

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES

LIBRARY COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMME REPORT

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform and up-date Members on the Library Community Health Programme focusing on the drama and allotment projects and the Northern Way Worklessness Pilot

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The allotment project is being run in partnership between the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) and Sunderland Public Libraries for use with the substance misuse client group, the community and associated services.
- 2.2 The allotments are hired for one year and will be used for a variety of programmes and projects within the client group. The two allotment plots are based in Summerbell Allotments, Marley Potts, Southwick. The project has been funded through the DIP and is being managed through the Library Community Health Project.
- 2.3 Southwick Library has been identified as the 'link up' library for the project. Book stock on gardening and allotments have been identified for use by the participants.
- 2.4 Initial meetings have also taken place with ICT with regard to setting up blogs to monitor the progress of the allotment and to encourage use of the computers within Southwick Library in relation to the project. The Electronic Information Librarian has been on site collecting pictures to use on such sites.
- 2.5 The site has been cleared of waste and growth and rotivated ready for development.
- 2.6 Community Environmental Education Developments (CEED) have been advising and running the initial development in the allotment. They have run three recycling sessions with a volunteer group where natural compost bins have been built, paths laid and ground covered.
- 2.7 The Drama Development Project is being run in partnership with Voice North East, Sunderland Public Libraries Community Health Officer (CHO) and the Arts Development Officer (ADO).
- 2.8 Voice North East was successful in its application to SIB for funding for the project that will reflect their lives and voices whilst providing a

varied and broad base of skills and personal development. The programme for work and its impact on the community was developed with the CHO and the ADO. The ADO has input £2,000 funding into the programme (for the full application form and aims please see background papers).

- 2.9 The programme has been designed to meet several different targets including to develop a drama short through a series of workshops over an approximate 12 week period, to be a motivational and therapeutic tool and to have an impact upon the development of literacy skills and individual creativity.
- 2.10 The programme will be a base for developing skills, confidence and self-esteem. Skills that will be developed include team working, creative thinking, problem solving, organisational skills, self-confidence, reading and writing, listening and public speaking.
- 2.11 The Northern Way Worklessness Pilot (NWWP) is being run in partnership with Voice North East, UTurn UK and the Cyrenians working under the collective name Foundations 4 the Future. The group have been awarded £40,000 to develop the project over nine months.
- 2.12 The project works by using trained volunteers from a substance misuse background to mentor people entering the employment arena. These are known as Employment Support Workers (ESWs) and link into other services that can aid in training and seeking for employment such as Learn Direct and the Shaw Trust. Voice North East is taking the lead on the recruitment, training and development of the ESWs and their clients. The project is working closely with other service providers within Sunderland to ensure people are coming through the doors of this project and to create a joined up approach.
- 2.13 Sunderland Public Libraries have been involved in the project, both in the project development and as a conduit into training and learning, as a community resource that can be used for the benefit of the clients.
- 2.14 As part of the overall scheme ESWs have been on an intensive training course that is being delivered through Voice North East and UTurn UK to enable them to become ESWs. They have also been involved in the training courses offered in libraries so they are familiar with what is available in libraries to pass on the information to their clients, in effect taking what libraries can offer deeper into the community and to new audiences.

3.0 PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Future funding is being sought for continuation of the allotment programme. This could include applications to the Natural Spaces programme which will be investigated when criteria has been released.

Discussions have also taken place with the Adult Learning Librarian regarding the possibility of incorporating Adult Learning Programmes and this is being taken forward following suggestions. Local retailers are to be approached for any waste/recycling schemes that they may support which could produce resources.

- 3.2 Links between the allotment project and the NWWP are being investigated with Foundations 4 the Future.
- 3.3 A new BBC mental health campaign is to be launched in May called 'Head Room' which provides strong links to physical exercise and mental wellbeing. Mental Health groups will be approached with regard to working on the allotment in the future with a view to linking into this campaign.
- 3.4 Due to the sensitivities of the client group it is possible that groups and individuals may have issues regularly attending or committing to a project, resulting in low retention rates. This is expected and can be overcome but can lead to projects being slow in development for periods of time.
- 3.5 The CHO will continue to update on the project when necessary and link in to the wider library service where appropriate. Outcomes and evaluation of the projects will be reported for information.
- 3.6 The drama project will encourage participation and promote greater access for clients in the community particularly with regard to working with Sunderland Public Libraries and the Arts and Creativity Team
- 3.7 The drama project addresses several Area Regeneration Framework Action Plan Strategic Priorities including:
 - Creating Inclusive Communities: Working towards Community Cohesion
 - Extending Cultural Opportunities: Activecity
 - Lifelong Learning: Targeting activity and creating a learning culture
- 3.8 The allotment project has the potential to be an all encompassing resource that could potentially link in to many library communities and associated programmes.
- 3.9 The NWWP is a new city wide programme that is in its initial stages of development. The content of the programme will grow, develop and adapt over time in accordance with service users and partners needs.
- 3.10 This project links strongly to the Local Area Agreement (LAA) in the areas of 'Enterprise and Economic Development' and 'Safer, Stronger and Sustainable Communities'.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Members are requested to note the above for information.

5.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1 SIB Grant application for drama project with details

5.2 Minutes of NWWP meetings available on request

5.3 Improving Employment Opportunities: NWWP Event Reviews; 2007
Sunderland City Council - available for reference only

5.4 Breakdown of budget summary for NWWP on request

5.5 Portfolio Holder Briefing – Northern Way Worklessness Pilot - 5
November 2007

5.6 Portfolio Holder Briefing – Community Health Update – 16 April 2007

6.0 GLOSSARY

6.1 Drug Intervention Programme – DIP
Community Environmental Education Development - CEED
Community Health Officer – CHO
Arts Development Officer – ADO
Northern Way Worklessness Pilot – NWWP
Employment Support Worker – ESW
Local Area Agreement - LAA