

TITLE OF REPORT: **Achieving More Together Programme: Update and diary notification**

REPORT OF: **Carole Wood, Director of Public Health**

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Board about a programme of work to accelerate and strengthen an asset based approach in order to build stronger, more resilient and connected communities within Gateshead. Board members are asked to support and participate in an event in March 2016, at which we aim to agree a common direction for this approach and how it will be implemented in Gateshead.

Background

2. Strengthening engagement and building capacity in local communities through an asset based approach is already a well-established aspect of delivering Gateshead's Vision 2030 and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Gateshead has been developing this approach over a number of years. This approach values the capacity, skills, knowledge, connections across the whole community and partners, and is linked with:
 - Increasing community, individual and council resilience
 - Enabling local people to realise their full potential
 - Building stronger social connections
 - Developing a sense of pride and local identity
 - Encouraging collective/shared responsibility-working together with partners and communities
 - Understanding our assets in the widest possible sense and making the most of them
 - Increased ownership in developing solutions
 - Promoting, supporting and encouraging positive behaviour, including that which relates to health improvement and self-care.
3. The approach has come into renewed focus in the Gateshead Council Plan, which was revised in Autumn 2015. The Plan is clear that to achieve the desired outcomes over the next 5 years, this approach will require developing at a wider scale, with further acceleration and full system engagement from partners and organisations and communities across Gateshead. An early discussion with the

Gateshead Strategic Partnership took place in September 2015 and work will be ongoing to ensure full engagement with all stakeholders as the programme of work progresses.

4. The council has initiated a programme of work under the title “Achieving More Together” to progress this approach through a delivery plan to facilitate change. This work underpins the Change Programme led by the Chief Executive, and is co-ordinated by the Director of Public Health. The delivery plan is emerging and includes a number of interlinking elements that are designed to support culture shift, behavioural and service change over the life of the Council Plan. Specific work streams are in place to look at how the asset based approach can be developed, with activities underway such as: stakeholder mapping, gathering intelligence about databases and information systems linked to future options within the council’s digital strategy; inclusion in the councillor development programme, examination of new commissioning approaches, along with consideration of supporting the development of the voluntary and community sector.
5. This programme of work is especially relevant for the health and wellbeing agenda. Work in the Live Well Gateshead programme includes capacity building in local communities and mapping of assets and resources. A social prescribing programme is also under development in partnership with the Clinical Commissioning group. A new delivery model for adult social care is under development and includes a specific redesign of how people’s needs are understood and responded to. There is also a work stream looking at how the approach can be best mobilised to support objectives relating to ensuring a clean and healthy environment.
6. A number of activities are emerging on similar themes, and which are currently being lead separately from Gateshead and Newcastle. For example Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Board held a social prescribing conference in November 2015. Work is emerging from Newcastle Gateshead CCG which is linked to Newcastle Council and Health and Wellbeing Board, under the title of “Connected Communities Connected People” for which the focus is on social isolation. A workshop is being planned for Spring 2016, that intends to include Newcastle and Gateshead.
7. Discussions are being held with CCG and Newcastle Council colleagues about how we can ensure these developments are better aligned.

For noting and consideration

8. To develop and accelerate the approach requires a paradigm shift and an important starting point will be engage key people in a conversation to develop a view on the approach needed, and the intentional actions that need to be taken forward to develop citizen led approaches to building communities. In principle support for the approach and shared development event was agreed at the Gateshead Strategic Partnership meeting on 24th November, in order to foster wide engagement with the approach.

9. Gateshead Council has secured 2 days of input from Cormac Russell on 14th and 15th March 2016. Cormac is an internationally-linked expert facilitator on developing asset based ways of working. He has worked with a range of NHS and local authority partners in the UK to help them develop their collective thinking with regard to principles and approaches.
10. Planning is underway to schedule facilitated sessions by Cormac. The proposed objectives for 2 day session are:
- To get support and engagement from councillors, lead officers and key partners for this shared approach at a strategic level- key principles, changing views, perceptions.
 - To understand our current position with building community resilience asset based ways of working noting existing work-
 - Look at examples of how this approach has been developed elsewhere eg Kirklees.
 - Identify where we want to focus/ways of working to accelerate and develop at scale across Gateshead - examples of how we can roll out existing work.
 - Unpick some of the risks, challenges and issues so we can be clear how to make this approach succeed.
11. The exact nature of the sessions is still under discussion. It is likely that several sessions will be held with different stakeholder groups. One “Master class” event for system leaders is being proposed, which would include Health and Wellbeing Board members, along with other key partners such as representatives from the Gateshead Strategic Partnership. Additional sessions with key people to develop the practical elements of implementation are also being planned.

Recommendation

12. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:
- (i) Note and comment on the strategic priority being given to strengthening and accelerating asset based approaches in Gateshead through a partnership approach.
 - (ii) Note the activities being planned, including the sessions with Cormac Russell on 14th & 15th March 2016 (for which prioritisation in diaries is encouraged).
 - (iii) Note the scope for further collaboration with Newcastle Health and Wellbeing Board to progress this approach.