



o n e w e s t l a n c s

our assets • our community

One West Lancs Forum Newsletter

May 2016

One West Lancs Forum and Showcase

This year's One West Lancs Forum and Health Network event will be held on **Wednesday 6 July 2016** at Creative Edge at Edge Hill University and the theme will be '**Get Active**'. Getting active can include a wide range of things - creating a business, starting or joining a voluntary and community group, improving our social connectivity, growing food, getting involved in life-long learning are all good examples. The important thing is that we all need to be doing something we enjoy; and having an opportunity to do something and be involved can bring great health benefits to all of us.

The Borough Council has successfully secured funding for a three year **Active West Lancs** programme aimed at getting people active, as a way of improving their health outcomes. This will give lots of opportunities for us all to get more active in the broadest sense. It also complements the new **Well Skelmersdale** programme (featured on page two) which is being run by the West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group. This focuses on delivering grassroots projects that have a lasting impact on people's lives - by working alongside people and trusting them to shape their own futures.

The role of VCFS organisations and sports clubs will be key to making both these projects a success, so all are welcome to attend the One West Lancs Forum and learn first-hand how they can get involved. There will also be a small grants pot aimed at enabling the VCFS to go out and engage with potential new members and to help get them ACTIVE!

All groups attending the Forum, whatever their particular interest, will have the opportunity to book a space to exhibit what they do and also take part in the soap box session in the lecture hall - either to show a short film or to have their say about what they are doing. It is hoped that as many of you as possible will take part. To book a place, a stall and/or a slot on the Soap Box, please complete the attached booking form.



For more information, please contact Vicky Attwood - 01695 733737 or email vicky@wlcvs.org **Space is limited so it's first come first served!**

One West Lancs is a partnership of the local voluntary, public and business sectors which aims to improve the quality of life for everyone in West Lancashire

This One West Lancs quarterly e-newsletter is sent to over 500 people. It is circulated to all One West Lancs Forum members, the One West Lancs Board, our elected representatives as well as members of the wider VCFS community.

If you no longer wish to receive the One West Lancs e-newsletter, please let us know and we will take you off the circulation list.

In This Issue

- Well Skelmersdale
- New allotment site
- Crossing the Line

Well Skelmersdale



Skelmersdale is one of nine places chosen as a 'pathfinder' area for the new Well North programme. Well Skelmersdale is based on the premise that *'creating better health and wellbeing is all about being part of a vibrant and connected community and living in a pleasant environment ... It means tackling debt, lack of jobs and training, missed education opportunities, poor housing, and loneliness. Being creative, having fun and joining up the dots is key to success'*.

Well North's founder Aidan Halligan recognised that people and places could change for the better, and that it was important to see local people as the solution – not the problem. He also realised that doing things *with* rather than *to* people was the best recipe for success.

Well North is a movement that connects local people, health experts, public services, businesses, voluntary and community groups who are all eager to make a difference. The focus is on delivering grassroots projects that have a lasting impact on people's lives.

Well Skelmersdale is all about...

- Improving the health and wellbeing of everyone
- Backing real people's dreams and ideas
- Working alongside people and trusting them to shape their own futures
- Bringing energy and creativity to kick-start change
- Tapping into existing assets, resources, talents and skills
- Building new connections and relationships
- Working with social entrepreneurs and businesses to create new enterprises and jobs
- Sparking community-centred investment and regeneration
- Working with communities to shape more effective health, care and welfare services
- Creating culture change, enterprise and inspiration in communities which lasts long after we've gone

Initial work has been underway since last year to lay the foundations for the work of Well Skelmersdale. Time has been spent meeting with people



whose work, time and commitment is focused with communities in Skelmersdale - especially identifying the key people and networks. If you would like to part of these ongoing conversations then please let Lucinda know.

Well Skelmersdale has presented to a range of audiences. This has included the West Lancashire Ageing Well Forum, the Ecumenical Clergy Lent Study Event and the West Lancashire Children & Young People's Mental Health Group. If you have a forum where you would like information on Well Skelmersdale to be shared then again, please let Lucinda know.

Skelmersdale hosted a second 'immersion visit' for Well North's Executive Chairman Andrew Mawson and Chief Executive Sam Tunney on 27th January. This provided the opportunity to further explore town centre developments (including taking a walk around the town centre), spend time with some primary school children to hear their views and get their input and also time with third sector organisations.

Finally, in May, Well Skelmersdale will be spending some time with the Well North team to define the focus and ambition for the programme - including the working principles needed to achieve and sustain this ambition and an agreed business plan and practical plan of action to make progress.

For more information on any aspect of Well Skelmersdale, please contact Lucinda McArthur on lucinda.mcarthur@westlancashireccg.nhs.uk or telephone 01695 588149.

New allotment site for Skelmersdale

West Lancashire Borough Council is delighted to report that planning permission has been granted for a new allotment site in Skelmersdale, and construction is now underway.

The 34 plot site will be located alongside the Houghtons Road allotment at the end of Manfield thanks to almost £50,000 provided by the Council.

Skelmersdale residents on existing waiting lists will be offered plots first with any remaining plots being offered through local publicity.

Discussions are underway to have the new site managed by a local allotment society.

Further details are available from Steve Kent, Leisure Operations Manager WLBC on 01695 585169 or stephen.kent@westlancs.gov.uk



Crossing the Line

Some of the most influential people in West Lancashire recently attended the prestigious premiere of a new film called 'Crossing the Line'. The film was written, directed and produced by Mark Ashton and Joshua Gwynne of The Artz Centre, Skelmersdale and filmed in locations right across the town. It is part of a new initiative to help young people recognise the risks of becoming involved in organised crime and is to be rolled out throughout schools across the region. It has already received interest from schools up and down the country.

The film also provided the opportunity for local young people to learn the artistic side of film making by becoming involved in its production. Nearly 100 young people from across the community took part including Anthony Ashton (15) and Grace Worth (12) the Artz Centre students who play the leading roles. The film also featured original music by local singer songwriter Hannah Hill who wrote the amazing title song – Lost in Infinity.

The event was compered by the Chair of One West Lancs' Community Safety Partnership David Tilleray who gave this reaction after watching the film: "***[It was] very professional and very powerful - really makes you think about the choices you make and their implications – both for you and the people who matter most to you. An outstanding piece of work!***"

The night was topped off with a special presentation made by High Sheriff of Lancashire Amanda Parker who surprised Mark Ashton with a prestigious award in recognition of great and valuable services to the community of Skelmersdale and the County of Lancashire.

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One West Lancs Thematic Groups

To date One West Lancs Thematic Groups have been set up looking at issues in the following areas:

- [Skills, Training and Employment Partnership \(STEP\)](#)
- [Community Safety Partnership](#)
- [Health and Wellbeing Partnership](#)
- [Children and Young People](#)
- [People and Communities](#)
- [Ageing Well Partnership](#)
- [Transport](#)

The above links will take you to pages on the One West Lancs website where information on the thematic groups and copies of their action plans, minutes and agendas can be found.

www.onewestlancs.org