

INFORMATION ITEM C

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD			
Report Title	Lewisham Community Connections – Pilot Project evaluation report		
Contributors	Lewisham Community Connections Adult Social Care	Information Item No.	7 C
Class	Part 1	Date:	7 July 2015
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	An interim evaluation report was considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 25 November 2014.		

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides members of the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on Lewisham Community Connections. The report also seeks agreement from Board members to participate in activity to increase referrals and participation from primary care in the project.

2. Recommendation/s

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the Community Connections Pilot Project Evaluation report (Appendix 1).
- 2.2. Share the findings and recommendations of the evaluation with colleagues across community health and social care services in order to maximise the referrals for individual support from Community Connections.
- 2.3 To take note of the learning from Community Connections when planning new or changing services for older people and vulnerable adults in Lewisham

3. Background information:

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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 aimed to support 1,200 individuals in the initial 18 month period.

- 3.3 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 aimed to be in contact with 160 groups, forums and organisations, including planned development work with 40 community groups, in the initial 18 month period.
- 3.4 The CC team are employed by AUKLS and Lewisham Disability Coalition, but are located with Adult Social Care in Lawrence House.
- 3.5 Community Connections has been awarded a 3 year grant from 2015 – 2018 from the councils Grants Programme to continue to run and develop the scheme.
- 3.6 This evaluation of the Pilot phase of the project was commissioned to inform HWB, Project Steering group and consortium partners of the progress and achievements of the project and to identify areas for further development.

4. Summary of Community Connections achievements and impact during pilot phase

- 4.1 Successful start-up with full staff team in post, co-located with council teams.
- 4.2 Raised profile across borough, held launch event, established website and social media communications.
- 4.3 Pilot has become established part of local support planning framework.
- 4.4 Effective resource for social workers, health professionals and others.
- 4.5 Assisted local groups to develop their offer and extend resources.
- 4.6 Brought together information about community resources that were previously unknown to health and social care.
- 4.7 Built links and contributing to range of neighbourhood forums and groups.
- 4.8 Identified gaps in current provision.
- 4.9 Established effective contact with number of GP practices who are making regular and appropriate referrals.

- 4.10 Received 700+ referrals from a range of social care, health and community providers.
- 4.11 71% of service users sampled report an increase in their wellbeing following support from CC.
- 4.12 Volunteer Centre Lewisham launched a new Befriending Service on 1/10/14 in response to needs identified by CC, and further befriending schemes currently under development.
- 4.13 192 development visits to community groups and organisations in Lewisham.
- 4.14 Detailed development plans in place with 42 community groups.
- 4.15 Secured further funding up to 2018.
- 4.16 Plans and milestones in place for next three years.
- 4.17 Work started on volunteer recruitment and development.
- 4.18 Started to build in SAIL type questionnaire in CC assessments.

5. Strategic Context

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 Community Connections will continue to contribute to the implementation of the Care Act 2014 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.

10. Environmental Implications

10.1 None

11. Conclusion

11.1 This report sets out the progress of the Community Connections Project and its contribution to the development of integrated health, social care and community services in the borough.

12. Background Documents

Community Connections Evaluation Report June 2015 is attached as Appendix 1.

If there are any queries on this report please contact Jennifer Werner, Age UK (Jennifer.Werner@ageuklands.org.uk).