

Appendix A

1. Community Engagement

- 1.1 **Objective:** To enhance the Community Engagement Team and develop Community Engagement Strategy which secures commitment from the Council and partners to a new way of working with our communities, in order to further develop strong, supportive and cohesive local communities.

Milestones	Date
1. To have community engagement team in place	
2. To develop a CE Community Engagement Strategy, with partners	May 2014 November 2014
3. To establish a multi-agency Community Engagement Group to lead implement the actions agreed in the CE Strategy.	September 2014

- 1.2 We need to **embed understanding** of what we mean by local working and developing Strong Communities, and how we as a Council want to work with people. To do this, we will implement an engagement plan as to what this all means in plain English and how people can be engaged and involved. The plan covers a range of ways that we will do this with partners, the voluntary, faith and community sector and our residents. We also need to ensure that all staff are aware and signed up to this approach within the Council by using a variety of communication methods.
- 1.3 Work is underway to restructure and enhance the team within the Council to enable us to deliver on this.
- 1.4 The new approach to Community Engagement, focuses on building peoples' resilience, and promotes health and well-being. This involves providing the right services, facilities and resources that help to build resilience, and ensuring local communities have the capacity and infrastructure to access them. It focuses more resources into building the capacity of communities and people to develop activities and services which they believe meets their local needs. It also supports local people to confront and cope with life's challenges, so that they maintain their wellbeing in the face of adversity. This involves developing our work which:
- Increases activities that promote wellbeing
 - Builds social capital
 - Develops coping strategies for individuals and communities.
- 1.5 The five ways to wellbeing are: connect, be active, take notice, keep learning, and give. These are not just a person's individual responsibility, but can be influenced by 'upstream' interventions; shaping existing services or providing new services in such a way that they encourage behaviours that promote the five ways to wellbeing.
- 1.6 Relationships are a key component of social capital and there is strong evidence that they are a major factor in promoting wellbeing and developing strong communities. Building local networks and connections, is a key role for our Community Engagement Team and we need to develop more work which promotes social capital, including targeted interventions to build social relationships amongst isolated groups; and interventions that encourage social connections between people with similar experiences to provide peer support.