

Report of: Head of Locality Partnerships

Report to: Inner North West Community Committee
(Headingley & Hyde Park, Little London & Woodhouse and
Weetwood)

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Date: 30th March 2022 **For information**

Inner North West 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.

Updates by theme

Children and Families: Champion Cllr Pryor

3. The Children & Families Sub- Group met in February to finalise the approach and timescale for the planned youth engagement workshops. The workshops will start in May following the local election and continue into June and July. All interested Schools have been contacted in addition to youth organisations in order to engage with as many young people from across the Inner North West as possible.

Environmental: Champion Cllr Garthwaite

Graffiti Project Thornvilles

An application for CiL has been made to support this project. The consultation stage with landlords and owner occupiers has begun with letters going out in order to gain agreement for the works and support for the ongoing maintenance.

Student Changeover

An initial meeting has taken place in February with the Universities to agree both the budget and the approach to student changeover for this year. A meeting has also taken place with 3 members of Leeds Property Association in order to discuss changeover issues and gain support for the project either financial or physical or both. A further meeting will take place at the end of March with the Universities to finalise and agree the approach in advance of any service or resident meetings to plan the operational arrangements.

Health and Well-Being: Champion Cllr Walshaw

March 2022

Covid-19 Update

As the country and Leeds slowly ease out of the Covid -19 pandemic much of Public Health work continues to provide the Evergreen Offer where any one can receive a free Covid-19 vaccine. Areas such as Little London, Woodhouse still contain some high numbers of unvaccinated local residents. With this in mind we have three dates planned for a pop-up vaccination clinic in the car park of Little London Community Centre, Oatland Lane, Woodhouse Lane, LS7 1HF. The offer is free, no appointment required and for 16+ years of age, offering 1st, 2nd & Booster vaccinations. The vaccine is Pfizer and there will be a nurse on hand to answer any questions.

- **Tuesday 15th March 2022**
- **Thursday 17th March 2022**
- **Friday 18th March 2022**
- **8.30am to 11.30am**

The pandemic continues to impact significantly on local wards with the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, Leeds City Council, Third Sector Organisations, Volunteers and Elected Members encouraging those who have not done so to take up the offer of a free Covid-19 vaccination.

Better Together -LCC Commissioned Outreach Service

As Leeds slowly moves out of the pandemic the council commissioned outreach service run by BARCA a local trusted charity in the West has been running a very successful walking group called **HAPPY FEET**. This extremely well received walking group allows local residents from different cultures to meet and form vital friendship groups as well as enjoying the benefits of gentle walking. The group has at times become oversubscribed but is now opened to join again. There have been many splinter groups from this one allowing local people to practice English if it is not their first language. Below is a compliment from one of the attendees.

"This group Happy Feet has literally and metaphorically been a breath of fresh air - Holly has a real knack of making everyone feel welcome - I look forward to our Tuesday walks - I have been through a lot with illness and more recently a bad car accident. The walking group has been a lifeline for my mental health and wellbeing, so much so I walk with friends later in week as well. I truly cannot give Holly enough praise - a lovely person who takes her role seriously - and more laterally encouraging others to be trainers. An important thing to mention is that when Holly was on holiday a small group of us still met up and did one of the walks and we all say Holly helped us with that confidence to keep walking!" – LC 2022

For more information please contact: Holly.patonmorris@barca-leeds.org

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team Headingley & Hyde Park + Little London & Woodhouse Wards

Top 10 Service Requests	Headingley & Hyde Park	Little London & Woodhouse	Grand Total
Flytipping(enforcement)	10	9	19
Waste in Garden	14	3	17
Abandoned Vehicle	7	2	9
Obstruction	9	2	11
Housing Defect	5	4	9
Bins on Street	306	2	308
Fly tip removal	77	39	116
Sweep Footpath	8	1	9
Graffiti	24	20	44
Litter Complaint	7	14	21
Scheduled Bulky Collection	19	12	31
Grand Total	486	108	594

PSPO Update

To Date the following have been issued for bins on streets:

226 first warnings

125 Final Warning

52 properties breached the final warning which led to 287 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) being issued. Due to some extenuating circumstances, we have cancelled some and moved back to the final warning stage, but I feel the issuing of the FPNs is having the required effect in raising compliance in the area. If compliance continues to progress at the current pace, we should be in a position to rollout PSPO enforcement in another targeted area very soon. The main issue faced in the Headingleys & Estcourts is missed refuse collections and the current parking situation in the area is a massive attributing factor to this.

Enforcement & Education

Staffing changes are still impacting on the performance of the team. The current enforcement team continue to prioritise matters of public health and have built up good relationships with members of the community to resolve issues efficiently. The street wardens are also providing education in areas where we are seeing unofficial waste collection points to educate residents on the proper procedure to have waste collected.

Street Cleansing

The way the cleansing team work has recently been reviewed and restructured in the area in order to ensure streets stay cleaner for longer. The main change was programming the team to visit areas the day after the scheduled bin collection to carry out their responsibilities. This format is used successfully across other challenging areas in the city and gives added structure to the team and ensures all areas of the ward receive weekly attention.

The team is currently in the process of acquiring tools to tackle locked bin areas full of waste and we have also completed our project of emptying over 50 problem bin yards across the wards which was publicly shared across our Clean Leeds Twitter and was well received.

Team Leader connor.webb@leeds.gov.uk or 07891 273498

Housing Leeds

Income Performance

We are currently in the process of auditing all rent accounts as this forms part of our arrears recovery action plan. We are checking every account in arrears, every week to ensure payments are being made, all necessary support can be provided to ensure that all residents are maximizing their income and where necessary recovery procedures are escalated.

The Little London & Weetwood Area staff are working hard in assisting residents with any welfare benefits claims and carrying out financial assessments where required.

Digital inclusion activity

All new tenants have automatically been registered to use the self-service portal.

Annual Home contacts

The Annual Tenancy Check-In Programme was launched from Tuesday 1st June 2021 to reflect the different ways in which the tenant contact will take place rather than all Check-Ins being completed in the tenant's home face to face. It will be completed either face to face, over the telephone or online, depending on their circumstances

Online group

Letters/emails will be sent to a pilot group of 1000 customers who had been chosen to have an online check in. This will give the residents identified the opportunity to complete the Annual Tenancy Check In online and feed back to Housing Management.

This is a new approach and will be reviewed after the pilot group has taken place. We will be able to review how the online check-ins was rolled out across the year. The information from the pilot group of online check-ins will be forwarded to area teams for processing and complete any follow up work. We will review the returns from the first 1000 pilot group to gauge uptake and to see if we need to make any changes to the check in and process.

Housing Leeds have completed this process and we have contacted all residents who requested further contact.

Telephone Group

The information on customers who had been identified as needing a telephone check-in has been developed and all area offices have a list of all residents to contact and complete the Annual Tenancy Check In via telephone.

Visit Group

We recognise that there are a small group of tenants (under 3% of tenants citywide) where the tenant has a particular vulnerability, e.g., hoarding, poor internal property condition, previous safeguarding concern, where it is important that we review their situation to monitor health and safety risks to the tenant and others living nearby.

For these tenants the area offices have been tasked to look into these as a priority and to be making contact and undertaking Annual Tenancy Check-Ins as a face-to-face visit.

Escalations

If a tenant has been identified for an online or telephone check-in based on the information, we hold but we believe that a visit is required, there is an opportunity to change the contact group.

A check list has been developed to help staff identify issues that may warrant escalating to a different type of check-in when making contact and completing the Online/telephone check ins'

Other Weetwood & Little London Area Updates

Estate Walkabouts:

All this year's walkabouts have been arranged and dates confirmed within the Little London, Weetwood, Woodhouse, Headingly & Hyde Park area.

We have advised the Housing Officers to book them in their diaries and invite the local ward members and tenant representatives to attend in line with our Covid 19 risk assessments.

We have completed all the walkabouts in Quarter 1, 2 and 3 walkabouts. Quarter 4 walkabouts are taking place and will continue to do so as long as weather permits.

Housing Officers have provided feedback / outcome of the estate inspection and all actions have been completed or are ongoing. The Housing Officers have confirmed that this feedback is provided to the Team Leader, Ward Member and all residents who attended the estate inspection.

We are currently in quarter 4 of this year and unlike previous quarters, we are finding that issues are taking longer to resolve due to the colder weather. Improvements are however still being made on the estate. Referrals to be made accordingly for the various areas of concern within Little London and Weetwood Area.

Key themes having been waste in gardens, overgrown hedges and leaves in some communal walkways.

We have also tasked the Housing Officers to look for environmental improvement projects within the Little London, Woodhouse, Headingly, Hyde Park & Weetwood area. This will be identified during the estate walkabouts as we are keen to submit HAP bids and utilise our Local Initiative Budget

Block inspection or High-Rise feedback:

We carry out weekly block sweeps on all high-rise blocks. These inspections help us to look for things that will improve the block such as ordering repairs, removing items that have been left in communal areas or identifying improvements that could be made.

Should you wish to get involved or are interested in becoming a block champion, you can help in coming along and pointing out areas of concern or sharing your ideas on how we can improve your block. If you are interested, please contact us by via email on housinginvolvement@leeds.gov.uk . Alternatively, you can talk to your local housing officer.

Fire Safety

We receive daily stage 1 fires safety reports from our cleaning contractors. We action the recommendations in the report and log this on our computer system in line with our Fire Safety procedure

We also carry out monthly stage 2 fire safety checks and report all the findings and raise the necessary repairs as required.

Low rise blocks inspections are also being carried out now on a quarterly basis in line with the fire safety Checks.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Since the restriction have been lifted, we have seen a reduction in the complaints related to noise nuisance caused by living in proximity with neighbours which is positive, but it remains our most common theme for ASB cases across Inner North West.

Housing Leeds, LASBT and WYP are working together, and we encourage residents to follow the protocol and report all breaches either online or through the telephone.

We are continuing to work with partners through telephone and emails and we regularly update each other where required.

Useful Information

Staff have returned to the office but are also working to a hybrid model of some time working from home. We continue to work to government guidelines on this.

The Neighbourhood Service Officer is looking for bright, upcoming residents who wish to take part or are interested in being on the Inner North West Housing Advisory Panel. If anyone is interested please contact the Neighbourhood Service Officer at email address: amena.khaliq@leeds.gov.uk or housinginvolvement@leeds.gov.uk

Good News Stories

Little London

Through partnership working with our Neighbourhood Service Officer, the following environmental improvement projects have been agreed in principle

- Blenheim View – x2 Planters have been agreed to be installed and this will be maintained by the Residents Association. This is subject to LEDA comments.

- Charing Cross in Woodhouse - Caring Together have successfully received Housing Advisor Panel Funding to purchase new / additional table & chairs for residents who visit the centre. The centre is used for arts and crafts, bereavement services and promotes social inclusion for elderly residents.
- Lovell Park View – it has been agreed that street lighting section will install and new lamp post on the street which will provide additional lighting. This will be maintained by Leeds City Council Street Lighting Section.
- We have agreed to install a fence in the Lovell Park View Area near the embankment at the rear of the street. This project came to light due to the reports of Anti-Social Behaviour from local residents and it was agreed that a fence will be installed as a deterrent and will hopefully provide some respite for residents. This is subject to LEDA comments and funding from Community committee to be heard 30th March 2022.
- We successfully completed an action day where partners got together with Blenheim View Residents Association and completed an estate clean up. This was a successful day and had positive outcomes.
- We are currently piloting a Digital Inclusion Sessions at Woodhouse Community Centre on Thursday afternoons. The sessions are free and inclusive to all residents and all are welcome.

Weetwood:

Through partnership working with our Neighbourhood Service Officer, the following environmental improvement projects have been approved or agreed in principle

- A lighting column is being installed on Raynel Garth to the rear of the shops and garage area. The area is extremely dark and badly lit. It is hoped that this will make a real difference in preventing anti-social behaviour in this area.
- Iveson Road is to benefit from replacement benches to replace ones that have reached the end of their life. This will benefit the community who can take a break and relax in this area.

Funding is being secured to help the Ireland Wood residents association celebrate the Queens jubilee later this year by organising planting with the local school

The residents of Iveson Grove will benefit from gardening equipment to maintain and improve the communal areas

Housing Advisory Panel

Recently had a Hybrid HAP meeting with 4 bids, all bids were successful, 2 of the bids were brought forward by resident groups wanting to improve their local environment. 2 members of a local TARA attended the recent meeting to see how HAP works.

I completed a litter pick with a residents group, this is something they will keep doing on a monthly basis, They are hoping to host a Jubilee party in the summer.

I worked with Lisa from Caring Together to put a bid together, this was successful and will provide their residents additional seating and tables.

This year the Little London Family Fun Day will be able to go ahead in July for the first time in 2 years. This will provide a great opportunity for tenants and residents to come together and mark the start of new community groups and activities in the area.

4. Update on projects funded by the Inner North West HAP

The Inner North West has a new Tenant Engagement Officer, Amena Khaliq. In terms of HAP Bids, there is a current one for a lighting column in the Weetwood area and a few potential HAPs for a bin store and a potential garage site.

Employment and Skills – Champion Cllr Kayleigh Brooks

Universal Credit

The number of people who are claiming Universal Credit due to unemployment as of November 2021 in the Inner North West Community Committee area is 3,075. This is an increase of 71% since March 2020, which is reflective across all wards due to the impact of Covid-19. There is a small decrease of 39 on the previous month.

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough) ceased at the end of September 2021, and there was an expectation that a number of people would have been made redundant which would have subsequently increased claimants to Universal Credit, which has not come to fruition in the latest release.

The table below shows the number of people claiming Universal Credit in the Inner North West Community Committee area:

	Universal Credit Claimants (Not in Employment) 16-64yrs					
	March 2020		Oct 2021		Nov 2021	
	Number*	Rate**	Number*	Rate**	Number*	Rate**
Leeds	23,631	4.5%	42,226	8.1%	41,609	8.0%
Inner North West	1,802	2.4%	3,114	4.0%	3,075	4.0%
Headingley & Hyde Park	549	1.9%	1,012	3.4%	990	3.4%
Little London & Woodhouse	862	2.7%	1,395	4.1%	1,371	4.1%
Weetwood	391	2.7%	707	4.9%	714	4.9%

**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

The table below shows the number of people being supported from the Inner North West Community Committee area.

	Accessing Services		Into Work		Improved Skills	
	2021/22 (Apr – Dec)	2020/21 (Apr – Dec)	2021/22 (Apr – Dec)	2020/21 (Apr – Dec)	2021/22 (Apr – Dec)	2020/21 (Apr – Dec)
Inner North West	1,043	1,051	264	212	284	621
Headingley & Hyde Park	312	291	79	69	92	171
Little London & Woodhouse	558	576	136	118	135	328
Weetwood	173	184	49	25	57	122

Employment and Skills reinstated face to face support, activities, and delivery from September 2021 with a continuation of a virtual or remote offer along with email and telephone support in line with Covid-19 restrictions.

During April – December 2021 9,387 people accessed the Service, 1,043 of whom were from the Inner North West, a decrease of 1% when compared to the same period last year.

The service has supported 2,563 people into work, during April – December 2021, 264 of whom were residents from the Inner North West, an increase of 25% when compared to the same period last year. Customers were supported into work across all sectors with the largest numbers in health and care, food retail, logistics, distribution, and transport.

Between April – December 2021 the service has supported 2,397 people to improve their skills. From the Inner North West, 284 residents have completed a skills course, a reduction of 54% when compared to the same period last year.

Leeds Employment Hub is a single point of contact for all funded programmes and Jobshops that provides tailored and comprehensive support into employment or education to all Leeds residents. A large team of Employment Hub Advisors deliver the programme by providing one to one support, tailored preventative and remedial support to Leeds residents who are disadvantaged in the labour market.

The Employment Hub Advisors are co-located within 7 Jobcentres across the City. All Jobshops are now fully open, 5 days a week for face to face appointments which include Armley and City Centre Community Hubs. There is also a pop up Jobshop Tuesdays at Headingley Community Hub, 10:00 – 5:00.

Employment and Skills Service has been successful in securing additional funding from DWP to support disadvantaged young people (15-24) in Leeds. The programme will support 1,600 young people up to the end of December 2023, who are NEET or risk of becoming NEET; and from WYCA that focuses on resident that are ineligible for ESIF programmes and will prioritise on supporting underemployed residents in low paid, low skilled jobs as well as those at risk of redundancy. Both programmes are in addition to a number of programmes that have been enhanced and expanded to respond to the challenges of Covid-19 and the changing labour market.

The Adult Learning programme continues to deliver an effective, broad, and inclusive curriculum to support the continuation of learning in response to Covid-19 through an online platform in collaboration with subcontracted partners. Courses were delivered through a range of models to include online face to face and through distance learning, opening new opportunities for adults to learn and develop their confidence. For the 2021/22 Academic Year, 135 courses are also planned for online delivery, city-wide. In the Inner North West,

121 courses, including Arts and Crafts, ESOL, English and Preparation for Work, are planned at 9 different venues.

Leeds Adult Learning Summer 2021 saw a range of activity across the city to raise the profile of learning and engage Leeds. Activity included a community engagement / marketing campaign, a summer programme of taster courses and a partnership approach with family learning supporting the delivery of the Council's Healthy Holiday programme.

Following a successful funding bid to the Leeds Community Foundation, a bespoke Developing You programme, Learning Disabilities Pre-Employability Project is being developed. A collaboration between Employment and Skills, Pyramid of Arts, People Matters and United Response will deliver a 12 week pre-employability programme which will include work readiness and health and wellbeing modules. The first cohort is expected to start in April 2022.

Over 202 new businesses were supported to recruit new staff, provide support for staff facing redundancy and developing initiatives to address staff shortages and filling a high number of vacancies within key sectors.

Hospitality Sector:

- A Restaurant Ready programme, a 5 day course, aimed to upskill individuals to successfully enter the hospitality sector through providing practical experience within Leeds City College's café and restaurant facilities. The programme provides an opportunity for participants to be signposted to work trials and interviews with employers.
- A Christmas recruitment fair took place on Wednesday 22nd September 2021 held at the Engine Room at Leeds Bid, 265 people attended.
- The service is continuing to work with HMP Wealstun and the Leeds Hotels and Venues Association around the recruitment of ex-offenders into the hospitality sector.
- Held McDonalds Breakfast Events at the Briggate store to support the recruitment of 30 vacancies, further events are planned in 2022.

Health & Social Care Sector:

- Working in partnership with the Leeds Health and Care Careers Narrowing Inequalities programme which aims to engage with, recruit and develop a diverse workforce from disadvantaged or under-represented communities in Leeds. This is to improve access to long-term career opportunities, work experience, volunteering, education, and training.

Leeds Health and Care Careers is working alongside the [Healthier Working Futures](#) project, a new partnership of health, care and third sector partners who have received funding from the UK Government through the UK Community Renewal Fund. The project aims to engage over 600 unemployed / economically inactive young adults (aged 16-25) supporting them onto a health and care career path via innovative engagement programmes delivered by a team of third sector organisations

- Jobsfairs were held in October and November 2021 at the Leeds Kirkgate Market with 45 Employers / Training Providers, 790 people attended.

The Leeds Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair 2022 (LARF22) kicked off National Apprenticeship Week in Leeds on Monday 7th February at Leeds First Direct Arena, connecting Leeds young people with real live Apprenticeship vacancies, information and guidance. The event was particularly crucial this year given the uncertainties that the impact of Covid-19 has created for young people. LARF22 was completely sold out with 6,200

tickets booked in advance and around 5,000 people attending on the day. 88 employers and training providers exhibited, representing sectors from Agriculture, Care Services, Creative and Design, Digital, Legal, Finance and Accounting and much more.

The new Apprenticeships in Leeds website was launched for National Apprenticeship Week and can be accessed at www.apprenticeshipsinleeds.co.uk. The site features around 100 organisations offering Apprenticeships in Leeds, split by occupational sector.

Following a number of requests from schools the service is currently working with colleagues in Children and Families Service and with careers practitioners to develop and deliver a career progressions event for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The event which will be the first for the city will be held at Leeds First Direct Arena on Thursday 23rd June 2022 and will be open to all young people who have additional needs, and teaching staff, parents and carers will be encouraged to attend. There will be information about opportunities post 16 including training, jobs, apprenticeships, traineeships, and volunteering opportunities.

Project updates:

Money Buddies

Centre	Sessions	Number Clients Helped YTD	Financial Gains
Opal Community Centre	29	51	142606
St Pauls Church	25	17	57316
Meanwood Community Hub	40	38	57085
Little London Community* Centre	10	15	23361
Woodsley Road*	15	11	47475
Woodhouse Medical Centre*	6	6	5413
Heart café	47	12	10406
Total	172 (107% YTD)	150	£343,662

Average Financial Gain per client -INW	£2291
Average Financial Gain per session -INW	£1998

Social Media

- The Inner North West Community Committee Facebook Page now has 860 followers. The post with the highest reach was posted on February 25th, Leeds City Council Recruitment for Seasonal Gardeners which reached 122 people.

Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

6. The Community Committee has, where applicable, been consulted on information

Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration

7. 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

8. 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:

9. 76Vision for Leeds 2011 – 30

10. Best City Plan

11. Health and Wellbeing City Priorities Plan

12. Children and Young People's Plan

13. Safer and Stronger Communities Plan

14. Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy

Resources and Value for Money

15. 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

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

Risk Management

65. 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

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