

Report of the Head of Resources

PRESENTATION BY THE HOPE PROJECT

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To introduce the presentation by the Hope Project.
- 1.2 The presentation relates to the work this organisation carries out in the borough in support of the council's priorities.

2 Executive summary

None.

3 Appendices

Appendix: A: Information relating to the grant made to the Hope Project and the required outcomes.

Appendix B: Information about the Hope Project, supplied by the organisation.

4 Proposed action:

- 4.1 The committee is invited to RESOLVE to note the presentation, and;**
- 4.2 The committee is invited to discuss issues relating to the work of the Hope Project and identify any matters it RECOMMENDS be reported to relevant policy committees for their attention.**

5 Background

This presentation forms part of the general programme of review agreed by the committee at its meeting on 17 June 2013.

6 Discussion

- 6.1 The committee has requested presentations from organisations who are either funded by the council, or who play an important part in the life of the borough.
- 6.2 Each presentation gives members an opportunity to learn more about the organisation and its impact on the borough. After the presentation there is a chance to ask questions of the presenter.
- 6.3 If any items of significance arise, members may wish to request a further report from a relevant officer or make a recommendation for action by a policy committee.
- 6.4 The council provided a grant of £12k to the Hope Project in 2013-14 to help with activities and running costs of the Hemmingwell Community and Skills Centre, based on the outputs in the attached appendix. The organisation runs a number of other projects that do not attract council funding.

7 Legal powers

The Local Authorities (Alternative Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2001 empower the council to establish one or more overview and scrutiny committees. An overview and scrutiny committee of a local authority may invite persons other than members or officers of the authority to attend meetings of the committee.

8 Financial and value for money implications

There are no such implications arising directly from this report. However, effective overview and scrutiny is one of the means by which the council secures effective use of its resources.

9 Risk analysis

A risk table is usually completed for any report setting out a proposed course of action that entails risks at the outset of the project or if the risks change along the way. This is not relevant in respect of this report.

10 Implications for resources

There are no implications arising directly from this report, other than officer time required to prepare any reports needed to make recommendations to policy committees as a result of the committee's findings.

11 Implications for stronger and safer communities

There are no such implications arising directly from this report. However, effective overview and scrutiny is one of the means by which the council secures improvement in the discharge of its functions that contribute to making its community stronger and safer.

12 Implications for equalities

Local scrutiny of public services improves the ability of the council to ensure equalities issues affecting the local community are taken into account by other public service providers.

13 Author and contact officer

Bridget Lawrence, Head of Resources.

14 Consultees

None.

15 Background papers

There are no background papers to this report.

Appendix A

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH – COMMUNITY SUPPORT AGREED SPECIFIED AREAS OF WORK/MONITORING AGREEMENT FORM FOR SERVICE AGREEMENT CLIENTS

1. MONITORING AND APPRAISAL TIMETABLE

Organisation:	The Hope Project (Hemmingwell community & skills centre)	
Grant amount:	£ 12,000	Grant Year: 2013-14
Date of next review/monitoring meeting	September 2013	
Future review/monitoring meetings	December 2013, March 2014	

2. AGREED OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES (Specific, measurable targets)

OUTPUT <i>(Type of resource, facility or service to be provided)</i>	OUTCOME <i>(e.g. give people the confidence to return to work)</i>
1. To provide a safe and welcoming community space for local community groups.	To increase community cohesion and encourage community participation
2. To actively encourage increased awareness and use of the Centre by individuals and families. To encourage people from the surrounding area to participate in activities and to take up an active role in the local community.	To increase community cohesion and encourage community participation
3. To actively promote, encourage and support existing and emerging services using the centre eg : Friday youth club Low level adult education classes Residents Association activities Individual private hire	To increase community cohesion and encourage community participation To provide 'low threshold' access to learning/training opportunities
4. To actively promote, encourage and support existing and emerging education services using the centre eg: Adult education Job club	To increase community cohesion and encourage community participation To increase sustainability and provide new employment opportunities directly or indirectly To provide 'low threshold' access to learning/training opportunities
5. Actively seek to increase external funding to allow the development of new projects or enhanced current service provision, to contribute towards meeting the needs of current or potential Wellingborough clients.	To strengthen the funding base of the organisation through diversification.
6. Significantly increase the profile of the Centre through networking and local partnership initiatives. Seek to work in partnership and share resources where appropriate.	Raising the organisational profile will encourage a wider range of people to use the service, avoid duplication of services and work in partnership where possible to a net gain in service provision across the Borough.

Appendix B

Name of organisation: **Hope Trust Wellingborough t/a HOPE PROJECT (see note)**

Date of presentation to Overview and Scrutiny Committee: **16 DECEMBER 2013**

Number of employees (full time equivalents): **14**

Number of volunteers: **40+**

Aims and objectives of organisation

The HOPE Project exists to meet the needs of the local community on the Hemmingwell Estate and Wellingborough. Its goals include:

- To provide practical support to families and individuals in the local community with particular emphasis on helping families to stay together and help young people and adults live productive lives, hopefully leading into further education or employment. We are committed to involving local residents in running the project to as great an extent as possible as this gives them the skills and encouragement to be able to meet their own needs.
- Our aim is to help bring about a change of attitude in individuals who feel they are unqualified and poorly equipped to cope with life's challenges. To support vulnerable people to help them lead fulfilling lives; helping young people to prepare for adulthood; and helping residents to make choices that improve their health and access to employment or further education.
- We provide skills and education training to the high number of NEET and long-term unemployed within the area in order to improve their chances of employment.

When the Hope Project started in 1997 our ambition was to help reduce criminal activity through engaging young people in community service. Since then the vision has expanded to helping support families through provision of a pre-school, family support service and young people and adult education service.

In 2013 there are testimonies to the improvement in the local environment, reduced criminal activity, families staying together who were previously at risk of disintegrating, and more pride shown by residents in their area. We are also seeing more young people and adults taking up opportunities to improve their education and skills through the local Community & Skills Centre. The Project goal is to enhance what is already being done in the area of education by focusing on re-engagement with education for adults and young people with the ultimate aim of improving individual's chances of achieving a better lifestyle.

Service level agreed with council (if applicable)

Maintain the Hemmingwell Community & Skills Centre for the use of local residents and an education centre.

Performance against service level agreement (if applicable)

Judged to have achieved this goal since 2007 with difficulty due to lack of funding.

Details of partnership work with other organisations in Northamptonshire

We work with partners in the education sector [Apprentice Supermarket], Adult Education [NCC Art classes], Job Centre, Citizens Advice Bureau, NCC Children and Vulnerable Young People's Service, Groundworks, Kettering Science Academy, Weavers and Wrenn schools. Age Concern, Surestart, Northamptonshire County Council and Borough Council of Wellingborough

Are accounts available for the past three years?

If yes, please attach copies.

If no, provide a summary of financial information.

All accounts are published on the charity commission web site for our charity number 288001. Summary of recent accounts provided below with full accounts available on line at charity commission using search reference 288001 Hope Trust Wellingborough:

Financial year end (FYE)	Income	Spending	Accounts received	Annual Return/Annual Update received	View
05 Apr 2012	£306,445	£304,144	09 Oct 2012	09 Oct 2012	Accounts
05 Apr 2011	£284,261	£294,102	23 Nov 2011	23 Nov 2011	Accounts
05 Apr 2010	£258,575	£236,291	28 Jan 2011	28 Jan 2011	Accounts
05 Apr 2009	£465,225	£248,899	04 Feb 2010	15 Feb 2010 (10 days late)	Accounts
05 Apr 2008	£293,603	£337,728	04 Feb 2009	04 Feb 2009	Accounts

Effect on the community of cutting grant from the council by £5,000 (or, if grant is below £5,000, the effect of cutting the grant entirely)

Closure of the community centre and redundancy of staff member looking after centre.

Effect on the community of increasing grant by £5,000

Allow expansion of services to youth through buy in of youth worker. We had to dismiss our youth worker in 2012 for lack of funding.

Note: The New Life Church Trust changed its name to Hope Trust Wellingborough on 24th September 2013. It continues to trade under the name of the Hope Project and retains the original 1983 charity number 288001.