



One West Lancs Forum & Showcase

'Setting the Agenda'

Thursday, 8 May 2014
Edge Hill University (Faculty of Health)



A forum and showcase highlighting the One West Lancs partnership took place at Edge Hill University on Thursday, May 8, 2014.

One West Lancs is a strategic forum of public, private and community sectors, harnessing and directing combined local assets across health, education, environment and the economy to improve the opportunities for and wellbeing of West Lancashire. The partnership was formed in April 2013.

During the event, the work of local voluntary groups was showcased – via video presentations or in the case of Divine Dance, a performance which received a standing ovation.

Organisations like West Lancashire's Clinical Commissioning Group, The Big Lottery, The Heritage Lottery Fund and Lancashire County Council's Economic Development Unit, were also given the opportunity to talk about their priorities for the community.

More than 150 representatives from 76 organisations across the sectors and West Lancashire attended the event.

The Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Iain Ashcroft, opened the event, accompanied by the Mayoress, Beverley Ashcroft.

It was followed by a brief introduction from Greg Mitten, the Chairman of the One West Lancs board and Chief Officer for West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Service.

Greg outlined the day's aims - to provide a platform for the work of local voluntary organisations and show how they benefitted the community as well as giving individual partnerships the opportunity to talk about their priorities for the community.

The New Health Economy – Paul Kingan, Chief Finance Officer, West Lancs Clinical Commissioning Group

Paul discussed the history of the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), which took over the reins from the former Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in April 2013. The CCG is responsible for commissioning most healthcare services in West Lancs.

He explained that the CCG is made up of a blend of clinical and commissioning expertise, meaning decisions are made by those who see patients on a regular basis and understand the clinical environment in which the CCG is working.

He explained the CCG's structure and how it was made up before going on to talk about health inequalities within West Lancs.

Life expectancy in West Lancashire is below the national average. He used the example of two 65 year-old men who are both recently retired. This is where the similarities end. Bob is likely to live to 82 and Barry likely to die at 75 but they live only 13 miles apart. The CCG, he said, was trying to focus on the reasons behind those differences.

The CCG has identified 11 priority areas – cancer, diabetes and respiratory programmes are just three – more details around each one can be found on the CCG's website at <http://www.westlancashireccg.nhs.uk/what-we-do/our-priorities/>

Paul explained how the CCG's £133.2m budget for 2013/14 was broken down – £75.5m was spent on acute hospitals services, £17.9m on prescribing, £12.1m on mental health and £8.1m, individual care packages, to highlight four.

Last year, the Government introduced a new initiative - the £3.8billion Better Care Fund – which is a single-pooled budget to support health and social care services to work more closely together. The aim of this is integrated provision at local level – which links in with the Care Closer to Home agenda.

The CCG has written an overview of the draft 5 year strategic plan to highlight some key themes, based on what is currently known.

Paul concluded: "There is not enough money around to change the world so we have to collaborate and tap into local communities – that is our strategy."

Community Groups – Soap Box Session 1

Ormskirk Tennis Club – Rob Owen, coach, talked about the work of the tennis club and highlighted the different classes that were available.

SCFI – Skelmersdale Community Food Initiative – Dee Mitten, manager, gave delegates an overview of SCFI's wellbeing and mindfulness initiative.

Visit Project – Derek Sarath, VISIT Sefton and West Lancashire project officer, discussed its aims to enable everyone to access their community by sustainable means - using public transport, park and ride and cycling or walking.

Divine Dance – Delegates were treated to a well-received dance display from students with additional needs. Divine Dance is run by Katie Whitehead.

European Structural Investment Fund – Neil Roberts, Lancashire County Council Economic Development

There were six streams to the fund – 1. Strategic development, infrastructure and environmental resilience; 2. Business growth and innovation; 3. Growth sectors and supply chains; 4. Inward investment and marketing; 5. Skills for growth; 6. Creating opportunities for disadvantaged communities and groups.

Rural Development Programme for England – Karen Kerrigan, Lancashire County Council Economic Development

Karen explained how the rural development programme worked – out of 38 projects in the Lancashire West area, 21 have been in West Lancashire.

She talked about the role of the Local Action Group – that it contributes to the Local Development Strategy, which is based on what local communities need. It also acts as an ambassador for the funding programme by promoting it to its own networks.

The different types of rural funding available was examined. Enterprises which have benefited so far in West Lancs are Fiddlers Crisps, Rufford, funded in 2011, through the adding value fund; Pimbo Garden Centre in Upholland, funded in 2010 via a micro-enterprise grant towards a new café, and Mossy Lea Village Hall was funded in 2010 via the basic services pot.

A possible £4-6 million could be allocated for the whole of Lancashire - 2015-2020. The county council should find out at the end of the year.

Big Lottery – Sarah Clubb

Sarah, a local officer, described its work and how its focus was on demand-led funding streams

There are two open funding programmes – Awards for All (£300 - £10,000) and Reaching Communities/Reaching Communities Buildings (over £10,000). But two areas are common to both, which are outcomes and evidencing need.

Its mission is to bring improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need either through poverty, disability, poor start in life, victims of crime and other reasons, she said.

When she referred to being an outcomes funder – this was outcomes in skills and education, communities, improving rural and urban environments and health and wellbeing.

So when bids are submitted, it was important to show how the project would support Big's outcomes.

Top tips to a successful application were:

1. Read the guidance and fill in everything you are asked for
2. Assume the assessor knows nothing about your area or project
3. Involve your beneficiaries at all stages
4. Know your area – could you work with other partners.

More details of the above can be found on the Big Lottery's website at <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/>

Heritage Lottery Fund – Maya Sharma

Maya said the term 'heritage' meant different aspects from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations.

Physical heritage means archives and buildings; natural heritage - places like Martin Mere and oral heritage, encompassing people's memories and experiences.

It offers different grant programmes, which fund projects from £3,000 to over £5million. In assessing applications, the lottery takes into account the broad range of outcomes for heritage, people and communities that the projects will achieve, she said.

The Heritage Lottery Fund handles enquiries, grant applications and the monitoring of successful projects through an online system. When a person knows which programme they wish to apply for, they should register online. Once registered, they can gain quick access to the online system via the home page of the website at <http://www.hlf.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

Community Groups – Soap Box session 2

The Liberty Centre – Eleanor Maddocks, manager – spoke how the centre endeavoured to help reduce the harm done by domestic violence/abuse. She also spoke about the various services it provides to help those affected.

Resolve International – Keith Laycock, chairman – Resolve tries to help the people of Nepal tackle issues such as child poverty, education, as well as helping to provide clean water and hygiene education training.

Disability Advice West Lancs – Tony Lewis, DAWL manager – it provides information, advice and support for people with disabilities and their carers.

Brighter Futures – Peter Cousins said the multi-award winning charity helped people with disabilities regain/retain their mobility by providing new and recycled mobility equipment and aids.

Yewdale Counselling Service – Christine Smith - provides talking therapies and other counselling services.

'Share the Care' – Jeanette Winstanley

Jeanette Winstanley introduced her son, Rob, 23, who was born with a condition which affects his bones and makes him susceptible to breaks.

Rob has used his experience to create and launch ICE Assist – a new smartphone app that offers users a fail proof way of calling for assistance –at the touch of a screen.

ICE Assist takes the form of a large red button which fills the phone's screen when the app is opened. Pressing the button sends a message to selected contacts saying "HELP I'm in need of assistance". It also gives an address and map reference showing where the message was sent from. The app also features optional siren noise, flashing light and vibrate function.

Rob produced ICE Assist through his software development company, Smoke Stack Software, and has already had lots of positive feedback.

“Although I developed the app with vulnerable adults and children in mind, entire communities can actually use it to make them feel safer. They know they can quickly call for help anytime, any place, if they've have an accident or feel threatened or unsafe.”

It was Jeanette who proved the most inspiration after she suffered a mini-stroke in a supermarket.

He said: “There were people around in the supermarket to help her but I began to wonder what would have happened if she had been on her own. This made me determined to develop my idea for ICE Assist.”

Not only does Jeanette feel more confident with ICE Assist on her smart phone, she is more happy that Rob has it on his.

She said that Rob had never let anyone tell him he couldn't do something.

She said: “Naturally I am worried he will hurt himself, but equally I want him to push the boundaries of his life as far as he can. The knowledge that he always has ICE Assist with him brings us all a lot reassurance and peace of mind.”

Closing remarks - Greg Mitten, One West Lancs chairman

Greg Mitten, One West Lancs chairman and West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Services chief officer, summarised the event.

He said: “It was designed to show the benefits of working together for the West Lancs community.

“It showcased the gifts, capacities and skills of our community and explored ways to bring these together with the assets, resources and knowledge available from the different sectors.

“Most importantly, the One West Lancs forum demonstrated that by working together, we can turn intentions into positive actions.”

Feedback

From the evaluations returned, they all agreed or strongly agreed that the event had provided them with new information. 89% agreed or strongly agreed that the information that had been provided was relevant to their organisations or themselves.

All strongly agreed or agreed that the speakers and the showcase presentations were interesting.

All strongly agreed or agreed that the displays stands were informative and that the materials they picked up were of interest or use to their organisation.

A selection of comments made:

“Absolutely amazing event – co-ordination was superb. True partnership of ABCD in West Lancs.”

“I loved the videos – would love to do this around patient experience of health and social care. Can't wait for the next event. I feel proud to work and live in West Lancs.”

“Would have liked the opportunity to ‘showcase’ our service at the Soap Box event.”

“Interactive performance and videos were excellent – added interest.”

“Market Place tables a bit too small.”

“Very enjoyable – a good opportunity to make new contacts.”

The presentations and photographs from the event can be accessed by signing up to the Community-I website and joining the One West Lancs Forum.

Community-i is a new website and communications forum that West Lancs CVS has co-designed with its partners to help those in the public, private and the voluntary, community and faith sectors share information and engage with the West Lancs community.

To sign up to the website, click on the Community-I webpage at www.communitywestlancs.org and put in your name and password. To then join the forum, click on the link.

If you have problems signing up or joining the forum, contact Gill Hughes or a member of the Community-I volunteer team at the CVS either by telephone on 01695 733737 or by email to garry@communitywestlancs.org, danny@communitywestlancs.org, dave@communitywestlancs.org

Many thanks to Edge Hill University for the use of its lecture theatre and to Nicola Kenny and the catering staff.

