

# Appendix A

## COUNCILLOR LYNDA MCWILLIAMS CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

### FEEDBACK PAPER TO CABINET 13 DECEMBER 2013

#### INFLUENCING

##### COMMUNITY BUILDER TRIAL

Tendring District Council (TDC) was awarded £53,000 from Essex County Council in a bid to develop stronger communities in the District.

In partnership with the CAB, a Community Builder, along with two Apprentice Community Connectors (both previously NEET), have been employed to work with communities. This work has identified both examples of good practice and areas where communities need support to become more resilient and sustainable and, ultimately, less reliant on statutory services.

#### REVIEWING

Groundwork over the last month has been substantial, linking in with identified community need via a variety of networks, charities and voluntary and statutory agencies. This has identified best practice, gaps in provision and natural partnerships that can develop.

The Community Builder pilot has a number of areas of focus which aims to deliver sustainable community benefit; being delivered for the community by the community. Whilst it will take longer to deliver many of the projects being considered it is notable that some early successes have been delivered which have received significant attention both locally and regionally.

#### WORKING

##### **Winter Warmers**

A partnership between the Citizens Advice Bureau, Tendring District Council and the Princes Trust has created an initiative that is receiving substantial support and has been welcomed by the agencies in support of the hardship being faced by families and individuals in the community.

A pop-up shop in Clacton has been secured with assistance from TDC and working in partnership with the Princes Trust. Twelve NEET young people have decorated and refurbished the shop using materials which they have secured as donations from local businesses.

The shop opening was televised by Anglia News, who highlighted that for many families, soaring energy prices can often mean having to decide between buying food or heating their home during the winter.

After just one week of opening, 'Winter Warmers' had helped over 200 individuals who are on benefit / low income.

The shop has received a huge number of clothing donations, with stock still in reserve. This will enable the project to move to new premises in Harwich in January 2014.

Colchester Borough Homes and CAB Southend have both been in contact expressing a desire to replicate our project in their areas.

The shop has also received a £500 donation from a local organisation (who wish to remain anonymous).

### **Further work**

Other work streams underway include;

- exploring ways of up-skilling members of the Tendring Tenants Panel to provide support to local residents on a wider range of issues,
- supporting a local Parish Council to emulate some of the excellent community work that is taking place in Great Bentley and Stambridge (building our links with another pilot community builder project in South Essex), and
- exploring community need and mapping community services and assets into a useful searchable online database.