

## COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Wednesday, 13 April 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Communities First
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member, Economic Development
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer, (Community & Enterprise)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Communities First programme is one of the main Welsh Government programmes to tackle poverty in 52 of the most deprived neighbourhoods in Wales. Originally launched in 2001, the programme has evolved significantly since its inception. This report provides a summary of the progress made in implementing the programme in Flintshire and an update on the future direction of the programme.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	The Committee is asked to note the progress in implementing the Communities First programme in Flintshire.
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## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE CONTENT OF THE REPORT
1.01	<p>The Communities First programme was launched by Welsh Government in 2001. The programme “supports and encourages local actions which address the long-term causes and effects of poverty in the most deprived areas in Wales. It does so by supporting projects and initiatives which help to narrow the economic, health, education and skills gaps between our most deprived and more affluent communities. It supports activity in 52 clusters (of deprived neighbourhoods) across Wales including two in Flintshire; the East Cluster in Deeside and the West Cluster incorporating parts of Mold, Holywell and Flint.</p>
1.02	<p>Welsh Government ask each Cluster to deliver activity against three national outcomes: prosperous communities, learning communities and healthy communities. Each Cluster prepares an annual delivery plan and community involvement plan which summarises the projects to be delivered and how local people will be engaged in the work of the programme.</p>
1.03	<p>Prosperity has become the most prominent of the themes in the programme, partly in response to the economic downturn. Key areas of work in Flintshire include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jobs Clubs</li> <li>• Jobs Fairs</li> <li>• Dragon’s Den and the Business Entrepreneurship Network</li> <li>• Responding to employment opportunities</li> <li>• Community benefits</li> </ul> <p>In 2015/16 across both East and West clusters over 1300 individual participants have engaged in prosperity focussed activities including Job Clubs, Job Fairs and the Local Labour Market Initiative. As a result of this 200 individuals have secured employment.</p> <p>Jobs Clubs currently take place weekly at Connah's Quay Connects, John Summers' Community Campus, Deeside CAB, Holywell Library and Flint Library.</p> <p>A Jobs, Skills and Training Events steering group has been established following a number of successful collaborative projects between Communities First, Careers Wales and Jobcentre Plus which have included Primark, Marston’s, Iceland and The Range recruitment events. This group will focus on specific employment themes over the year including Care, Construction and Retail. These meetings take place on a monthly basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14.04.16 Joint Job Fair to take place at Civic Hall Connah's Quay. Event organised in partnership with Job Centre Plus, Careers Wales.</li> <li>• 24.08.16 Joint Health &amp; Well-being employability Event to take</li> </ul>

place at Civic Hall Connah's Quay. The event will be organised in partnership with Job Centre Plus, Careers Wales and the Health & Well-being Forum.

### **Business Entrepreneurship Network**

- **28 Fortnightly Enterprise Sessions**
- 114 attended Enterprise Club / Surgeries across both Communities First Clusters
- 4 Individuals launched businesses
  
- **2 Dragons Dens**
- 13 Attended and pitched ideas to Dragons
  
- **1 Celebration Event**
- 50 Delegates attended
- 17 Enterprise Club members attended
- 9 Business Entrepreneurs volunteering free mentoring for the BEN (Business Entrepreneurship Network)
  
- Attendees who attend workshops are given access to the support of the Lead Officer for Enterprise & Entrepreneurship and additional support of Business Wales and the Mentoring programme which is being piloted for the Enterprise Club only.
- Additional Enterprise Information Surgeries are held in the JCP offices in Shotton Flint & Mold and there will be bespoke enterprise sessions held to give information on Enterprise.
- An Explore Enterprise Workshop was held with Groundwork students 16 - 24 years to deliver enterprise as an alternative employment theme. The session was delivered with the support of six entrepreneurs and Business Wales.

### **Dragons Den**

- Venue for both events Coleg Cambria
- Attendees across both Communities First clusters were given the opportunity to pitch their business idea.

### **New pilot projects for 2016 - 2017**

Working in Communities First High schools to deliver workshops with a range of opportunities that are available under the umbrella of enterprise and transferable skills.

Workshops to include:-

- identifying personal strengths/areas for development
- interview skills
- communication skills/group discussions
- theatre workshops

1.04

The learning theme underpins the prosperity theme by re-engaging local people in learning, linking learners to the needs of employers and providing key life skills to vulnerable people. Key areas of work in Flintshire include:

- STEM – A science club has been established in Flint, this will be rolled out across both Clusters.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 55 Young Learners supported an Arts project in partnership with Theatr Clwyd,</li> <li>• Financial literacy delivered in Schools and within the community to Adults.</li> <li>• Family Learning Signature.</li> <li>• Community based learning courses</li> <li>• In 2015/16 Communities First engaged with a large number of local people delivering a number of Community Led courses. Including Food Hygiene and Health and safety.</li> </ul> <p>Over 140 Local people attended the above courses.</p>
1.05	<p>The health theme includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family nutrition sessions including supporting Food Coops within the community.</li> <li>• Stress reduction courses</li> <li>• Tackling isolation in older people, supporting Luncheon Clubs and Memory Cafes.</li> <li>• Dementia Support.</li> <li>• Close working relations between CF and Local GPs and Pharmacies.</li> <li>• Mindfulness courses – Mindfulness helps people to improve their mental Wellbeing through developing skills of Mindful practice. We have delivered a Mindfulness course in Mold and 8 Local people attended.</li> <li>• All the above is delivered throughout both CF Clusters in the local community.</li> <li>• Support is also given to Parent and Toddler groups in relation to Health and Wellbeing, in partnership with Families First and Flying start.</li> </ul>
1.06	<p>The LIFT programme was added to Communities First in Flintshire in September 2014; one of nine pilot areas across Wales. Two Mentors employed through the programme provide intensive support to people from workless households to encourage them to re-engage with the labour market, help them to overcome barriers to employment, and support them in gaining skills and work experience. Since its launch in Flintshire LIFT has engaged 114 people and helped 29 to enter employment.</p>
1.07	<p>There are a number of significant changes expected to the Communities First programme in 2016/17:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The structure of the Communities First team has been reviewed and a new structure is currently being implemented. There is now one Manager to cover both Clusters and the new staff structure responds to this change, providing for more effective management and reducing staffing costs which can be reinvested in project delivery.</li> <li>2. Welsh Government has launched the Communities 4 Work (C4W) programme across all 52 clusters in Wales. The programme is a partnership with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and mentors employed by both DWP and Communities First will engage and support young people not in education employment or training</li> </ol>

	<p>and with long-term unemployed adults.</p> <p>3. The Communities First team currently operates from three offices and delivers services from a wide range of community venues to meet local needs. The office bases for the programme will be reduced to one and the savings used for project delivery which will continue across all areas.</p> <p>4. Welsh Government expects the four main programmes tackling poverty to increase their integration; Communities First, Flying Start, Families First and Supporting People. These programmes are already integrated in many of their delivery arrangements but increased joint planning and commissioning is expected in the future.</p>
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The Communities First programme is 100% funded by Welsh Government. The level of funding for the programme for 2016/17 remains unchanged from the previous year at £676,315.00 The funding from Welsh Government supports a dedicated staff team of 15 officers.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	Welsh Government require an annual community involvement plan to be in place to ensure that the work of the programme is relevant to the neighbours in which it operates.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	No significant risks arising from this report.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	None.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>None.</p> <p><b>Contact Office:</b> Niall Waller  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702137  <b>E-mail:</b> niall.waller@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<b>LIFT</b> – a Welsh Government programme operating across 9 pilot areas of Wales and providing intensive mentoring support to help people who have been unemployed for 6months or more, from workless households to get closer to the labour market.
7.02	<b>Communities for Work</b> – a new European funded programme from the Welsh Government to guide people from a Communities First areas into employment. This is aimed and 16-24 year olds and over 25yrs.