



## Birkdale Library Proposal 2013

**Name of Organisation:** Sefton CVS

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**Registered Charity No:** 1024546

Objective of Proposal: **To Develop Birkdale Library into a Community Resource Centre**

### Background:

Sefton CVS ([www.seftoncvcs.org.uk](http://www.seftoncvcs.org.uk)) is a Voluntary, Community & Faith (VCF) Sector infrastructure organisation providing a wide range of information, advice and guidance services to VCF Sector organisations in Sefton. Sefton CVS also manages Volunteer Centre Sefton based in Southport.

This proposal has been developed by Sefton CVS, Sefton Pensioners' Advocacy Centre (SPAC) and Brighter Living Partnership. The consortium currently offer the following services from their base in Shakespeare Centre in Southport:

### Sefton CVS:

**Volunteer Centre Sefton** – Providing information, advice and guidance to new and existing volunteers, support for volunteering engaging organisations in recruitment and management, on-line database of volunteering opportunities and development of new projects such as charity shop network, uniformed groups network and foodbank volunteers programme. Currently the VC has over 6000 registered volunteers and 900 organisations/projects.

**Handy Help Scheme-** Accident Prevention Scheme to support vulnerable older people to live independently in their own homes with reduced risk of injury, supporting mobility and security. The service incorporates minor adaptations, small household repairs and support service, available to all adults living in the North of Sefton aged over 55 years of age with a disability and all residents over 60, currently the project has over 2000 people registered.

**Social Inclusion Project for Older People** – The project reduces the social & health related problems that surround social isolation and social exclusion of older people in the North of Sefton and enables them to live as independently as possible for as long as possible. The project provides 3 social clubs per week and 2 shopping services with the support of volunteers, currently the project supports over 75 people.

**Buddy-Up (13 to 16 mentoring)** A mentoring project to support young people aged 13 to 16 with Special and Additional Needs and particularly those who attend special schools. The project works with young people from mainstream schools to increase social participation, self confidence and self-esteem whilst reducing isolation and providing a pathway to local community activities and support families of the young people with the opportunity of a short break. Currently the project works with 80 young people.

**Credit Union (outreach)** – Weekly sessions to promote the financial support to its members via a broad range of innovative financial products supported by the excellent service of dedicated, well-trained staff.

### **Sefton Pensioners' Advocacy Centre (SPAC):**

**Sefton Pensioners Advocacy Service** small charity providing one to one casework advocacy and self-advocacy services to older people (aged 60+) in Sefton and surrounding areas. The charity provides help in a range of areas, from general advocacy to specialist services to support people with a variety of needs. Additional projects include: **Dementia Advocacy** - Older People with Dementia will have the support of a specialist advocate to enable access to health and social care systems and promote their choices and wishes.

**Nursing/Residential Care Advocacy** – providing an independent person to represent older people living in residential, nursing homes or sheltered accommodation or seeking to access these types of accommodation, in addition a one-to-one ongoing partnership between an advocate and the person who is not in a good position to exercise his/her rights and is at risk of being mistreated or excluded.

**Cancer Advocacy** - Promoting advocacy services for older people diagnosed with cancer and to enable older people diagnosed with cancer to receive appropriate information and support at critical times, to empower them to make informed choices, and to live in the way they choose whilst undertaking their cancer journey.

**Sefton Older Peoples' Forums** - sub-groups of the Sefton Partnership of Older Citizens. The Forums work with agencies from all sectors around developing mechanisms to facilitate consultation and participation with older people.

### **Brighter Living Partnership:**

**Fruit and Vegetable Co-operatives** – currently running across North and South Sefton. The aim of the project is to provide affordable, fresh produce to people living in areas of deprivation and/or to those with limited access to fresh fruit and vegetables. We also run co-ops in partnership with Riverside and One Vision Housing in which we visit some of their accommodation schemes to sell produce to their residents. In addition we also sell eggs and other items such as pulses. The co-ops can be accessed by any member of the public.

**Healthy Eating** – delivering cookery sessions/courses at various venues throughout the borough, teaching people basic cooking skills and providing information about eating healthily and different aspects such as cooking on a budget and healthy family meals.

**Peer Mentors** – this project involves training members of the community to be able to deliver basic health information and provide support to other community members. The project educates individuals about services available locally so they can refer suitable individuals they encounter to the relevant organisations. We have trained in excess of 100 people and have secured additional funding to train more mentors in the near future.

### **Our Vision for Birkdale Library:**

In relocating from our current premises to Birkdale Library we believe we would be able to:

- enhance the profile and reach our existing services that are currently being delivered from the sixth floor of an office block with limited parking

- maintain many of the current services based at the library
- develop additional services linked to emerging challenges such as welfare changes.

We would seek to develop a section of the building into an internet cafe that would enable the Henshaws group to continue, as well as providing community access points that could be used for job seekers, finding volunteering opportunities and benefit claims. This would also create a community meeting venue for isolated people. We would also create a dedicated training/meeting space that would support a range of community initiatives.

**Maintenance of community information:** - We will continue to provide local people access to community information through the internet and paper based resources. We will explore the provision of lifelong learning opportunities through partnerships with Colleges and VCF providers.

Sefton CVS have experience in establishing reading groups so will be able to continue to support the existing group.

Local History Groups –we will allocate space for this resource and work with U3A and the Library Service to maintain the group.

**Storytime and Rhymetime** – we have discussed with Parenting 2000 who will support the development of groups with expertise and resources.

**Outreach Services for Sefton Library Service:** We would look to work in partnership to recruit volunteers to support an at home library service for housebound people and to explore the possibility of operating a limited lending service for those who cannot get to the town centre service. We are aware that due to the potential dynamics of public access to Library services, this area of need will increase; therefore the Volunteer Centre would work with the Library Service to develop services with volunteers to address increase needs and demands.

**Fruit and Vegetable Co-ops-** possibility for the library to be used as a venue to sell fruit and vegetables to the local community at set times during the week. Fruit could also be sold to organisations and individuals attending the library.

**Peer Mentors-** the library will provide a valuable resource for the peer mentors, a space where they can invite people in for a chat in a pleasant environment. A successful bid has provided funding for more peer mentors to work with older people and those with long term conditions. The library setting will help to set up the networks and support for these peer mentors.

**Lifestyle and behavioural change-** the library will provide an environment for training and support for those people who want to make changes and to improve their health. Resources can be made available to help people to make those changes.

**Partnership working** – the library will enable us to further develop partnerships and to encourage a range of services that can be developed and delivered to the community from the library setting.

### **Modifications to the Building**

We have not yet had the chance to have a full assessment of the building but believe the works required would not require major structural adaptations – other than toilet and kitchen. All partners would be prepared to work closely with the local authority to ensure that the building will continue to provide services that support the well-being and resilience of the community.

