

HEALTH, WELLBEING AND SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP

Summary: To review the early activity of the Health, Wellbeing and Social Inclusion (HWSI) working group and to outline the key priorities for 2022/23

Recommendation: That the Executive Committee notes the report and endorses the priorities for 2022/23

Report by: Andy Parsons, Chief Executive

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

- Sarah Whalley-Hoggins, Chair
- Amanda Davis
- Cate Le Grice Mack
- Margaret Reid
- Ben Stokes

MEETINGS SINCE THE LAST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. A meeting was held on 10 December to discuss the following points:
 - ✓ Reviewing the CNL team's direct delivery
 - ✓ Understanding the current third party led activity and how we can make connections
 - ✓ Agreeing the priorities for 2022/23
2. The most important discussion, however, was the group's unanimous belief that:

HWSI should not be thought of as a stand-alone project, considered only by a small sub-group of our organisation, it must become part of our 'DNA' and run through all of our core work and project delivery.

CNL DIRECT DELIVERY

3. Rural skills – through fundraising efforts there is currently c£50,000 of funding to deliver an outreach programme for young people. Schools (both within and outside the CNL) will be key partners. The core rural skills programme also has clear links with HWSI.
4. Voluntary Wardens – voluntary warden activity includes work parties (to maintain and improve trails, etc.), guided walks for members of the public, and local parish wardening. The work benefits people in two ways:
 - ✓ The wardens, themselves, benefit through social interaction, learning new skills and improved physical and mental health.
 - ✓ Members of the public benefit by taking part in guided walks and by being able to access well maintained trails and access routes in their own time, potentially improving their physical and mental health.
5. Access and Trails – Natural England fund the CNL team to maintain the Cotswold Way National Trail. Working in partnership with the voluntary wardens, Cotswold Way Association, public rights of way teams and landowners, the Access and

Volunteer Lead ensures the trail is maintained to required standards. Additional funding is regularly sought to improve the condition of the many trails and paths throughout the Cotswolds, as well as improving disability access routes - promoting access for all.

6. Kingfisher Trail – this project had a positive impact on a wide range of stakeholders:
 - ✓ Artists, visitors and trail users, community organisations, specialist educational establishments, e.g. Star College, local businesses, etc.
 The trail represented hope and wellbeing at a time when people needed it the most.
7. Bathscapes – in and around the city of Bath, the Trails and Access Officer is working closely with communities, voluntary organisations, voluntary wardens and the local authority to create and enhance walking routes and trails – leading to a more accessible and enjoyable experience.
8. Thames Water Smarter Catchments – this new programme focuses on the catchment of the River Evenlode. CNL’s role in the programme is around education, community engagement and outreach to underrepresented groups. The team is now in place and the activity will run through until 2024/25.
9. Caring for the Cotswolds – the small grants schemes has led to significant improvements in footpaths, disability access, interpretation, etc. The benefit being enjoyed by local people and communities.
10. Website – the website has a lot of resources for members of the public, e.g. self-guided walks (27,000 hits on our website in August), guided walks, Cotswolds Gateways, walking for health, etc.

THIRD PARTY ACTIVITY

11. There is a large and complex network of organisations, partnerships and delivery mechanisms across multiple county, unitary and district council boundaries.
12. The HWSI working group will be tasked with better understanding this landscape and to consider how the CNL team can best support and work within it.
13. Examples of activity include:
 - ✓ *County and unity authority strategy*, e.g. Health and Wellbeing Boards, Integrated Locality Partnerships;
 - ✓ *Parish, town and district council initiatives*, e.g. new walking routes around Bourton-on-the-Water;
 - ✓ *Police and Crime Commissioners*, e.g. to understand how they are looking to engage vulnerable young adults.
 - ✓ *Third sector delivery*, e.g. Cotswolds Friends, The Churn (Cirencester), Barnwood Trust, Cotswold Youth Network, Young Gloucestershire, Disabled Ramblers, The Friendship Café (Gloucester), Community Riding Outreach Project (CROP).
14. One of the most significant challenges is around rural isolation, including a lack of access to public transport.

PRIORITIES AND KEY OUTPUTS FOR 2022/23

15. The working group has identified five priorities for the year ahead:

- ✓ Roll out **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) training** for all Board Members, Employees and key role-holders within the Voluntary Wardens.
- ✓ Develop a clear picture of **community and public transport networks** that are helping to **combat rural isolation**. Agree how the team can help with signposting and enhancing awareness of these networks.
- ✓ Gain a thorough **understanding of good practice** in working with and **supporting disadvantaged young people and their families**. Spend time learning from organisations such as Jamie's Farm and Young Gloucestershire.
- ✓ Support the team's delivery of significant projects to **create three new disability access routes** linked to the Cotswold Way National Trail (NB – subject to funding being secured).
- ✓ Work with the **Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation** to develop a large scale funding bid to deliver an updated and extended version of [Beyond the Boundary](#), a project commissioned as part of Defra's Diversity Review in 2004. It was run by Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Bradford Metropolitan Council. The project explored whether **twinning urban and rural communities and their young people around a shared interest** could lead to a sustainable **increase in visits to the countryside by people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups**. Cricket grounds within the CNL would host visits from BAME families/ groups living in Bristol and Gloucester. Young people will be invited to take part in cricket matches and will be encouraged to bring their families along, who may go on a voluntary warden guided walk or participate in a rural skills experience.

DECISIONS REQUIRED

16. The Executive Committee is asked to endorse the key priorities for 2022/23.

SUPPORTING PAPERS

- None

JANUARY 2022