

## 'An asset based approach' update for Suffolk Health & Wellbeing Board

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### Context

- In 2012 public health and Mid Suffolk & Babergh District Councils led a pilot project to establish a framework for public health to work with the county council and district councils, through elected members to facilitate local delivery of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and the Public Health Outcomes Framework.
- We investigated the use of an asset based approach to helping communities help themselves
- We aimed to build a model that could be rolled out across the county

## What are assets ?

- Resources that could bring about change
- People; time, skills (e.g. reading or driving)
- Things; buildings, green spaces
- Organisations
  - Formal (e.g. councils, voluntary, businesses)
  - Informal (e.g. people sharing a common interest)
- Interest and a desire to bring about change
- Practical skills, capacity and knowledge
- Passions and interests that provide energy for change
- Networks and connections in a community (social capital) including friendships and neighbourliness
- Effectiveness of local community and voluntary associations
- Resources of public, private and third sector organisations available to support a community

## Our approach: underlying principles

### Our aims are to:

- Gather intelligence and information about the two communities to establish their assets and vulnerabilities
- Establish what is important for these communities so that as partners we can build more meaningful relationships and greater credibility
- Enable new local solutions and help build on the existing assets and things that are already happening to make them sustainable

## Progress to date – pilot 1

### Older people pilot

- 2 launch events held in November 2012 under the banner 'Keeping Active, Staying Connected'
- Coordinated by our partners in the voluntary sector – AgeUK Suffolk – both were well attended and received by the local communities in Eye and Gt Cornard
- Survey and 'Lets talk' table discussions identified key issues, barriers and possible solutions for older people in remaining active and independent

### Outcome

- Community groups established in both pilot areas to take the work forward. These continue to be supported by AgeUK Suffolk and a range of other local partner agencies

## Lessons learned

*"...The credibility and independence of AgeUK as the lead organisation was an important step in moving this pilot forward because of their positive identity within the client group and their long and successful history in addressing a range of related issues which the community itself had identified for action..."*

Quote from partner agency

## Progress to date – pilot 2

### **Every child the best start in life**

- Practitioner event entitled 'Sum of the Parts' will be held on 12 June at the Stevenson Centre, Gt Cornard
- Aim of the event is to engage a broad group of colleagues across the public, voluntary and private sectors who are not *formally* involved in early years provision– but all of whom are active in the locality – in improving school readiness and associated outcomes locally
- Event will help to fill knowledge and information gaps assisting practitioners across the locality to feel more informed, confident and able to contribute e.g. by helping families to access the free early learning, childcare and other support that is available to them locally

## Summary of pilot projects

### **Two community-inspired, asset based pilot projects in Eye and Great Cornard:-**

1. Give every child the best start in life by supporting early intervention to help young children be ready for school
2. Improve quality of life for older people by supporting ageing well through prevention of trips and falls, increased exercise and social connectedness

## Outcomes

### **Outcomes:**

- There is improved access to and take up of the various opportunities that already exist (and are shown to be successful) in supporting early child development and the transition to school
- Parents and families living in Gt Cornard know where to go for additional help and support
- A network of people working in the locality is established to coordinate local action and support/supplement this where there is an identified need
- We have a greater understanding of the issues facing older people in Great Cornard and Eye; with community action groups to take the work forwards
- We understand the asset based approach and having tested it through our two pilot projects , we now have a model that can be applied across the rest of the county.