

Presentation – Voluntary Support North Surrey

Portfolio	Community
Ward(s) Affected:	All

Purpose

To receive a presentation from Solette Sheppardson Chief Executive.

Background

1. Voluntary Support North Surrey's (VSNS) role is to support the community and voluntary organisations in Surrey Heath, which totals 400+ local not for profit groups. VSNS also develops and promotes volunteering opportunities. This provides an average of 223 referrals and 91 placements per year in Surrey Heath for the years ending 2018/9.
2. The organisation works hard in providing a good communication platform of the services and support with 800+ emails being sent weekly providing the latest information available, amongst other awareness building initiatives. Other services offered consist of training opportunities, governance and specialist funding advice.
3. A vetting and barring service for local voluntary organisations is provided, and for the year ending 2018/19, 43 checks locally in Surrey Heath were undertaken.
4. VSNS also operate in Runnymede, and Spelthorne with office locations within all three districts. The staffing levels that provide the service in 3 boroughs equates to 6 FTE.
5. The corporate volunteering and engagement programme continues to grow and has engaged with Costa, ADP, Enterprise, and Collectively Camberley.
6. The organisation receives a Revenue Grant of £30,000 for the services provided within Surrey Heath, and this is consistent with other districts who contribute to the overall operational funding.
7. VSNS are located in the Ian Goodchild Centre, along with Camberley Care and other local groups. A new 2 year lease started from the 1st April 2019, which the Council will continue to support by subsidising rent at £2,550 per annum, plus maintenance costs and reduced car parking charges. It is estimated that this will provide a benefit in kind value of £9,000.

Working in Partnership with Surrey Heath Clinical Commissioning Group

8. The Social Prescribing service partners consist of SHBC/VSNS/Citizens Advice and SHCCG and its aim is to put local residents in touch with a wide range of activities and local services in the community to support overall wellbeing.
9. The range of services and areas available offer services that includes accessing social and leisure activities, independent living, transport, financial advice, disability and mental or emotional support.

10. It focuses upon offering one to one meetings with a Social Prescriber to talk about concerns and the factors affecting health. The Social Prescriber will organise assistance delivered by voluntary and community organisations and Council services available locally.
11. A social prescription service is available to all adults who are registered with a Surrey Heath GP Surgery. This is the successful outcome of a bid co-ordinated by VSNS that will provide a dedicated social prescribing link and officer resource for the next 4 years.

Partnership Working

12. The Amigo Project

The Amigo Project is delivered in partnership with Catalyst and is designed to enhance emotional well-being. The project was launched in 2018 and volunteers support people who need encouragement to move forward on their journey of recovery from mental ill health, by making connections within the local community and enabling them to take up interesting activities to boost confidence and increase motivation.

VSNS recruit volunteers and who are then trained and supported. This project covers the residents of; Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, West Elmbridge and Woking.

13. Time to Talk Project

'Time to Talk' is a specific project that was introduced in early 2019, to meet a local need. Through a dedicated member of staff, local volunteers work within the community and work to alleviate isolation and loneliness. The service is fully compliant and supported through ongoing training. Time to Talk volunteers have said 'I would definitely recommend volunteering to anyone that is able to do it. An hour a week is nothing, yet it makes such a difference to someone else's life'

14. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to consider the presentation in relation to Surrey Heath, and any future steps which Members would wish to recommend to the Executive and/or Council.

Background Papers: None Service Level Report Q1
Author: Jayne Boitoult 01276 707464
e-mail: jayne.boitoult@surreyheath.gov.uk

Service Head: Louise Livingston Executive Head of Transformation