

Bristol City Council Neighbourhoods and Communities Service – Overview/Update July 2018

Purpose

The service will provide a city resource to work alongside communities and partners to help create the conditions for:

- More inclusive, powerful, self-determining people and communities for the long term
- More effective, better informed decision-making which supports community-driven initiative.
- Lively participation in the economic, social and democratic life of the city from people of all backgrounds, ages and life experience.
- Equality and social inclusion

The new service has amalgamated community health, community development, cities of service, grants and investment, neighbourhood enforcement and clean streets to create a new city resource aligned to corporate objectives and able to work alongside communities and unlock potential.

The service will:

- Focus resources on tackling inequality and inclusion.
- Facilitate and enable
- Take a 'whole system' approach
- Take an Asset Based Community Development approach (Citizen-led; place-based; relationship-orientated; inclusive where communities to first look to and realise the assets in their community to get things done).
- Be creative and look to others places for inspiration and learning
- Integrate the digital world into everyday work – build confidence in others by showing what's possible.

Work with communities to:

- Be more connected, find common ground and develop shared solutions.
- Be inclusive
- Discover, mobilise and nurture their inherent assets and resources (from skills to buildings) including local business .
- Grow people power, social action, volunteering and community-driven initiative
- Exchange ideas, learning, skills across neighbourhoods and localities and make best use of digital platforms including social media
- Improve local conditions (e.g. the environment, economy, opportunities) through community-driven initiative.

Work with colleagues and partners across the city to:

- Foster collaboration and a whole systems approach to build more powerful, inclusive, sustaining and sustainable communities.

- Work in ways which promote self-determination, are more open to community influence, co-design and coproduction
- Find ways to invest in communities over the long term to build economic resilience.
- Build on the people, money and other resources (assets) to grow people power and social capital
- Make it easy for citizens and communities to get stuff done
- Apply participatory and community-driven approaches to learning, evaluation and demonstrating impact.
- Take positive action to address barriers to participation and tackle discrimination
- Make accessible relevant research and 'what works' information to communities so they can learn from others, make connections and well informed decisions
- Facilitate local and city networks to build powerful, self-determining, communities.
- Learn from others through national and international connections

How will the service be organised?

There will be three work groups operating as one coordinated service:

- 1. Community Resources** *Community Resources Manager . Keith Houghton*
Social action, including delivery of the social action plan and Cando Bristol; VCSE investment & grants including Bristol Impact Fund; Coordinate neighbourhood element Community Infrastructure Levy; coordinate funding for community spaces.
- 2. Community Development** *North Area Community Development Manager (City wide Health lead) Mohammed Elsharif and South Area Community Development Manager (Citywide ABCD lead) Terry Black*
Two area based teams to work with partners in neighbourhoods and localities whilst ensuring a coherent city wide approach.
- 3. Neighbourhood Services** *Neighbourhood Services Manager Lindsay Hay*
Enable the people of Bristol to look after their neighbourhoods, provide good quality information to support enforcement action, and access services efficiently. Work with ward councillors and communities to problem-solve persistent issues which cannot be resolved through community driven effort alone e.g. Clean Streets Campaign, Rough Sleeping and Vehicle Dwelling policy.

How will the service contribute to the Corporate Strategy?

Community development is at the heart of the corporate strategy and the one city approach. The service will have a key role in helping this to happen by working alongside colleagues and communities.

- Embed health in all our policies to improve physical & mental health and wellbeing, reducing inequalities and the demand for acute services.
- Reduce social and economic isolation and help connect people to people, people to jobs and people to opportunity.

- Prioritise community development and enable people to support their community.
- Keep Bristol on course to be run entirely on clean energy by 2050 whilst improving our environment to ensure people enjoy cleaner air, cleaner streets and access to parks and green spaces.

Implementing the new structure:

- a. Four managers have been appointed (see above) and we have nearly completed the selection process. I aim to circulate a structure in August with full implementation of the new service in September.
- b. The service is a resource for the city, collaboration is key. We will be working with citizens, VCSE partners, funders, Adult Social Care, Public Health, Ward Councillors and others to galvanise our collective resources.
- c. We will be developing our service plan in September and would welcome the opportunity to collaborate on this.

Penny Germon,
Service Manager
July 2018