

# COMMUNITY CONNECT- RYEDALE APPROACH TO COMMUNITY EFFORTS AND ADDRESSING ISOLATION

## SWOT ANALYSIS

Ryedale have worked hard to ensure we have had a collective response to supporting our most vulnerable citizens. At the last Community Connect meeting we discussed the next steps and preparing for community recovery. To build on the work we have done so far and to ensure our recovery is correct and coordinated, I would be grateful if you could please complete the SWOT analysis below and return to [communityconnect@Ryedale.gov.uk](mailto:communityconnect@Ryedale.gov.uk) by 9am on Friday 29 May 2020. Once we have received all the responses we will collate all the information to inform future discussions.

### Considerations:

You might want to consider some of the following points when completing the SWOT (although there are likely to be lots of others):

- Approach to community efforts and addressing social isolation
- Working together – what have we learned over the last few months
- Impact of recovery within your own organisations
- Suggested recovery themes:
  - Community Resilience
  - Shielding and Vulnerability
  - Safety and Community Tensions
  - Hardship and inclusion
  - Health and wellbeing

Name:	Town Councillors
Organisation	Kirkbymoorside Town Council

<b><u>STRENGTHS</u></b>	<b><u>WEAKNESSES</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The beginnings of a collective approach to supporting vulnerable people in communities</li> <li>• Strength in numbers of local residents willing to volunteer to offer support to neighbours, family and friends</li> <li>• People prepared to organise and be part of a volunteer network whether it be part a local support group to extend the offer of help to others within the area, not just in their locality</li> <li>• Local businesses adjusting their service provision to support individuals who are self-isolating by offering free home deliveries etc.</li> <li>• Availability of The Moorside Room</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External factors- shielding calls and who remains on list and how long</li> <li>• Organisations/agencies appear not to have been included in the weekly community connect call, e.g. the doctors surgery and local schools, who would be able to provide valid insight into the support available and the areas that require additional support.</li> <li>• Communication with the elderly and vulnerable is demonstrably less effective in a predominantly internet reliant age. i.e. there is a significant amount of information published on the internet and circulated via social media which is not available to those without internet or computer</li> </ul>

at 9 Church Street, Kirkbymoorside for use by local groups, charities and agencies.

- The approach by the Ryedale Federation to make adjustments to the regular arrangements for children eligible for a free school meal as detailed below \*

skills.

- Closure of the library has identified this as a vital resource locally and deprived many people of access to a computer, the internet and social interaction
- Inadequate access to services including internet and information predominantly being made available online
- Absence of a Foodbank in Kirkbymoorside – though plans were in progress to set up a local base prior to the CV-19 outbreak. This situation has demonstrated the need for this vital service.
- The absence of RDC services in Kirkbymoorside means that those without a phone or internet and their own means of transport are more vulnerable as they are unable to access support and services.
- Not all the groups and organisations are connected so the network of support available and access to information is not complete. All involved groups and agencies need to share information and work together.
- Difficulty in reaching people to give them information about available support
- Perception of some people that by asking for help they are losing independence.
- Apart from the local volunteers who have set up the CV-19 volunteer support group it is not known what other support there is locally.
- Public Health and smaller parishes have not been included in the community connect call
- Impact on mental health of the current crisis

<u>OPPORTUNITIES</u>	<u>THREATS</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building on existing good practice and the collective approach to supporting vulnerable people in communities e.g. the local volunteer network</li> <li>• Identify all community support networks and assess any support needed</li> <li>• Build on informal community support by neighbours and friends to help to identify those who need support</li> <li>• Identify vulnerable individuals and implement safe guarding measures to check on them as a priority in a Future similar situation.</li> <li>• Develop and implement a process whereby the welfare of individuals can be monitored in person i.e. having identified those who are unable to communicate via email and telephone and establish a network of contacts, neighbours &amp; family who can offer support.</li> <li>• Identify the measures that will need to be continued post cv-19 and put steps in place to ensure their continuity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those individuals identified as in need of support will continue to need this support for some time after the CV-19 situation. It is important that plans are in place to ensure that this need is met.</li> <li>• Smaller parishes will become more insular and reliant on their own community support rather than being part of a district wide concern.</li> </ul>

\* Measures in place by Ryedale Federation as referred above

The Ryedale Federation has made the following arrangements for all four schools in the federation, for children eligible for a free school meal (excluding universal infant free school meals):

- whilst we were waiting for a voucher scheme to be established, we made payments direct into parents bank account to cover the 4 week period 23rd March - 17th April, which included the Easter holidays. We gave parents £3 a day for each eligible child
- The national voucher scheme does not include the co-op and for many of our parents the co-op is the only local supermarket available to them. We therefore took the decision to purchase co-op gift cards rather than use the national voucher scheme. These cards are topped up every 1-2 weeks with the equivalent of £3 a day per eligible child.
- With effect from week commencing 1st June, meals will be provided for children attending school. For children eligible to free school meals who do not attend school, we will continue to top-up the co-op gift cards

### Other suggestions/ things to consider

We tend to automatically think of older people but all ages can be impacted. How can they be identified by the appropriate agencies?

The situation has demonstrated the ambiguity of characterising individuals as vulnerable and highlighted that many local residents had not been receiving the care or help that they needed prior to the coronavirus situation.

Some members of the community have been identified as vulnerable, as a result of the situation. i.e. volunteer groups have been required to offer support to individuals for issues that should have been identified prior to the coronavirus situation. E.g. A resident requiring correspondence to be read to them due to their poor eyesight, which resulted in a missed hospital appointment. This sort of vulnerability is not the result of the coronavirus situation but the situation and the assistance of local volunteers has meant that this issue had been identified.

Many people will become vulnerable as a result of the situation, be it physically, mentally or financially, and will continue to need support for some time. It is important that ongoing support is available to ensure that these individuals have helped through to recovery as far as possible.

The need for community resilience beyond the coronavirus situation is very evident.