Summary Sheet

Council Report: Overview and Scrutiny Management Board - 21st April, 2016

Title: Community Assets and Mapping Update – Adult Social Care

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan? *Yes*

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report
Graeme Betts Interim Director of Adult Care and Housing

Report Author(s)
Janine Moorcroft – Change Leader

Ward(s) Affected - All

1. Summary

As part of the Adult Social Care Development Programme there has been a specific piece of work around Community Assets and this has formed one of the five key areas of work within the Programme. The Community Assets Board consists of a multi-agency approach and is responsible for delivering on the required outcomes for Adult Social Care. This report updates on the work that has been undertaken to date and primarily sets out the scale of the challenge and the need to invest in an integrated approach to improve our offer for Community Assets in Rotherham.

2. Recommendations

That Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Members:

2.1 Receive and comment on the report and note the actions to date.

Background Papers

Adult Social Care Vision.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No.

Council Approval Required
Yes.

Exempt from the Press and Public
No.

3.0   Background and defining a Community Asset

3.1   Throughout the last 12 months Adult Social Care has been focussed on the Development Programme which has required concentrated efforts in specific areas. One of the work streams is specifically around Community Assets and defining what Rotherham holds as Community Assets.

3.1.1   In order to consider what might be included in community assets, the simplest way is to consider the individual at the centre of community assets. Individuals themselves come with a range of community assets – all the things they can do to for themselves and those things they can contribute to their families and communities. This would include the access they have to resources through wages or benefits. It would include all those things people can do for themselves and their actions and activities that support their families and communities through voluntary actions.

3.1.2   The immediate community assets round individuals are their families and everything they bring.

3.2   Beyond families, there are neighbours and communities and faith groups, ethnic groups, communities based on shared interests or shared defined features. These types of groups represent a rich, diverse network meeting a wide range of needs for faith, social interaction, sport and leisure etc. They occur in many different shapes and forms – some meet regularly and have membership rules while others meet sporadically in response to events. Further, some are entirely voluntary while others will receive grants or income through subs from members.

3.2.1   A further range of community assets are delivered through the third sector which can resemble community groups or may be more formally structured. These activities may be developed in response to an identified need or to meet an identified or perceived gap. Some of these activities may be club based and may have affiliations to national organisation – eg bowling clubs.

3.2.2   A further group of community assets come in the shape of municipal facilities such as libraries, parks, museums etc. These are facilities with a specific civic purpose which over time has changed and developed to keep pace with changes in need and thinking about the use of public facilities such as these. Community centres also come under this umbrella though there are a wide range of types of community centres addressing different needs in different localities.

3.2.3 Beyond this there are a wide range of privately owned facilities which generate profit such as picture houses, leisure centres, swimming pools, bingo halls, pubs etc. These are available to all but they may tailor their offer to the needs of particular groups in their local communities.

3.3 Assets in Rotherham and the Link Workers

3.3.1 In the context of delivering social care and health, community assets are a key resource. Not only do they represent a way in which individuals and communities can develop resilience and reduce their dependency on formal services, they also present an opportunity to develop wellbeing which helps stem the impact of disability and poor health.

3.3.2 While community assets can grow and develop spontaneously, it is in the interests of care and health services to stimulate, promote, develop and sustain them. This can be achieved in many ways which includes, providing good quality community facilities, ensuring there are safe, pleasant local environments, providing pump-priming resources and communicating and engaging with the diverse range of community assets – celebrating successes and learning from failure.

3.3.3 It is essential that formal care and health services engage with community assets and play their role in supporting them. It is essential they utilise them and build them into formal care and health packages recognising that they add quality to people's lives. This is about a partnership and people's lives will be richer for a successful partnership between formal care and health services and the wide range of community assets.

3.3.4 Over the past six months Adult Social Care has undertaken a variety of tasks which have all built on what we know about Rotherham and the assets we currently hold. Two Community Link Workers have worked across the borough and have started to build a directory of what Community Assets are available in different parts of the borough and what activities are being undertaken in specific communities.

3.3.5 The Link Workers have engaged with a wide variety of stakeholders and this has contributed to the overarching directory, however we acknowledge that to achieve the principles of an asset based approach as outlined above that we need to continue this good work. Within the next few weeks we will be recruiting to additional link worker support posts and this will form a wider team that will sit within the locality teams. This team will support and build on the directory which will feed the information required for Social Workers and their teams.

4. **Key Issues**

4.1 The key issue within the asset mapping of Rotherham is that we currently don't hold one central point for information. At present we have different teams that hold their own information and do not have a way of sharing this through a system. We also have a commitment to "Connect to Support" which is our electronic system whereby customers can shop for their own support services.

Rotherham have committed to Connect to Support and we are in the process of appointing two information and advice officers who will be responsible for the updating and maintaining of this information. The system is currently available; however the information that is held is minimal and is not representative of what we offer.

4.2 In addition to this we have strong links with Voluntary Action Rotherham who also hold an online directory called GISMO (Group Information Services Maintained online). This electronic system is user friendly and holds some information around the localities, however the site does not match with the information that we hold in teams and on Connect to Support.

To achieve the ultimate of a seamless system that holds all the relevant up to date information we need to be firstly acknowledging that the size and scale of this is vast and should not be underestimated.

We need to hold a holistic system which can provide all the information required on what Rotherham has to offer and what support customers can access within their own communities.

In addition this information will feed the commissioning team and give us a broader understanding of where the gaps are and what is required.

4.3 **Recommendations**

To achieve what has been outlined within this report we require a commitment to invest into the GISMO site to bring the information up to date. This will need to feature on Connect to Support to ensure that we have an integrated approach with the voluntary sector.

By using the newly appointed resources (Information and Advice Officers) and by investment into the resources for GISMO we will then build on the information we hold to capture all information in one place.

5. **Consultation**

5.1 We will need to share our commitment to updating the system with key partners and providers to ensure that all are included in this initiative to hold and share valuable information. An integrated and inclusive approach is essential for this to be a success.

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6.   Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

Task	Action	Responsible Officer
Commit to invest into GISMO	Utilise money to update system through VAR	G Betts M Scarrott (Finance)
New Info and Advice officers commence in post	Management of officers and remit defined	S Farragher (C Leader as part of customer journey)
Conversations with relevant officers to support the integration of GISMO and Connect to Support	Appropriate meetings and actions to be defined to understand what is required from the project	J Moorcroft L Workers I.T
Link into wider commissioning team to understand the gaps and demand	Actions to be defined with commissioning	Strategic Commissioning Officers

7.   Financial and Procurement Implications

7.1   There will be a level of investment required to ensure that the GISMO site is updated and managed. This will be funded from Care Act money.

8.   Legal Implications

8.1   None.

9.   Human Resources Implications

9.1   The dedicated resources for the project have already been agreed and have recently been appointed to. The Link Worker posts will also be fundamental in the process.

10.   Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1   Through holding all information and advice in one place this will benefit other directorates and will support information and activities for a range of ages including children.

11.   Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1   The proposals will make a positive contribution to promoting equality of access to services for older people and their carers. An initial EA has been carried out for the current development programme within Adult Care and Housing

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 The impact of this initiative will be positive for partners and other directorates. A commitment to share information is required to enable a successful system.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 At present the risk that is held is due to not having an integrated approach. We know that we have some information on community assets and vibrant community groups within our localities but this information is fragmented. If we do not invest and rectify this we will not succeed in our offer for customers of Rotherham.

13.2 Through a commitment to investing in this project we can work towards holding the correct and up to date information for Rotherham and work towards a system that we can uphold as exemplar.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Prof Graeme Betts – Interim Strategic Director Adult Social Care and Housing
Janine Moorcroft – Change Leader
Vicky Abukan and Frank Markham - Community Link Workers
Information and Advice officers - TBC
Strategic Commissioning Officers