



# Culture & Wellbeing Statement

March 2012



**Culture and wellbeing** is one of the District's four priorities. This statement explains why and what the council is going to do about it this year.

## Why is culture and wellbeing a priority?

Local authorities play a major role in the health and wellbeing of people living in the District. This is because it is not just health care services (such as hospitals and GPs) that impact on an individual's health, but also the environment and setting in which they live. All services delivered by SLDC have a positive effect on people's wellbeing, including environmental health, housing provision and economic development.

South Lakeland is a very popular destination, both for UK and overseas visitors. By supporting and investing in South Lakeland's unique culture, the area will see economic benefits from increased visitor numbers across a range of businesses, including retail, accommodation, food and drink, and transport.

## What does SLDC already do?

SLDC fully supports the five ways to wellbeing as part of the decade of Health and Wellbeing. Within South Lakeland the council contributes to health, culture and wellbeing by:

- Providing green spaces – including parks, recreation grounds and play areas;
- Protecting our historic and green environment through planning and legislation;

- Tackling crime with statutory partners and voluntary groups – current priorities include domestic violence and alcohol misuse;
- Providing grant aid to local community groups;
- Providing leisure centres in the District;
- Helping the local economy to grow;
- Expanding recycling services;
- Enabling parishes to have more say in local services (through Local Area Partnerships);
- Supporting and promoting local cultural events across the district;
- Monitoring air quality and private water supplies, contaminated land and drainage related matters;
- Working to reduce homelessness, providing grants for aids and adaptations to people's houses and utilising empty properties.
- Initiatives to promote health: for instance, SLDC launched a "Healthier Menus" scheme encouraging wholesome healthy food choices for restaurants and cafés.

## What SLDC will do in 2012/13

1. The council will work with communities and groups to develop ways of using green spaces for health activities and community events.





## Culture & Wellbeing Statement (cont.)



2. Collaborate in the emerging new public health roles which will see local authorities take more responsibility for public health from the NHS. The council will contribute to the establishment of a Joint Health and Wellbeing strategy for Cumbria with the aim of improving the health of people in South Lakeland.
3. Work with partners to deliver the Air Quality Plan for Kendal.
4. Continue working to prevent homelessness and advise those at risk of homelessness about their options.
5. Adapt homes to meet the needs of occupiers with a disability.
6. Launch the national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme in South Lakeland. This will ensure local businesses provide safe food for our communities and visitors.
7. Work with the third sector (voluntary or community sector) to secure community improvements and support; for example the Handy Person Scheme and Village Agents.
8. Support the Great North Swim in Windermere.
9. Enable the passage of the Olympic Torch through South Lakeland in June and support the Cultural Olympiad through strategic arts organisations in South Lakeland.
10. Act on the Alcohol Reduction Strategy helping to reduce diet-related disease in South Lakeland.
11. Introduce dog control orders to reduce dog fouling and bring enforcement action against people who litter. The focus will be on educating the public.
12. Support Age UK's Happiness and Health events including four tea dances across the district.

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