



Local Trust | Big Local

Plan agreed by Newington Big Local Partnership, August 2014

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Some of our Partnership....



1. Introduction

In Newington¹ we commenced the seven steps of our Big Local Pathway in January 2013, with support from our Big Local Representative. Since August, 2013 we have benefited from the additional support of our part-time community development worker.

During this exciting phase of our development we have achieved the first three steps, and this plan successfully completes step four. In getting to this stage, we have engaged extensively with local residents, alongside statutory and voluntary partners and local councillors. We are particularly pleased with the following:

- The inclusion of young people on our partnership.
- The tangible and demonstrable growth of skills and confidence of local residents.
- Our relationship with our local GP as our Local Trusted Organisation.
- The active involvement of local schools.
- The overwhelming support of local residents at our events and consultation activities.
- The reclamation of 'The Copse' and the accompanying community involvement it has engendered.
- Our approach to community mapping, using the Community 21 online tool.
- The successful creation of the Conyngham Close play area.

We have a vibrant and dynamic partnership, including the active involvement of four young people. We have organised a number of local events and activities to encourage a broad range of residents to engage with us; learning about Big Local and giving them opportunities to be involved. For example:

- Two Big Lunches
- A Big Local BBQ
- A Newington music event
- Our Big Local launch
- Halloween activity
- A Victorian Christmas Party
- An Easter Event with egg hunts, games and activities



Our events have all focussed on having 'fun' while gaining the trust of residents to allow them to openly and honestly feed back to us the realities and perceptions of living in Newington.

Throughout this period we have recognised the importance of effective partnership working, with residents as well as with other local stakeholders and providers. We are proud of the relationships we have built, and continue to grow with a number of different agencies. For example, SkillForce have been working with us to focus their input with challenging children and young people in those areas where residents know there are particular difficulties - providing services *in* the community. We are working closely with the Diocese of Canterbury, ensuring that services target the needs of the most vulnerable. We are also building our working arrangements with Pfizer, who have been providing design and advice around a new computer suite for Newington.

¹ Newington is a ward in Ramsgate, Thanet. We have attached a report produced by Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE) and the Oxford Centre for Statistical Information (OCSI) to provide an illustration of where Newington fits within the local area.

This plan is a culmination of a range of activities and 'listening' that we have undertaken. It represents the views of Newington residents, addressing their aspirations for a strong, cohesive and vibrant 'Big Local' community.



2. A Community Development Officer

The community is supported to flourish and grow

Over the past year the community in Newington's Big Local area has benefitted immensely from the support and involvement of both our part-time community development officer and Big Local representative. The residents have grown skills and confidence, and this is evident in the events and activities we have delivered. We believe that in order to continue to progress and for us to deliver this ambitious plan, it is imperative that we have the on-going support of a community development officer. It will be the role of this worker to continue to support the committee, to build networks with residents, voluntary organisations, statutory providers, local councilors and businesses to ensure that our 'voice' is heard and that we are increasingly seen as an equal partner, involved in the co-creation of decisions that affect our neighbourhood.



The key role for this community development officer will be to coordinate our Big Local Plan, working with delivery partners and our partnership to ensure success. The worker will continue to involve more residents, helping them to realise *their* plans and aspirations. In summary, the worker will be responsible for:

- Working with local people and organisations on the ideas set out in our Big Local Plan, ensuring that realistic targets are set and outcomes delivered, evidenced and reported.
- Support and deliver a series of community engagement activities and events *across* Newington's Big Local area to encourage resident involvement.
- Work closely with the Chair of Newington Big Local, our Locally Trusted Organisations and Big Local rep.
- Work with existing groups and organisations in the Big Local area to promote networking and joint delivery of Big Local ideas.
- Connect Newington Big Local to a wide range of funding opportunities.
- Increase awareness of Big Local throughout the Newington area with residents, local businesses, the voluntary and community sector, statutory agencies and local media.
- Develop and update our 'Community 21' on-line community planning tool; making it come alive, supporting resident involvement and input, working with the partnership on regular updates.

We have included a draft job description, at Appendix A and seek to employ a community development officer with the relevant skills and experience, someone with good local knowledge, who is solution-focused, a good listener and with a can-do attitude. The successful candidate will support local people to continue to build the skills and expertise to ensure real community ownership of Newington Big Local.

The committee have decided to provide an Apprenticeship opportunity for a local unemployed young person. This Apprentice will work alongside the Community Development Officer, providing administrative and office support alongside practical tasks such as arranging meetings, coordinating partnership activities and supporting events.

3. Green Roof Shelter

From the Chelsea Flower Show to Newington

We have already successfully applied for Pathway Funding to enable us to secure a 'Green Roof Shelter' to act as our headquarters and as a hub for the delivery and coordination of local services. The activities already in negotiation include: Kent Savers (A Newington credit union branch, in association with the Diocese of Canterbury); Citizens Advice drop-in advice services (in partnership with Thanet CAB) and CAP (Christian's Against Poverty - one-to-one debt advice and management support). The 'Shelter' will have a native wildflower growing roof, providing nectar and habitat for bees, butterflies and other invertebrates; nesting boxes for birds are incorporated into roof overhangs and other nesting opportunities for bats and birds such as robins. Wood piles on the roof will provide additional wildlife habitat and shelter. Therefore, when the shelter is not being used for services mentioned above we will use the facility as an educational centre, working particularly closely with our four local schools, Children's Centre and various nursery groups, all of which are within the Newington Big Local area.



We have applied to 'Awards for All' for £10,000 match funding for our Green Roof Shelter. However, this plan makes no assumption this will be successful, therefore full initial purchase and annual running costs are included herein.

4. Money Matters

People in Newington live within their means, are debt free and manage family finances

Through our 'getting started' stage of the Big Local Pathway, we identified three thematic areas to prioritise action to help make Newington an even better place to live:

Health, Wealth and Happiness

In exploring our 'wealth' focus we realised that a significant number of residents struggle to manage their finances, with many falling foul of door-step lenders. For this reason we propose to work with CAP to support debt management. But more than that – we aim to leave a legacy for Big Local in how people manage their money in Newington. To do that we need to work with our children on an educational programme related to money matters.

Children seldom dare to live a happier or more fulfilling life than their parents; unconsciously they often remain loyal to unspoken family traditions. For some, these traditions include door-step lending. As this is at least a ten year programme for Newington we propose to invest in our future today –in the form of our children –for it is they who will ultimately judge the Big Local programme as they reach adulthood.

Our partnership understands the critical need for young people to develop good financial management skills and practices. Therefore, working with Kent Savers, we will:

- Aspire to work with all children aged under 18 years in Newington, currently 733 in our Big Local area.
- Open a new Kent Savers account for all children and young people, (newborn – 17 years).
- Place £10 in every new account, with that sum being frozen until the young person reaches the age of 18.
- Partner with schools to develop the curriculum in a bespoke manner, ensuring this project is not tokenistic.
- Teach and encourage good financial behaviours and regular saving within Newington Big Local schools.
- Reward regular saving with an annual bonus payment.
- Ensure robust monitoring, evaluation and reporting to provide demonstrable impact and to facilitate replicability.
- Support information and publicity through schools, doctors, midwives, health visitors, library, radio, social and traditional media.

Alongside this work with children and young people we will open a ‘Newington Community Bank’ –a branch of Kent Savers operating out of our Green Roof Shelter. Kent Savers has agreed to train residents in the establishment and management of our branch which will open every day, (and initially one evening per week), following the model of the ‘Murston Community Bank’ in Sittingbourne, Kent, (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-25816688>). We want to encourage residents to use the credit union as lender of choice, and to eventually eliminate door-step lending in the area.

5. Newington’s Young People Thrive

Connecting children and young people to a supportive community with caring adults, enriching opportunities and responsive systems that support them in being successful in school, career and life

All of our community consultation events highlighted a lack of meaningful activities that engage and involve our children and young people. We believe that when young people are offered a supportive and challenging leadership environment that values their engagement, perspective and growth then they are empowered to invest and contribute to their own and their community’s development.



For example, over the past ten months we have had some notable successes:

- As a result of increased confidence and a renewed ‘neighbourliness’ we have been able to support residents in Conyngham Close to secure funding and support from the East Kent Housing Association to build a new, communal play area.
- We have four young people actively involved in our partnership.
- Inspired by the Newington Big Local trip to ‘Incredible Edible Todmorden’, a number of young people are actively involved in gardening and the environment. They have to date planted thirty fruit trees and have created a vegetable patch.

We therefore aim to focus on the development of activities for children and young people as follows:

0-5 years

We will further develop our working relationship with the 'Outstanding', (Ofsted rated) Newington Children's Centre to ensure their services meet local aspirations and encourage parents and carers with young children to access services therein.

Whilst a parent - toddler group does exist in Newington, access is gained via referrals which make it inaccessible for many families. Therefore, we propose the establishment of an additional group, to be run weekly by local parents/carers. Big Local funds will be used to purchase equipment and cover venue/storage and other costs. Parents and carers will be asked to make a contribution for each session. Newington Big Local will support the development of this group as an independently constituted organisation eligible to apply for further funds, (outside of Big Local).

6-10 years: The only activities for this age group are school-run after-school clubs. Residents have requested community-based clubs and holiday activities.

10-13 years: There is currently a weekly youth club (Mondays) for 11 – 19 year olds.

13-18 years: In addition to the Monday youth club there is a local, thriving boxing club: 'Hornets' –with recent history of working in Newington. While the club had to move away in 2014, (just outside of the Big Local area) many young people still use the club which is trying to raise funds for improvement independently. Regular football sessions at the Multi-Use Games Area take place in Newington.

19-25 years: There are no activities in Newington targeting this age group.





Newington Big Local “Springboard” Activities Programme

In order to address the lack of activities specifically aimed at young people in Newington the Big Local Partnership proposes to work with the Kent based charity Porchlight in the following manner. We believe this adds significant value to ‘activities’ as it includes a holistic approach to the wellbeing of our young people that includes confidence building and employability.

Porchlight’s vision statement:

“Porchlight strives for a society where the most excluded are included and where communities work together; a society where homelessness and poverty is a thing of the past and where vulnerable people are empowered to take control of their lives.”

Summary of our Proposal

The project will work with young people in Newington to help them to achieve and build their aspirations. We will do this via our “Springboard Activities Programme” that will offer a wide-ranging programme of healthy and positive recreational, social and developmental activities. Although deliberately fun and accessible, the activities will not merely be an enjoyable end in themselves. They will build life-skills and confidence, acting as the springboard for participants to access Porchlight, (or any other providers), wider programmes focusing on employment, education, independent living and citizenship.

About Porchlight

Based in Kent, Porchlight is a registered charity (no 267116) that provides support to vulnerable people with housing issues. We work with a wide range of people; some are homeless, others are struggling to cope at home and need our help to keep on track. Our support helps them to live independently. Last year we helped over 2,500 people change their lives for the better. Our services include:

- A countywide rough-sleeper service that helps people to access emergency accommodation
- 24-hour Helpline providing advice and access to support to people who are homeless, sleeping rough or at risk of homelessness
- A range of supported housing across Kent, including specialist accommodation for 16-24 year-olds



- Community support services for people who are isolated, experiencing mental health problems, or are at risk of losing their home
- An Adolescent Support Service working with 10-18 year olds, their families, schools and communities to prevent family breakdown and the need for specialist services

All Porchlight services provide access to activities which promote healthy living and citizenship and build individuals' skills and confidence to enter education, training and employment. In addition Porchlight also run the **StreetGames** Canterbury project (on behalf of the local leisure trust), taking sports to the 20% most deprived wards in the district and delivering these at the right time and in the right manner to attract clients and retain their participation.

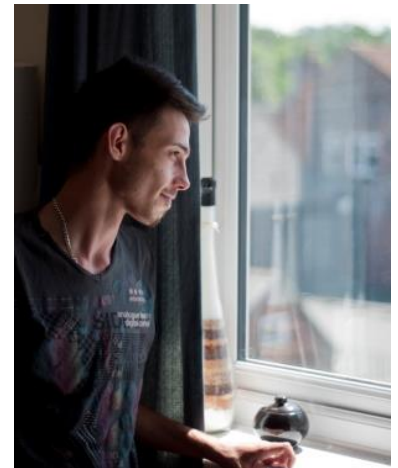
In order to provide a picture of how we have worked to date we enclose the following example –a project working with young people across Kent.

Young People Project Beneficiaries

In 2012-2013 Porchlight helped 370 young people aged 16-24 across our services.

The young people we support every year have faced serious disadvantage in their lives with many having negative childhood experiences, including physical abuse, family breakdown, and experience of living in care.

Our experience working on a project similar to **Springboard** showed that they have complex needs, and typically require support in areas such as mental health (57%) and substance dependency (33%) in addition to housing issues. When they first come to Porchlight for support, many are not in employment, education or training; they also lack confidence and the skills necessary to live independently.



The Difference our Work Makes



A research briefing by Crisis, “*Young Hidden and Homeless*”², showed that homeless young people (aged 18-25) are considerably more vulnerable than the general homeless population. 51% of young homeless people have experience of exclusion or suspension from school, 44% have been unemployed for most of their adult life, and 17% have problems with literacy.

Porchlight has delivered activities programmes since 2008, when we ran a “*Young Persons’ Activities Programme*” with a grant from BBC Children in Need. By the end of the grant in March 2012, 118 young people had taken part; 70% had improved physical health, 90% had improved emotional and mental health, 80% had improved confidence, 70% had developed further interests. Over 100 went on to take part in education, training or other learning as a result of the programme.

² Crisis, “Young, Hidden and Homeless”, April 2012 www.crisis.org.uk/policyandresearch

One of the main lessons of this project was that the activities on offer needed not only to build confidence, but also to help the young people to move forward. The subsequent development of the “Young Persons’ Activities Programme” into what is now a wider scheme with pathways into volunteering, education, training and work is the direct result of that recommendation.



In 2012-2013, 82% of those who needed our support to take part in training or education were able to achieve this, 88% were able to participate in informal learning, 76% to take part in work-like activities and 86% to develop confidence.

This learning has helped us develop the proposed programme.

Springboard – Aims, Objectives and Activities

The **aim** of **Springboard** is to offer an accessible programme of regular healthy and positive activities which will develop the confidence and life-skills of those taking part; this will help them move forward into more formal learning, focusing on increasing their education levels, employability, life-skills and citizenship.

The **objectives** of **Springboard** are to:

- Build participants’ social skills and help them make new friends
- Provide structure and purpose to their day and meaningful use of time
- Improve their physical and mental health
- Develop their basic life skills



Springboard activities could include:

- Sport and fitness. e.g. ball-sports, swimming, badminton, gym sessions
- Recreation. e.g. games evenings, gardening, camping, quizzes
- Arts. e.g. drama, arts and crafts, photography and music workshops
- Basic skills. e.g. cookery activities, budgeting and tenancy workshops, communication and team-work
- Healthy living. e.g. sessions on healthy-eating, sexual health, managing alcohol and drug misuse

Springboard activities will be co-ordinated and delivered by members of Porchlight’s Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Team. They will be supported by other relevant staff and volunteers. They will also work alongside a range of community organisations and services who can offer facilities and other resources to support the programme in Newington.

Springboard will be just one element of our wider “**Employability Programme**”. People from Newington who get involved in **Springboard** activities first, will be able to access the support on offer across all elements as their confidence increases.

The other three elements of the [Employability Programmes](#) focus on:

- [Work Readiness](#): enabling our beneficiaries to develop work-related skills and experience, helping them to compete in the job market
- [Learning and Personal Development](#): helping people to attain qualifications in English, Maths or ICT, and re-introducing them to structured learning and education
- [Service User Involvement](#): giving our beneficiaries a say in how the services that support them are run



Measuring the Benefits

As a result of taking part in [Springboard](#) activities, our beneficiaries will:

- Improve their self-confidence
- Improve their life-skills
- Improve their physical and mental health
- Improve their social / communication skills

Porchlight will record the activities and attendance on our client database. Porchlight will also illicit and record regular feedback from the people taking part in [Springboard](#) to measure how far they have come.

The Porchlight database also allows us to track their progression into the other elements of the [Employability Programme](#). We can report on the number of people gaining qualifications, studying, taking part in volunteering, work placements and employment. In this way we can assess the longer-term benefits that taking part in [Springboard](#) brings about for people.

Springboard will be reviewed annually to ensure the project is meeting its aims and objectives and to make recommendations for further development. Feedback from, and consultation with those taking part in [Springboard](#) will form an important part of this process.

Delivery

Our experience of delivering similar projects with the most vulnerable and isolated people (and often homeless) shows that flexibility in delivery is paramount to their success. We would therefore propose to spread our Springboard activities during the week, weekends and evening/day time to meet client needs.

Sustainability of the Project and exit strategy

We would propose the following:

- Porchlight will seek continuation funding
- Porchlight will use volunteers to help deliver springboard activities, a cost-effective way to reduce staffing overheads
- We intend to recruit volunteers from Newington
- An increasing number of our beneficiaries will also help to run activities, developing a range of employment, leadership and organisational skills in the process and meaning these activities can continue beyond the duration of the funding

- Our wider employability programme will engage with the beneficiaries to increase their employment prospects. This will bring increased economic benefits meaning that their chances of imbedding their newfound or rediscovered interests can be pursued in a mainstream way
- We have a 40 year history of working in East Kent with vulnerable people and communities and have always looked for long term solutions to difficult personal and community issues.
-

‘Porchlight staff are there for me whenever I need them. They keep me busy with life-skills classes and activities and if I need to get things off my chest, they will always listen..... I’m starting a retail work experience placement soon that will hopefully lead to a proper job or apprenticeship.’ Shaunagh (17)



6. The Copse

A green space to sow, hoe and grow

Local Guerrilla Gardeners are claiming back this woodland in order to create a tranquil retreat for residents of all ages. We believe access to woodland is a basic human right.

It is an interesting exercise to try and imagine a community without green spaces; imagine London without Hyde Park, or New York without Central Park. As long ago as 1880 the famous American park designer, Frederick Law Olmsted described the value of parks and the many benefits that access to green spaces provides such as improved human health, physical and mental well-being, space for reflection, connection and social capital, in addition to the provision of ecological services and biodiversity conservation.

Through our ‘Big Local Pathway’ stage we have reclaimed ‘The Copse’, a 1.2 acre area of woodland situated centrally in the Newington Big Local area. We have worked with Kent County Council and Thanet District Council to clear and reinstate this as a valuable community asset which is used by residents of all ages. We have recently secured a ‘Tenancy at Will’ agreement with Kent County Council to ensure that the area continues as a community asset.

This link takes you to a film that we have made, which explains the journey we have been on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFIF3iFatO8>



Before....

and after...



Through this plan we will continue to develop 'The Copse' through the following activities:

- Create a 'Community Gardener' post (job description and person specification at Appendix B).
- Grow Local Food.
- Forest School (learning partnership with local primary schools, uniform groups etc. – an outdoor classroom to compliment our Green Roof Shelter).
- Explore European projects/partnerships working with member states where forest schools are popular, such as Germany.
- Create information boards explaining the story of The Copse and the flora and fauna it homes.
- Facilitate a 'wildlife survey' from Kent Wildlife Trust.
- Enter garden competitions to raise awareness.
- Set up a 'Kent Shed' with £5,000 Big Local money and apply for £5,000 match funding from Kent County Council's 'Kent Sheds' programme, (a project based on the Australian 'Men in Sheds' concept). See below.

'Kent Sheds' is a new initiative that looks to establish a number of Shed projects across Kent and the Big Local Partnership would like to bring one to Newington –in The Copse.

A Shed provides opportunities for men to participate in practical group activities such as engineering projects, woodworking or gardening; where they can share and learn new skills by working together 'shoulder to shoulder' to support one another. A Shed is a network of relationships between 'Shedders', coming together to work alongside each other, sharing skills and developing friendships.

Kent Sheds is inviting groups and organisations who would like to establish a 'Shed' to affiliate to the Kent Sheds programme. By joining the programme 'Kent Sheds' will help Newington Big Local develop and establish our Shed idea, ensuring it meets the ethos of 'Men in Sheds' and provides a safe and welcoming facility for men to meet and work. The programme also offers financial assistance to help establish our Shed, purchase materials and equipment, promote the project and support running costs. Matching this with Big Local money will help us create a Shed to be proud of.

7. Secret Garden

"If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden"

A recurrent theme for local residents has been the improvement of green spaces. As well as The Copse (above) a number of residents, working with Thanet District Council and East Kent Housing Association have reclaimed an area of unused 'waste' land behind garages in the Conyngham Close area. This has now been cleared of rubbish and weeds, and we are supporting residents to raise funds to create a 'secret garden'. We hope that the successful achievement of this will encourage others to undertake similar initiatives.

Before....



Now....



Local residents are developing a plan for the garden, outlining its use as a community space for gardening, growing and relaxing and as an inspiration to re-connect with the outdoors.

And finally (we hope)....



8. Food for Life

Sharing our love of local food in 'The Garden of England'

Through our conversations with residents it has become clear that many really struggle to provide healthy food for their families. This situation is exasperated by shrinking household budgets. Therefore, we will deliver a 'Community Chef' programme, targeting young families and incorporating growing activities.

We have spoken to Thanet Earth: the UK's largest; most high-tech greenhouse complex about our plans and the company has agreed to supply our community chef programme with surplus fit for purpose food that does not quite meet supermarket standards –'ugly', but perfectly good food that would otherwise go to landfill. In addition we will work with 'Produced in Kent' to promote the programme via their network and work with St Christopher's Church and the Newington Community Centre, using their new kitchens.



Our 'Community Chef' programme will produce, use and market local food, where possible, based on Newington Big Local's environmental and community health priorities. Through Big Local we intend to establish a community chef programme rooted in economical viability and enjoyment for families, and a legacy that outlasts Big Local.

Big Local Newington - The Community Chef Project

Background

The Community Chef project was founded in 2008 by the Sheppey Matters charity to improve health outcomes on the Isle of Sheppey. The project has continued to grow and expand its range of services and activities focusing on a public health, employment and regeneration. Working closely with Kent County Council, DWP (Job centre plus) among others, this unique charitable initiative has attracted over £300,000 in the form of grants and contracts for services delivered in the Swale region and beyond since 2011. The Newington Big Local Partnership proposes to introduce a similar initiative in the Newington area based on the Community Chef's experience, passion and drive.

Objectives, outputs and outcomes

Through the provision of a variety of proven activities, The Community Chef will introduce a community food project in Newington to support positive outcomes that will endure beyond the life of these interventions and build on the work of residents to date, (in The Copse, for example).

Build local capacity to deliver future training programmes through the provision of 'train the trainer' programmes and relevant materials. Train six local volunteers in all aspects of programme delivery from management and fundraising to delivery of community cooking and healthy eating sessions, supporting a minimum of thirty-six local people in need of direct support around food.

Support eight unemployed young people in the community through the provision of the FirstService training programme which combines cooking, career coaching and work experience. In addition to providing immediate employment opportunities, this programme will support the development of a strong volunteer base amongst local young people for the delivery of future community activities. Three local volunteers will also be invited to shadow this programme so that local capacity to deliver future programmes is safeguarded. This will also link to Porchlight's Newington Springboard Activities programme.

Streamline the referral system so that community members who would like support around cooking skills and healthy eating are able to access it. This will be achieved by enhancing partnership working between schools, children centres, community groups and other local stakeholders from the public and private sectors; building on the work of the Newington Big Local Partnership to date.

Support increased community cohesion through the provision of five x whole community events focused around food. Each event would envisage targeting one hundred community members. These events would also support other community groups and services by providing them with a positive forum for engagement and consultation. In addition to venue based events, efforts will also be made to engage with hard to reach community members/groups through street food (food truck) outreach activities.

Improve access to healthy and local produce through consultation with local producers and retailers and investigating improved lines of delivery and subsidised access through loyalty schemes. The Big Local Partnership has agreed a deal with Thanet Earth for free produce for this programme, as above.

Support fundraising for the continuation and expansion of all these services and activities by engaging with stakeholders and completing funding bids. Ideas include supporting the development of a community cooking hub/venue including relevant capital expenditure, the potential employment of a Newington based Community Chef, funding for continued delivery of practical cookery and FirstService programmes and exploring the feasibility of community co-operative food truck.

Activities and timescales

- FirstService Project (October/November 2014)
- 5 x Community engagement and celebration events (October 2014-March 2015)
- Newington Community Chefs "train the trainer" volunteer programme (Jan-March 2015)
- Funding Support (October 2014-March 2015)
- Marketing and publicity (October 2014-March 2015)

9. 'Good Things' –together

“A community is a group of people who come together, working and living to have fun and to improve the standard of living and the quality of life” –Newington resident

Team Building

In order to ensure that our Big Local Partnership can meet future challenges effectively we are arranging a team building activity. All adult members of the partnership (over 16 years) will take part in a two day trip, (destination TBC). Under the supervision of trained facilitators (ex-Marines) we will hike and camp overnight. The partnership will be required to support one another, and for most this will be their first experience of such an activity!

Community Events

We will build on our successful experience of delivering community events over the past 18 months to continue to provide exciting, safe and fun opportunities for residents of all ages to come together. We will involve local people throughout the planning and delivery of these activities, building their confidence and skills as local leaders. The following events represent our initial suggestions, but these will be fully explored with the community.

- Newington Music Festival
- Summer street party
- Christmas Crackers
- Easter Eggtravaganza
- Howling Halloween
- A Float for Newington at the Ramsgate Festival
- Newington 'Big Lunches'



Community Visits

We will also continue to support residents to undertake visits to other communities and Big Local areas to share learning and good practice, ensuring that we can build on success and avoid mistakes.



Community Learning

We are arranging for a group of up to ten residents to attend bespoke community development and enablement training at Trafford Hall, the 'Home of National Communities Resource Centre', in Chester. We have included monies to cover the costs of training, travel and accommodation.

10. Community Chest

Supporting local people to kick-start local change

The partnership will run a small grants pot to enable local people to run activities to benefit the community of Newington and to create 'change'. The criteria will be based on the four Big Local outcomes, with a maximum grant of £500.

The outcomes are:

1. Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them.
2. People will have increased skills and confidence, so that they continue to identify and respond to needs in the future.
3. The community will make a difference to the needs it prioritises.
4. People will feel that their area is an even better place to live.

We have tested this through our 'getting started' grant where we created a panel, comprising of residents to assess applications and award grants. This has built confidence and engendered a real sense of leading local change. A clear, standardised application process and form will be widely publicised and monitoring and support provided by the community development officer.

11. 'Acts of Kindness'

"We condemn this world so frequently and perhaps quite rightly, for all the awfulness's there are in it. Awfulness's caused by us. Ahhh, that is just one side of the story, because, do you know, we also have an incredible capacity for goodness, and we shouldn't forget that."

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

"People United is a creative laboratory and pioneering charity. We are interested in the role the arts can play in growing a more kind and caring society. We develop innovative projects, undertake research and support new creative work. In short: we're a catalyst for kindness".

We propose to work with People United to deliver a local creative project to engender acts of kindness. Through innovative and inspiring artistic experiences the project will aim to grow empathy, co-operation and respect –conditions for a caring neighbourhood.

People United are an arts organisation and charity based in Canterbury. Their work explores how the arts and creativity can bring people together and help create kinder, more caring communities. They commission world class artists to work in high streets, hospitals, schools, (and beach huts!); working with the University of Kent to research and evaluate the impact such work has.

People United in Newington

Every other year, People United work in a specific community to run a large scale arts project that aims to bring people together through the arts. For example, their award-winning project in Herne Bay worked with over 6,000 people, bringing poets, cake-makers, artists, cartoonists and musicians into the town to celebrate residents' good news stories. This stimulated lots of large and small positive initiatives led by local people.

People United would like to continue and expand this theme and work together with us to focus on the positive strengths of people and community in Newington. We envisage working across Ramsgate over a period of three years, with Newington being placed at the centre of the work. The residents of Newington will be the first to take part in the project and all events in the first stage will take place within the Newington community.

Our aim for this project is to attract national and international artists and performers (from film-makers and musicians to photographers and artists) and funding in addition to Big Local.

This project will help change negative perceptions of our community as well as share our learning with, and be an inspiration for other neighbourhoods across the country. This will involve telling our story to local, regional and national media.

Draft Timetable

Part One: October to March 2015 –Research and Development

- Spend time in the community, meeting as many people as possible, listening and planning together; developing early research and evaluation with the University of Kent; develop skills training with local people, (connected to other Newington Big Local projects such as Porchlight and Community Chef) and establish a local advisory group for the project.

Part Two: April 2015 to March 2016 –Pilot Projects

- Running a number of arts projects in Newington designed by local people and People United and led by artists. To be shared through a large communal event in Newington.

Part Three: April 2016 – March 2017 –Large scale Community Arts Project

- Building on the work made by, for and with the residents of Newington, we will create a large-scale creative community project that brings high quality, world class, artists and musicians to Newington.

Together with People United we aim to fundraise for the project independently, matching the Big Local contribution with additional funds and thus increasing the impact of the project.

We have not included a cost for this initiative at this stage as the Newington Big Local Partnership declined initial costing and are renegotiating with People United. This means the project may or may not go forward, depending on the outcome of these negotiations.

12.Support for Dads

“Any man can be a Father but it takes someone special to be a Dad”

We are looking to work with Dover Arts Development on their “DAD4DADS” programme to deliver a project in Newington, working with fathers to increase their confidence in their role as men. The project will offer alternative routes to personal development, based on Kent County Council’s ‘Six Ways to Well-being” campaign for which Newington is a trailblazer community, (see YouTube link above to ‘The Copse’) and will culminate in a Newington arts festival in collaboration with People United.

Initially we aim to explore a pilot project that recognises that Dads may feel misunderstood and isolated, and bring them into a world of conversation and communication. The project will use movement and music to help unlock understanding and express feelings, increasing the aspirations and confidence of Newington fathers as parents and as men. It will explore what it is to be a father, not only the strength and importance of a man in the modern system and family but also his vulnerability and uncertainty resulting in an acknowledgement of the importance of the role of men as sensitive individuals.



We have not included a cost for this initiative at this stage as the Newington Big Local Partnership is still in the early stages of discussion with Dover Arts Development. Since our discussions began Dover Arts Development released the following press release:

The Six Ways to Wellbeing inspires DAD4DADs

We are very pleased to have been awarded a contract to deliver DAD4DADs, in partnership with Ashford-based Jasmin Vardimon Company, aimed at young people as part of Kent County Council's Six Ways to Wellbeing campaign.

The project, which is funded by Kent County Council, Artsworld and Royal Opera House Bridge, is part of a campaign to encourage people to make small changes to their lives which can make a big difference to the way they feel and the way they cope with challenges in life.

The DAD4DADs project will explore the theme of DADs/fathers/fatherhood with young people through sound, movement, drawing and poetry. Dads means biological fathers, stepfathers or a significant male figure. As well as exploring their relationships with their fathers, the young people will also explore their ideas on fatherhood, and the impact of the "male figure" or lack thereof within their lives.

We will be working with schools in Dover, Folkestone and Ashford and finding young people to be "wellbeing" champions to spread the word about the Six Ways to Wellbeing.

Olivia Duggan of East Kent College said "We are always on the lookout for good projects and are very excited to work on this one."

The Six Ways to Wellbeing are:

Connect - with family, friends, colleagues, neighbours

Be active - walk, run, garden, dance

Take notice - be curious, reflect on experiences

Keep learning - try something new

Give - doing something for others

Care: Planet – looking after the community and your world

This creative programme is one of six projects across the county which aim to inspire young people aged 13 to 19 years to make the Six Ways to Wellbeing part of their everyday lives.

This is an opportunity to learn new skills, discover new things, make new friends, explore how taking part in creative activities, being active, helping others and learning can increase feelings of wellbeing and happiness, all this whilst having lots of fun!

Better mental wellbeing promotes better physical health and life expectancy, educational achievement, better skills and reduces risky behaviours. A growing body of research suggests adopting these six ways can promote better mental and physical health and even add seven years to your life.

“We are looking forward to working together with DAD again on this new project”. (Petra Matthews Crow, Astor College for the Arts.)

Find out more about the Six Ways to Wellbeing campaign at:
www.sixwaystowellbeing.org.uk.

13. Local Care Services to Local People, by Local People

One persistent problem in Newington is that services are often ‘parachuted’ in from outside. Agencies and staff are not known to local residents, and as a result take-up can be very poor; we rarely see the creation of paid roles for local people.



With this in mind, the Newington Big Local Partnership has been in discussions with a ‘new’ care services agency and reached agreement that this organisation will target its initial support services at vulnerable people in Newington, and employ Newington residents to care for them. We believe this partnership will enable us to up-skill local people, improving confidence, employability skills and experience as well as providing high quality local support that fosters independent living and community cohesion.

Right at Home is a franchise model; part of an international network of over 400 locally owned businesses that provide local care services to local people, by local people. The franchise in East Kent is very new, expecting to be Care Quality Commission registered by 1st September 2014. Right at Home is an advocate of improving the quality of life and promoting independent living for vulnerable adults. They do this by providing consistent, structured, person-centred care services to their clients in their own homes or other place of preference. The model allows for some statutory support, including Personal Budgets but is primarily delivered on a full cost recovery basis. Working with the GP we wish to ‘subsidise’ this support for local people. The GP will be responsible for referring those individuals that he considers require this service, but are unable to fund wholly themselves. Right at Home will undertake (and cover the costs) of all staff recruitment, training and support activities.

Right at Home are committed to becoming a valued and trusted member of the Newington community, working in partnership with others to provide support that meets needs, fills gaps and empowers people to live independently. The Newington Big Local Partnership will work with Right at Home to ensure effective and sustainable partnerships are established between local providers and residents.

Local statistics, as well as intelligence from the Newington GP show a major deficit in support for people with mental health difficulties. Therefore, this will be our key target group of beneficiaries, to start with.

The Newington Big Local Partnership is in negotiations with Right at Home about the amount of jobs created and the level of investment required. However, one agreement has been reached: each Newington Big Local resident employed by Right at Home shall receive a wage in excess of the ‘UK Living Wage’, (set by the Living Wage Foundation each year).

14. Community Enterprise

An underlying aim of this plan is to support the development of a number of sustainable community enterprises; owned and run by residents.

During the first year the Community Development Worker will set-up a number of sub-committees to inform, lead and deliver the various areas of delivery. We anticipate that these may form the genesis of independently constituted groups or enterprises. For example:

- Community Events
- Parent and Toddler/Play Group
- Community Gardening

An immediate opportunity has emerged in the form of a 'Newington Community Youth Bus' formerly run by Kent County Council's Youth Service across the district of Thanet. Sadly, this service was cut and is greatly missed in our community, (and others). However, negotiations with Kent County Council have led to the bus being made available to Newington Big Local subject to relevant legal obligations and insurances. We propose to run the service initially in Newington and, once established, explore the potential to 'sell' the service to neighbouring communities; Parish Councils, for example.

15. Better Together

Throughout our Big Local 'Getting Started' phase of development we have maintained a focus on building and sustaining good working relationships with a diverse range of partners. Some of these are shown below, and we will continue to ensure that our ideas and aspirations are supported by those organisations and individuals who are best placed to add value to our ideas.



16. Budget

		DETAILS	YEAR ONE	YEAR TWO
1	Community Development	£25,000 + on-costs	30,000	30,000
		Travel	1,200	1,200
2	Apprenticeship	This amount reflects local and national subsidies.	7,000	XX
3	Green Roof Shelter	Budget year one		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional purchase costs, annual running costs (insurance, utilities, security, ground rent) £15,000 We have applied to Awards4All to match fund this project 	15,000	5,000
4	Money Matters	Start up for year 1, based on 1,000 accounts	15,000	5,000
		Marketing	1,000	0
		Training for residents	5,000	1,000
		Volunteer costs	1,000	1,000
5	Newington Children	Parent and Toddler Group	5000	1000
		Porchlight	19,965	19,965
6	The Copse	Kent Sheds (applying for £5,000 match from KKC)	5,000	0
		Part time gardening job £7,700 + on-costs (£19k pro rata)	9,240	9,240

		Local food growing (seeds, plants, equipment)	500	500
		Information boards – wildlife etc.	1,500	0
7	Secret Garden	Plants, equipment, paving etc.	1000	0
8	Food for Life	Commissioning of 'The Community Chef'	19,375	
9	Good Things Together	Partnership Team building (Travel, food, equipment, external facilitators)	2,500	0
		Community Events	6,000	6,000
		Community trips and visits	2,000	2,000
		Community Learning	500	500
10	Community Chest	Small grants pot to enable local people to run activities to benefit the community of Newington and to create 'change'	2,500	2,500
11	Acts of Kindness	Partnership with People United	TBC	TBC
12	Local care services to local people, by local people	Funding to subsidise services for individuals on low incomes; to be managed by local GP as LTO	TBC	TBC
13	LTO	We would like to remunerate our chosen LTO an additional 5% to ensure adequate and effective support for staff recruitment, management and support, monitoring, evaluation, partnership support etc.	TBC	TBC

14	DAD4DADS	Pilot project as described above	TBC	TBC
15	Newington Community Youth Bus	Cost of refurbishing bus and insurances	2000	0
TOTAL			152,280	84,905