

Strengthening Communities Meeting

Notes of meeting held: 10/08/2015

Present: Rebecca, Christina, Gillian, Jean and Anne

(1) Discussion. Why we are here?

Members of CELL Big Local have decided to cross over the poverty Group and Strengthening Communities and make it into one. This is because there are few members in the Poverty Group and there is no task group for strengthening communities. The two groups are lacking communication between one another and if they are combined as one then there will be an increase in communication and more knowledge as to what is going on.

(2) Agreement to form a group for "Strengthening Communities"

The name "Strengthening Communities" was discussed and agreed as this covers what we already do and gives scope for more. The amalgamation will allow things to be progressed. Big Local is responsible for strengthening the community and by putting the two groups together it will help the members make a big step forward knowing that there is now more help available instead of being separated into two different groups.

(3) Agreement on a chair leader

Jean proposed Christina as chair and after discussion this was agreed by all present. This is more helpful as Christina is based at the Lynemouth Resource Centre and is also part of the partnership.

(4) Agreement of what is to be covered by strengthening communities

There are a variety of different plans to be covered by strengthening communities, such as:

- Volunteer Support
- To create a better outcome for members in the four villages
- Membership scheme
- Furniture recycling – suggestion
- Bulk buying scheme – delivery and storage needs to be planned and considered
- Time bank – lack of volunteers
- Affordable warmth and fuel events – ISOS
- Community gardens – space to grow food
- Community kitty – rules need to be put into place and ideas need to be brought forward from members in the four villages
- CELL Life
- Community events – e.g. Craft Fayre
- Community Engagement – job application for Project Coordinator and Rebecca's wage
- Checking progress and evaluation – LTO
- Volunteer training – lunch, breaks and safety equipment etc needs to be accessible and put into place to keep members willing to help

***Action Point:** Gillian to e-mail Max about the internet hotspots in the four villages

***Action Point:** Rebecca to give Gillian Ken Pearson's contact number for information on the internet

***Action Point:** Christina to contact Fiona from the Credit Union

(5) Budget

Christina presented a rough draft budget for 2015. This was only a draft and the completed budget plan may be different.

(6) Agreement on members roles and responsibilities

Members of an individual project need to keep their own balance sheet to understand where they are at, what spend they have and what they have already spent etc. This just means that the member has the responsibility of keeping track of their finances in there project. Also, all roles and responsibilities were agreed.

(7) Agreement of the date and time of our next meeting

We have been approached by Tyne Gateway who are keen to let us know what they can offer in respect of "child poverty". They want to join us in our next meeting to discuss their Fund Approval form and what they could do that would benefit the four villages. It was agreed that we would meet with them on **Tuesday 18th August at 1pm.**