

Falmouth and Penryn Churches Together: Community Needs Working Group Project Executive Summary - July 2016

Introduction:

This work has been initiated following discussions between FPCT and Debbie Croucher (Transformation Cornwall). FPCT were keen to identify the needs of the community before committing to undertaking a project, following a request. Those with an interest were invited to volunteer to be on the Working Group reflecting diversity across churches. The group was formed of Mary Bradley (St Mary's Church), Jane Charman (Falmouth Methodist Church), Sarah Corbett (King Charles the Martyr), Pat Fitzpatrick (St Mary's), Daniel Sherman (All Saints) and Lois Wild (Transformation Cornwall) facilitated the group.

Aims and objectives:

1. Establish what some of the social needs of people in the community of Falmouth are
2. Talk to relevant people, including local council and others to get their views
3. Pull together relevant data to help identify areas of concern/need
4. Produce some findings for the FPCT meeting in July
5. Pull together some ideas for projects/potential funders for the July meeting

Methodology:

The group undertook the project over 3 months from 19th April – 23rd July. The group was formed of 5 people representing different churches in Falmouth and facilitated by Transformation Cornwall. Initial discussions and mapping exercises of existing services in Falmouth and observed needs took place, which led on to carrying out interviews with the general public and with relevant statutory government and non-governmental organisations. Further to this, relevant agencies and organisations were emailed a simple questionnaire. In addition, the group identified existing sources of data (for example, Falmouth Methodist Regeneration Project/Cornwall Council/Neighbourhood Plan/local information and publications). Once the data collection was complete, the group drew out some key themes and carried out a thematic analysis, analysing data under the themes.

Key Findings by Theme:



Positive Attributes of Falmouth and Penryn Churches Together by Theme:



UNIQUE APPROACH (continued):

People Centred

- Enthusiastic
- Outward focus (not just looking inside our churches)
- Not prejudiced
- Diversity of ideas
- Responds to needs identified
- Not stuffy
- Laugh and have fun
- Always on the move, not static in thinking
- Outward looking
- Innovative
- Adapt to changing work
- Supportive to the vulnerable
- Concerned with 'people'

Potential funds for projects:

There are funds available from many sources for constituted groups. Suggestions of places to start are:

- Cornwall Community Foundation, smaller grants from £100-£5,000
<http://www.cornwallfoundation.com/grants>
- Awards for All £300-£10,000 www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/summary.html
- Cinnamon Network Micro Grants <http://www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/micro-grants/>
- People's Health Trust <http://www.peopleshealthtrust.org.uk/>
- Attend Transformation Cornwall's upcoming Meet the Funders Programme
<https://bookwhen.com/transformationcornwall>
- See Churches Together in Britain and Ireland's 'Faith Friendly Funders' list
<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/374>
- See Transformation Cornwall's funding links document – Included in Report Appendix

Some examples of ideas for projects to address the needs identified:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergeneration integration • Different activities on different days at an informal space / community coffee shop • Mocktail Bar • Undertake coffee morning event for further consultation • Need for afternoon classes / activities. Older people don't go out in the evening • Bingo/games/quizzes – for social purposes • Tea bar with board games available • Better advertising of youth groups that already exist • Lifts to places/events • Students to deliver IT support to older people • Cookery sessions for all ages and food together • Tea dances • Support with form filling (benefits etc) • Safe space for students • Men in sheds • Going down memory lane • Social afternoons – for old people • Dating nights for each age group • In walking distance to the people the group is aimed at • One group who socialise then help run another group • Clubs for those with a specific illness/disability • Older people mentoring younger • Activities for dads at weekends • Mentors • Weekend Community bus / phone for pick-up / door to door / Shuttle bus / Dial-a-ride / better Bus timetable / lift share • Family centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pasty making sessions - pasty bar • IT skills training • Bereavement group that is not in a church venue (non-stigmatised) • Sports teams – e.g. walking football • Café-style drop in • Utilise our buildings for coffee mornings, drop-ins, whatever is needed! • Self-help, but with a helping hand to do so • “What’s on” type newsletter of activities – free - Post cards that publicise activities • Coffee afternoons/activity sessions for vulnerable people • Bookshop – Christian bookshop / Book swap / book group • More befriending • Bread making • Charitable status • Make better information available to the public about facilities at local churches, eg level access, style of music, etc. Would help people choose where to go if they are visiting/unfamiliar with the churches. • Advertise church facilities available to hire. • Many older people receive communion at home, but would appreciate receiving it as part of a group. Would help tackle social isolation. • Should be run by ‘Churches Together’ as a FPCT initiative, not by individual churches • Drop-in centre in Kimberley Park where there is more integration between young and old • Sharing of skills- Skills don't stop when the payslip stops – understand and tap into the skills
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Contact information:

If you would like to see the full report, or have any further thoughts, please contact Falmouth and Penryn Churches Together Secretary via email info@falmouthchurchestogether.org.uk