

## PROFILE REVIEW – INITIAL INDICATORS

### Consultation update

Number of interactions: 135

- Surveys completed: 91 (not including the 28 paper surveys from young people that are awaiting entry)
- Discussions with retailers/business owners: 13 (including market stall holders and shop owners)
- Focus groups: 12 people (across 4 focus groups)
- One-to-one interviews: 6 (including visits to Work Club and Chatterbox Cafe)
- Older residents: 13 (coffee morning at Handyside Court)

Local residents will also be consulted at the Christmas Lunch at Chatterbox Café on 12 December and at the Santa Christmas event on 15 December (which will include Make a Wish cards).

The statistics, surveys results, and comments and feedback from the focus groups and one-to-one discussions will be analysed and reported to the ABL partnership in full in January 2019.

### Initial indicators for consideration

Early indicators are that there are some recurring comments and ideas emerging from the discussions, focus groups, interviews and resident feedback. These are summarised below:

- ✓ Overall, respondents have endorsed the three existing priorities and support the activities delivered so far, agreeing that they are still relevant, successfully address the priorities, and are having an impact. People who have engaged directly in the activities say that being involved has made a positive difference and they are satisfied with what has been delivered.
- ✓ The online survey includes the question: ***What do YOU think Allenton Big Local's priorities for action should be?*** In the survey, respondents are asked to select three choices from eight options. To date, the top four options selected are:
  - **Reducing Crime and Improving Safety** (53.4% of respondents selected this option);

- **Support and Activities for Children and Families** (51.7% of respondents selected this option);
- **Support and Activities for Young People** (50% of respondents selected this option);
- **Better Community Facilities and Events** (43.1% of respondents selected this option).

The above selections tie in with Priority 1: Strengthening Community and Priority 2: Improving Life Skills. To date, **27.6%** of respondents chose the **Help with Employment and Jobs** option (which links to Priority 3: Creating Opportunities for Training and Employment).

- When given an opportunity to leave comments on the online survey, many respondents have cited 'More **activities for young people**' as a need. These comments were also supported by the feedback from the focus groups and one-to-one interviews. Allenton Big Local is already responding to this need through the Youth Clubs, Youth Mentoring and Street Dance, but feedback shows that there is a **need for activities for younger children in the 5 to 10 category**. The partnership should begin to consider how this gap could be addressed. Suggestions and ideas from residents will be collated in the full Profile Review report.
- ✓ Feedback from the focus groups also indicated a continuing need for **parenting support** in the area. When consulting with parents who are using or who have used the support service provided by Nacro, they said it had been real life saver. One person in the focus group said: *"I wouldn't have been able to cope without the parenting support service. I would have got lower than I was and I wouldn't like to think what would have happened. Thanks to the service provided by Nacro, I'm in a better place and moving forward. I'm enjoying being a parent now."*
- One area of family/children's support that is not covered in the existing plan, but which has been highlighted during the Profile Review research as being a need is the provision of a **support group for parents with children with additional needs**. One mother said: *"I'd like to see a group for people with special needs because there is nothing locally. I've got two special needs children and obviously they go to other things but they don't always feel accepted because everybody else is different. So, I'd like to see something local where I could take my children and they felt accepted and they felt like they belonged there. A place where there is no judgment of 'you're different' and 'you do this and we do it this way'. That is a very big thing. There is nothing in the local area for special needs children."* This issue was identified in more than one of the focus groups and was also discussed in some of the one-to-one interviews with local parents. The partnership may want to consider whether they

want to support an initiative of this kind as part of Priority 2: Improving Life Skills and, if so, how this could be achieved the next ABL Plan.

- When asked what they like best about the Allenton area, 48.4% of respondents to the online survey have selected **The Local Shops and Other Facilities**. This suggests that, overall, people like shopping in Allenton and the local shops and facilities do draw people to the area. However, there have also been numerous comments and suggestions about improving the local shopping area. These include better parking, sorting the area around The Mitre, and improving Allenton Market. Several comments also express a desire from local people for a better variety of shops. Whilst these may not be things that Allenton Big Local can influence, the ABL partnership may want to consider the potential to **develop closer links with local traders**. What are the opportunities for supporting local traders? Would initiatives such as events or performances on the high street help to strengthen the community, and attract shoppers to the area – thus boosting the local economy?
- When asked to reflect on the changes within the community over the last five years, many respondents have said that they felt things had improved overall. In particular, people said that they felt there were fewer gangs of young people hanging around on the streets. However, **anti-social behaviour, safety and crime** are still a concern for many local people. The current Allenton Big Local Delivery Plan states that: *“The local police already work with local people on Crime Reduction initiatives and the Partnership group do not want to replace activities that should be provided by the police or other agencies. The emphasis will instead be on 'Increasing Participation' and 'Increasing Happiness'. The outcome of these two activities may be a reduction in crime, on the basis that if local people feel more pride for their area they are more likely to want to protect it. As they develop the next ABL Plan, the partnership may wish to review the annual satisfaction survey results to assess how effectively this approach is influencing the local situation.*
- ✓ At the request of Derby Adult Learning, the focus groups have explored whether there would be any demand for the delivery of creative/arts activities in Allenton next summer. Reactions to this idea have been positive, with the majority suggesting the activities should be delivered as weekly sessions during the six-week school holiday. Most people liked the idea of sessions that are open to parents and children to encourage shared learning and parent/child interaction, as well as alleviating school holiday boredom.

### **Balancing the activities in the next Plan and beyond**

During the Profile Review research, there have been positive comments about all of the activities delivered so far.

- ✓ People have said how much they enjoy the annual Christmas event.
- ✓ They are enjoying using the refurbished facilities at St Martin's, which Allenton Big Local has helped to support.
- ✓ Young people enjoy going to the youth club and weekly street dance classes.
- ✓ Families who have received parenting support have praised the quality of the service provided and reiterated how important the support has been for them.
- ✓ Older residents enjoy attending the regular coffee mornings and trips funded by Allenton Big Local.
- ✓ Work Club members have gained help, confidence and positive outcomes from the service delivered at Allen Park by Derby Adult Learning.

Inevitably, whilst local residents seem very happy with the activities that have been delivered to date, they would also like to see more. The main activity gaps identified have been highlighted in this interim report. It will be up to the ABL partnership to consider how to respond to these emerging needs as they formulate the next plan.

The Allenton Big Local project is reaching the half way point. By the end of year 5, an anticipated £600k+ of the original £1m is likely to have been spent. In developing the next Plan and allocating the budget for the next few years, the ABL partnership will be required to balance existing activities alongside possible new activities – all from a funding pot that is getting smaller as each year of the project is completed.

One of the other factors for consideration may be about whether any of the current activities could become self-sustaining beyond the life of the Allenton Big Local project. Whilst there are still five years remaining of the ten-year project, it is never too early to explore ideas for making activities and events sustainable in the longer term.

A full analysis of the Profile Review research and feedback will be included in the full report, which will be provided to the Allenton Big Local partnership in early January 2019.

7 December 2018