

## **REPORT TO THE ADULT SERVICES AND HOUSING POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**DATE OF MEETING: 15 JULY 2016**

**SUBJECT OF REPORT: SENIOR COMMUNITY LINK**

**TOWN OR PARISH: ALL**

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: ALUN DAVIES STRATEGY AND POLICY OFFICER PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES**

**KEY DECISION: NO**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Panel is asked to receive and comment on this update on the Senior Community Link |

#### **1. SUMMARY OF REPORT**

1.1 This report updates the panel on the development and future plans for the Senior Community Link (SCL) in North Somerset.

#### **2. POLICY**

2.1 A variety of national policy initiatives relating to older people over the last ten years have strongly encouraged public sector bodies to co-produce, consult and engage with older people on the development of policies and services relating to older people. North Somerset Council Corporate Plan states the commitment of the council to consulting with all its residents.

#### **3. DETAILS**

3.1 From 2007-09 the council and partners were successful in obtaining Partnership with Older People (POPP) funding. One of the aims of the funding was to establish a mechanism through which health and social care services could seek the views of older people. To achieve this POPP panels were established in four geographical areas co-terminus with health and social care locality teams. There was also a panel established for older people from Black and other minority ethnic (BOME) communities.

3.2 These panels proved very successful. When the POPP funding ended the POPP project was taken forward by a contract with Age UK Somerset. One of the elements of this work was to support and take forward the panels. This Age UK achieved through providing community development support for each panel. In 2009 the panels were asked to choose a new name and chose "Senior Community Link (SCL)". In 2014 support for the SCL was taken over by Health Watch North Somerset, and from April 2015 it has been provided by Curo.

3.3 The key role of the SCL is as consultation and engagement groups. They represent to the council, health service and other public bodies such as the Police the views, ideas and concerns of older people. The public bodies in turn go to the SCL to obtain their views and ideas on the policies and services the organisations provide to older people. They have covered a wide range of issues including:

- \* Public toilets
- \* Hospital transport
- \* Public transport
- \* Social isolation
- \* Development in Weston-Super-Mare
- \* Scams
- \* Housing
- \* Domiciliary care
- \* Pharmacy services
- \* Waste services

3.4 The SCL do not at this point have a formal membership structure. Any person over 50 in North Somerset can ask to be placed on the data base to receive information and attend meetings. The numbers of people on the data base has grown steadily over the last twelve months. The SCL held their first annual event for three years in April and this was attended by over 100 people.

3.5 The formal point of contact between the SCL and North Somerset Council is through the Older People champions Group. The group has five elected members and two representatives from each of the SCL. North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group are also members of the Group. The group is chaired by Cllr Knight.

3.6 The group meets quarterly. It receives reports on a wide range of issues affecting older people. The leader attends the meeting in January to explain and discuss the proposed council's budget for the following year. The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Clinical officer of the North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group also attend the meeting annually.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

4.1 As described above the primary role of the SCL are as engagement and consultation bodies. They are open to contact from all parts of the council and any organisation who wishes to consult on older people issues.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Funding for the support organisation is provided by the council at £30k per annum. . From March 2017 the SCL will become fully independent from the council when the current funding for the support organisation ends. In preparation for this all the SCL have undertaken development sessions facilitated by Curo. In these sessions all the SCL have expressed a strong opinion to continue beyond March 2017 in their current role. There was also agreement to set up a SCL Hub. This is an organisation made up of two representatives of all the SCL. It will be able to make unanimous decisions to agree policy and structure for the SCL, and to be a body which can fundraise on behalf of all the SCL and distribute funding equally across the SCL.

5.2 Curo are undertaking the fundraising on behalf of the SCL. Any funding secured will be held by Curo but can only be spent specifically on SCL activities. Curo will continue to provide support to SCL, contingent on funding being secured, for two years beyond March 2017. There will be a formal service level agreement between the SCL and Curo setting out the terms of the support and relationship between the two bodies.

## **6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 The continuation of the SCL beyond March 2017 will depend on the success of the fundraising by Curo. Curo cannot cross subsidise the SCL support from their other resources.

## **7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The SCL seek to make all their work and activity accessible to all older people in North Somerset.

## **8. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The SCL provide the Council with a formal structure for engaging and consulting with older people.

## **9. OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

As contained within the report.

## **AUTHOR**

Alun Davies, Strategy and Policy officer People and Communities

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None