailed development plans in place with 27 community groups.
- 5.7 Further work is need to monitor the impact of CC input on use of statutory health and social care services, such as number of visits to GP, frequency and length of hospital admissions, reduction in falls etc.
- 5.8 CC's work has identified gaps in community resources and support, including access to affordable and accessible transport, need for range of befriending and support schemes.
- 5.9 Currently there are low numbers of referrals from health services, particularly GPs/primary care. There is a need to look at ways that make it easier for GPs or practice staff to refer, such as including referral form on NHS record system. The project is working well with the Falls Prevention Service and this could inform work with other health teams.
- 5.10 The CC Community Development Workers are an underused resource for GP practices and Patient Participation Groups to involve patients and to refer individuals for community support and services.
- 5.11 There is a need to review outputs and outcomes from Community Development Work to ensure a consistent approach across all neighbourhoods.
- 5.12 Explore options for further development of this model to increase referrals, and expand scope of support and information available such as Social Prescribing, introduction of SAIL (Safe and Independent Living) checklist in Lewisham.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 None

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 None

8. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 8.1 None

9. Equalities Implications

9.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report or

10. Environmental Implications

10.1 None

11. Conclusion

11.1 This report sets out the progress of the element of the Community Connections project delivered by a consortium of voluntary sector providers, led by Age UK Southwark and Lewisham. It highlights CC's contribution to the development of integrated health, social care and community services in the borough, and invites members to note and agree the areas for further development detailed in the interim evaluation report.

12. Background Documents

Community Connections Interim Evaluation Report October 2014

If you have any difficulty in opening the link above please contact Kalyan DasGupta (kalyan.dasgupta@lewisham.gov.uk; 020 8314 8378), who will assist.

If there are any queries on this report please contact: