

**Public Health Outcomes Fund (Voluntary Sector Support Fund):
Wirral West Constituency Interim Evaluation Report
May 2015**

Overview

Wirral West Constituency Committee received 2 allocations of £25,000 from the Public Health Outcomes Fund (the first agreed by Cabinet on the 10th October 2013 and the second, the Voluntary Sector Support Fund, on the 10th December 2013).

The Committee agreed to join up these 2 allocations to open a Wirral West Public Health Grant Programme (a maximum of £3,000 per project).

18 projects were subsequently supported through the Wirral West Public Health Grant Programme at a total cost of **£44,366.43**

The underspend of **£5,633.57** remaining from the Public Health grant programme was utilised to improve health and wellbeing and tackle social isolation in Wirral West through working with voluntary and community groups to deliver targeted winter resilience campaign.

Wirral West Public Health Grant Programme 2014

Applications for voluntary sector grants were invited which would address one or more of the following issues in Wirral West:

- Older people who are socially isolated or who are concerned about their safety in the community;
- Young people who are socially isolated;
- Adults who are physically inactive;
- Children in poverty;
- Young people who are at risk of offending or who are currently within the Youth Justice System;
- 16-18 year olds Not in Employment, Education and Training.

The 18 projects awarded funding are currently being evaluated and an evaluation report will be presented to the Constituency Committee on the 2nd July. Interim monitoring has highlighted the significant difference made to local communities through the PHOF grant awards, particularly in terms of social isolation and encouraging people to be more active.

Stay Safe, Warm and Well Project 2014

The rationale for developing the Stay, Safe, Warm and Well project funded by the PHOF was that:

- Wirral West has the largest population aged 75+ compared with the other 3 constituency areas; a third (32.7%) of people aged over 65 years live alone in the constituency;
- Social isolation is recognised as key to people's wellbeing – older and vulnerable people are more at risk of being socially isolated wherever they live;
- Discussions between constituency partners had identified that many partners are working hard to support vulnerable older people and engage with them to intervene early before problems get worse and link them to appropriate support and community networks – all partners share a common aspiration to deliver better outcomes for older people and reduce the strain on public services and budgets, for example through reducing hospital admissions.

The constituency team worked with the Council's housing team, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Age UK, Magenta Living and Energy Projects Plus to:

- Work with as many voluntary and community groups as possible in the constituency to promote the Stay Safe, Warm and Well campaign and identify and refer older and vulnerable people at risk who may benefit from additional support – the campaign materials used to do this have been leaflets and winter warmth packs (which include a fleece blanket, flask, torch, gloves, etc.) – 21 groups were visited as part of the project, and a total of nearly 300 winter warmth packs given out to date;
- Provide more co-ordinated home visits and signposting to additional services for people referred as a result of the visits to voluntary and community groups, including providing equipment such as oil-filled radiators where needed – well over 180 referrals were made to additional services
- as a result of the project.

The campaign resulted in:

- More older and vulnerable people have been linked into support networks in their communities through messages being cascaded by members of existing voluntary and community groups;
- A stronger partner and volunteer network in the constituency – a key feature of the project was to recruit existing Age UK volunteers to support the campaign;
- An up-to-date database of active voluntary, community and faith sector groups who work with older and vulnerable people in the constituency, which will provide a valuable resource in respect of working with local groups to develop and deliver services.