



Dorset
Council



Public Health Dorset

Part of BCP and Dorset Councils

Thriving Communities Project Update

Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board

26th June 2024

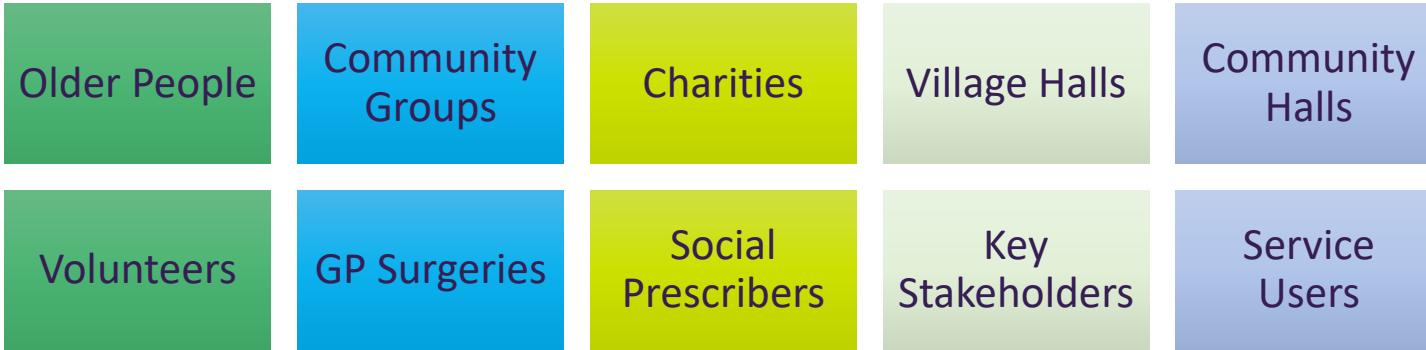


Project Report – What we did

- Aligned to Integrated Care Partnership strategic aims
- Established the Thriving Communities Reference Group
- Active involvement of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) at every stage
- Detailed research leading to identifying best practice nationally and locally
- Collaborative engagement
- Identified current gaps, risks and opportunities
- Aligned and engaged with work programmes



Collaborative Engagement- Who and How?



Carers

- Interviews
- Focus Groups
- Conversations
- Webinars
- Presentations
- Survey

- Our Partners:**
- Community Action Network
 - Dorset Community Action
 - Help and Kindness
 - Volunteer Centre Dorset



Project Report – Key Issues

- **Key issue 1:** The need for local ‘trusted people’ in delivering support for older people to attract higher levels of participation.
- **Key issue 2:** The use of known local, readily accessible and sustainable ‘trusted places’ helps older people keep connected and healthy whilst reducing transport difficulties.
- **Key issue 3:** The benefit of a clear communication mechanism to allow swift dissemination of risk issues, opportunities, learning and best practice.
- **Key issue 4:** The momentum developed through ‘connectivity and partnership working’ at a local level.
- **Key issue 5:** A fundamental gap in the coordination of VCS activity and networking
- **Key issue 6:** The need to value and support volunteers to ensure retention and involvement of the next generation.



Project Report – Key Issues

Key issue 7: Bureaucracy in funding, evaluating and reporting requirements hinders VCS delivery of activities and support.

Key issue 8: The need to share best practice across groups supporting older people.

Key issue 9: Well-known, led, connected and ‘trusted groups’ can amplify their local messaging.

Key issue 10: The infrastructure foundations for local groups supporting older people need to be solid.

Key issue 11: The full impact of Thriving Communities will unfold as momentum grows over the course of several years, with its benefits being evident across multiple sectors and communities.

Key issue 12: Currently funding for Thriving Communities is concentrated on a 12-month delivery, yet maximising long-term impact will necessitate continued investment.



Collaborative Engagement – A few comments

“It seems much is available where we are: but, if figures for, say, dementia, are correct we are only reaching a tiny fraction of people who may benefit.”

Volunteer

“Think about the loneliness and it's not just in rural communities, where is the care for people who are alone? People I see could sit in their homes for weeks on end and no-one would care”

Volunteer

“It would be good if doctors’ surgeries and social services providers would help people to contact groups that they would perhaps find helpful, especially to their mental health.”

Volunteer

“Who is going to take over when we're too old to do it? All our volunteers are in their 70's....People will be very lonely”.

Volunteer

“..always remember that the person you are helping has a younger person at their heart..”

Volunteer

“By working together, we are able to develop our services and deliver so much more, making a positive difference to our environment and people’s lives.”

VCS CEO



“Working in partnership with other local support and care organisations appears to have been pivotal in successfully delivering support to the local community. This collaboration has resulted in multiple benefits.”

Cornwall Community Hubs Evaluation Report



Delivering Thriving Communities for Older People in Dorset

The **Thriving Communities Network** model led by the VCS, supported by a partnership of Dorset Council, NHS Dorset, Public Health Dorset, and other partners.

The network would be coordinated by the VCS and flexibly funded to strengthen the VCS infrastructure to deliver health and wellbeing services at a community level.



Recommendations

1. The Dorset Health & Wellbeing Board review the research findings and local insights contained within the Thriving Communities report.
2. The Board considers the options presented for the potential next phase of the Thriving Communities project.
3. If in agreement, the board to recommend the development of a project delivery and transition plan to develop a VCS led Thriving Community Network model as supported by the Thriving Communities Reference Group.
4. Agree a suitable Dorset Health & Wellbeing Board member to oversee and sponsor the next phase of the project.



Thank You

Any Questions?

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