



## Communities Co-ordinator report for C.O.P.S. mid-November 2018 to Mid-January 2019

As requested at the last meeting, this report focuses on a number of initiatives that support young people as well as continuing to support older residents around health and wellbeing programmes and projects.

### Think u know Introduction Course



The Community Support Supervisor, Gary Thurgoland and I have been liaising with Cheshire Constabulary's Youth Engagement Officer to arrange a training session for community leaders who work directly with children and young people. The training will provide; an introduction to Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (C.E.O.P.s) and keeping children and young people safe online, etc. Room hire for the training at the Civic Hall will be provided by the Connected Communities Centre funding.

### Action on Hearing Loss

Following the workshops during Self-Care Week in November, Alison Winter from Action on Hearing Loss continues to work with Poynton High School to raise awareness of the impact of hearing loss. I am supporting Alison to provide a community workshop at the Civic Hall during Tinnitus Awareness Week between the 4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> February. In addition, I will support a proposed 'Acoustic Open Mic' event at the Acoustic Lounge, as part of the 'Don't Lose the Music' campaign. This campaign is aimed at 16-24 year olds to promote how to still listen to music whilst protecting your hearing.

### Connecting Lower Park Primary School and local business

A member of staff from Notcutts Garden Centre at Woodford has produced a fantastic design for the sensory garden at Lower Park Primary School. The design enables the space to become a learning resource as well as a space for children with special learning needs or disabilities. The illustration will support the volunteers from the P.T.A. to focus their fundraising efforts, which are supported by Poynton's Mayor, Cllr. Sarah-Jane Gilmore and it will help to show others how they can support the project.



Notcutts Lower Park Primary  
Sensory Garden - Ideas



Lower Park Primary School  
Proposed Sensory Garden Plan

## Intergenerational - young and older people together

I am liaising with Poynton High School to provide some of their Year 12 students with volunteer opportunities as part of their Student Enrichment Programme. Two students will support the volunteers at the Time Out Café on Fridays from 2pm – 4pm and two students have started with Poynton Golden Memories Group where they will support people living with dementia and their carers. As part of this process, I have supported Poynton Golden Memories Group with their health and safety documentation.

## Just Drop-In



I have had an initial meeting with Ann Wright, Team Manager from Just Drop-In, a charity based in Macclesfield. They provide a number of services for young people aged 12-25 years which includes counselling, a friendship group, drop-in sessions and MyPad - a programme where young people can learn to cook. Ann is looking at the possibility of whether her team can provide an outreach counselling service at the Civic Hall. Some young people from Poynton use the service but not many, and we thought that travelling to Macclesfield and to a new outreach service in Wilmslow may be a barrier.

## Diversity

I have been liaising with a Poynton resident, following her enquiry to David Rutley M.P, and Cheshire East Council's Integration Strategy Officer to look at how we can engage better with our minority groups in Poynton. It's early stages but it is hoped to link with Poynton High School to engage with young people around raising awareness of the protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010.

## Everybody Sport and Recreation

Following the meetings last year with stakeholders who support young people, it was decided to explore initiatives to promote healthier lifestyles, rather than the sports day that had been organised in previous years. Everybody Sport and Recreation were to look at providing a regular weekly slot available at the pool and sports hall for young people on a Saturday evening from 4pm – 6pm. It looks like these sessions will go live in February. I will circulate more information when available.

## Christmas Fest – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018



Once again, the Christmas Fest event was a great success supported by a mix of both Poynton's community groups and businesses. Although there were a few volunteers who have been involved with the event previously, for some it was their first time. Shortly after the event, the volunteers met for a debrief to consider things that worked well and other elements that could be improved. The volunteers intend to explore funding options over the coming months which

I will offer my support with.

## Community A.E.D. training

I liaised with North West Ambulance Service (N.W.A.S.) and Poynton's A.E.D. Champion to organise community A.E.D. training sessions which were held at The Centre on the 11<sup>th</sup> December. Over two sessions, 37 residents received C.P.R. training and were shown how to use the units. The Town Council also helped to facilitate these sessions by managing the booking system. Poynton Town Council are currently purchasing a further two defibrillators for phone boxes by the railway station and The Hockley Centre. When these are in place, I will liaise with N.W.A.S. to organise further training sessions at venues close to these locations.



## **Poynton – A Dementia Friendly Community (D.F.C.)**

To ensure Poynton continues to be formally accredited as ‘working towards becoming Dementia Friendly’, I have collated and submitted information to The Alzheimer’s Society about the progress which has been made over the last twelve months. The application has been successful which means that we continue to be one of nearly 200 DFC’s in the country and can continue to assess other Dementia Friends applications from Poynton.

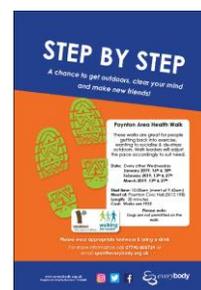
Poynton Dementia Steering Group also continue to provide feedback into the DEMCOM project which is funded by Department of Health Policy Research Programme to undertake a national evaluation of Dementia Friendly Communities. This study is a collaboration between Hertfordshire, East Anglia and Cambridge Universities and aims to understand how different types of DFCs work, what is needed to sustain them and how they help different groups of people living with dementia and carers to live well.

Since the loss of funding provided by Cheshire East Council for the Alzheimer’s Society’s Dementia Friends Co-ordinator role, I have expressed concerns about the impact of this valuable, enabling role to Cheshire East Council and The Alzheimer’s Society.

I have visited Lostock Hall Primary School who have agreed to support Dementia Friends sessions for their pupils. I will liaise with Poynton’s Dementia Champions who include staff from Waitrose to facilitate these sessions.

## **Poynton Area Health Walks**

The health walks that start and finish from the Civic Hall and led by Poynton volunteers continue to grow in popularity. A reception display has been created to promote when the walks are and the benefits of walking. There is also a Health Walk Leader training course on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at Macclesfield Leisure Centre. Using Connected Communities Centre funding, a room is made available following the walks to encourage social activity, which is an important part of the walks programme.



## **Cheshire Villages Great War Society**

I am liaising with Cheshire Villages Great War Society (C.V.G.W.S.) and Poynton Local History Society to explore the possibility of producing a booklet with the information that was provided by C.V.G.W.S. on Poynton soldiers who died and survived the First World War. The Local History Society are taking a lead on the project following the interest in the display at the Civic Hall in November and intend to do a call-out to Poynton residents for more information. When ready, the group will also look to secure funding for this important community resource.

## **Poynton Area Community Partnership – Ending Loneliness booklet**

The group have agreed to update and re-issue the booklet which received positive feedback when it was produced last year. There will be fewer hard copies made available this time, but it will be available on Poynton Town Councils website and on the Health and Wellbeing Noticeboard at reception. There will also be reference copies available in the libraries and other parish offices.



## **Budget consideration**

There is a budget line (4112) of £500 described as ‘youth summer fun day’. In view of the ongoing work by E.S.A.R. I would like to propose renaming this budget line to ‘Communities Co-ordinator activities’ to better reflect the Communities Co-ordinator role and to incorporate the budget line (4105) described as ‘Communities Co-ordinators expenses’. This would make a budget line of £1,000 in total.

**Sharon Duke**  
**Communities Co-ordinator**