
Welcome to the second edition of the Safer and Stronger Partnership Newsletter. We hope that you find the information useful. If you have any articles to contribute that are relevant to the Safer and Stronger agenda please contact Karen Robinson on 01934 426752 or email karen.Robinson@n-somerset.gov.uk

Stroke Services

Following the receipt of the Department of Health's three year funding of £89,000 per year starting in April 2009, to improve services to Stroke Survivors, North Somerset NHS asked North Somerset Council to lead on an improvement programme that focused on community services not currently available to survivors.

The employment of a Community Development worker (Debs Munton) in May 2009 and the focus on a service level agreement titled, 'New life, live it' managed by the Stronger Communities Team under the leadership of Phil Humphries, saw a community development approach used to tackle this challenge. The new service was launched in Sept 2009.

On the 10 June this year the Strategic Health Authority reviewed Stroke Services for the Weston Area Health NHS trust and NHS North Somerset and the community stroke service received the following positive feedback on the first year's service, the review team looked at all areas of stroke service and it's pathway from the acute and rehabilitation stages, through to community services.

The report stated; 'specific areas of care which were impressive are the many areas of direct involvement of patients and carers in the stroke pathway. As exemplified in the weekly carer forums, service evaluation by trained representatives, the new 12 week course called Stop, Think and Evaluate which was developed by stroke survivors and will, in the future, be delivered by trained stroke survivors. It is recommended that this approach to delivering training and confidence building for survivors of stroke are shared across the region and also shared nationally by the networks.



As part of community provision, the local authority have also set up clear service level agreements with the Citizens Advice Bureau and embedded travel card systems for stroke patients to use. It is recommended that these systems and service level agreements are shared across the region as good markers of practice.

The current provision of community services for stroke patients is unique with a variety of services being delivered by a variety of people for stroke patients and carers to access. The Stroke Co-ordinator together with representatives from the Stroke Association and Local Authority Department of Adult Social Care and Patient Lead each articulated their separate roles which complement each other very well. The local authority monies from the Department of Health have been invested in a very innovative manner and the Review Team would like to see this model shared across the region and at national events.

The task group utilising the local authority funding has developed many innovative programmes including the development of the Stop, Think, Evaluate course which was created by stroke survivors and will, in future, be taught by a trained stroke survivor. This course is an example of good practice which, as outlined earlier, should be shared regionally and nationally. This group has also developed a structured evaluation of services which should be rolled out'.

For further information please contact Phil Humphries on 01934 42 6727 or email Phil.Humphries@n-somerset.gov.uk

Community Payback

Members of the CSDAT and Avon and Somerset Probation Trust have been working together to establish a regular programme of work to be undertaken by offenders as part of the Community Payback initiative. The project, which began on the 28 August, is running three days per week and will see a group of offenders working on projects across the district nominated by partner agencies and members of the public. To support the initiative, partnership funding has been utilised in order to purchase a welfare trailer which contains toilets, hand washing and drinks making facilities.



Although Community Payback has been operating within the area for some time, this new approach allows for a much more coordinated and flexible programme of work to be developed. The scheme supports the Safer and Stronger partnership's commitments to tackling anti-social behaviour and ensuring local residents are able to influence community safety initiatives within their communities.

Work planned for the team so far includes weeding at Clevedon sea front, clearance of land at Drove Road Recreation Ground and cutting back and clearance of vegetation at Clarence Park. If you have any suggestions for projects which could be undertaken as part of the initiative or would like any further information please contact Amy Hurst Tel 01934 426494 or email Amy.Hurst@n-somerset.gov.uk

Alcohol Awareness Week

Alcohol Awareness Week 2010 will be running in England and Wales between the 18th and 23 October. This year the focus of the week will be 'alcohol and childhood' which encompasses both the issue of alcohol use by young people and the impact on children of parental drinking. The CSDAT is leading on a local multi agency programme of awareness campaigns and events which will run throughout this week, some of the initial ideas for activities include; targeted alcohol screening of young people within health settings, domestic violence and alcohol training, an online alcohol quiz, information and awareness sessions through parenting groups and information packs sent to all licensed premises.

**Alcohol Awareness week England: 18th - 24th
October 2010**



Alcohol Concern will be the national lead for Alcohol Awareness Week and they have recently produced some useful stakeholder information, which can be viewed at <http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/alcohol-concern-in-action/campaigning/alcohol-awareness-week>.

The CSDAT are keen to make Alcohol Awareness Week successful and are hoping to deliver alcohol awareness information to as many local people as possible. If you have any ideas for activities during alcohol awareness week (even if it is simply making information resources available) or you would like to assist in the delivery of an event during the week please contact Ted Sherman on 01934 426293 or ted.sherman@n-somerset.gov.uk

Stronger Communities – Events

Big Community Development Picnic – Community development workers and funding advisors will be meeting at Shipham Village Hall on 28 September

Creating Cohesive Communities – a 1 day homes and communities agency workshop in Exeter on 11 October

Community Futures in the Big Society – Success, Survival and Sustainability in an era of resource shortage on 12 October at the For All Healthy Living Centre, Weston-super-Mare

Participatory Budgeting – a key tool for involving local people in local authority decision making on 15 October in Exeter

Big Society Seminar – Urban Forum and Voscur are offering a free seminar on the latest government plans in Bristol on 1 November

Influencing Commissioning Processes – one of a programme of seminars to support the voluntary and community sector win contracts for public service delivery on 2 November in Taunton

Big Society: From rhetoric to reality – NAVCA annual conference on 2 – 4 November in Bournemouth

Big Society Conference – Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Civil Society is the keynote speaker in Taunton on 4 November

SWF Annual Conference and AGM – find out what's happening and what lies ahead for voluntary and community groups involved in health, social care and welfare on 9 / 10 November in Exeter

Care Forum AGM and Conference – How can the voluntary sector promote equality in health and social care on 10 November in Bristol

For more information on any of the events listed above please contact Phil Humphries, Senior Development Officer on 01934 42 6727 or email Phil.Humphries@n-somerset.gov.uk

Community Engagement Toolkit

Community engagement can no longer be regarded as an 'optional extra' but is something that every local authority and public sector agency is expected to undertake across the whole spectrum of services that they deliver. Now occupying the centre ground of the government policy for the 'big society', community engagement is something that cannot be ignored but is rather something that has to be approached strategically and in a consistent and co-ordinated manner if it is to be effective and avoid the pitfalls of tokenism, consultation fatigue, and the professionalisation of community members.

When community engagement is done well it results in improvements in the equality and effectiveness of services to local people. When done badly it results in agencies failing to meet the public's expectations, the stagnation of service development and a decrease in the willingness of the community to engage again (sometimes described as apathy rather than acknowledged as an active response to previous experiences!)

The community engagement statement, along with the toolkit, looks at the issue of community engagement, proposes a model for practical use in the work place along with tips and advice and also sets it in a national perspective. It introduces a definition of community engagement and examines its importance in today's political climate. The toolkit provides best practice of the tools and techniques that can be used in community engagement.

It is hoped that every department that delivers services to residents in North Somerset will sign up to the principles outlined in the Community Engagement Statement to

ensure that there is a standard approach, based on recognised good practice, to all community engagement undertaken in North Somerset. It is hoped that this approach will be delivered by partners as part of the Strategic Partnerships commitment to good practice.

Link to Community Engagement Statement and Toolkit:

<http://www.northsomersetpartnership.co.uk/usefulinformation/communityengagementstatementandtoolkitv10partnershipamended.pdf>

National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises

The National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises is about to go into the field for the second time. This survey (previously titled National Survey of Third Sector Organisations) was last conducted in 2008, and with over 49,000 organisations responding, gave a wealth of information that was used to help improve the environment in which the voluntary and community and social enterprise sector operates. All the data is available at www.nscsesurvey.com

The survey is due to go into the field in early September with responses needed by mid December. The results of this survey will be published early next year.

The survey will continue to provide a wealth of information on Civil Society priorities such as the resources going into the sector, relationships with the public sector and the support the sector is receiving to successfully run their organisations.

This survey provides an opportunity for local public bodies to learn more about their local voluntary and community and social enterprise sector and assess the way they work with them.

If you have any queries about the survey then please contact Rebecca Wyton on 020 7276 3472 or Rebecca.wyton@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk