

**South Derbyshire Partnership
Community Strategy Action Plan**

Quarter 1 & 2 (April - September 2014-15)

Sustainable Development Group

- **Assist unemployed groups into opportunities for training, employment and entrepreneurship, particularly in the most deprived areas of the District.**

Swadlincote Jobs & Careers Fair took place in June at Green Bank Leisure Centre's Grove Hall offering over 1,000 jobs. With over 60 exhibitors including employers and training providers, the event attracted some 650 visitors (more than double that of the previous year). For the first time the event offered advice workshops and presentations by employers from key sectors, co-ordinated by Swadlincote Jobcentre.

In September 'Work Clubs' were launched in areas of higher unemployment, operating from the Old Post Centre, South Derbyshire CAB offices and Oakland Village. The Clubs are delivered by the Old Post Centre and offer free, friendly, informal help and support on a drop-in basis to jobseekers. Typical assistance offered includes help with CV writing, covering letters, applications forms, searching and applying for work online, and using Universal Jobmatch.

- **Work with Promote Melbourne and Swadlincote Chamber to attract visitors and investment.**

The second Swadlincote Festival of Transport was staged in the town centre in May, attracting hundreds of classic vehicles and thousands of visitors. The event, led by the Box Motor Club and the Rotary Club of Swadlincote, has been broadened to include live entertainment and has successfully engaged local businesses.

Swadlincote's monthly Farmers' Market was promoted with an Easter Farmers' Market at Rosliston Forestry Centre in April and stalls at the South Derbyshire Festival of Leisure at Maurice Lea Park in June. September's Farmers' Market included support for 'Feeding Britain's Future' - Skills for Work Month, a national initiative bringing together food and grocery companies across the UK plus agencies such as the Jobcentre to provide young people with an insight into the skills required to get into jobs within the industry.

The Swadlincote Scarecrow Hunt led by Swadlincote & District Chamber of Trade took place in August. The event aims to attract visitors to the town and encourage them to explore all parts of the town centre in completing their search. Some 40 retailers and other businesses took part.

- **Support the formation and development of local enterprises.**

The South Derbyshire Business Advice Service has continued to grow, particularly in terms of assisting established businesses to secure grant funding and supporting the establishment of new businesses, with the aid of partner referrals.

APPENDIX 1

The Service staged a “Thinking of Starting a Business?” workshop in July targeting pre-starts and those that had recently become self-employed. There were twenty-one participants, attracted through local promotion and referrals from agencies such as Swadlincote Jobcentre.

- **Promote South Derbyshire as a place to visit and invest.**

The National Forest Walking Festival was staged from 17-29 May and attracted some 1,100 visitors to take part in 71 walks staged with the support of around 25 partner organisations. The event marked the launch of The National Forest Way and attracted funding from the National Forest Company, Leicestershire County Council and South Derbyshire District Council.

Health and Wellbeing Group

- **Junior parkrun.**

Locality funding of £3,000 has been invested to initiate weekly junior parkrun sessions at Maurice Lea Park. Working in partnership with parkrun UK, the sessions provide a free weekly run for young people aged 4 – 14. There is a particular emphasis on encouraging vulnerable families to take part.

A full cohort of trained volunteers has been recruited and are supporting the weekly event to develop sustainably.

The first run attracted 112 runners. Since then it averages 75 runners per week. In total 213 different participants have taken part so far. Work continues.

For more information, contact Vicky Smyth, Health Partnership Manager, vicky.smyth@south-derbys.gov.uk;

- **Moneyspider Credit Union.**

Locality funding of £10,000 has been invested in the Moneyspider Credit Union to build capacity in South Derbyshire.

A dedicated project manager has been recruited to support the volunteer management team to move towards achieving sustainability and grow the Credit Union to meet demands of the population in these challenging times.

The manager is currently meeting with partners to kick start work. Promotional material are being produced and distributed to inform the community about saving opportunities and crisis loans that offer an affordable alternative to high cost loans. Various mechanisms are being put in place to support marketing and promotion (PR, social media, adverts, and flyers).

APPENDIX 1

A new collection point has been established at Swadlincote Library. One new volunteer recruited so far.

For more information contact Helen Frudd, Development Manager,
h.frudd@moneyspidercu.org.uk;

- **vSPA.**

£12,000 of South Derbyshire locality funding has been invested to support initiation of the new Voluntary Sector Single Point of Access (vSPA) service. Southern Derbyshire CCG also financially supports the new service.

The vSPA will provide a clear and easily accessible referral pathway from Health and Social Care to Voluntary and Community Services in order to support older and vulnerable people, and people with long term conditions, to maintain their independence within their own communities.

Pam Wood (SDCVS) has been seconded into the manager's role and 3 vSPA Liaison Workers are currently being recruited.

So far a total of 9 referrals have been supported. Referral requests covered social activities, support for housing tasks/shopping, transport, handy van services, befriending, support for hospital discharge, arranging residential care. A wide range of promotional material are currently being developed. Official launch was on the 1st October with a wide range of partners attending.

For more information contact Pam Wood, vSPA Manager, pamw@sdcvcs.org;