

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP ON 13th May 2010

SUBJECT: BETTER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PILOT

BY: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1. The report seeks to update members of the Community Engagement Group on the Moray Better Community Engagement (BCE) Pilot initiative.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Community Engagement Group:

- **supports the development of the 6 BCE Pilot Projects**
- **notes the attached VOICE Analysis Progress Reports on the pilot projects**
- **agrees to receive future progress reports from the BCE pilot projects in the format attached**

2.2 It is also recommended that the Community Engagement group note the use of VOICE (Visioning Outcomes in Community Engagement) and consider extending the use of VOICE across the partnership

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At the meeting of the Community Engagement Group on 13th Aug 2009, it was agreed that the Community Support Unit Manager for engagement would regularly update Community Planning Theme Groups and Committees on developments of the Moray BCE Demonstration project.

3.2 As part of the government strategy to improve community empowerment the Government has made an investment in the development of an integrated programme to develop skills, learning and networking in relation to community empowerment and engagement.

3.3 The model for delivery of this project is a national development programme which will operate through a small number of local demonstration projects. Learning materials and programmes based on the Better Community Engagement Framework will be developed, to meet the needs of delivering community engagement in local areas.

3.4 Since July 2009, a local Steering Group made up of community based organisation representatives such as Community Councils, Area Forums, Village Hall Committees, Moray Equalities Forum, Volunteer Centre Moray and MVSO have met regularly.

- 3.5 The main purpose of the meetings have been to develop an Action Plan for implementing the Scottish Governments aims and objectives for better community engagement as highlighted in previous reports to the Community Engagement Group on 1st December 2009 and 18th February 2010.
- 3.6 On the 1st March 2010 The Moray BCE Steering Group officially launched the programme in Moray. A cross selection of stakeholders including The Scottish Government, The Moray Council, Moray BCE Steering Group members, Elected Members and members of Community Planning Partners wishing to be part of the demonstration project participated in the launch and Information event.
- 3.7 As part of that event the BCE Steering Group considered 10 submissions from Community Planning Partners to be considered as active pilot projects between now and the end of March 2009.
- 3.8 As a result of the 10 submissions being considered for inclusion in the Project, 6 projects were chosen using a ranking matrix scoring system. These 6, with the lead agencies highlighted were:

- *Involving and empowering carers in Health and Social Care services - Moray Health and Social Care Partnership.*
- *Open Doors Research Project- Moray Open Doors Offenders Literacies Project*
- *Engaging with the young LGBT community in Moray – Moray Council Community Learning and Development Youth Work Team*
- *Service User Involvement in Long Term Conditions - Grampian NHS*
- *Engaging a hard to reach community (youth and adults) which is listed in deprived data zones within the SIMD (South Lesmurdie) – Moray Council Community Learning and Development Youth Work Team and Elgin North Area Forum*
- *Youth Involvement in local democracy - Milne's Area Forum*

The remaining 4 were not selected due to the capacity of the Community Support Unit to provide support.

- 3.9 On Thursday 29th April 2010, a training seminar was held in Moray with members of the 6 Pilot Projects and BCE Steering Group members as highlighted above. This seminar was also the official start of the needs analysis process of the planned activity using the community engagement data base recording tool, VOICE.
- 3.10 As reported in previous reports, VOICE is a database planning and recording tool designed to assist individuals and organisations to design and deliver effective community engagement. VOICE enables all users to have a common system for analysing, planning, monitoring, evaluating and recording that provides common protocols, definition of terms and understanding of different types and purposes

of engagement. It can be used to support a range of participation from overall area regeneration to specific concerns of users of particular services. It is designed to be relevant both for individual services and for integrated, cross disciplinary community planning.

- 3.11 The content of the 'VOICE Analysis Summary Reports' attached as appendices (see appendices 1 to 6) to this report was inserted by the pilot project members at the training seminar highlighted in 3.9 above and is the starting point for development of each of the pilot projects. For the benefit of the Community Engagement Group membership, this attached format will be used when reporting developments over the coming months. Community Engagement Group members will be able to track progress and developments systematically as well as gaining insight into the VOICE system.
- 3.12 There are currently 29 groups and organisations involved in the development of the pilots covering a diverse range of projects (see appendix 7). By December 2010 all those associated with the pilot projects should be proficient in the use of VOICE. Community Planning Partner agency staff and community based members will be in a position to take the lead in widening out the use of VOICE within their own agencies and organisations.
- 3.13 Community Support Unit staff will also be able to implement a rolling training programme on the benefits of using VOICE in engagement to the wider partnership given their key facilitation role in the development of the pilot projects should this be required.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement

This initiative will contribute to National Outcome 11 in the Single Outcome Agreement; "*we have strong resilient communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others*" and to National Outcome 15; "*our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs*".

(b) Policy and Legal

The Local Government Scotland Act 2003 requires that the Community Planning Partnership engage with community bodies and organisations as part of the Community Planning process. In April 2008 the Scottish Government (SG) and Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) issued a joint statement of commitment to community empowerment.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The work of the 6 pilot projects and the development of the Moray BCE Steering Group are supported by the staff of the Community Support Unit.

(d) Consultations

Those consulted include members of the Moray BCE Steering Group.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 It is recommended that the Community Engagement Group:

- **supports the development of the 6 BCE Pilot Projects**
- **notes the attached VOICE Summary Progress Reports on the pilot projects**
- **agrees to receive future progress reports from the BCE pilot projects in the format attached.**

5.2 It is also recommended that the Community Engagement Group note the use of VOICE (Visioning Outcomes In Community Engagement) and consider extending the use of VOICE across the partnership

Author of Report: Ian Todd, Community Support Unit Manager

Background Papers:

1. Involving and empowering carers in Health and Social Care services,
2. Open Doors Research Project
3. Engaging with the young LGBT community in Moray,
4. Service User Involvement in Long Term Conditions – Grampian,
5. Engaging a hard to reach community (youth and adults) which is listed in deprived data zones within the SIMD
6. Youth Involvement in local democracy - Milne's Area Forum
7. Agency and Community Organisations involved in the BCE Pilot Projects

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: John Ferguson

Designation: Community Planning and Development Manager