

Area West Committee Meeting Community Development Service (CDS) Report Feb/March 2012

The Community Development Service (CDS) has always been known for its flexibility and in the changing times we live in this is going to become ever MORE important and that we live up to our acronym – ‘CDS’ which also means “**Can Do Service**” and as can be seen from our list of achievements during the last year, we are definitely a Can Do Service!

Volunteering - The Volunteer Programme, has now become embedded as an integral part of CDS’ work which has a cross Council focus. The programme aims to increase the number of active volunteers in Luton, bring in new skills, knowledge and experience into LBC and provide additional resource/ support for the respective services in a service enhancing capacity. Some examples of this, which have a direct impact on CDS is the recruiting of volunteers for festivals like the pre “Olympic Love Luton” event and all local community festivals and events or when local businesses like BT, Monarch Airlines etc volunteer to help respond to community priorities and to support community projects, as can be seen from the photos below. However, please remember this is not and cannot be seen as a replacement for paid workers and that the volunteer gets a lot out of the programme too as many of them, who are unemployed at the point of entry, use the scheme as a platform into employment via:

- Structured process of recruitment
- Assessment of their training and development needs
- Appropriate experience in host project
- Mentoring and feedback from host project
- A customised accredited qualification, which provides a tangible record of achievement

With over 200 new and existing volunteers now registered and numerous volunteering opportunities now available, the project is going from strength to strength but it needs your support to continue being successful; you have to continue to help provide the opportunities, mentor the volunteer etc. If you need any further information, please feel free to contact Adam at any time on 548775 or divneya@luton.gov.uk

Community Festival Time 2012 is almost upon us and as you can see from the calendar it's going to be a VERY busy spring / summer especially around the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Love Luton and Olympics events.

| | |
|---|--|
| Sun 1 st April | Chaul End Festival |
| Sun 22 nd April | Raynham Way Festival |
| Sat 26 th May | Saints Festival |
| Sat 2 nd June | High Town Diamond Jubilee event + Street Party & Mini-Olympics Races |
| Sun 3 rd June | Farley Festival/ Diamond Jubilee event |
| Sat 16 th June | South Ward Festival |
| Sat 23 rd June | Marsh Farm festival |
| Sun 24 th June | Dallow Festival |
| Sat 30 th June | Lewsey Festival |
| Sat 30 th June | Denbigh High school event |
| Tues 17 th – 18 th July | Leagrave Festival (with Leagrave Primary school) |

Neighbourhood Governance (Your Say, Your Way)

Sometimes we forget how far this programme has come in its delivery, so following is a quick snapshot across Luton –



What is being delivered as a result?

Local and area focussed SCS and action plans



The **YSYW** Team, led by Marek Lubelski, has developed a flexible “Phased” approach to spreading, marketing and in 3 of Luton’s 5 Areas, with plans to expand to all areas by 2015.

- This approach –
 - Delivers a local Community Festival in each neighbourhood (Council Ward) with partners which ensure that communities get to know/enjoy/learn about each other in a social/ informal and fun gathering, while Statutory Agencies have a place to do the same AND consult with all stakeholders.

Encourages Cross Agency Partnership Development based on:

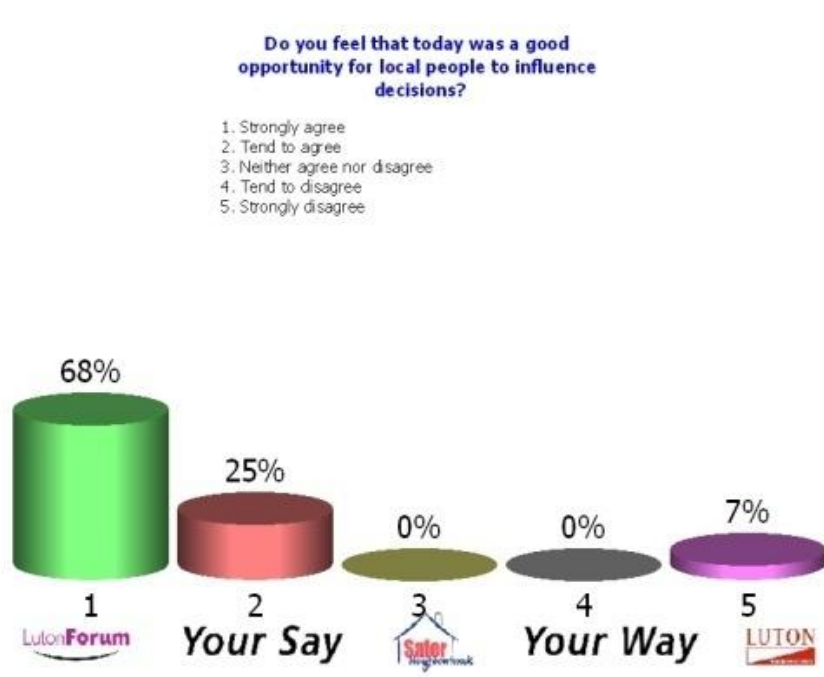
- Area Neighbourhood Board /Action Planning
- Links to Service Planning and Commissioning
- Community Networks/ Single Ward Data Base
- Community Festivals/Neighbourhood Mapping
- Face to Face Surveys/Research & Intelligence
- Develops the evidence base on / for these issues & priorities.
- Community Planning Decision Day events, where local priorities are agreed with Councillors and partners
- Followed by Ward based Participatory Budgeting (PB) Decision Day event, where local funding for community projects to address agreed priorities is decided by citizens voting on an electronic system. Participatory budgeting directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending and priorities for a defined public budget – which in this case is the small local grants for communities from LBC combined with funding from partners – BEDS / Luton Police, NHS, Social Housing, Faith Communities, Luton Airport and Luton Adult Community Learning..

Participatory Budgeting was identified as a potential opportunity for increasing community involvement and building social capital under **YSYW**. The scheme has been widely recognised as an excellent way of engaging local communities and giving ownership back to communities so that they are the ones driving improvement in their local areas/wards.

Impacts and Outcomes

- Wider more representative involvement
- Priorities being delivered/ additional resources levered in
- Clear fit with strategic framework
- Improved joint partnership planning
- Reducing duplication
- 20 locally based Community Festivals with an average attendance of 1000
- 15+ Participatory Budgeting Days, with an average of 100 participants including visitors from Norway, as Luton's PB is used as an exemplar of good practise by the National PB Unit
- 75 local projects receiving funding of up to £200,000 (from partnership funding) which was voted on and agreed by their communities and the remaining 25 projects being helped to develop their projects in other ways
- Feed back to community on progress

Finally, positive proof Luton Communities believe in and approve of the **YSYW programme** as tested at recent events:



Hockwell Ring Community Centre
Responsible Officer: Cathy McShane

Hockwell Ring Day Care

As a result of the recent Evaluation meeting, the staff is trying to integrate the Day Care Clients and the Community by looking at various activities that may suit everyone's needs.

Circle Dance

The group is struggling to attract new members and has an average of 6 attending. Staff give support where they can, by publicising the group where possible.

Adult Education Classes

Literacy, Numeracy, ESoL classes continue to run at the centre. Requests have been received by the community for a Beginners computer class. Staff are in contact with Luton Adult & Community Learning regarding this and hope to attract a minimum number of people required before this can take place.

50+ Bowls

This group is well attended and self sufficient. The group is also looking to interact with other groups at the centre including Circle Dance.

Hockwell Ring Boxing Club are no longer holding their sessions in the community centre as they have moved to the old Day Care building at the back of the Hockwell Ring shops. We continue to offer support by directing any enquiries to the club.

New Groups

Victim Support – The group meets once a month providing confidential support to anyone affected by crime.

LBC Training sessions – the centre continues to receive regular bookings for training from LBC and outside organisations.

Neighbourhood Governance

The "Your Say Your Way" West Area decision day resulted in seven groups obtaining funding for various projects. The centre staff will give support and work closely with the groups to fulfil the aims and objectives of their projects.

Playschemes

The Playscheme sessions during February was well received by those who attended with an average over a week of 10 children. Staff do their utmost to promote these sessions and the provision will only prosper if parents also show some commitment to the programme to enable it to grow.

New Staff

Cathy McShane has recently joined us the Centre Manager.

Trevor Dungate has joined us from Saints Community Centre as a Community Centre Development Officer on an 18.5 hour post.

The receptionist post which has been vacant for some time has been filled and the new member of staff will be starting shortly.

Lewsey Community Centre
Responsible Officer: Shamsuz Zaman

Paradise Club for the Blind Christmas Party

The Annual Paradise Club for the Blind Christmas Party took place at the Centre on Saturday 3rd December 2011, a sit down meal was prepared for 45 members of the Club by Lyn Saunders and her band of volunteers. They were also entertained and thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon.

50+ Bowls Christmas Meal

The 50+ Bowls Christmas meal took place on Tuesday 13th December 2011, and this year a buffet was supplied by outside caterers, 46 members enjoyed their afternoon with food drink and a visit from Ferrars Junior School Choir who sang Christmas songs to them.

Lewsey Mixers Christmas Party

Lewsey Mixers held their Christmas Party on their usual activity night, Thursday 15th December 2011; 23 members of the group turned up for an evening of buffet food, and a mixture of old and new music supplied by the members.

Lewsey Christmas Fayre : Saturday 26th November 2011 (further update from previous January report)

The Christmas Fayre was held on Saturday 26th November 2011. There were 25 stalls on the day, three of which were given free of charge to local organisations. Over 200 + people came through the door and 45 children came to see Father Christmas in his grotto, an overall total of £471.58 was raised. All of the staff contributed food and drink to sell in the canteen and this is where the 2nd largest amount of money was raised: a total £117.88, the most being raised from the raffle £243. Members of staff and volunteer workers helped to make the day a success. Money raised at the Fayre helped to fund the Children's Christmas Extravaganza, and will also be used to purchase a much needed Hi-Fi system for the Centre, this will in turn help with future play scheme sessions.

Lewsey Children's Extravaganza: Monday 19th December 2011 (further update from January report)

Another successful Children's Christmas Extravaganza was held at the Lewsey Centre on Monday 19th December 2011, 2.00 - 5.00pm. This event was attended by thirty four 5-10-year old children. For the first hour Carl's Magic show performed magic tricks and Balloon Modelling etc . Refreshments including, hotdogs, cakes, sweets, crisps and drinks were then given to the children. After which their enjoyment continued with games and competitions and during a two hour disco also supplied by Carl's Magic Show. The regular staff were supported by Tanita Pasha and Harriet Tamke from the main Community Development office along with our regular volunteers Hannah Raman and Lyn Saunders; all the staff and volunteers helped to make the afternoon run smoothly. Last but not least, Father Christmas arrived, and each child received a present from him.

The event was advertised at the Community Centre, local shops, schools, as well as posters on the Community advertising boards placed around the estate.

Lewsey Children's Centre – Fun with Food

Lewsey Children's Centre held a six week course for young mothers and their children; the course was called Fun with Food and enjoyed an excellent response. The aim of the course was to help parents understand the benefits of healthier food and how to encourage the child into taking the healthier option with fruits and vegetables by making the food look more enticing and interesting to eat. Along with the group there is a Crèche facility for the children while the parents are learning. There are hopes of further regular 6 week courses in the future as more parents take interest.

Qwizdom Keypad Training – Tuesday 31st January

Members of the Central Team Held a Qwizdom Keypad Training Session at Lewsey Centre for CCDO's and Casual Staff. The training was provided in order that staff are able to support the use of the keypads during the Neighbourhood Governance facilitation days. The training session was a success with CCDOs and Casual Receptionists attending.

Yoga – Thursday 15th March 2012

A new Yoga group is in the process of being set up at Lewsey Centre. The instructor is hoping to start her first session on the 15th of March 2012 and to run the session between 7-8pm every Thursday evening. The progress of the group will then be reviewed by a CCDO and the instructor to see if the day, time etc is working for the group. If it is found not to be working, further help and support will be given in order to help make the group a success within the Lewsey area. All groups will be given every chance to be successful, in terms of support and time.

Lewsey Boxing Club

After many years at the centre the Boxing club will be leaving on Friday 2nd March 2012. The Boxing Club will be meeting at the new Lewsey Sports Park from Monday 5th March 2012, this is a new venue for Active Luton, which has had substantial funding from the ABA and SRA, and will naturally cater well for Boxing and Squash.

The Boxing Club has been a major contributor to the success of the centre with many local youth and adults attending the three sessions every week. Although we are sad to see the group go, we would like to thank them for their custom and support over the years and would like to wish them the best of luck and continued success in the future.

Neighbourhood Governance Decision Day – Saturday 11th February 2012

In the run up to the PB decision day CCDO's liaised with all user groups at the centre, local schools, and previous applicants. CCDO's advertised the event within the centre and sent out application packs and posters which explained the opportunity to apply for funding to all contacts on the partnership register for Lewsey.

CCDOs also supported the groups that had expressed an interest in applying for funding by assisting them in completing applications, providing ideas and supporting them with their presentations.

In total 15 applications were submitted for the event from the Lewsey area. There was a mix of applications made from existing user groups, local faith groups, children's centre, and other organisations. The voting took place on Saturday 11th February, and over 100 people attended, making it an extremely successful event.

Future Events

Lewsey Community Centre Easter Play Schemes - Monday April 2nd – Friday April 13th 2012

The Centre is hoping to run an Easter Play scheme programme for 5-10 yr olds during the above period. The sessions will last approximately an hour and a half between 2.00pm – 3.30pm. The sessions will be a mixture of Fun Activities for the children from Arts & Crafts, Fun with Food to Inflatable Fun and Children's Entertainers.

Mayors 50+ Bowls Tournament - Saturday April 28th 2012

Preparations for the Annual 50+ Bowls Mayors Trophy are under way and this will take place on Saturday 28th April 2012.

The Centre is hoping that many teams will enter the Competition to help raise money for the Mayors Charity Fund and its good causes.

Lewsey Community Festival - Saturday June 30th 2012

The Lewsey Community Festival Committee has met twice already and plans are well on the way for this year's event, which takes place at Lewsey Park on Saturday 30th June 2012. The event will include five-a-side football, stalls, main arena events, fun fair, Dog Show, Children's entertainer, Local bands, inflatable's, karaoke, food and much more.

Local people can also get involved in local decision making and help shape the future of their neighbourhoods.

Summer Play Schemes - Mon 20th August 2012 – Friday 31st August 2012

In the summer we are hoping to have a summer play scheme for the local children. The sessions will consist of fun activities for the children from Arts & Crafts, Fun with Food, Inflatable Fun, and Children's Entertainers.

Halloween – Fancy Dress Disco – Thursday 25th October 2012

A fancy dress disco will be organised for children from 5-10yr olds. Children will have a chance to dress up in their best Halloween costumes and there will be prizes for the best dressed boy and best dressed girl. There will be fun activities such as Apple Bopping and Dance Competitions. Sandwiches and other snacks will be provided on the day. The event will run on a basis of the first 60 children to attend as it is a very popular event.

Lewsey Centre Clubs Annual Awards Evening - Saturday 13th October 2012

Year on year the annual awards proves to be a major success. Nominations from all the Centres Clubs are sought from their Coaches, Managers, Instructors, for Best Student, Most Improved, etc and Trophies are presented to those students. This is an excellent opportunity for all groups to come together, socialise and recognise one another's talents.

Lewsey Christmas Fayre - Saturday 24th November 2012

Stalls, Santa's Grotto, Food Drink, Xmas Goods, Craft, Bric-a-brac, Cards

Children's Christmas Extravaganza (December – Date TBC)

Entertainer, Disco, Party Games, Father Christmas, Drinks, Sweets, Crisps, and a Present from Father Christmas

Challney Community Centre
Responsible Officer: Shamsuz Zaman

Play schemes

A play scheme programme of activities was in operation at the Chaul End centre; the programme was designed for 5-10 year old children in the ward and surrounding areas.

The programme consisted of a mixture of activities including a pantomime trip to the Grove Theatre, Dunstable and enjoyed by all.

Volunteers helped out with the play scheme programme, which proved to be a great help to the centre staff.

Costs for the play scheme programme were kept to a minimum, as the admin officer covered the office and centre, whilst both community development officers ran the play scheme programme, and accompanied the children on the trip.

Bridge

This is an on-going club run from the centre, and is frequented by the 50+ section of the community. There are approximately 16 people in attendance on a weekly basis. Membership to the club is required, which is arranged through the group's leader.

Bingo

This is a long running in-house group that meets weekly and is attended by approximately 20 members of the community, this group is mostly attended by the over 50's.

Stay & Play

Stay & Play runs from the centre twice weekly, the group is run and organised by the co-ordinator of the children's centre. This group has a varying level attendees and is mostly frequented by the Asian community within the ward.

There are new ethnic groups residing in the ward, and the group is trying to find a way, of targeting these new residents, and therefore showing diversity within their sessions.

Coffee Morning

The coffee morning sessions are run by the co-ordinator of the children's centre, their aim is to bring together parents and children to interact.

Festival

The annual festival is taking place on the 1st April from 11.00 am – 3.00 pm, on the open park space area of the Chaul End centre. The festival is run through P.B funding applied for through the Children's centre.

This event has been very successful in the past, and attended by a large proportion of the community; the festival event aims to include and cater for all the members of the community offering a range of activities and information stalls.

The centres in-house Children's centre and the day care team are invited to take an active part in the festival, bringing together the centre's teams.

Pampering/wellbeing event

A pampering and wellbeing event is being organised through the Children's Centre P.B funding. This will be the third wellbeing event put on and has previously been well attended, with approximately 200 people of all ages, who were able to access a varied programme of activities and treatments, that included Reiki Healing, Hairdressing, Massage and Beauty treatments along with Health & Wellbeing information stalls.

This event has previously been for women only; for this coming event there will be invitations for the male members of the community. The Community Development Service team jointly supports this event.

Awards Event

P.B funding was awarded to the centre for us to nominate members who have proven to be an asset to the centre and its ward with their hard work and dedication. It is aimed to highlight individuals and teams efforts of working and bringing together the community. This gives us an opportunity of acknowledging their efforts, by presenting them with an achievement award, which will be run and facilitated at the Chaul End centre by the Community Development Service team, along with the assistance of Tom Shaw one of the ward councillors.

Water colour art

Watercolour art classes are run 3 times a week from the centre, covering both day and evening slots; the art classes are frequented by the day care clients and members of the public. The group is well attended by all ages of the community, with the Friday session being full to capacity and is run by our LBC tutor.

This is a group that welcomes all members of the community regardless of their artistic skills and is greatly enjoyed by all who attend.

Thai Boxing

Thai boxing meets at the centre twice weekly; this group has recently been approved for P.B funding, to assist in the purchasing of new equipment.

This group has a core number of 25 people in attendance at each session. The group attracts a mixture of ages ranging from youths to adults.

The groups run a structured activity, with discipline, which helps the centre in the attitudes of the young people, within the ward.

Boxing

Boxing runs 3 sessions per week at the centre, which is broken down to 1 adult only class and 2 being of mixed ages. The boxing club have obtained P.B funding for its 3rd year, and these funded monies, contribute to their hall hire charges.

This is a highly motivated group, run by a group of professional businessmen, who are all working in a voluntary capacity for the club. Volunteers are also used at the club's sessions, which have proven to be a great asset.

Civil Service

The Civil service group meets monthly at the centre; it is frequented by the 50+ sector of the town's community, with an average attendance of 30 at each meeting.

The group offers help and advice on various topics, and invites outside organisations to give talks to the clubs attendees.

Zumba

Zumba is a dance/exercise class that runs at the centre weekly; the classes are aimed at the general public of all ages from 12 years upwards, offering a fitness/dance programme to those in attendance. The classes are well attended by some 30 members of the community. Members of staff from within the centres organisations have taken up the opportunity of attending the classes.

The class is run by a professional fitness instructor and gives the general public a chance to meet others. This is, along with a fitness routine a social event and a fun evening for all those taking part.

Evergreeners

The Evergreeners club operates at the centre fortnightly; the group is in its 3rd year of P.B funding, which has helped to sustain the running of the club in the helping of hall hire charges and equipment.

The club offers a range of fun activities to its members along with the occasional trip outing, outside organisations are invited to come along to the club and give talks, along with other organisations offering hands on skills.

The club is well attended by the older generation of the community with some 40 people in attendance.

Midwives

The Midwife clinic is run at the centre Monday to Friday, under the N.H.S department that is based at the centre. This is a service offered to the town wide general community on an appointment system. This service is important to the community, offering them an alternative venue to attend and addresses various issues and concerns, that parents might have in relation to their babies.

Breast Feeding

Breast feeding is run under the N.H.S department based at the centre on a Friday, this group offers help and advice on breast feeding, and also helps deal with tongue tied babies, giving help and support to the parents and child. This group is well attended, and welcomes fathers to come along.

Musculoskeletal Service

This service is run under the N.H.S and offers pain management and physiotherapy to its town wide clients. This service was designed to alleviate pressure from the Luton & Dunstable hospital, therefore offering a quicker service to the community.

Initially this service was slow to take off, as it is reliant upon doctor's referrals to the centre, instead of the hospital. The group pain management sessions, along with physiotherapy are now well attended, with the N.H.S team having 2 therapists, a doctor and admin staff resident at the centre.

This organisation is an asset to the Chaul End centre, generating additional rental revenue, and giving the staff at the centre, the opportunity of meeting members of the community, introducing them to the centre and it's varied activities.

Health Trainers

The health trainers run an ad hoc appointment service at the centre, they deal with various health issues, including weight, diabetes and a stop smoking clinic. The service is run through PCT.

Adult Education

Luton Adult & Community Learning run various classes at the centre from ESoL, beginners and intermediate along with Literacy and Numeracy; their classes are run both during the daytime and evening slots. The group in attendance averages 10 students to each class.

Day Care – Flag Nights

The day care services are based at the centre, and operate Monday to Friday daily. The service offers along with the general help and assistance to its clients a diverse programme of activities, including a monthly Flag Night, disco that is open to not only the Chaul End clients, but also those of other disability run organisations. The flag nights are a joint project involving the Community Development Service staff.

These events attract some 80 clients and carers to attend and have proven to be a great success, enjoyed by all.

Children's Centre

The children's centre is based at Chaul End and runs a service to the paying community with nursery care. They have the facility of accommodating 22 children; their service is well attended.

The manager and staff participate and play an active part in all events put on by the community development team, and on occasion with the involvement of the youngsters that attend the nursery.

Mobile Library

The mobile library attends the centre on a weekly basis; it is parked in the main car park, and invites members of the centre and the community access to its literature.

The mobile unit is also visited by the children from the nursery, which partakes in story time.

MUGA

The Multi-Games Area (MUGA) court offers 5 a side football to all members of the community regardless of age. There is an hourly charge for the usage of the court, which is greatly used by the community of all diversities, including clubs and organisations. It offers a social and sport/fitness opportunity to all users.

Badminton

Badminton sessions at the centre have proven to be successful; we have regular groups and ad hoc bookings. The court is frequented by individuals, on an evening basis, and is also used by families, providing physical fitness, and family interaction.