

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Welcome and Warm Spaces Update

Date: 11 March 2024

Author: Health Development Officer

Purpose

To update members of the transition from the warm spaces programme into the wider welcome and warm spaces programme.

Recommendation

That the Overview and Scrutiny committee:

- Notes the report and makes comments as appropriate.

1 Background

1.1 Following on from the update provided to Scrutiny in October 2024 this report provides a further update on the warm spaces programme that has now transitioned into the wider welcome and warm spaces initiative. The decision was made to evolve the warm spaces initiative due to the recognition that there is a need for all year-round use; a slightly different name and offering enabling support to residents throughout the year and not just to keep warm during winter, but to help reduce loneliness and social isolation all year round.

1.2 Who has signed up?

35 venues/partners signed up to offer services in various settings across the Borough, including some of our venues such as the Richard Herrod Centre and the Bonington Theatre. Several other community groups also offered out their spaces such as Men in Sheds in Carlton, Netherfield Forum and the Salvation Army.

The full list of venues is attached at appendix 1.

1.3 **How have the welcome and warm spaces been supported by Gedling Borough Council?**

Gedling Community Hubs and Partners Network

All of the partners signed up to the welcome and warm spaces initiative have the opportunity to be part of the Community Hubs and Partners Network, where appropriate. The network meets virtually on a quarterly basis and whilst this space isn't specifically about welcome and warm spaces it offers hubs and organisations the chance to share experiences, find out about funding opportunities and to connect with other local organisations.

The Gedling Guide

All of the welcome and warm spaces have been included in the Gedling Guide. This is an updated version of the winter support booklet, although this was republished during the winter the name has been changed to reflect that the use of the support booklet being used all year round and not just during winter. This was produced and circulated in November 2023.

Health and Wellbeing e-newsletter promotion

The welcome and warm spaces are also still promoted in the council's monthly health and wellbeing e-newsletter which is sent to roughly 7000 residents and partners. The Council has a dedicated web page where all of the welcome and warm spaces are listed, this link is also shared on a regular basis with wider partners through officer communication channels.

Gedling Community and Voluntary Sector Pride event 2024

We continue to work closely with our Community Hubs and Partners network to channel opportunities for further welcome and warm spaces, community based service expansion, VCS resilience and opportunities to showcase and promote community based services. A meeting of the Gedling Community Hubs and Partners Network held on 22nd February agreed plans for a Voluntary Sector Pride event at the Richard Herrod Centre in Spring, date to be confirmed at time of writing.

The event will include a combination of VCS stallholder information displays, volunteer recruitment workshops and a conference to engage community hubs in a proposed new asset-based Council for Voluntary Services for Gedling.

UKSPF 'Strength In Community' VCS Resilience programme

The Gedling Asset based Council for Voluntary Services proposal has been commissioned from the UKSPF Strength In Community budget and will be delivered by Nottingham CVS in 2024/2025. This new 'hub and spoke' CVS pilot will enable CVS outreach services to be delivered through a partnership network of community hubs in the Borough, offering the facility of a digital self - service platform and technical assistance to

extend the reach of training, volunteer recruitment. fund finding and constitutional/policy development /financial management information resources to VCS groups on their doorstep.

Alongside the VCS support model, we are providing 2 rounds of VCS Resilience Grant Funding totalling £100k to Gedling Voluntary Groups in 2-23/24 and 2024/25 to enable community partners to extend welcome and warm spaces and other services to those most vulnerable in our communities. Round 1, launched in December 2023, has resulted in 13 successful applications covering rural, urban and suburban areas with great variety of services to key target groups of all ages, and broad coverage of the Borough.

This blended support, coproduction and networking approach provides the best approach to ensure long term sustainability of welcome and warm spaces and other essential community-based services.

1.4 Future of the warm spaces programme

The Communities team will continue to work with the existing welcome and warm spaces and will also look to support new organisations who wish to become part of the initiative over the next 12 months. The Council will also continue to work with organisations to review and share their experiences and successes, of the welcome and warm space initiative.

2 Proposal

That the committee note the report and makes comments as appropriate.

3 Alternative options

The committee could choose not to note the report and give any comments but this would go against their wish to review the programme.

4 Financial implications

No additional council resources were utilised specifically for the programme – the communities' team have been and will continue to utilise resources we already have. To confirm, there was no funding from central government or the county council for this project.

5 Legal implications

None.

6 Equalities implications

The programme supports people in need of a welcome and warm spaces and helps to combat isolation and loneliness. The programme is available

for all residents of the borough and is not means tested.

7 Carbon reduction/environmental sustainability implications

There are no carbon implications as a direct result of this report.

8 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Welcome and warm spaces list

9 Background papers

None.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer