

Community Champions Project-Progress Report

Mid December 2020 the Council via the Partnership Team were made aware of an opportunity to put in an Expression of Interest (Eoi) for funding by MHCLG. A fund to target specific communities to support the delivery of Public Health messages in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the purpose is to dispel myths, disseminate information across the community including staying safe and vaccine roll out. The funds purpose is to target those identified at most risk identified people with Disabilities and Migrant communities.

The Expression of Interest had been successful and we were awarded the sum of £188,833. In summary there are three main elements to it:

- Youth Engagement and champions using arts as a tool for engagement and sharing experiences through the pandemic
- Additional Community Champions 4 FTEs to work across the district supporting Covid messages
- Digital infrastructure support (town centre touch screens & information points) and advertising

The only element that could not be funded were the touch screens (due to the risks with the current pandemic), however, MCHLG still approved the funding allocated to this element as they want to work with the council to deliver alternative ways of digital inclusion recognising the existing gaps in this area.

Community Champions 4FTE

- Community Champion Coordinator employed (mapping of works completed to date is attached)
- Job advertisement is now live and shared with all relevant partners including Parish Council, existing community and volunteer groups.
- iPad's have been purchased and all data protection protocol completed. A SNAP survey has been developed that each community champion will have access to. This will provide up to date local intelligence for each 4 market towns and surrounding villages. Reports will be available from the survey on a weekly basis, this will allow the Community Champions to disseminate the correct information specific to their area. These reports will be shared with relevant partners including Derby CCG to increase their intelligence in Bolsover. Link for Snap Survey attached: [Click here to test and preview the questionnaire](#)
- Strong links have now been made with Sports Direct who have a large migrant workforce. Issues around migrants not getting a test or continuing to work with symptoms as they are concerned at not being paid is a priority. Its been agreed that the correct information around government grants available for isolation periods will be disseminated via the agencies newsletters reaching all employees. All information is in a translated format ensuring its widely available. Community Champions have been granted access to the canteen area of Sports Direct so they can engage in person with the workforce.

Youth Engagement Using Arts as a Tool

- Music development project has been devised called **MIXIT**
- Shirebrook has been targeted initially due to data sets showing high levels of mental health and loneliness in youth
- Initially 2 groups of 4 youth will be engaged with over a period of 2 sessions per group. This will be recorded on multiple cameras from different angles throughout. A song/tune/video will be produced from the sessions working with an artist with a strong youth engagement background and extensive knowledge of music production. The 2 groups have been highlighted through working with local community organisation BLAST and Sherbrook academy. Once the 4 sessions have been delivered the programme will be delivered on line in a further 6 sessions reaching a wider audience of youth in the district. Links have been made with Public Health, First Arts and Junction Arts who have a data base of youth that would benefit from the programme ensuring that we capture the right audience. The MHCLG funds has allowed us to purchase the equipment needed and secure the time of the artist to work on the programme. This allows the programme to outlive the MHCLG funds and become a sustainable asset to engage with Youth in an innovative way and helping to support them throughout their teenage years.
- Throughout the programme the positive messages around vaccination and dispelling myths will be disseminated, this will lead on to some of the Youth becoming a community champion volunteers and be a positive voice in their community.
- The programme will be rolled this month. Once completed other areas of the district will be targeted showing high levels of mental health and loneliness in youth.

Digital Infrastructure Support

- Sub group has been set up with relevant partners to develop ways of engaging with the community who are digitally excluded.

