

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS ANNUAL REVIEW

To: Communities and Partnership Committee

Meeting Date: 10 October 2019

From: Adrian Chapman: Service Director - Communities and Safety

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: N/A **Key decision:** No

Purpose: To provide a summary of the role of Community Champions and activities carried out during the 12 month period August 2018 - July 2019

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Consider the outputs and achievements of the Community Champions from August 2018 to July 2019; and
- b) Agree priorities for the Community Champions to focus on for the coming 12 months.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Annual Meeting of Council in May 2017 agreed to establish the Communities and Partnership Committee and accepted the Terms of Reference, which included a reference to the membership of the committee as 'including one Member from each City/District area of the County, to reflect the political control of the respective City/District Councils, to undertake an enhanced role'. It was agreed the enhanced role would be known as Area Champion.
- 1.2 On 24 August 2017, the Communities and Partnership Committee agreed the scope and remit of the Committee, agreed the purpose and brief of the Area Champion role and approved the appointment of named Area Champions. A copy of the role description is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.3 On 27 September 2018, the Communities and Partnership Committee considered the outputs and achievements of the Area Champions since their appointment and agreed the priorities for the next 12 months as set out in the role description shown at **Appendix 1**. A change in name from Area Champion to Community Champion was also agreed.
- 1.4 Members appointed as Community Champions have remained in post during 2018-19 as follows:

Cambridge City

Councillor Claire Richards (Labour) from 30 May 2018 to date.

Fenland

Councillor Jan French (Conservative) from 30 May 2018 to date.

East Cambridgeshire

Councillor Lis Every (Conservative) from 24 August 2017 to date.

South Cambridgeshire

Vacant position (Liberal Democrat) from 30 May 2018 to date.

Huntingdonshire

Councillor Adela Costello (Conservative) from 26 October 2017 to date.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 Community Champions have the remit to develop their own networks, priorities and ways of working, appropriate for the areas they serve. By working across a District area, they have the ability to add value beyond the more focussed work of the local Member.
- 2.2 Community Champions have an opportunity to feedback on their activities and progress at each Communities and Partnership Committee meeting, the details of those updates are recorded in the minutes of the meetings. A summary of the main

progress and outcomes of activity has been provided by each of the Community Champions, collated by District and attached as **Appendix 2**.

- 2.3 Throughout the year, Community Champions have attended regular meetings at which they share updates, their experiences, opportunities and challenges and work together to develop their approaches to the role. With support from the Strengthening Communities Manager and identified service leads, Community Champions have been developing a deeper understanding of key issues relating to their priorities and which impact on demand for Council services.
- 2.4 The training, awareness and actions included in the regular meetings as well as through regular email updates include:
- Actively promoting Innovate and Cultivate Fund criteria and opportunities
 - Meeting with potential applicants at pre-application advice sessions and supporting local groups interested in the fund
 - Championing the four Cultivate 'seed' project ideas – Timebanks, Dementia Friendly Communities, Mens Sheds, and Good Neighbour Schemes
 - Sharing opportunities with faith groups and churches to engage with the Cinnamon Network programme of community led activity
 - Increasing awareness of Universal Credit, discussing impact with District Councils and promoting CCC's role in providing IT access in libraries
 - Supporting the development of Think Communities, a shared approach to community resilience developed in collaboration with District and other public sector partners
 - Sharing good practice and learning from Cambridge City Council on the issue of rough sleeping
 - Increasing awareness of GDPR and Information Management good practices
 - Working with Police, District Councils and Community Safety senior officers to contribute to the Hate Crime Reporting Centres review, and facilitating discussions at a District level on the location of referral centres
 - Increasing awareness of the data and ward profiles found on Cambridgeshire Insights, sharing with Parish Councils and local groups
 - Actively participating in a Member working group and developing the County Council's commitment to Tackling Poverty and Increasing Social Mobility
 - Increasing knowledge and sharing the learning on how communities and local councils can have positive engagement with young people, taking an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approach
 - Sharing funding opportunities with local networks, including 'Stop Loan Shark' funding, and Cambridgeshire Community Foundation funding
 - Developing a greater understanding of the work of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Military Covenant Board
 - Linking to Dementia Friendly Community support
 - Sharing training opportunities available to local community groups, Parish Councils and others from CAPALC and Support Cambridgeshire
- 2.5 On 30 May 2019, the Communities and Partnership Committee adopted the priorities for 2019-20. Community Champions are developing a forward plan which seeks to make best use of their roles and relationships with partners, in relation to these priority areas:

Priority 1 - Think Communities (including scrutiny of the Innovate and Cultivate fund)
Priority 2 - Library Services (including transformation work via Civic)
Priority 3 - Tackling Domestic Violence
Priority 4 - Tackling Hate Crime
Priority 5 - Prevent
Priority 6 - Adult Skills Service
Priority 7 - Tackling poverty and improving social mobility
Priority 8 - Homelessness reduction
Priority 9 - Shared Services

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

Community Champions provide resource to enhance the Committee's cross-cutting role in supporting the Council's strategy to ensure all of our residents enjoy a good quality of life, as well as the priorities of the Committee.

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

Community Champions provide resource to enhance the Committee's cross-cutting role in supporting the Council's strategy to ensure all of our residents are able to live in thriving places. For example, supporting the Committee's role to tackle homelessness by sharing good practice from others; working with partners to deliver Think Communities; supporting the development and delivery of the Council's commitment to tackling poverty and increasing social mobility.

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's Children

Community Champions provide resource to enhance the Committee's cross-cutting role in supporting the Council's strategy to ensure all of our children have the best start in life. For example, supporting the Committee's role in delivering Think Communities aligns completely to the principles of the Best Start in Life programme.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

- Community Champions provide resource to encourage, support and align partner and community engagement on council priorities and sharing good practice
- Aligning the priorities of Adults, Health and Children and Young People Committees with the role of Community Champions makes good use of the resource across the Council and enables delivery against the specific actions shown in the Communities and Partnership Committee Delivery Plan
- Continuing to increase community capacity and a more collaborative approach will help to establish how we best use our assets to achieve the most value for Cambridgeshire residents

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no procurement implications

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

Evidence indicates that some services delivered by local people within local communities can be more successful than statutory services at reaching people who may need support. The role of Community Champions in sharing good practice and opportunities to build capacity within local communities to help people help each other should therefore support more equal and diverse accessible provision locally

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

Aligning the work of Community Champions with priorities identified by Service Committees focuses the combined effort of officers and members on key priority areas and increases the positive impact through consistent messages and engagement at a more local level

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

Through engagement with partners, District and local councils, community groups and organisations and working with local members as appropriate, Community Champions help contribute to the success of the Council's community resilience ambitions by actively encouraging local delivery or a supporting role on Council priorities identified by Service Committees.

4.7 Public Health Implications

- Increasing the awareness of health priorities, local initiatives and support available helps individuals and communities to take responsibility for their health. It can engage them in taking steps to adopt a healthy lifestyle and other health improving activities
- Building community resilience will impact on many of the needs identified in different Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs), including the following:
 - Long term conditions
 - New communities
 - Homelessness and at risk of homelessness
 - Vulnerable children and adults
 - Carers
 - Older people's mental health
 - Substance Misuse
 - Unhealthy lifestyles
 - Health inequalities

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Emma Jones
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?	Yes Name of Officer: Gus De Silva
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	Yes Name of Legal Officer: Amy Brown
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Adrian Chapman
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	Yes Name of Officer: Matthew Hall
Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Adrian Chapman
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Yes Name of Officer: Val Thomas

Source Documents	Location
<i>None</i>	



Community Champions' role description

Representation and Community Leadership

The Community Champion is a role that has been created as part of the newly formed Communities and Partnership Committee. The purpose of the Community Champion is to enhance the representation and community leadership aspect of the role of individual Members, paying particular attention to areas of interests for the Committee in the 5 Cambridgeshire Districts.

Stronger Together – the County Council's Strategy for Building Resilient Communities is a priority for this Council. The strategy underpins the Council's approach to demand management with the responsibility for it's delivery sitting with the Communities and Partnership Committee. It will be the role of the Committee and the Community Champion to specifically identify areas of success and areas for improvement within its remit, where a greater impact could be made. The Communities Network officers group will provide a route to engage with the wider network of partner organisations on relevant issues.

The areas of focus to be ratified and confirmed at Committee on 24th August 2017 for the Committee are:

Community resilience

- *Helping the Council to manage demand through focussing on*
 - Information, advice and guidance for Communities who want to develop stronger self sustaining communities to reduce reliance on statutory services
 - Vulnerable People's housing; particularly homeless families to reduce the use of expensive and unsuitable temporary accommodation
 - Partnerships with the voluntary and community sector to increase community capacity to help people help themselves
 - Volunteering opportunities to reduce reliance on paid services
 - Use of assets to support the delivery of the Community Resilience Strategy
 - Workforce development in the context of public sector reform
 - Community based activities to address well-being and inequalities, including poverty and community cohesion
 - Tackling worklessness to help improve health and wellbeing including mental health

Community Safety

- Reducing the impact of domestic and sexual Violence Reducing the impact of anti-social behaviours on vulnerable people and communities

Summary of actions and achievements by Community Champions during the period August 2018 to July 2019, reported per District.

Community Champion Annual Report

Community Champion:	Claire Richards
Place:	Cambridge City
Date:	August 2018 – July 2019

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY FOR 2018-2019

Tackling Poverty

I have attended County Council poverty workshops and have had input into the County's commitment to Tackling Poverty and increasing Social Mobility.

I have lobbied for payment of the real living wage by the County Council. I worked with the City Council, who have won an award in this context, to be informed by their good practice.

The County are now applying a salary scale which places County employees on at least the real living wage. However a motion, taken to Full Council by Councillor Scutt and seconded by me, that called on the County Council to become an accredited real living wage employer was voted down at Full Council. Despite this, I should hope to work with the County Council in the trajectory of making the CC an accredited living wage employer so that those who the CC commission work towards paying the real living wage and CC employees are guaranteed receiving it in the future.

I have continued to be in communication with the Executive Councillor for Community Services in order to discuss current and emerging live issues of mutual interest, gain a deeper understanding of the relevant issues for Cambridge City and provide challenge to the Committee and County Council on the impact decisions may have in local areas. These include discussions with City colleagues on the impact on the community given the cuts to the children's centres and child poverty in Cambridge. The City Council poverty strategy pointed to the high levels of poverty in Cambridge with Abbey having the second highest number of children living in poverty in the County. Further liaising points to ongoing concerns.

I have worked in developing a period poverty initiative with County and City officers and County and City political colleagues. Councillor Scutt, the County Cllr for Arbury division has worked with me on this initiative and we launched it in July. Free sanitary protection is now available in Arbury Court Library and there is a donation point in the central library. The scheme also includes the food cooperative in Arbury Court. A meeting is arranged to develop the project further and will include joint working with the City and County to look at the issue from a wider perspective and develop provision.

Libraries/Archives

I have met with the library staff at the central library in Cambridge to offer my support on in engaging with community projects including homework clubs and the like. I should like to extend this work this coming political year. I have also worked with the library staff on developing the

period poverty initiative and we held the launch at Arbury Court library. I am a member of the working group for the establishment of the archives in Ely. As the County moves to creating a new role for libraries in the context of their civic work, I am happy to liaise with political colleagues at the City on relevant initiatives.

Hate Crime

I have engaged with local faith and community groups on the issue of hate crime. I did this by liaising with the City Council to identify key community groups and by using SACRE connections. It is evident those crimes are not always reported and that there is a need for the City Council and the police to reach out to communities. The hate crime reporting centre for Cambridge is the central library.

City Faith Partnership

My attendance at City Faith Partnership workshop in November 2017 resulted in regularly involvement in order to develop and share the learning from the partnership, consider a possible need to reactivate the Inter-Faiths Council and make links between schools and Faith group through SACRE.

New Developments

I have met with consultant and city officers working on extension plan for Cambridge to understand their plans, ambitions and areas for concern. I fed into plan and made connections between some community groups. There is ongoing work with officers and members on new developments within the City including acting as an Ambassador for community based provision in meetings for new developments in Eddington and Darwin Green.

I have met with the University on provision of senior living accommodation at Eddington and worked with them on community provision. I have liaised with the local community, officers and political colleagues on the community provision at Darwin Green. Currently, although there was an agreement on the provision of a children's centre in Darwin Green this will no longer be provided because of the cuts to children's centres.

I have attended briefings on the new development in Trumpington and on resident feedback. I hope that the outcomes will be taken into account in the new developments elsewhere in the city, including the need for adequate community space for people to come together and adequate services.

Rough sleeping and Homeless

I have attended faith group meetings on rough sleeping and homelessness. I have had meetings with County officers on homelessness strategy and further meetings to support work between City and County Council. Further work planned on this. I have shared the good practice of the City Council on rough sleeping with colleague community champions.

The threatened closure of Whitworth house led to considerable community engagement as well as the engagement of providers and voluntary groups. I worked with the County, community and faith groups and political colleagues and providers on keeping Whitworth House open and this group working has led to a moratorium. I have met with key providers and community groups on the provision for homeless and potentially homeless women in Cambridge to discuss concerns about this provision. Cllr Scutt and I will be running a seminar/public meeting in September. This will include political colleagues, faith groups and providers.

Think Communities

I have informed local groups about the Innovate and Cultivate Fund and offered my support. I have also liaised with local community groups in this context. I totally support voluntary work and

its ability to bring communities together and create shared values in our society. I am also aware that voluntary work has always had a role in county council work. However, it is important that it is not used to plug gaps in the provision of front line services.

I would be prepared to take a role in facilitating discussion with City Council colleagues to support the formation of place boards.

Adult Services

I have attended briefings on the change in provision and would be happy to work with the County Council, using local intelligence, to ensure leisure and pleasure courses continue to be offered and that there is adequate progression from level 2 courses.

Community Champion Annual Report

Community Champion:	Lis Every
Place:	East Cambridgeshire
Date:	19th August 2019

MAJOR PROJECTS

- Local provision for Adult Skills is now in negotiation stage with the local library. Community Champion is a member of the Combined Authority Skills Committee;
- Supporting a group of young people in Ely and area on building a skate park, working on feasibility studies, sites etc. Extensive collaborative work and sources of funding required
- Strategic plan for Littleport on social prescribing now being written with local stakeholders led by local councillors. A co-ordinator is being recruited. This process has developed further links with the Community Safety Partnership, local statutory and charitable organisations and an exhibition of support is being planned for the autumn which will invite all interested community organisations and charities to encourage collaborative working. The next phase is for Littleport to become a dementia friendly community. Plans are in hand to work with all the stakeholders and agencies which includes local traders and businesses to effectively achieve this.
- Working with the Volunteers Centre to recruit more volunteers and better community transport;
- Building and developing school/business links through business organisations working on school programmes plus the planned careers exhibition in November. Other employability events are being planned which will result in employability work being developed. Organisations affected are all the secondary schools in the District, Bishop Laney Sixth Form plus an employability unit being planned for a pilot group of our care leavers based at Cambridge Regional College. Research being undertaken into pre Neet and Neet statistics. Employability programmes are now being developed in all our Special Schools to encourage work shadowing and work experience. Adult Skill provision in the area will assist in encouraging employment in social enterprise, the private and public sector,
- There are now 2 hate crime reporting organisations, one in Ely and another in Littleport: working on a third for Soham with CSP.
- The Eyes and Ears Project developed in East Cambridgeshire has been further developed with new adaptable leaflets, including domestic violence, slavery, hate crime and scams. There are plans for this to be disseminated throughout Cambridgeshire and Peterborough through the CSPs led by East Cambs. There is a District re-launch of the project in the autumn.
- Developing positive engagement with young people through the ECDC Youth Strategy which is now agreed as a policy with initial research being undertaken with relevant stakeholders.
- We reach the end of the first phase of the Opportunities Area Fund for our schools in East Cambridgeshire which promotes social mobility. The next phase is being planned with stakeholders.
- Supporting recruitment campaigns on re-ablement, new foster carers and participants on to the Health and Social Care Academy programmes and Adult Skills Courses.

PRIORITIES

- To create a Forward Plan for 2019-2020 based on researched and identified need,
- Development of the Youth Strategy working with youth workers to determine development of services in parishes across the District and CCC Funding needs to be found to support proactive youth groups who do such excellent preventative work.
- Further development of Timebanks in Ely and Soham, community nurse schemes, social prescribing and men's sheds (one working in Soham which now requires funding);
- Think Communities – Supporting more effectively local organisations and parishes with their applications to the Innovate and Cultivate fund and identifying ways to improve access to other funding. This is a key request.
- Working to support the Library Services: particularly with the footfall for The Library Presents and new Civic projects, e.g. in Soham
- Continuing to promote the Eyes and Ears Project through the parishes raising awareness of issues and working to improve the way victims of Hate Crime are dealt with.
- Improving communication across the area. A monthly/bi-monthly newsletter is now planned and supported by ECDC to be sent to all our parishes. First edition is planned for September.
- Identification of areas of poverty undertaking environment work about activities with local councillors. The first project is concerned with the largest social housing area in Ely.

COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICE

- Developing networks, priorities and ways of working alongside other District, County and Parish Councillors as appropriate to increase capacity and provide an information base for their parishes or wards etc. and to add value. Linking, signposting and facilitating collaborative working is a key part of the work.
- Working closely with officers and service leads at ECDC and County, particularly the Community Safety Partnership, Community Services, Environment, Sport and Recreation and Housing, local police, fire service, social and youth workers on local projects, e.g. the Youth Strategy, Hate Crime, Eyes and Ears. Working with local educational establishments and the Volunteers Centres on volunteering and adult skills programmes.
- Constantly identifying and implementing better ways of working to improve communications between County, District and Parish Councillors

Community Champion Annual Report

Community Champion:	Jan French
Place:	Fenland
Date:	August 2018 – July 2019

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY FOR 2018-2019

This year has been a very busy with meeting with various groups to assist in the possibility of setting up a Man's shed in possible 2 Towns and 1 Parish locations and finding suitable buildings is and has been challenging but they are still looking.

Fenland are going through many consultations at this time, all 4 Towns have their Growing Fenland process nearly complete and will be looking to secure funding from the CPCA shortly. If successful it may assist in starting up some projects.

I'm in discussion with some organisations that want to start up life skill courses such as cooking, cleaning, knitting, sewing to enable people to be more independent. We are looking at again suitable premises for this to be carried out.

Fenland Golden age Fairs have once again been very successful and over 400 have attend the last 4 sessions. This event is well supported by CCC and their many partners and now has being going for 15 years. Next one October this year.

Waterlees is one of the most deprived areas in Fenland and I have attended many meetings at the Oasis Centre and have met their Trustee who have great plan to extend the centre. I have made arrangement with the chairman of Assets to visit the centre with the view to allow this extension to progress.

The centre provides a vital link for the people in that area and use the centre daily. To the rear of the centre there is a children's centre run by CCC and it seems to be growing all the time also a nursery.

The Trustees have been supported by Clarion Housing to who have paid for their master plan for the way forward.

I believe working with the Oasis Trustees has given them the hope and opportunity to push forward many of their plans including a man's shed and Time credit.

This coming year I believe will start to see some of our Villages taking up the opportunity of funding.

It has been a great honour to represent the people of Fenland.

Community Champion Annual Report

Community Champion:	Adela Costello
Place:	Huntingdonshire
Date:	13th August 2019

PROJECTS

The major project of the year was to develop 'Essentials by Sue' that tackles period poverty. This was started in East Cambs by Sue Loaker, a Crime Prevention Officer hence the slogan. Donations of toiletries for both sexes were sought from the local community and collection points were established. This format was followed in Huntingdonshire. In September 2018 the project commenced in Huntingdon followed by Ramsey in January 2019 and then Yaxley and Farcet in April. It is proposed to bring it to Sawtry in September of this year.

A project in its infancy to address poverty is the proposal for 'Winter Warmers'. There are many local groups including the W.I. and Time Bankers who knit blankets and other items to donate to local charities and hospitals, who could help a wider audience, in particular, homeless people. Co-ordination to reach the most disadvantaged is the aim.

A collective meeting of Town, Parish, District and County Councillors was organised for the north of Huntingdonshire to discuss local issues. Initially very successful with great attendance and contributions regarding infrastructure, services, rural transport and the Cambridgeshire Cycle Event, it seemed to lose momentum and stalled. It is being resurrected in October of this year.

Time banking is a project that is encouraged throughout the County, in particular, by the grant awarding scheme, the Innovate and Cultivate Fund. Support was given to establish it in Ramsey, which is flourishing and working together with the Ramshed group (Men in Sheds) has set up a Repair Café which could be a model for other areas within the county.

PRIORITIES

A monthly article in a local newspaper to highlight the work of the county council, in particular, the priorities of the Communities and Partnership Committee in addressing continuous issues such as the need for Re-ablement workers and foster carers. It is also a platform to advertise funding opportunities, the work of the Libraries and national themes such as the White Ribbon Campaign and Hate Crime Reporting.

Adults with learning disabilities entering paid employment has to be a priority for both the Communities and Partnership plus Adults Committee. Many undertake voluntary work and even though successful in that role, find it difficult to obtain full time work. There is some progress with various organisations including Officers of the County researching opportunities for the future.

Third party reporting is a concern given that there are always spikes in hate crime at times of national uncertainty. Although consulted upon options for Huntingdonshire, Pathfinder House was considered to be the optimum place, however, concerns remain about the general knowledge throughout the district. This needs to be addressed.

Dementia Friendly Towns has now to be a priority for everyone. Dementia is now recorded as being the biggest killer of our elderly population and this has to be addressed. St. Ives is already a Dementia Friendly Town, Ramsey Town Council has also agreed to promote this, which leaves Huntingdon and St. Neots as our largest market towns. Equally there are smaller towns within the District who need to consider their options. Training is available to educate people and businesses as to how they can help. This will be an ongoing priority for many years

COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICE

- Joint working between Officers and Members of HDC and CCC including Library and School Staff, Youth Workers and local community groups such as the W.I. and Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust in establishing 'Essentials by Sue'.
- Supporting Time Bank co-ordinators in identifying new projects which will benefit all.
- Working with local Councillors from every authority to recognise local and future issues.
- Acknowledging and working with many organisations both statutory and voluntary in ensuring that good practice is achievable and maintained.