

Community Engagement and Development: Action Plan 2024 - 2027

Objectives:

- 1 Building Capacity
- 2 Addressing Needs
- 3 Mutual Support
- 4 Strengthening Cohesion

Status:

- Not yet started
- Active
- Active yet paused
- Complete

	S P	Objective	Action	Responsibility	Partner/s	Target	Timeline	Success Means	Status
1	4	1 3	Deliver a series of funding workshops and an annual funding fair across the district, in support of voluntary and community sector groups and organisations	Community Grants and Funding Officer	LCVS Economic Development The National Lottery	5 funding workshops per year 1 funding fair in partnership with LCVS per year	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessible, well attended events that provide useful information to attendees. Follow-up assistance sought by groups	■ STATUS: Active
2	14	1 2	Provide support for groups to develop governance structures, create project plans, identify and source funding and build in resilience and sustainability	Community Grants and Funding Officer	LCVS	Support our community and voluntary groups	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resilient groups that have the capacity and capability to sustain themselves into the future	■ STATUS: Active
3	2	3 4	Develop and submit funding bids to SKSPF and to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the purpose of developing an Airborne heritage trail	Armed Forces Officer		Build on the findings of the Arnhem/Airborne Trail Feasibility Study to develop funding bids to UKSPG and Heritage Lottery Fund	Oct 2023 January 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funding sourced to deliver the trail	■ STATUS: Complete

4	2	<p>3</p> <p>4</p>	Establish a visitor and military heritage trail to highlight the District's role in both D Day and Operation Market Garden (Arnhem).	Armed Forces Officer	Aviation Heritage Lincolnshire 1944 Arnhem Fellowship	Establish trail to include information points, website, arts projects, guided walks etc and develop network of local businesses in support of the trail through direct connection to boost tourism offer	July 2024 onward	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Launch of the Trail with partner buy in from local business, tourism, military, and former military sites reflecting heritage	 STATUS: Active
5		<p>3</p> <p>4</p>	Work in collaboration with other service areas to support works of art and culture in public spaces across the district	Community Engagement Manager Armed Forces Officer	Grantham Arts Economic Development PWOG	1 Poppy Cascade 4 Silhouettes to depict AF and civilian personnel 1 Poppy and Pebble installation Community Orchards/Woods	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delivery, in collaboration with other service areas of artwork and installations in public spaces	 STATUS: Active
6		<p>2</p> <p>3</p>	Continue to ensure the Council's compliance with the Armed Forces Act and its associated duties	Armed Forces Officer	Housing	Monitor latest guidance and best practice and share information with relevant service areas	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Well-informed officers and elected Members who understand what is necessary to comply with the Act	 STATUS: Active
7	14	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p>	Signpost to organisations such as Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service (LCVS) to engage groups in workshops provided to get groups 'fit for funding'	Community Engagement Team	LCVS	Sign local groups up to Fit for Funding workshops run by LCVS	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A network of groups across the district that have the knowledge and tools required to ensure their eligibility for funding from local, regional and national funders	 STATUS: Active

8	14	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p>	Develop and deliver a series of networking forums to bring together voluntary and community groups. To encourage groups to work together, sharing ideas and volunteering opportunities	Community Engagement Team	Community groups across the district	Run two online forums during the year to bring groups together to share ideas and explore joint opportunities	Spring 2025 onwards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased opportunities for collaboration on projects to support the communities of South Kesteven	 STATUS: Active
9		<p>2</p> <p>3</p>	Develop an effective working relationship with the Lincolnshire Armed Forces Community Covenant Officer to explore opportunities for collaboration	Armed Forces Officer	Lincolnshire Armed Forces Community Covenant Officer	Work in collaboration to spread good practice and information across the Armed Forces Networks of Lincolnshire	April 2024 onward	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased support for the Armed Forces community – serving, veteran and their families	 STATUS: Active
10		<p>2</p> <p>3</p>	Develop an effective working relationship with the Lincolnshire County Council Armed Forces Champion	Armed Forces Champion	Lincolnshire County Council	Build an effective partnership arrangement across the County	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased support for the Armed Forces community – serving, veteran and their families	 STATUS: Active
11	6	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p>	Explore opportunities to promote the employment of former military personnel through promotion of a new employers guide from the Office of Veteran Affairs	Armed Forces Officer	Economic Development HR	Promote the advantages of employing veterans internally and externally through business networks	January 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employers better aware of ex-military skills and how to recruit	 STATUS: Complete
12	14	<p>1</p>	Work closely with Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service to promote volunteering opportunities within SKDC and with voluntary and community groups through our various communications	Community Engagement Team	Comms	Advertise volunteer opportunities every quarter through a newsletter to groups and via the SKDC website	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased numbers of volunteers and volunteering opportunities within the district	 STATUS: Active

13	1	4	Promote and celebrate Armed Forces Week	Armed Forces Officer	Comms	Develop a week-long programme of defence-related PR and events to contribute to advocacy requirements to publicly support the defence community	Annually from June 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greater awareness of the contribution of Armed Forces	 STATUS: Complete
14	21	4	Work with other agencies to develop and deliver a series of workshops to raise awareness of Prevent	Community Engagement Manager	EveryOne	Deliver a series of 4 workshops across the district	From Sept 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improved awareness within communities of Prevent and an understanding of how to report issues	 STATUS: Active
15		2	Continue to deliver the Council in the Community Initiative to engage with residents face-to-face	Community Engagement Team	Appropriate service areas across SKDC	Deliver events throughout the year that are responsive to identified local need	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct engagement with residents to address identified concerns and resolve issues	 STATUS: Active
16	14	1 3	Initiate a series of workshops with Parish clusters to improve engagement starting with a Parish and Town Council Conference which will become an annual event	Community Engagement Team	Appropriate service areas across SKDC Lincolnshire Resilience Forum Parish/Town Councils	Deliver 4 events in Parish Cluster areas and one conference themed through learning at cluster event	Spring 2025 onwards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased engagement with Parish and Town Councils	 STATUS: Active
17	10	2 4	Work with colleagues in other service areas to promote opportunities for equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI).	Community Engagement Manager	SKDC Service Areas EDI Working Group	Develop a cross-service action plan to deliver against the Council's equality objectives	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased opportunities to embed EDI across the Council	 STATUS: Active

18		1	Encourage staff within food businesses to sign up as Army catering Reserves for training/upskilling	Armed Forces Officer	Prince William of Gloucester (PWoG) barracks 167 Catering Support Regiment and Army Reserve Catering School Environmental Health	Take advantage of the central Army catering school based at PWoG to offer training opportunities	January 2025 onwards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase in reservist sign-up with a focus on catering	 STATUS: Active
19		2	Explore opportunities to become an age-friendly district.	Community Grants and Funding Officer Communities Officer	Centre for Aging Better Leisure Services Local groups Businesses Older residents	Identify and help make changes in outdoor spaces, volunteering and employment, leisure and community services to support inclusivity of older people	October 2024 onwards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A district where people can stay living in their homes, participate in the activities they value, and contribute to their communities, for as long as possible	 STATUS: Active
20	14 17	1 2	Participate in community networks across the county and district to improve reach and understanding of provisions in place and support needed	Community Engagement Team	Voluntary, faith and community groups Charities Health partners	Inclusion in existing networks and creation of further opportunities if need is identified	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effective interaction with community and voluntary sector	 STATUS: Active
21	17	2	Support community initiatives that seek to overcome social isolation	Community Engagement Team	Voluntary, faith and community groups Health partners	Attend, support and fund groups delivering against this type of initiative	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Groups that are sustainable and can offer support for the future	 STATUS: Active

22	14	4	Continue to enable those of other cultures and languages to participate in the community through connections with existing groups and support the development of new groups	Community Engagement Team	Voluntary, faith and community groups	Promote existing groups and help build capacity to develop further and instigate new opportunities for improved participation	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improved awareness of opportunities to participate in community initiatives through existing networks of groups	 STATUS: Active
23	17	2 3	Continue to actively participate in Mental Health Wellbeing groups across the district	Community Engagement Manager	Charities Groups Health partners	Attend and participate in meetings and initiatives promoted and delivered by the community sector whilst seeking to collaborate as appropriate	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meaningful engagement with mental health and wellbeing professionals and volunteers	 STATUS: Active
24	20	1 2 3 4	Assess impact on people and communities of the events and projects funded via support from SKDC	Community Grants and Funding Officer		Develop and implement an assessment method to gain feedback on SKDC funded projects	September 2024 onwards Activity will become ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A funding system that offers value for money and provides groups with the means to make significant impact within their own communities	 STATUS: Active
25	20	2 3	Continue to support the voluntary and community sector providing food/essentials in times of financial hardship to those in need through ring-fenced funding	Community Engagement Team	Foodbanks and other food support agencies and groups	Offer financial support annually to groups supporting residents with food and essential supplies at times of personal financial crisis	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food agencies able to continue to support people in need	 STATUS: Active

26	14	<p>1</p> <p>3</p>	Signpost groups to LCVS to provide 'health checks' and assurance relating to the voluntary and community sector	Community Engagement Team	LCVS	Work with newly-formed groups to ensure effective governance is in place by referring them to LCVS for a 'health check'	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Groups that have appropriate structures, policies and terms of reference to ensure sustainability and eligibility for funding	 STATUS: Active
27	19	<p>1</p>	Continue to build the database of voluntary and community sector groups operational within the district	Community Engagement Team		Creation of an eco-system of the groups and the types of support available within the community	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An effective overview of the VCS operating within South Kesteven and a greater understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the provision	 STATUS: Active
28		<p>2</p> <p>3</p>	Work in collaboration with Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF) and SK Emergency Planning to ensure community engagement during emergency situations within the district	Community Engagement Manager	<p>LRF</p> <p>SK Emergency Planning</p>	<p>Build on the success of the SK Community Hub to ensure groups can be 'stood up' if and when required.</p> <p>Responsive to need</p>	As required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ability to respond effectively in an emergency situation where support from communities is required	 STATUS: Active
29		<p>1</p> <p>3</p>	Continue to support other service areas across the Council with funding bids to enable project development and delivery	<p>Community Engagement Manager</p> <p>Community Grants and Funding Officer</p>	Other service areas	Responsive to need	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Successful bids to external funders	 STATUS: Active

30	14	   	Continue to promote funding and fund-raising opportunities offered by the Council to the voluntary, community and charity sectors	Communities Officer	Comms	Proactively publicise the funding offer available through the SK Community Fund and the fund-raising offer provided by LotterySK	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased eligible applications to the SK Community Fund and LotterySK	 STATUS: Active
31	1	 	Commemorate Remembrance	Armed Forces Officer	International military associations Education establishments	Engage international partners in commemoration activities to mark the 80th anniversaries of D Day and Arnhem	Annually	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Series of events and educational workshops delivered to raise awareness of shared heritage	 STATUS: Complete

“In most instances, the demographics of each community are [also] different. It follows that those living in each local community are in the best position to address local challenges. It also follows that the District Council’s Elected Members are key to providing insight into local challenges and aspirations. Their front-line knowledge and involvement are vital to the development of community”.

Source: Place-Based Community Development - Our People, Our Place – A Community Engagement and Development Strategy for South Kesteven