

SIB funded Point of Contact Project, ELCAP

In June 2016 Area Committee approved a sum of £23,420 SIB to support ELCAP to move through a challenging period and develop the centre into a more relevant and sustainable service. Working with the Management Committee it was identified that without a centre co-ordinator, to develop and support the future, ELCAP was at serious risk of further decline.

The Centre Co-ordinator, Shaun Newton has now been in post for over 12 months and as a result the centre is a much more vibrant and busy place to what it was 12 months ago. In total, 33 volunteers support the work of ELCAP and 11 have received training in the last year.

Over the last 12 months the following groups and events established:

- Job search session
- Weekly exercise classes which will soon become twice-weekly
- Line dancing re-established
- Belly dancing classes
- Slimming world go from 2 sessions a week to 4
- Monthly messy play events in the hall
- Monthly rock n roll nights in the hall
- Toddler groups go from 1 session a week to 3
- Care courses being delivered on a weekly basis

In the last quarter, a Cinema Club and two craft groups (adult and children) have also been established. Working with some of the centre's user groups ELCAP has seen £99,000 worth of funding secured. This funding will see completion the hall refurbishment and the securing of the Centre Coordinator position after SIB funding has ended (until December 2020).

Recently a new part time post of Events Coordinator has been developed and will commence in November 2017, continuing through to the end of December 2020. The Events Coordinator will relieve Shaun of some responsibilities so he can focus on strategy, governance and fundraising whilst the Events Coordinator will focus more on operations.

The hall refurbishment will include the replacement of all the doors, windows, soffits and fascias together with a new commercial standard kitchen. The kitchen, in particular, will open up a whole host of possibilities for the hall in its use by ELCAP but also for hire to external organisations. This should also see room hire income increase due to the increased charges which can be applied when the kitchen is required.

Based on the progress made in the last 12 months ELCAP has great hopes for the future. They have stated that:

'This is all down to the confidence that the Coalfields Area Committee had in ELCAP through the awarding of SIB funding to fund the Centre Coordinator post. With having both a Centre Coordinator and an Events coordinator in place by the start of 2018, we can only imagine what the future now holds for ELCAP'.