

Hope Church Community- Group discussion (09/04/22)

What is our community?

- Group of people around us
- Work colleagues/people we interact with daily
- Multicultural communities in the area
- Church community
- Our identity and experiences create a community
- Care home
- School communities

Who is in our community?

- Homeless
- Farming community
- Disabled people

What are people's situations in our community?

- It is important to do some research and ask the question to those in the areas around us
- Living costs/ financial struggles
- People living for the weekend to then just spend it drinking etc (escapism)
- Mental health issues/stress and anxiety
- People caring for others
- Those without support from family
- Loneliness
- People looking for a place of belonging/place to call home

What are our resources?

- The people who attend Hope Church – our stories, experiences, skill sets and connections with other resources
- The church building and the facilities we have
- Connections already with the community- Busy Bees, Impact, Meadow Bridge parents, Busy Bugs, Bounce etc.
- Financial resources
- Welcoming space
- Family friendly and a stable environment
- Connections to great resources and programmes
- Our church has a good reputation

What can we do?

Food banks

- Freezer/in church meals
- Batch cooking
- Get hygiene certificates and training
- Help with groceries for those in need
- Phone apps that help
- Get together a team
- Online forms for food support/pastoral visits
- Time slots for collection

Clothes bank

- Clothes swap
- Second-hand Uniform and school supplies
- Will also help with recycling and sustainability

Hardship fund

- Leadership is in the process of looking into a way to set up a fund that will be able to be used for those in need. It will comply to what we need to provide as a charity.
- We have financial resources for this
- It will meet specific needs

Volunteering transport support

- Transport to church for people that cannot attend due to transport
- Transport to appointments or grocery shopping etc.
- Lift sharing for clubs/church meetings
- Weekend buses near bars/clubs (moira area)
- Isolated /older people

Hear from the community

- Make all possible efforts to meet with people from the communities around us
- Go to local community meetings
- Hear the needs and see if there are ways Hope Church could help meet those needs
- Build relationships
- Door to door survey

Practical help

- Help in homes
- Gardening
- Utilising specific skill sets of people from Hope Church
- Sharing connections with good and trustworthy trades people
- Young adults' group would be a good start
- All those involved would be vetted and be able to carry out the work

Specific meeting/ meeting set ups

- Set church meeting for older people who suffer with dementia
- Facilitate those with sensory needs
- Training for those who would be involved

General awareness and training in areas

- Disabilities
- Mental health
- Autism
- Special needs
- Hearing/visually impaired

Training, courses, and resources

- Train up as many people in an area that would benefit the community
- Hold courses at the church that would help different groups of people (love for life, CAP etc)
- Be more informed and knowledgeable to the good resources that are available, so that we are equipped to help and point those in need, in the right direction.

Maze community centre

- Get connected and see what we could do in this area
- Clubs
- Run courses
- Support groups

Other ideas

- Walking groups
- Exercise classes
- Carpet bowls/ some form of light sport
- Community choir
- Community fun day/BBQ

- Chatty café (a space to chat and connect with others)
- Grief share/support groups

What stops us?

- Lack of co-ordination
- Lack of trust
- Too many things going on
- Cultural differences
- Duplication- do we need to do the same thing?
- Time constraints
- Commitment levels
- Restrictions (rules and regulations can be overwhelming)
- Ability or lack of confidence in our ability
- Insular/ just thinking about ourselves
- Dis-unity
- No motivation

Actions

Next meeting will be Saturday 7th May from 10.15-12.30

- Encourage and invite others to this discussion
- Pray for direction
- Keep sharing ideas and thoughts
- Chat to those in the community where possible and bring back feed-back