

Report of: Head of Stronger Communities

Report to: Outer North East Community Committee
(Alwoodley, Harewood and Wetherby)

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For consideration

Outer North East Community Committee – Update Report

Purpose of report

1. To bring to members' attention an update of the work which the Communities Team is engaged in, based on priorities identified by the Community Committee. It also provides opportunities for further questioning, or to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.
2. This report provides regular updates on some of the key activities between Community Committee meetings and functions delegated to Community Committees, Community Champions roles, community engagement, partnership and locality working.

Main issues

Updates by theme

Environment & Community Safety: Councillor Matthew Robinson

3. The Environmental Sub Group met 11 March 2021. Representatives from Parks & Countryside and Housing Leeds attended to provide an update on their services. The main headlines that were discussed in the meeting were; flower beds and wild flower planting, Arium grants and litter picking. Housing Leeds gave an update as to the funding bids to be discussed at the next Housing Advisory Panel.

Children and Families: Councillor Dan Cohen

Youth Summits

4. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, officers in the Communities Team have not been able to make plans and preparations for the Youth Summits in the usual fashion this year. A discussion has taken place with Chairs at their September meeting where they were invited to discuss options for the Youth Summits for 2020/21. Chairs agreed that due to the ongoing restrictions, their preferred option was to move the summits to a remote format for the remainder of 2020/21, and that these should be scheduled to take place in the New Year (2021).
5. However, due to the current lockdown which came into force at the start of 2021 and with children and young people now home schooling, it was agreed to it has been proposed to postpone the virtual youth summits until the situation improves. In the meantime, we are consulting with young people through Facebook and by sending out the consultation to young people via schools and partners.

Health, Wellbeing & Adult Social Care: Councillor Norma Harrington

Community Volunteer Hubs

6. Both Moor Allerton Elderly Care (MAECare) and Wetherby In Support of the Elderly (WiSE) continue to offer support to those vulnerable residents in Outer North East Leeds as part of the city's ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Moor Allerton Elderly Care

7. For MaeCare the numbers of requests for help remain low compared to other hubs and to the first six months of the financial year. Although they have seen an increase in requests for help, in particular food parcels, in the last month and mainly from people classed as CEV but also experiencing some degree of financial hardship.
8. Requests for help with food/shopping and prescriptions are undertaken using a similar approach to the one taken with any service user: dealing with the short term 'crisis' whilst establishing what the barrier to access is and helping to find a solution that is sustainable in the longer term. This might be arranging for the pharmacy to deliver prescriptions or supporting someone to register as CEV so that they can then get priority access to on line shopping or telephone shopping where they can afford to, or making an onward referral to Leeds North and West Foodbank. This approach is driven in part because MaeCare do not have the volunteers to support ongoing deliveries and in part because of outcomes related to the core grant of 'choice and control' and supporting independence.
9. By far the main area of support remains telephone befriending which averages 21-26 people being supported each week.
10. MaeCare have one regular Hub volunteer who does most of the deliveries, one occasional MAECare volunteer who can support this, and 17 volunteers providing telephone support to 49 people. This is in addition to and supplements the ongoing

telephone support provided by Project Workers to their service users with more complex issues. The hub is also processing an application for a new hub volunteer who would make a welcome addition if the increase in requests for food/shopping continues.

Wetherby In Support of the Elderly

11. The hub has continued to cover the Leeds City Council portal to ensure that any referrals from the Council have been dealt with on a speedy turnaround. The work has broadly consisted of supplying food parcels, volunteers for shopping and prescriptions but, also, we have had a number of requests for well-being calls and information/signposting/advice.
12. Despite the third lockdown WiSE have not noticed a significant spike in activity which appears to have been fairly consistent since the autumn.
13. In addition, the hub has been actively engaged with their partners in the NHS to offer support to the vaccination program, predominantly from Wetherby health centre, and they have also supplied funds for provisions for volunteers taking part in Covid marshalling.
14. WiSE has continued to engage with their core demographic in terms of both online support and through activity and gift packs, that they have distributed through volunteers of five of the post.
15. WiSE have utilised their social media platforms to ensure that our regular clients, and the broader community, have access to online activities such as line dancing and vocalists who, in normal times, would form part of our activity program.
16. In the winter months WiSE ensured that isolated and vulnerable people had access to a warm meal working in conjunction with a little private business person who offered them this facility free of charge.
17. To conclude, from the hub's perspective, the work continues to be manageable and they are still in a position to carry forward any activity as deemed necessary during the pandemic to ensure people have access to services, food, prescriptions and to assist with the general health and mental well-being of the people we support.

Ward Business

18. Since the last Community Committee on 7 December 2020, ward member meetings are now taking place on a regular basis. Services attending those meetings are; Cleaner Neighbourhood Team, Parks & Countryside; Traffic and Highways Maintenance and the Anti-Social Behaviour Team.
19. On 25 February 2021, the first Town and Parish Council Forum of the year took place. The Prevent Community Engagement Officer from the Prevent Team attended to provide Far Right training. Updates were also provided by the Neighbourhood

Policing Team. The next forum meeting is being arranged to take place in the new municipal year.

Community Engagement: Social Media

20. **Appendix 1**, provides information on posts and details recent social media activity for the Outer North East Community Committee Facebook page.

Updates from Key Services

Employment and Skills

Universal Credit

21. The table below shows the revised figures for the number of people claiming Universal Credit in the Outer North East Community Committee area that were unemployed in November 2020 is 1,504. This is an increase of 130% since March 2020 and an increase of 30 on the previous month.

	Universal Credit Claimants (Not in Employment) 16-64yrs					
	March 2020		October 2020		November 2020	
	Number*	Rate**	Number*	Rate**	Number*	Rate**
Outer North East	653	1.9%	1,474	4.2%	1,504	4.3%
Alwoodley	387	2.9%	809	6.1%	823	6.2%
Harewood	95	0.9%	286	2.8%	294	2.9%
Wetherby	171	1.5%	379	3.4%	387	3.4%

*Number is the number of people claiming Universal Credit that are not in employment

**Rate shows the number of claimants not in employment as a percentage of the working age population

Employment and Skills Services

22. The table below shows the number of people being supported from the Outer North East Community Committee area:

	Accessing Services		Into Work		Improved Skills	
	2020 (Apr – Dec)	2019 (Apr – Dec)	2020 (Apr – Dec)	2019 (Apr – Dec)	2020 (Apr – Dec)	2019 (Apr – Dec)
Outer North East	267	372	70	113	148	213
Alwoodley	172	246	47	65	102	138
Harewood	58	75	18	36	27	39
Wetherby	37	51	5	12	19	36

23. Due to the ongoing impact of COVID and the temporary closure of face to face services since March 2020, the employment and skills delivery models have been adapted and are continuing through a virtual or remote offer along with email and telephone support. During April to December 2020 8,755 people have accessed the Service, 267 of whom were from Outer North East, a reduction of 28% when compared to the same period last year.

24. Across the city the service has supported 2,701 people into work, this reporting year (April – December 2020). 70 residents from the Outer North East have been supported into work, a reduction of 38% when compared to the same period last year. They were supported into work across all sectors with the largest numbers in health and care, food retail, logistics, distribution and transport. Over 258 new businesses were supported to recruit new staff and to provide support for staff facing redundancy. Recruitment continues in the health and care sector as it deals with winter pressures, and in digital roles across all sectors.

Leeds Employment Hub

25. This is a single point of contact for ESIF funded programmes and Jobshops that provides tailored and comprehensive support into employment or education to all unemployed Leeds residents. A team of Employment Advisors deliver the programme by providing one to one support for eligible residents. The Service has been successful in securing an additional £4m ESIF funding to support around 4,000 people in Leeds to improve their skills and significantly increase their prospects of moving into sustained employment. The funding is agreed from January 2021 to December 2023. This project will offer tailored preventative and remedial support to residents who are disadvantaged in the labour market. Delivery will be through the Community Hubs with Employment and Skills managing the contract with DWP

Vaccine Programme

26. The Service has been facilitating the recruitment of the Vaccinating Leeds programme on behalf of Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust, including the recruitment of Admin, Health Care Assistants and Front of House positions. The first in-take of interviews have been scheduled with roles currently ring-fenced for candidates from the Employment Hub. Interviews have been arranged for over 100 applicants, 72 of whom have passed the interview stage and are awaiting either references and or DBS/right to work checks before undergoing training with NHS.

27. Between April – December 2020 the service has supported 4,703 people across the city to improve their skills. From the Outer North East, 148 residents have completed a skills, a reduction of 30% when compared to the same period last year. Delivery of the 2020/21 programme commenced in September 2020 with 16 commissioned providers delivering online courses with an increased focus on digital skills and work focused courses. Since the start of the new academic year, September 2020, 490 courses have been advertised on the Leeds Adult Learning website.

28. New methods of Adult Learning delivery were supported to include blended learning. This has involved digital delivery through mobile phones, coupled with home learning options, remote delivery, including outdoor learning and the return to face to face learning when restrictions were lifted and delivery spaces will be reworked to ensure they are COVID secure. In addition home learning resource packs have been developed to enable a flexible approach, increasing pastoral support with a particular focus on vulnerable learners and learners who are unable to access online learning.

Leeds Apprenticeship Festival

29. Leeds Apprenticeship Festival (LAF) will take place during National Apprenticeship Week, 8 - 12 February 2021 and will be held virtually for the first time. A dedicated webpage, created by an external organisation ODI, will host the festival. Visitors will be able to watch exhibitor Apprenticeship presentations and videos, contact employers directly, book meet and greet Q&A sessions with exhibitors and receive IAG support. 77 exhibitors have confirmed their attendance. A promotional campaign to advertise and raise awareness of the event commenced 4 January 2021.

Levy Match

30. The Levy Match Leeds was launched on 5 October 2020 to boost Apprenticeship numbers. Supported by a web based platform, the service enables large levy payers to transfer up to 25% of uncommitted funds to small and medium enterprises wishing to support an Apprenticeship. The online brokerage service aims to make this as simple as possible to ensure maximum levy investment is retained and invested locally to create more Apprenticeship opportunities. To date 19 SMEs and 5 Levy Payers have accessed the website and over £100,000 has been committed so far to support Apprenticeships.

Kickstart Scheme

31. The Kickstart Scheme, part of the Government's Plan for Jobs 2020, launched in September. The Employment and Skills service is now a registered Kickstart Gateway supporting businesses to offer 6 month paid placements for young people aged 16-24 currently on UC and at risk of long-term unemployment. Since the Kickstart Gateway started at the beginning of October 2020, 247 placement opportunities have been submitted to DWP, offered by 62 employers.

Subscription Service

32. A new subscription service, "The List", was launched in November 2020 through the Leeds City Council Website. Subscribers to The List receive the service's weekly job vacancies, Apprenticeships and course information. Since December 2020 those registered to receive our emails have increased by 114% to 4,685 and 17,000 emails were delivered.

33. For further information please visit:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKLEEDS/subscriber/>

Recruitment Activities

34. The Range, opened a new store at The Springs on 3rd December 2020. Social media promotion took place on the Employment and Skills Facebook page along with matching the vacancies to Employment Hub customers and employees from Leeds Bradford airport who are at risk of redundancy. 96 face to face interviews were held and all 30 vacant positions were successfully recruited to.

35. For further information on Employment and Skills services and the support available please visit: <https://employmentskillsleeds.co.uk/>

36. For help or advice to find a job, an Apprenticeship, a course or training, please contact: esleeds@leeds.gov.uk Telephone: 0113 378 4576

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team

37. The last 12 months have proved difficult for everyone and have affected the service as it has affected others. In this time, the service have had a restructure of staff and they have had to adhere to strict Covid19 rules and regulations. Staff have been off work due to the need to shield and as a result the team have seen an impact in and around, not only in the Parish's within the wards making up the ONE, but across the city. The Senior Team Leader has confirmed that the service are now seeing better days with a full complement of staff working across the ONE wards.
38. There have seen issues with bins overflowing in the last 12 months. This is due to increased outdoor activity taking place. The team have noted more people walking in and around the area. With more people comes more waste. To ensure the bins are collected regularly, the Senior Team Leader has worked with the team to create a new bin collection route to ensure that bins across all wards are collected twice a week at a minimum. Some bins need more attention and the team are looking at how they can work this into the routes. Whilst some bins are missed at times due to unforeseen circumstances, the service will ensure to get another collection in place as soon as possible to do so.
39. The service have had some successful enforcement activity in recent weeks with multiple fines issued for reported fly tips and other environmental issues. The Enforcement Officer for the area has been hard at work liaising with members of the public and business in the local area to ensure environmental crime is not committed. When a fly tip is reported the officer visits and investigates every job.
40. Staffing levels now allow litter picking routes to be undertaken and this should now be happening in the coming weeks. The service are currently looking at how they can safely litter pick high speed roads. The service have noted an increase in reported litter at these locations and will look to get these litter picked in the coming weeks.
41. The Senior Team Leader has a list of bin locations that is currently being updated. The team are currently carrying out this audit.
42. There is a new Team Leader looking after the wards that make up the Outer North East area. He will be managing the team moving forward. The new Team Leader has a wealth of experience and will bring some great knowledge to the area.
43. One of the priorities for the new Team Leader is creating a strong working bond with the new staff. The Team Leader is working with them to build their confidence, in a time when there is a lot of information that they have to retain from day to day.

Youth Service

Ensure the Most Vulnerable Are Protected

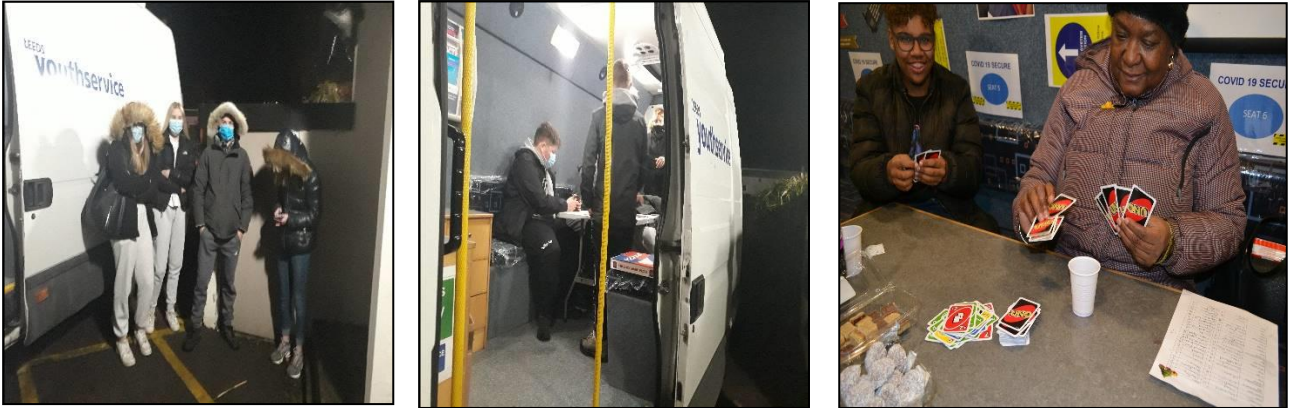
44. Over recent months the service's key aim was to ensure Young People felt supported throughout the various ongoing challenges present by lockdowns and subsequent restriction, all provisions were updated to ensure Young People across the wards felt supported and informed with respect to the latest information and guidance. The service continued to see several Young People during this time and through taking the approach of empowerment and education they were able to encourage Young People to return home and stay safe.
45. The Youth Work team recognised an increased demand for support and guidance with respect to further education. The team linked in with local partners to identify resources available and agencies who could support with the offer of future learning.



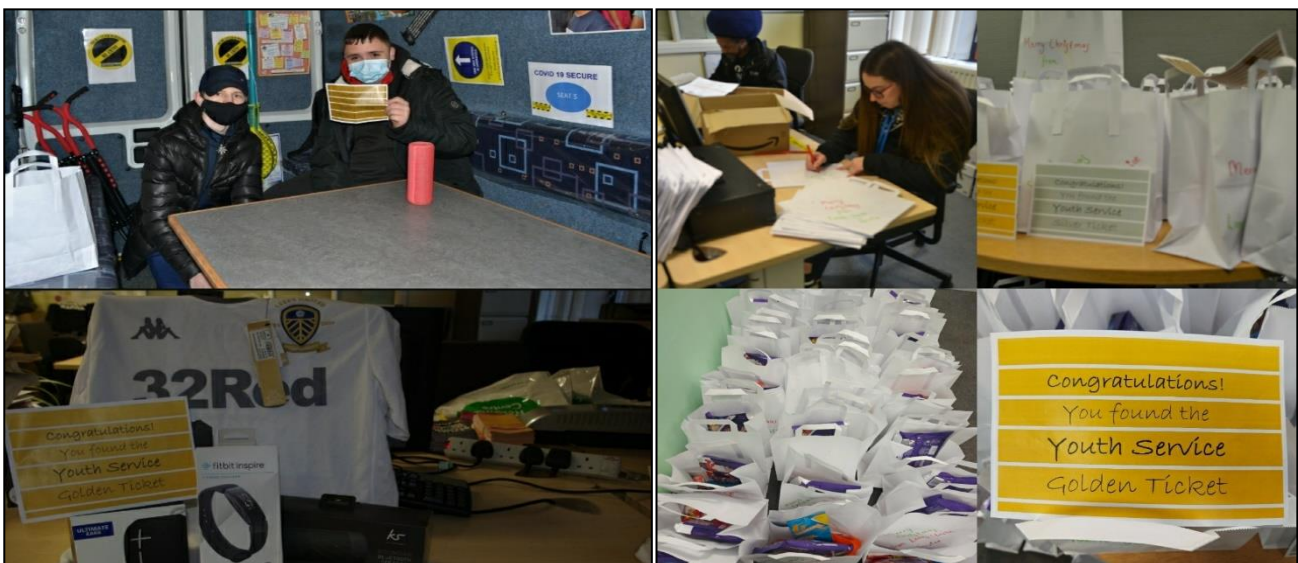
46. Planning and consultation with respect to a virtual offer commenced and the team began to deliver Youth Work provision via Zoom. This offered Young People a further opportunity to engage with members of the Youth Team regarding a range of topics and challenges. In addition to this virtual offer, the team continued to offer phone calls and welfare checks to those Young People who were either unable to engage with this provision or were identified as needing additional support.
47. The team have also put in place a weekly drop in session (via Zoom) which Young People are able to book on a weekly basis.
48. A significant amount of the detached provision delivered over the past quarter has been focused upon engaging Young People with respect to the previous, current, and ongoing impact of the pandemic. To ensure that the team adhered to all aspect of government guidance, they have continually come up with new ways of ensuring Young People are able to engage and receive support, a recent example of this would be having one Young Person (per session), have the option of joining our Youth Work team whilst on Detached.

Improving social, emotional and mental health wellbeing.

49. During recent months the team were able again to take their mobile Youth Service vans back out and open the doors to Young People in the community. Ensuring the vans were made Covid secure allowed the team to once again engage with Young People in space in which they had previously identified as safe and someone where they would speak with Youth Workers. The team covered various topics including education, wellbeing, substance misuse and sexual health. The return of the mobile vans proved a huge success across all wards.



50. Knowing the festive period was going to be a challenge for many Young People, the team developed the idea of delivery a festive support pack to many of the Young People that they worked with. The below pictures are a snapshot of the creation and delivery of over 100 festive wellbeing packs delivered across the Outer North East. Packs contained a range of supportive information and fun activities for Young People to complete over the festive period. We accepted a number of referrals from local partners to ensure packs were delivered to Young People who needed them the most. The team also placed three 'Golden Tickets' within the bags which meant three Young People received an additional festive gift.



51. When engaging with Young People in recent months there was a number of common themes with respect to what Young People missed the most during the periods of lockdown. One of these themes was the desire to return to some form of organised sporting activity. We have therefore prioritised areas in both the Inner and Outer North East to ensure this was delivered as soon as we are able to.

52. We have also created a range of outdoor activities ready to roll out once restrictions ease.



Support young people to make good choices and minimise risk-taking behaviours

53. A priority for the Youth Work Programme in recent months was to ensure Young People were educated and informed with respect to the impact of anti-social behaviour during Halloween, Mischief Night, and Bonfire Night. Whilst this was amended on Bonfire Night (Due to entering the second period of lockdown on 5 November 2000), the team consulted with Young People with respect to diversionary activities they would be keen to engage with.



54. Overwhelming a common answer was the cooking skills and world food sessions that were previously delivered during our centre based provisions. As a result the team responded by delivering a number of outdoor cooking and BBQ sessions, this provided not only a great opportunity to divert Young People from engaging in anti-

social behaviour but provided the chance to deliver a range of issue based work to encourage and empower Young People to make positive choices and stay safe.

55. Following the success of these sessions we have recently applied for further funding from the Housing Advisory Panel to enable the team to roll out these sessions on a sustained weekly basis over the coming months.
56. Further to the above the team continued to be represented at regular tasking meetings to ensure the teams are deployed in the areas most in need of support and intervention.

Public Health

Public Health Covid-19 Preventative Work Across the City

57. Leeds City Council Public Health officers, partners, volunteers, the third sector and community's team members continue to door knock and promote key messages in our poorest neighbourhoods and to our most vulnerable citizens across the city.
58. The Covid-19 Mobile Testing Unit is a free, walk in and no booking required service. These units come with third sector and volunteer door knocking and leafleting teams to advertise the MTU and how to stay safe during a pandemic.
59. Public Health would actively encourage all citizens who display symptoms to go for testing. Where to go for testing:
<https://www.leedscg.nhs.uk/health/coronavirus/coronavirus-where-to-go-for-testing/>

HANDS FACE SPACE

60. New government campaign to prevent the spread of coronavirus indoors this winter;
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-campaign-to-prevent-spread-of-coronavirus-indoors-this-winter>
61. Due to the national lockdown, it is essential citizens are helped to do the right thing and wash their hands regularly, wear an effective face covering and socially distance to help beat the coronavirus epidemic by bringing infection rates down.

Flu Vaccinations for the Coming Winter

62. Flu vaccination is important because:
- if you are at a higher risk from coronavirus, you are also more at risk of problems from flu
 - if you get flu and coronavirus at the same time, research shows you are more likely to be seriously ill
 - it will help to reduce pressure on the NHS and social care staff who may be dealing with coronavirus
63. If you have had COVID-19, it's safe to have the flu vaccine. It will be effective at helping to prevent flu. More information can be found within the link below;
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>

64. Advice on who should have the flu vaccine can be found on;
www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/who-should-have-flu-vaccine/

Leeds Anti-Social Behavioural Team

65. LASBT continues to work tirelessly to tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour across the committee area. The case officers whose patches include this committee area currently have 12 active cases across the area, however traditionally this is their quietest time of the year.
66. Cases are generally issues between residents, though this does include one cannabis farm case which led to a fire in the flat. The service have no hate crime cases and currently no emerging trends. Issues of youth nuisance have reduced in all key locations, save for one key case in Boston Spa which continues to be challenging for all concerned. Some sporadic issues in King Lane Park n Ride persist and where these do occur these are followed up by LASBT and the Police with appropriate warnings using various legislation. The most used being Section 59 Road Traffic Act which enable to vehicle to be seized if the warning is breached.
67. As the service move towards spring, the service will be hoping to be more visible in communities and prepare for the natural increase in reporting that comes with better with, more daylight hours etc.

Housing

68. Approval was given to three projects in December's panel meeting, these were;
- Village noticeboards at Boston Spa, Bardsey, Aberford, Scholes, Harewood and Thorner. The Tenant Engagement Officer is working with local Parish's to determine best locations.
 - Moortown Brownies Winter/Spring programme
 - Aberford litter pickers equipment
69. The current remaining budget is £20,746.45
70. Bids in the pipeline that the Tenant Engagement Officer is wanting to table before the end of March;
- Moss Syke planters for small fruit trees
 - Parking issues in Harewood
 - A community orchard in Moortown West
 - Durrant Close, Wetherby, parking signage (ready to table)
 - Mason House, Wetherby, security lighting and possible new door/gate
 - Hard standing for recycle bins in Lingfield, Alwoodley
 - A tablet lending scheme for ONE for resident, tenant groups and HAP panel members to make use of in virtual meetings and tackling isolation
 - Fir Tree Green, Alwoodley, traffic flow issues. Alwoodley councillors and residents requested something be done at this site in regards to difficult traffic flow, parking

on and damaging grass verges and using the green as a shortcut. Highways have visited with the Tenant Engagement Officer and have agreed to undertake some of the work out of their budget in the next financial year. This includes road widening and higher curbing. The Tenant Engagement Officer, will write a bid for planters and bollards.

- Circles of Life - Women Together have bought three proposals to the ONE HAP panel around Health & Wellbeing. The first proposal is a coffee morning with subjects based around mental health and self-care, cooking, sewing and gardening. The second proposal is to provide households in need to with a two month hygiene pack. This will support families during the pandemic, a time when they are financially insecure. The final proposal is to help community members to overcome isolation via an online and face to face (dependent on current situation), cooking club. Whilst sharing recipes across cultures whilst sharing common concerns (family, education, welfare) as they navigate their way through uncertainty and crisis.

71. Any underspend has been approved to carry over into next financial year

72. The Tenant Engagement Officer is currently assisting Community Matters Yorkshire in setting up a Wellbeing Champions project in Wetherby.

73. The Tenant Engagement Officer is working with Wetherby Councillors in assisting Boston Spa & Wetherby Villages Green Group with their plans to plant an avenue of trees at West End, a couple of community orchards at West End and Deepdale and further planting of native trees in the area.

Parks and Countryside

Wetherby

74. Deepdale trees planting orchard being progressed with the Parish Council. The playground is now complete. A new arch is due to be installed before Easter with the renaming of the site. Along with interpretation sign for the park.

75. Funding secured for the THW improvements - work agreed and it is hoped will commence after Easter 2021.

Harewood

76. Tree planting due to take place at Lower Langwith.

77. Ongoing discussions are now in progress regarding the partnership with Keswick Wildlife Trust. This is in regards to the up keep of the area.

78. Work is progressing regarding Shadwell play area improvements. Funding from Emmerdale has been secured. Veolia funding is pending final designs.

79. It is hoped that British cycling will be able to take this Easter. Discussions are taking place to host an event in Aberford with the Parish Council regarding a pump track or cycle track for Jubilee fields

Alwoodley

80. Work to improving King Lane Recreation area to make the site more child friendly/safe. This is due to be completed by the end of March this year.

81. A meeting is scheduled to look at Middlethorne POS to improve the site for park users.

82. The playground at Wigton Moor – High Ash is now complete.

Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

83. The Community Committee has, where applicable, been consulted on information detailed within the report.

Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration

84. All work that the Communities Team are involved in is assessed in relation to Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration. In addition, the Communities Team ensures that the wellbeing process for funding of projects complies with all relevant policies and legislation.

Council Polices and City Priorities

85. Projects that the Communities Team are involved in are assessed to ensure that they are in line with Council and City priorities as set out in the following documents:

1. Vision for Leeds 2011 – 30
2. Best City Plan
3. Health and Wellbeing City Priorities Plan
4. Children and Young People's Plan
5. Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
6. Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy

Resources and Value for Money

86. Aligning the distribution of community wellbeing funding to local priorities will help to ensure that the maximum benefit can be provided.

Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

87. There are no legal implications or access to information issues. This report is not subject to call in.

Risk Management

88. Risk implications and mitigation are considered on all projects and wellbeing applications. Projects are assessed to ensure that applicants are able to deliver the intended benefits.

Conclusions

89. The report provides up to date information on key areas of work for the Community Committee.

Recommendations

90. The Community Committee is asked to note the content of the report and comment as appropriate.

Background documents¹

91. None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.