

# 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






| Objective | Action  | Responsibility                       | Partner/s  | Target  | Timeline                                | Success Means  | Status   |
|-----------|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|
| ①<br>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<br>Economic Development<br>The National Lottery | 5 funding workshops per year<br><br>1 funding fair in partnership with LCVS per year  | 6/7/23<br>21/9/23<br>18/1/24<br>21/3/24 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessible, well attended events that provide useful information to attendees. Follow-up assistance sought by groups | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Complete |
| ①<br>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                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active   |
| ③<br>④    | Develop and submit funding bids to SKSPF and to the Heritage Lottery 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<br><br>January 2024            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funding sourced to deliver the trail   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Complete |






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| <div>3</div> <div>4</div>              | 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<br><br>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<br><br>(subject to funding)              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Launch of the Trail with partner buy in from local business, tourism, military, and former military sites reflecting heritage  | <div></div> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active |
| <div>3</div> <div>4</div>              | Work in collaboration with other service areas to support works of art and culture in public spaces across the district                                      | Community Engagement Manager<br><br>Armed Forces Officer | Grantham Arts<br><br>Economic Development<br><br>PWOOG       | 1 Poppy Cascade<br>4 Silhouettes to depict AF and civilian personnel<br><br>1 Poppy and Pebble installation<br><br>Community Orchards/Woods  | November 2023<br><br>November 2024<br><br>Throughout 2024 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delivery, in collaboration with other service areas of artwork and installations in public spaces  | <div></div> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active |
| <div>2</div> <div>3</div>              | 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   | <div></div> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active |
| <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> | 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 | <div></div> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active |

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| <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  | Autumn 2024 onwards                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased opportunities for collaboration on projects to support the communities of South Kesteven | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Not yet started   |
| <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             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active |
| <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             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active |
| <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<br>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                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Not yet started   |
| <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        | December 2023 onwards<br>Activity will become ongoing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased numbers of volunteers and volunteering opportunities within the district                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active |

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| 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 | 24-29 June 2024               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greater awareness of the contribution of Armed Forces   |  <b>STATUS:</b><br>Complete |
| 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 |  <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active   |
| 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   | 17/8/23<br>8/12/23<br>14/8/24 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct engagement with residents to address identified concerns and resolve issues            |  <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active   |
| 1<br>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<br><br>Lincolnshire Resilience Forum<br><br>Parish/Town Councils | Deliver 4 events in Parish Cluster areas and one conference themed through learning at cluster event  | Autumn 2024 onwards           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased engagement with Parish and Town Councils  |  <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active   |
| 2<br>4 | Work with colleagues in other service areas to promote opportunities for equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI).  | Community Engagement Manager | SKDC Service Areas<br><br>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                                       |  <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active |

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| 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<br>167 Catering Support Regiment and Army Reserve Catering School<br><br>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   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Not yet started   |
| 1      | Encourage SKDC officers and elected Members to sign up as Army Reserves for training  | Armed Forces Officer<br><br>Armed Forces Champion               | PWoG Barracks Army reserve units   | Take advantage of training available in the range of command and control, contract management, labour support, catering and logistic support jobs available | January 2025 onwards | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase reservist sign up across a range of military disciplines with consequent individual, collective and organisational benefits to SKDC                   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Not yet started   |
| 2      | Continue to explore opportunities to become an age-friendly district in collaboration with Community Lincs                                    | Community Grants and Funding Officer<br><br>Communities Officer | Community Lincs<br><br>Other service areas<br><br>Local groups<br><br>Businesses<br><br>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 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Not yet started   |
| 1<br>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<br><br>Charities<br><br>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  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active |

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| 2                | Support community initiatives that seek to overcome social isolation  | Community Engagement Team            | Voluntary, faith and community groups<br>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  |  <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active   |
| 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                         |  <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active   |
| 2<br>3           | Continue to actively participate in Mental Health Wellbeing groups across the district  | Community Engagement Manager         | Charities<br>Groups<br>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   |  <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active   |
| 1<br>2<br>3<br>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<br>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 |  <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active   |
| 2<br>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  |  <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active |

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| 1<br>3 | 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      | ☑ Groups that have appropriate structures, policies and terms of reference to ensure sustainability and eligibility for funding                 |  <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active   |
| 1      | 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      | ☑ An effective overview of the VCS operating within South Kesteven and a greater understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the provision |  <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active   |
| 2<br>3 | 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   | LRF<br><br>SK Emergency Planning                           | Build on the success of the SK Community Hub to ensure groups can be 'stood up' if and when required.<br><br>Responsive to need | As required  | ☑ Ability to respond effectively in an emergency situation where support from communities is required   |  <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active   |
| 2<br>4 | Re-introduce Migrant Community Network  | Community Engagement Team  | Agencies and groups working to support migrant communities | Develop four meetings per year  | January 2024 | ☑ Improved understanding of the needs of under-reached groups within the district   |  <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active |
| 1<br>3 | Continue to support other service areas across the Council with funding bids to enable project development and delivery   | Community Engagement Manager<br><br>Community Grants and Funding Officer | Other service areas  | Responsive to need  | Ongoing      | ☑ Successful bids to external funders   |  <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active |

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| <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> <div>4</div> | 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                     | <div></div> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active |
| <div>3</div> <div>4</div>                           | Commemorate Remembrance 2024  | Armed Forces Officer | International military associations<br><br>Education establishments | Engage international partners in commemoration activities to mark the 80th anniversaries of D Day and Arnhem                     | June 2024<br><br>September 2024<br><br>November 2024 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Series of events and educational workshops delivered to raise awareness of shared heritage | <div></div> <b>STATUS:</b><br>Active |

*“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 is vital to the development of community”.*

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