

## Tackling Inequality and Disadvantage in Communities: Locality Working

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Report of: Director of Environment, Housing and Communities

Report to: Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

### **What is this report about?**

#### **Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update and receive feedback from the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board, on the work that has taken place so far on expanding the city's Locality Working model and the next stage of its implementation. This includes:

- Continuing to have a whole city focus through our locality working model and particularly the functioning and support of Community Committees.
- Progress on expanding the current geographical remit for priority neighbourhoods to the 12 most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Leeds (1%) and develop a more focused approach across the 6 most disadvantaged wards where these neighbourhoods reside.
- Continuing to build on the work of the Neighbourhood Improvement Board as part of the city-wide strategic approach to tackle inequality and poverty linked to the new Best City Ambition.
- Establishment of a new Locality Working Delivery Group.
- Ensuring Locality Working can be supported by other Scrutiny Boards and that their role and influence can add value to the work of the Neighbourhood Improvement Board.
- Continuing to build strong relationships with our partners locally through localised partnership infrastructure.
- Development of Local Area Plans (LAPs), which identify shared priorities as a focus for partners' collective endeavour.

Operating alongside the city's Community Committee structure, the city's approach to Locality Working provides a vehicle through which the Council and many of its partners, deliver our ambition to help tackle inequality and poverty across our most disadvantaged communities.

### **Recommendations**

- a) The Board is asked to note the content of the report.
- b) To provide feedback on the progress with delivering the new locality ways of working.
- c) To provide feedback on the development of the new Local Area Plans.

## Why is the proposal being put forward?

1. This report seeks to update the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board on the progress around implementing the new Locality Working model and the preliminary work being undertaken to understand and refocus work within the six Priority Wards.
2. The revised Locality Working model was approved by Executive Board – 16th March 2022 and agreed to:
  - Support the continued development of the Locality Working approach and endorse the evolving whole city approach to Locality Working around the more targeted, seasonal and responsive approach.
  - Support the upscale of the Locality Working approach to increase the priority neighbourhood footprint in our most disadvantaged communities to cover all the 12 (1%) most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, whilst retaining a focus at the ward level in the city's 6 priority wards to enable greater impact and outcomes, through a collective focus to tackle inequality and poverty and build more thriving and resilient communities.
  - Support work with Elected Members and Community Committees to explore how the role and responsibilities of Community Committees could be even further enhanced through the new Locality Working approach.
3. This has led to an expansion of focus from the existing Priority Neighbourhoods to include the additional 7 x 1% most deprived LSOAs and a review of sustainable activity within Lincoln Green, with its movement out of the 1%.
4. Analysis of these neighbourhoods is now underway to understand both what the local data is telling us and what are the prevailing issues for these areas. Further detail is contained in **Appendix 1** of this report.
5. Work is also underway to review the current practices of the Community Committees, in order to build on learning and existing good practice to develop a Prioritisation Framework to support the allocation of Wellbeing and Youth Activity Funding, and develop the role of Community Committee Champions and the Community Committee Sub-groups. Engagement activity has also been central to the work of the Community Committees, with the first round of Youth Summits currently being held, since the pandemic. Further detail on all of these elements of activity is contained in **Appendix 2** of this report.
6. The Communities, Housing and Environment Scrutiny Board has been instrumental in helping to shape and influence the city's Locality Working model and the programme of work that has been delivered. As the approach seeks to move towards the next phase of its delivery, the ongoing involvement and feedback of the Board is considered pivotal.
7. It will also be important to fulfil the ambition, as set out in last year's Scrutiny Board report, to engage with the council's other Scrutiny Boards, to ensure they have input into those areas of Locality Working that are relevant to their portfolios. In doing so, this will enhance locality working by improving the clarity and coherence for the council, its partners and the community through more integrated place-based service provision as referenced to in the council recent LGA Peer Review, which highlight the Locality Working approach as a model of good practice

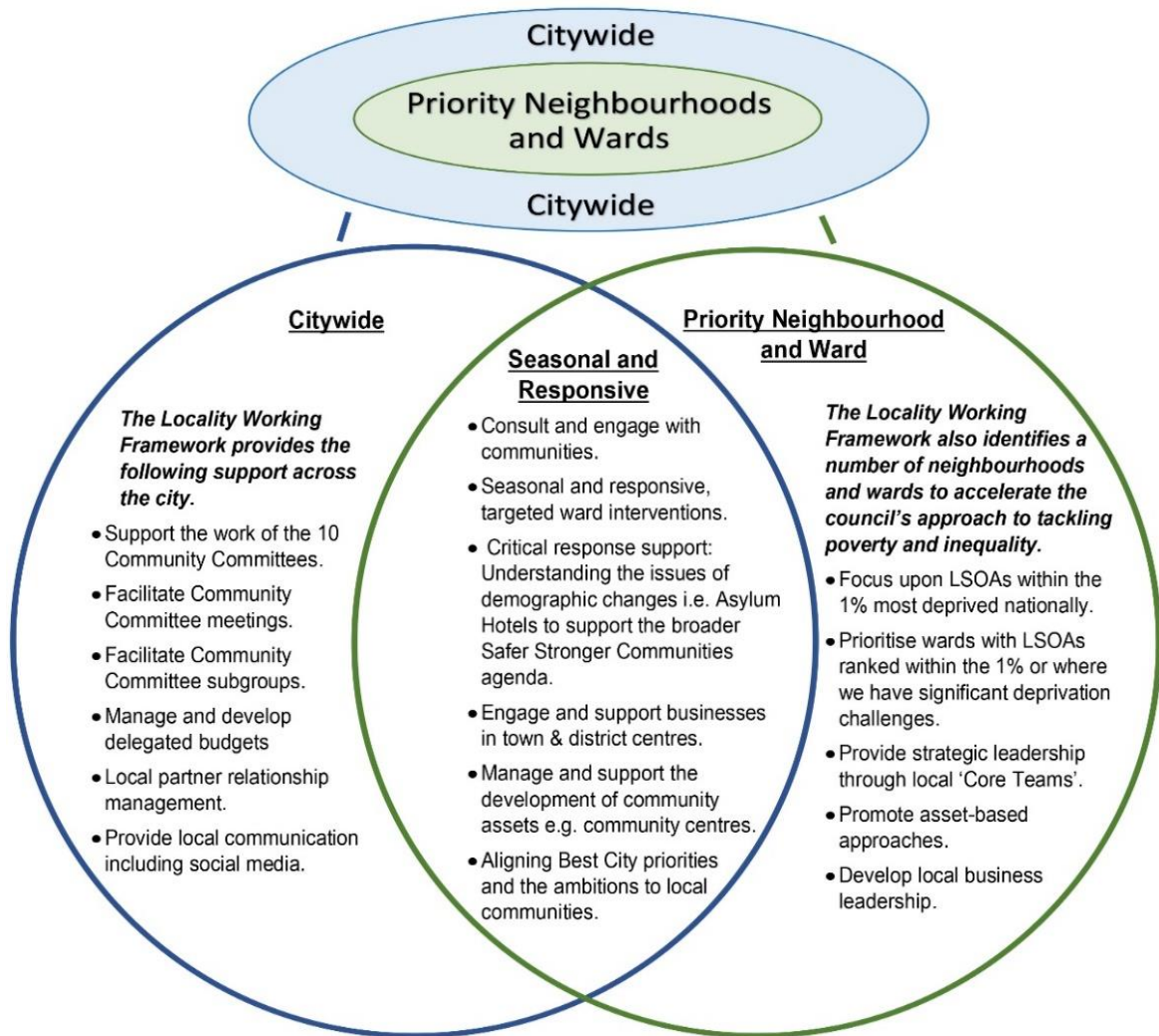
but sighted the need for more work to take place to accelerate progress to help deliver better outcomes for local people.

### What impact will this proposal have?

**Wards Affected:**

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes       No

8. The Locality Working model aims to respond to the National Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data, a set of descriptive statistics that are published by the Office for National Statistics every 3-4 years. In 2015 the IMD identified sixteen neighbourhoods in Leeds that were categorised as being in the most disadvantaged 1% of neighbourhoods nationally.
9. The Locality Working model initiated in 2017, sought to establish what the possibilities could be if as a Council and partners, we worked differently in specific areas of the city.
10. In 2019 the IMD data was refreshed, the main findings for Leeds were:
  - 24% of Leeds LSOAs now fall within the most disadvantaged 10% nationally (compared to 22% in 2015).
  - Ranked 33 out of 317 local authorities on the proportion of LSOAs in the most disadvantaged 10% nationally (ranked 31 out of 324 local authorities in 2015).
  - 186,000 people in Leeds live in areas that are ranked in the most disadvantaged 10% (compared to 164,000 people in 2015).
  - The most disadvantaged areas are concentrated in the communities of Inner East and Inner South.
  - 12 LSOAs in Leeds have been ranked in the most disadvantaged 1% nationally down from 16 in 2015.
11. The new model continues to build on the good work that has taken place previously, by working more intensively in targeted areas of the city to reduce poverty and inequality through the delivery of a range of innovative and new ways of working. The model has increased the footprint for working in priority neighbourhoods to cover all 12 (1%) most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, whilst also retaining a focus at the ward level on the city's 6 Priority Wards. These 6 Priority Wards are the six wards with at least one neighbourhood ranking in the 1% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally, whilst also ranking highly in deprivation in the 2019 IMD data.
12. In addition, a new Communities Team structure is now in place, providing a more integrated and flexible approach to Locality Working around the citywide, targeted, and seasonal and responsive work strands.
13. A universal approach continues to be delivered using the city-wide Community Committee infrastructure, to ensure that all parts of the city continue to benefit from the learning, experience and improvements delivered through the new model of working. The diagram below outlines the three strands of the Locality Working Framework.

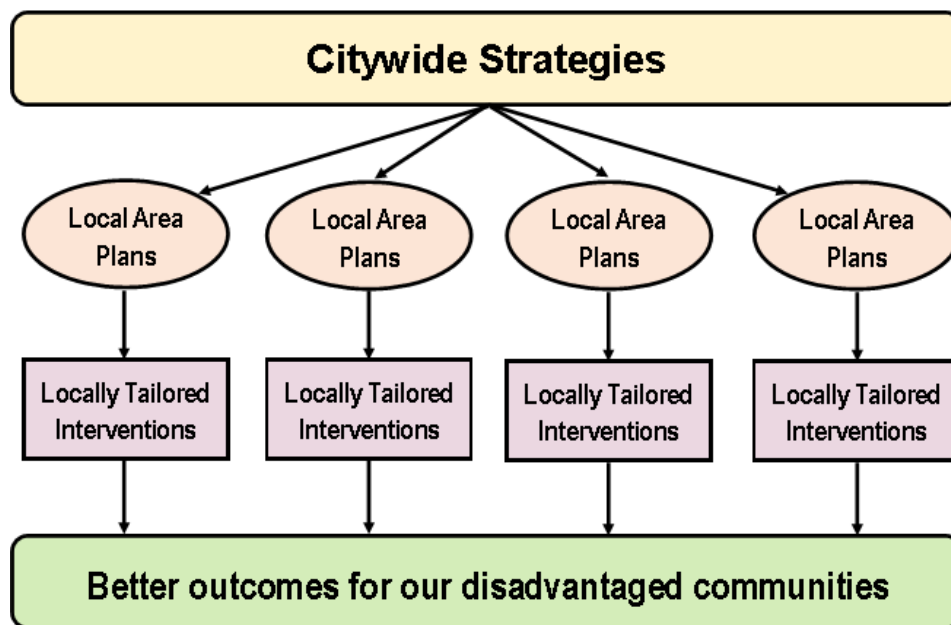


### Locality Working Delivery Group

14. A new city-wide Locality Working Delivery Group (LWDG) has been established, sitting between the Priority Ward Core Teams and Neighbourhood Improvement Bard (NIB).
15. The LWDG has representation at Head of Service / Chief Officer level and will work through the operational and strategic issues that impact upon our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. It creates an informal, safe space for honest discussion between senior officers and partners. Issues which cannot be resolved, will be escalated to the NIB.
16. The new LWDG will oversee the work of the Core Teams and will be accountable to the NIB and will provide an operational platform to oversee Local Area Plans. It will hold responsibility for the performance management framework for locality working and the Locality Programme Managers for each of the Priority Wards will also report into this group.
17. A key driver for the LWDG will be effective resource management and the delivery of better value services.
18. The group will also be responsible for leading on pathfinder projects in priority wards and for sharing learning and direct how good practice can be used elsewhere in the city.

## Local Area Plans and NIB Delivery Plan

19. As part of the refreshed Locality Working Framework, it was agreed to develop Local Area Plans (LAPs). These LAPs will articulate the Community Committee and Priority Ward Core Team, work programmes and will feed into the NIB Delivery Plan, with regular progress updates provided to the NIB and Locality Working Delivery Group. They will demonstrate how the NIB Delivery Plan is being translated locally in each of the priority neighbourhoods and priority wards and provide a more robust performance management framework and a mechanism for monitoring progress.
20. The NIB Delivery Plan is being reviewed alongside the development of the Local Area Plans, to ensure they link together. Work is also underway to connect and align the LAPs with the new Best City Plan and the 'Three Pillars' of Improving Health & Wellbeing; Inclusive Growth; and Zero Carbon.
21. The LAPs do not aim to create a new strategy for the city but will look to identify how existing strategies can be delivered at a local level, with the greatest impact.



22. Given the scale of the challenges these neighbourhoods face, LAPs are being developed to be multi-year plans that will be reviewed and refreshed annually.
23. The Local Area Plans (LAPs) are starting to come together, and preliminary activity is being identified and undertaken to start to address the issues identified (see **Appendix 1**).

## Cost of Living

24. As with many national challenges, the cost of living crisis is having a disproportionate impact upon our most disadvantaged communities. It has therefore become a key driver for the Locality Working agenda over recent months.

25. Work is underway with the Community Committees to look at how Wellbeing and Youth Activities funding can be better targeted. Several committees have held workshops on the subject and discussions have been held with our Community Anchor Networks, across the Priority Wards, to see how we can better join up and coordinate activities that support this area of work. Some examples of the types of project being delivered are included in the examples of Locality Working Activity at **Appendix 3**.

### Community Centres Review

26. The community centre portfolio has been a delegated function of Community Committees since 2006-07 and has been vested with the Communities Team since 2013. A review of this service is underway regarding the suitability and effectiveness of individual buildings, and in terms of the strategic provision of community spaces to meet the priorities of the city. This review links to the wider context of the Estate Management Strategy, the council wide approach to Locality Working, current financial pressures and the recent LGA peer review.

27. Options will be explored for a revised operating model for community building provision, linking to other council services, aspiring for publicly accessed buildings that are flexible, well utilised, and focused on areas of greatest need.

### **What consultation and engagement has taken place?**

28. Locality working places the active involvement of citizens, which includes locally elected Councillors, as a vital ingredient that underpins this approach. All six-priority neighbourhoods have placed significant emphasis on community engagement and working with local communities to harness a local voice, develop local solutions through social action.

### **What are the resource implications?**

29. The work articulated in this report currently makes best use of existing resources already working in neighbourhoods and seeks to do things differently by making best use of the leadership role and knowledge of locally elected representatives, working with residents to shape their neighbourhoods and inform service re-design to tackle poverty and reduce inequality. It also seeks to help communities to be more resilient, strengthen cohesion and prevent issues and challenges escalating in priority neighbourhoods.

30. A new Communities Team structure is now in place, providing a more integrated and flexible approach to Locality Working around the citywide, targeted, and seasonal and responsive work strands.

31. To make continued progress, an investment-oriented approach is needed whereby available resources, for example, capital investment schemes are better targeted to these priority areas through a more joined up working across services.

32. The council is under increasing pressures from a range of directions. This includes the ongoing financial challenge, which has been exacerbated through Covid-19 and the cost of living crisis, as well as demographic changes which bring increased demands upon our local services.

33. This means that Locality Working cannot just be about addressing poverty but also about more effective use of resources within our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, delivering better outcomes. If we get it right, it could help alleviate some of these pressures.

### **What are the legal implications?**

34. A citywide Neighbourhood Improvement Board, led by the Executive Member for Communities, holds the responsibility for these developments and oversight for the programmes of work that they will require. Local ward members are instrumental in both the local arrangements and the citywide Board.

35. There are no exempt parts of this report so there are no access to information issues.

36. There are no legal implications for the work articulated in this report.

37. This report is not eligible for call-in.

### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

38. The Council has determined a risk to community cohesion, and it has established this risk on its corporate risk register. It has also been discussing a need to change radically the way we work in localities and implemented a new approach to locality working in November 2017. Pressures in some of our most challenged and disadvantaged neighbourhoods are now greater than ever due to a range of factors. The communities of Leeds have changed rapidly over the past decade, this is more apparent in the city's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. A failure to fully engage and be inclusive to all the communities of Leeds may result in increased tensions leading to a sense of alienation and isolation.

39. These fractures may increase the city's risk of becoming more susceptible to the influences of those who want to divide our communities, making them more polarised and vulnerable to extremism and other harmful influences. The locality working approach seeks to engage with all communities, with a strong focus of the work on strengthening communities and building self-reliance and more resilient communities.

40. This approach also seeks to mitigate against deterioration in our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, and a worsening of these neighbourhoods nationally in future IMD analyses, while delivering against our key aims of tackling poverty and inequality and being a compassionate city.

41. Resources in many front-line operations have already been deployed on a needs-led basis with limited capacity from simply shifting where staff work to another area. Additionally, the agility of organisations to respond in the context of broader economic changes could challenge the pace of improvement.

42. Therefore, Locality Working cannot just be about addressing poverty but also about more effective use of resources within our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, delivering better outcomes.

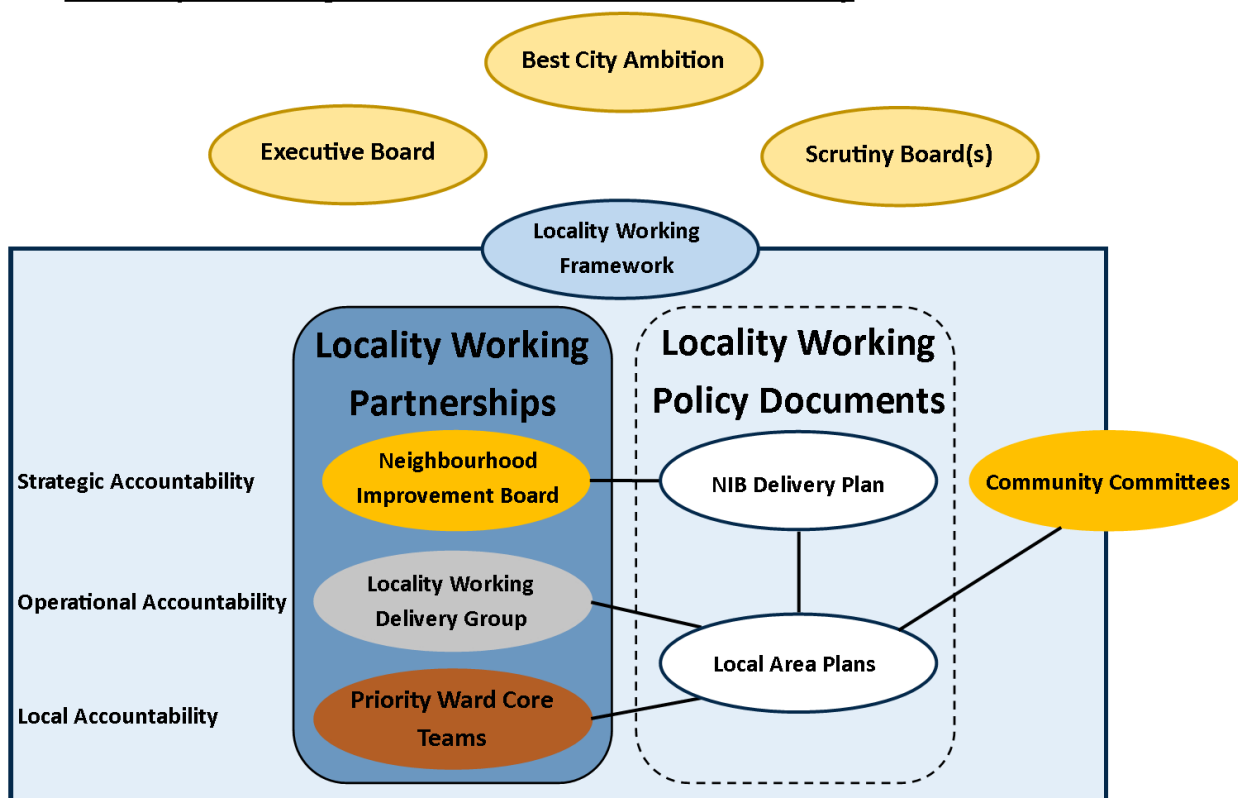
43. Failure to fully engage and get the full buy in of a wide range of partners and council services to support the delivery locality working approach will hamper the council’s efforts to deliver significant and sustainable change in our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. It is therefore imperative, that we maintain and build on the whole Council approach, maintain momentum, working with local communities to drive change and much needed improvements.

**Does this proposal support the council’s 3 Key Pillars?**

- Inclusive Growth
- Health and Wellbeing
- Climate Emergency

44. As part of the refreshed Locality Working Framework, it was agreed to develop Local Area Plans (LAPs) as part of the performance management framework. The LAPs will articulate the Community Committee and Priority Ward Core Team, work programmes and will feed into the NIB Delivery Plan. Work is also underway to connect and align the LAPs with the new Best City Plan and the 'Three Pillars' of Improving Health & Wellbeing; Inclusive Growth; and Zero Carbon, as well as contributing to the Cost of Living Breakthrough Project. The diagram below sets out the Locality Working governance and accountability structure.

**Locality Working—Governance & Accountability**



45. The Best Council Ambition reflects the current post Covid-19 and cost of living context, while maintaining the three pillar priorities of inclusive growth; health and wellbeing; and climate change, under the overarching priority of tackling poverty and inequalities. These nationally significant issues continue to have a huge impact on all areas of the Best Council Ambition, with the economy, employment, education, community resilience and health and wellbeing all detrimentally affected by the pandemic, which will undoubtedly limit progress towards our ambitions.



46. Locality working in our most disadvantaged communities, tackling poverty and inequalities, will be key to guiding the response to the multiple challenges the city faces, particularly as we begin to better understand the long-term health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis.
47. Swings in climate and more extreme weather will create inequality, as financial disparity creates pressures between those able to invest in measures to maintain comfort, diet and activity that may be denied to those least able to afford it. A range of initiatives within the priority neighbourhood approach supports the climate emergency agenda. These include planting additional trees, helping to improve air quality; also work to improve housing conditions, delivering greater energy efficiency, and thereby reducing fuel poverty.

## **Options, timescales and measuring success**

### **What other options were considered?**

48. From the onset of Locality Working, the approach was predicated on a move towards a model of working that could be delivered across all the city's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, and the first phase of this work sought to demonstrate the value and success of locality working as a scalable approach to tackle inequality and poverty across the city.
49. Consideration was given to stay as we were operating, working in just six of the priority neighbourhoods, but this was felt to limit impact, scalability, flexibility, consistency, and a collective focus on all the most disadvantaged 1% LSOAs in the city.
50. The recommendation in the previous reports to Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board and Executive Board was to evolve the way we were working, to upscale the approach through a refreshed Locality Working Framework that enables greater impact and outcomes, through a collective focus on all of our most disadvantaged communities, to tackle inequality and poverty and build more thriving, more resilient communities.

### **How will success be measured?**

51. We have been working to adopt a consistent approach to establishing baselines and tracking trends within the priority areas. Local Area Plans are being developed for each priority neighbourhood, including local data analysis, to track changes over time. Given that the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015 was the primary basis on which the Areas were first identified and (IMD) 2019 being used for the refresh of Locality Working, it is logical that where possible we draw on the same underpinning data and analysis as the IMD. We can also adopt the same broad categories where recent data is available these are claimant count; children in low-income households; educational attainment and absence; crime, public health indicators, long-term empty properties.
52. It is important to note that due to the time lag in the data that underpins the IMD that the Local Area Plans will provide a baseline for each area rather than a measure of progress since the priority areas programme was established in 2017. In addition, we believe that these plans can be augmented by surveys of the local community to a common set of questions, to provide more immediate insights and perceptions of progress.

53. However, post Covid-19 recovery and the cost of living crisis continue to have a hugely significant impact on all areas of the Best Council Ambition, with the economy, employment, education, community resilience and health and wellbeing all detrimentally affected, which will undoubtedly limit progress towards our ambitions and the outcomes in our most disadvantaged communities.
54. The performance management framework within the LAPs will help form a focus for work going forward and data will be regularly reviewed to take account of the emerging impact in our priority neighbourhoods. As the LAPs develop, they will also incorporate more predictive and dynamic tools to analyse trends and emerging issues at a ward and neighbourhood level.

### **What is the timetable for implementation?**

- **March 2022** – Executive Board approved the new Locality Working approach.
- **June 2022** – New Locality Working approach commenced.
- **October 2022** – Local Area Plans (LAPs) are starting to come together, and preliminary activity is being identified and undertaken to start to address the issues identified.
- **October 2022 – June 2023** – Further work to finalise multi-year plans, including: Youth Summits; and Community Committee prioritisation framework.
- **October 2022 – June 2023** – Core Teams to be reengaged as part of LAP consultation, development, and approval.
- **November 2022** – First meeting of the Locality Working Delivery Group.
- **December 2022** – LWDG Workshop session to look at partnership contribution to LAPs.
- **June 2023** – Finalised, multi-year Local Area Plans agreed.

### **Appendices**

- 1 Appendix 1 – Locality Working – Priority Ward Activation and Prevailing Issues
- 2 Appendix 2 – Development of Community Committees
- 3 Appendix 3 – Examples of Locality Working Activity

### **Background papers**

## Appendix 1

# Locality Working – Priority Ward Activation and Prevailing Issues

## Background information

### Priority Ward Baseline, Presenting Issues and Preliminary Activity

This appendix provides a brief outline for each of the six Priority Wards, including: a data snapshot; headline analysis of local presenting issues; and a brief overview of preliminary activity being undertaken.

## Armley Ward

### Data Snapshot:

There are 15 LSOA's in Armley, with 10 in the 5% most deprived in England. 2 LSOA's are a 1% area. The 1% areas are

- Holdforths, Clyde Approach
- Armley Grove Place, Hall Lane, Abbot View

Deprivation levels in the area around New Wortley Community centre are some of the highest seen in Leeds and the United Kingdom

There are 9,511 households in the wards and of these

- 23.5% are rented from Council
- 20.9% are in private rented sector
- 6.4% are rented from a social landlord
- 46.1% are owner occupier
- 44% have no cars/vans in the household
- 19.3% of households are in fuel poverty
- 79.2% identify as White, 22.4% BME population
- 22% of the population are aged 0-17

### Education and skills

- 30% of working age people have no qualifications

### Health

MSOA stands out – 'Armley, New Wortley' has the highest rates in the committee area for smoking, COPD and diabetes, and is very near the top for CHD and severe mental health issues.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour – From July 2021 to June 2022 Armley had:

- Overall Crime - 228 crimes per 1,000 people (Leeds average of 131)
- Violence and sexual offences 100 per 1000 people (59.4 Leeds average)
- Anti-Social Behaviour offences 16 per 1,000 people (14.4 Leeds)

(Source data.police.uk)

### Employment

- Whilst 71.1% of the population is economically active and 41.2% are in full time employment there are high levels of deprivation in the ward which indicates in work poverty.
- 5.4% of the population are long-term sick/disabled and 3.2% are long term-unemployed
- 24.8% of people aged 16-65 are on Universal credit

### **Presenting issues**

- There is a high level of anti-social behaviour, particularly from young people, across the ward.
- Specific issues around street drinking and drug dealing/taking in and around Armley Town Street. A PSPO is in place which has helped with the issues, however there is still a perception by residents and services that the area is unsafe.
- Wythers estate has lots of issues around ASB and lack of engagement with services, this is often masked due to its location.
- Close to Armley Gyratory, with significant traffic at peak times. This has both a health impact due to air quality and a physical impact, due to disconnectivity from the rest of the city.
- The focus has been on New Wortley area of the ward, this is now extended to the whole ward with emphasis on the 2 1% areas.

### **Preliminary activity:**

- Close working relationship with New Wortley Community Centre, who provide a range of services.
- Key focus on partnership working around youth work, both in relation to the universal offer and a targeted offer. Working to develop sustainable violence reduction provisions for the ward and working closely with NWCC on the delivery of the Empower project which supports young people at risk of child criminal exploitation. Close connections between youth work providers, the Cluster, NPT and LASBT established.
- Investment into parks and smaller green spaces with a particular focus on increasing usage of Jaily Fields, with various provisions such as events and Park Play every Saturday.
- Close partnership working with delivery services and external partners within the New Wortley Safer, Cleaner, Greener subgroup. Key focus on community safety and the environment. Successful regular clean up events, including waste amnesty and joint service and community litter picks. Monthly litter picks with the now established New Wortley Wombles group continue.
- Partnership working with Housing to offer mobile support in local communities with the cost-of-living crisis, offering refreshments, Housing advice, Financial advice and winter warm packs. Provides an opportunity for community engagement. Links to the wider partnership work taking place to support residents with the cost-of-living crisis, led by the LCP.

- Successful Community Safety Planning event held earlier this year, with fantastic engagement from a wide range of partners and services. Focused on 3 key areas – New Wortley, Town Street and the Wythers. Success stories shared and ideas for future partnership working to promote community safety recorded. Development of plans and ideas commenced.
- Armley Action Team providing various events throughout the year for the local community and developing the offer on Armley Town Street.
- Armley Town Team has been in place for a few years.

## **Beeston & Holbeck Ward**

### **Data Snapshot:**

- Beeston & Holbeck has one 1% area, (E01011368 Crosby St, Recreations, Bartons) within the 1% most deprived areas nationally, on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation and is ranked the 3rd most deprived area in Leeds
- Beeston & Holbeck is the seventh most populated ward in Leeds with 26,957 residents living in 10,304 properties; 5.2% of homes are classed as overcrowded;
- The ward is both young and dynamic; 22.7% of residents are children and young people aged 15 or under. 10.3% of residents are aged 25-29 making them the largest group in the ward.
- Whilst 71.4% of the population is economically active; long term unemployment is at 6.6% compared to the city average of 4.1%. Women from the ward active in the job market is slightly lower than the men (64.9% vs 77.6%)
- The Beeston & Holbeck ward has a population identifying as being 73.7% white and 26.3% from an ethnic minority;
- As a migration hub, the ward has several languages spoken and numerous faiths live in close proximity (65% of households identify as being religious against a Leeds average of 65%); After English the most common languages spoken are Urdu and Polish
- Leeds City Council properties make up 38.7% of the social rented housing stock
- Nearly 47% of households don't have access to a car or van;
- Fuel poverty for the ward is particularly high and 9.4% of households don't have central heating.
- Crime is higher than the Leeds average with violence and sexual assault, public order, ASB and criminal damage presenting as the main issues; 7<sup>th</sup> worst ward in the city with a crime rate of 205.5 per 1,000 persons
- Languages spoken in the ward after English (87.3%): south Asian 3.3%; African 1.5%; west/central Asian 0.7%; East Asian 0.6%; French 0.4%; Arabic 0.4; Portuguese 0.4; Russian 0.2%; sign 0.1%

### **Presenting issues**

#### Community Engagement & Cohesion:

- Low numbers of Holbeck residents visiting the Dewsbury Road Community Hub to access the services

- Challenges engaging with residents, especially during the pandemic
- On Street Sex Work and former Managed Approach
- low level tensions: Seasonal challenges around ASB (perceived or otherwise) eg street drinking

#### Housing:

- Fuel poverty: almost 10% of properties don't have central heating
- Trap houses / drug houses / cuckooing
- Poor state of some of the private rented accommodation in Holbeck: overcrowding, disrepair, lack of adherence to healthy and safety regs, damp, infestations.

#### Environment:

- Environmental blight continues to present as an issue – eg priority neighbourhood bin yards are often flytipped
- Lack of greenspace and sites for trees; lots of Victorian terraces without gardens

#### Health:

- Obesity is an issue, particularly with perceived issues accessing cheap fresh fruit and vegetables
- Mental health is an issue, particularly loneliness and there aren't many activities for adults
- Levels of diabetes and smoking rates / COPD are also of concern

#### Transport:

- Given the proximity to the city centre, public transport links could be improved. Walking short cuts aren't the safest through the industrial areas

## **Preliminary activity**

### Community Engagement & Cohesion:

- The Holbeck Hub was established at 5 Recreation View in the heart of the priority neighbourhood to offer all services available at Dewsbury Road Community Hub, over 3 days per week. It was also a good base for the Selective Licencing Team and Communities Team, with other community partners making use of the facilities. The hub closed during the pandemic and hasn't reopened due to staffing capacities – the Private Sector Housing team completed their work in the neighbourhood and moved to a new area however, Community Hub services are now accessible at St Matthew's Community Centre with a mobile unit outside twice a week (Tues & Thurs), whilst also offering mobile library provision with story time sessions for younger children.
- OSSW Communications and engagement group established, chaired by Cllr Scopes
- Multi-agency focus group established in Oct 2022 to engage with residents about OSSW
- Communities team coordinate a 'good news' newsletter targeted on the Holbeck priority neighbourhood but also distributes more widely across Holbeck and editions are also published online and shared across the local neighbourhood social media outlets
- Communities Team coordinated a residents drop-in session in March 2022 in an effort to make the information stalls as accessible to the maximum number of local residents.
- Communities Team arranged the installation of an electricity kiosk on Holbeck Moor through Ward Members Initiatives funding. The kiosk is a first for a LCC greenspace and it opens up more options for the annual gala, local theatre companies and other community groups to use the moor without the need for generators

- The Beeston, Hunslet & Holbeck Community Safety Partnership meets every two months, led by West Yorkshire Police, with a current focus on begging and local crime
- Holbeck Core Group meets quarterly with partners working across the neighbourhood, driving improvement projects for the benefit of the local residents
- West Yorkshire Police dedicated line for reporting issues relating to OSSW
- Citizen action; a resident led Neighbourhood Plan is established in Holbeck.
- Warm Spaces / Cost of Living crisis – coordination of ward based offer currently being compiled and mapped to plug the gaps and help advertise all the provisions
- Community Committee grants awarded to: the annual Beeston Festival; a Great Get Together in Cross Flatts Park; Christmas lights in Holbeck and Beeston; landmark lectern on Beggars Hill (Beeston); a community noticeboard in Beeston; Public Right of Way creation order to take on the ownership/maintenance of a popular network of unadopted footpaths in Beeston

### Housing

- Tenanted housing stock has been improved by Private Sector Housing team interventions
- Supporting the Beeston Hill Selective Licensing rollout (which includes the Normanton's estate in Holbeck) and the push to make the most of crossing the thresholds; 3<sup>rd</sup> sector support is secured and a light-touch social prescribing model is being developed;

### Environment:

- The Heart of Holbeck – Leeds Central Levelling Up Fund bid
- A bid for up to £20million for regeneration of the centre of Holbeck is being developed by Leeds City Council and Holbeck Together as part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda. The bid will include significant investment into improving buildings and outdoor spaces in and around St Matthews Community Centre and Domestic Street.
- If successful, the funding investment will enable:
- Physical repair and improvement works to St Matthews Community Centre to allow an extension of service provision by Holbeck Together,
- Potentially renovating the interior of Holbeck Together's current office space – The Old Box Office - to extend the space available for the community to use and repurpose its existing use.
- Major environmental improvements to Holbeck Moor such as new play equipment and skate park, better pedestrian links and routes, a community event space, and major new planting.
- Improvements on many of the local streets to add more street greenery and pocket parks and create a better pedestrian environment.
- Revitalisation of the local centre along Domestic Street to create more space for pedestrians.
- Potentially extending previous successful group repair projects to back to back housing streets closest to the local centre to improve their energy efficiency.
- The Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team have a dedicated team for Holbeck who are very receptive to requests and information from the public
- Dedicated Cleaner Neighbourhoods team operate in the priority neighbourhood to help deal with OSSW detritus

- Significant Highways investment in the 'Streets for People' scheme which has introduced interventions and traffic calming measures to improve road safety and introduce safer areas for play
- Health
- 'Parklife' sports facility is being developed for the former Matthew Murray site on Brown Lane East
- Transport:
- City Connect cycle scheme introduced to connect the city centre with Elland Road stadium, bringing with it lighting improvements to Holbeck Moor.

## **Bumantofts & Richmond Hill Ward**

### **Data Snapshot:**

(Source: <https://observatory.leeds.gov.uk/> )

### **Key characteristics – source Census 2011**

- There are 10,500 households in the ward of these:
  - 35% are rented from The Council
  - 21% are in the private rented sector
  - 10% are rented from a Social Landlord
  - 32 % are owner occupied
  - 9 % of households have no central heating
- 59% of Households have no car, nearly twice the Leeds average
- The ward has more children and less over 60's than the Leeds average
- 33% of the ward population are from Black and Minority Ethnic Groups. The ward has a significant African and Middle east population and growing Eastern European population.

### **Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019**

There are 14 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's) within BRH. 13 of these are ranked in the bottom 10% in the Index for Multiple Deprivation. In 2019 three LSOA's were ranked in the bottom 1% in England. These are:

- Cliftons and Nowells
- St Hildas, Copperfields, Gartons
- East Park Drive, Glensdales, Raincliffes

**Poverty** BRH is one of the poorest wards in the City with all bar 2 of the LSOA's being ranked in the bottom 10% on the IMD Income Domain. St Hildas, Copperfields and Gartons is the worst ranked neighbourhood in the City by this measure.

- 5454 people (29% of 16-65 year old population) are in receipt of Universal Credit (13.8% Leeds) August 2022.
- Of UC Claimants 17.7 % are not working, 10.9 in employment.

### **BRH Economically inactive population**

- 7.5% long term sick / disabled (4% Leeds)
- 4.4% Long term unemployed (1.9% Leeds)



- 6.3% Looking after family (3.6 Leeds)

**Child Poverty** – 42.3% of Children under 16 living in households with relative low income. The rate for Leeds is 23% (DWP 2018/19).

**Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour** – From July 2021 to June 2022 BRH had:

- Overall Crime - 207 crimes per 1,000 people (Leeds average of 131)
- Violence and sexual offences 97.7 per 1000 people (59.4 Leeds average)
- Anti-Social Behaviour offences 21 per 1,000 people (14.4 Leeds)

(Source data.police.uk)

### **Education, skills and qualifications**

- 37% of adults with no qualifications (23% Leeds)

### **Health Inequalities**

- Life expectancy - Male 72 (78.4 Leeds) Female 74.3 (81.7 Leeds)

### **Presenting issues:**

- Household income is low across the ward, particularly in the 1% IMD neighbourhoods. Nearly a third of the working age population are in receipt of Universal Credit so any changes to the UC rates or rules have a big impact locally.
- The ward has a higher unemployment rate than the Leeds average, those who are in work are often low paid and in some cases insecure work.
- Educational Attainment is low compared to Leeds average
- Comparatively high crime and high rates of Anti-Social behaviour have a big impact on certain neighbourhoods in the ward.
- Vulnerable young people are at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation, a number of urban street gangs operate in the ward drawing young people into drug distribution with all the associated risk and harm.
- Poor quality Housing particularly within some of the private rented stock
- Health outcomes are poor, exacerbated by the wider determinates of health including relatively poor housing stock, low income, poor air quality and low educational attainment.
- Mental Health is a real challenge and has deteriorated as a result of the pandemic.
- BRH has long been a ward which welcomes new arrivals to the City, inward migration does bring with it challenges, for example language barriers, children joining (and leaving) schools mid-year and cultural clashes around the “norms” of behaviour e.g young children playing in the street till relatively late at night.
- Connectivity – The ward is dissected by major arterial routes and railways lines which fragment neighbourhoods with BRH. The bus services from more isolated parts of the ward such as Cross Green are infrequent, active travel infrastructure is improving but still present major physical and psychological barriers to people getting about.
- The ward has a number of much valued parks and greenspaces. All of which would benefit from continued future investment.

### **Preliminary activity:**

- The ward has a strong and varied Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector. This loose network has been further strengthened following the coordinated support they delivered during the Pandemic. These organisations have now come together to form **Burmantofts and Richmond Hill Community Anchor Network (BRH CAN)**.

- Partners meet weekly and have developed a number of practical initiatives to support people in the ward. Focussing on the **cost-of-living crisis** partners have established 2 new Food pantries and are coordinating the emergency food offer across the ward. They are currently looking at warm spaces for this winter and have helped to distribute food and fuel vouchers through the Household Support Fund.
- BRH Youth Partnership brings together various organisations that work with young people. The partnership ensures we have a coordinated offer across the ward underpinned by strong working relationships between providers to share information and respond to emerging needs. The ward now benefits from a regular weekly programme of centre based youth work in Richmond Hill, Lincoln Green and the Nowells, this is complimented by the Youth Association who work 3 nights a week delivering street based youth work with some of the most at risk young people in the ward.
- Nowell Mount Children and Family Hub is now well established as a base for young people in the evenings and school holidays. The centre is currently open 4 nights a week for youth activities led by Youth Service, CATCH, Dazi Dance and Brave Words drama group.
- The BRH Community Safety Partnership is providing an effective lead role in tackling crime and ASB in the ward. The general Tasking meeting every 6 weeks provide an opportunity for partners to meet and agree joint action around emerging issues. Where there are specific hot spot areas or emerging threats partners will establish a task / finish group around these areas. For example the ward has a Cuckooing task group to tackle this emerging threat in the Lincoln Green / Ebor Gardens area. Last year LASBT, WYP, Housing Leeds and Youth Providers worked closely to take decisive action to tackle persistent ASB around Ascot Terrace. The smaller task and finish groups enable partners to undertake intensive work to identify specific victims and perpetrators and take appropriate actions.
- Employment support – LCC Employment and skills continue to offer support via the Community Hubs and have delivered a number of targeted interventions from basic employability and wellbeing through the Developing You programme through to sector specific targeted recruitment in Health and Social Care and continue to work with LTHT around hospital jobs.
- Health – The Communities Team is working closely with the HATCH Local Care Partnership to ensure that local health priorities and opportunities for joint working land in BRH.
- Public Health and Active Leeds have secured £1.3m revenue funding from the Department of Transport to support over the next 3 years to support waling and cycling activities linked to social prescribing. The funding will be used to support projects within the Burmantofts, Harehills and Richmond Hill Primary Care Network.
- Working with closely with Ward members Parks and Countryside are continuing to bring forward incidental improvements to the parks and greenspace in the ward. The Football Foundation's PlayZone initiative is an opportunity to secure up to 75% capital funding to improve small sided multi sports facilities, it is hoped we can secure funding for a couple of sites within BRH.

### **Future Focus:**

- Establish a Core Team to oversee the partnership work in the ward.
- Support the ongoing development of the Community Anchor Network particularly their work around poverty relief and the cost of living crisis ensuring that this dovetails with LCC support.
- Need to have an increased focus on Cross Green and East End Park, the two new 1% neighbourhoods in the ward

- Work with LCC Regeneration Team to ensure the development of the Old Copperfield school site in Cross Green has a positive impact on the surrounding neighbourhood – in particular, securing a better food retail offer if possible.
- Continue to support the work programme in the Cliftons and Nowells, developing and sustaining the community support offer from Nowell Mount Childrens Centre, ensuring that Selective Licensing is as effective as it can be in terms of referrals into wider support and supporting the ABCD pathfinder.

**Lincoln Green** – Although no longer a 1% neighbourhood there are a number of short, and long-term regeneration projects to pursue, to help sustain the progress that has been made.

- Lincoln Green Investment plan – LCC Regeneration and Housing will continue to develop an investment plan for the estate. Clearly to realise the ambitions of this plan will require substantial capital investment. In the short term this work will give us a plan which could be tackled incrementally over a number of years.
- Burmantofts wellbeing centre – Health Partnership continue to develop the strategic business case for this ambitious project to build a new health centre combined with LCC and third sector services. The route for capital funding remains unclear but the work currently being undertaken will help to secure future funding if and when it arises.
- Public Realm – Officers from Housing, Regen and the Communities Team continue to support and develop projects to improve the public realm in Lincoln Green including an innovative partnership project with Mafwa Theatre to create a community garden / events space.

## **Gipton & Harehills Ward**

### **Data Snapshot:**

(Source: <https://observatory.leeds.gov.uk/> )

- Whilst Gipton & Harehills has one 1% area, it has 12 LSOAs in the worst 5% in England, more than any Ward in Leeds. All 17 LSOAs are amongst the worst 10% nationally.
- Gipton and Harehills is second most populated Ward in Leeds with 33,645 residents living in 12,400 properties; nearly 10% of homes are classed as overcrowded.
- The Ward is both young and dynamic; 29.5% of residents are children and young people aged 14 or under. 53% of the population is aged 29 or under.
- 4,303 children and young people aged 0-15 in Gipton & Harehills live in the most income deprived households in England.
- Whilst 62.4% of the population is economically active; long term unemployment is double the Leeds average and those that have never worked is at 15.2%, which is nearly four times the Leeds average. Women from the Ward active in the job market is also notably lower than the Leeds average.
- 33.3% of working age people are receiving universal credit.
- Gipton and Harehills Ward is very diverse, with 63% of the population identifying as being from an ethnic minority; 72% of households reported that English was a first language.

- As a migration hub, the Ward has hundreds of languages spoken and numerous faiths live in close proximity (75% of households identify as being religious against a Leeds average of 65%).
- Overall, 64% of households rent (privately 25.3%) or socially (39.3%).
- Leeds City Council properties - that make up 29.2% of the social rented housing stock – are overwhelmingly situated in Gipton.
- Nearly 56% of households don't have access to a car or van.
- Fuel poverty for the Ward stands at 29.9%, 8.4% of households don't have central heating.
- Crime is higher than the Leeds average with violence and sexual assault, public order, ASB and criminal damage presenting as the main issues.

### **Presenting issues:**

- Poor state of some of the private rented accommodation in Harehills: overcrowding, disrepair, lack of adherence to health and safety regulations, damp, poorly insulated, infestations.
- Disconnect between residents, particularly new EU accession country migrants and statutory services. Engagement offer is limited in its reach.
- Cohesion and low-level tension: Seasonal challenges around ASB (perceived or otherwise) i.e. boisterous drinking, late-night parties, children playing after dark, summer exodus of EU migrants.
- Environmental blight continues to present as an issue.
- Lack of greenspace and sites for trees.
- Fuel poverty.
- Crime including gang related incidents or serious organised crime activity.
- ASB including long standing issues such as problem street drinking – Harehills is a magnet for a significant cohort of problem street drinkers - and spikes of ASB over Bonfire Night period.
- Health and links to health services; Harehills South MSOA has the lowest Covid Vaccine uptake in England, the eighth lowest is Harehills North MSOA.
- Statutory services are stretched, responding to acute issues and crisis means there is a lack of strategic planning.

### **Preliminary activity:**

- Supporting the Selective Licensing rollout and the push to make the most of crossing the threshold; Community and voluntary sector support is secured, and a light-touch social prescribing model is being developed.
- Utilising relationships being made by the ABCD worker and a proposal for Roma Community Connector(s) is progressing. Community Hubs have become more accessible and now accommodate essential services tailored to the population. Citizen action is beginning to manifest itself in positive activity such as Harehills Festival of Stories and the Harehills and Gipton winter welcome events.
- The Gipton Neighbourhood Improvement Partnership (GNIP) continues to establish itself as an effective anchor organisation in Gipton through which a number of projects and events have taken place over summer (including Gipton Gala and healthy holidays activities).

- The Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team have introduced a street warden initiative in the last 18 months (Harehills).
- Parks and Countryside are looking to uplift existing greenspaces including Ashton Park and Harehills Park and harness community support via resident groups. Ward members have recently dedicated significant Community Committee funding to improving these green spaces and there is a commitment from Parks and Countryside to direct funding from the governments Levelling Up Parks Fund to make these improvements possible.
- Wellbeing resources are being targeted towards fuel poverty initiatives such as funding contribution towards the St Aidan's Food Share project.
- A resident led Neighbourhood Plan is now progressing in Harehills and will be supported by new resource due to pilot government funding. This pilot project has seen the recent recruitment of a Community Engagement Worker. The worker will be based within the council's City Planning Team and work in Harehills to drive engagement in Neighbourhood Planning and support the Harehills Forum & plan process.
- A Harehills Town Team is also in development to look at creating a sense of pride in the main shopping areas coordinated by local residents and businesses. Residents are engaged and active in opposing applications for new off-licences that fall within the Cumulative Impact Assessment area; four have been successfully opposed in recent years.
- Multi-agency meetings are regularly taking place regarding tackling problem street drinking and the seasonal challenge of Bonfire Night. West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit funding is being granted to local groups to target at risk children and young people around serious and violent crime. There is also a vibrant youth provision offer in the Ward, particularly Harehills, that is supported by both Wellbeing and Youth Activity Fund monies.
- Public Health colleagues continue to work in Harehills to drive up vaccine uptake and projects such as the Leeds Community Champions are looking to create links and dialogue with established and emerging communities.
- Data dive on 1% LSOA is underway.

## **Hunslet & Riverside Ward**

### **Data Snapshot:**

- The ward includes a sizable chunk of the city centre, with the remainder mostly residential with a sizeable industrial/warehousing area. The ward is bounded by the River Aire / M1 / M621 / Middleton Railway / Middleton Grove / Cross Flatts Park / Beeston Road / Leeds Railway. The area is fragmented due to road and rail networks.
- Overall, it is a very deprived area as illustrated by the results of the Index of Multiple Deprivation for the 12 Super Output Areas (SOAs) in the Ward: five are ranked in the lowest 3% in the country, another four areas are in the lowest 10%.
- There are approximately 28,727 people living in the ward, of which 45.9% are female and 54.1% are male with residents living in 16,340 properties; 6.1% of homes are classed as overcrowded. Overall, 48.1% of households rent privately 25.3% or socially (23.5%). Leeds City Council properties - that make up 16.9% of the social rented housing stock.

- Many of the homes in the Hunslet and West Hunslet areas are provided by the Housing Leeds there is a particular concentration of back to backs in Beeston Hill which are mostly in the private rented sector.
- 18.6% of residents are children and young people aged 14 or under. 74.6% of the population is aged between 16-64.
- Whilst 72.6% of the population is economically active; of which 77.4% male and 66.8 female. Long term unemployment is above the Leeds average and those that have never worked is at 6.9%, which is higher than the Leeds average. Women from the Ward active in the job market is slightly higher than the Leeds average.
- 18.8% of working age people are receiving universal credit compared to the Leeds average of 13.8%.
- The last census indicates the population by area is White (64.7%), but the Ward also has a significant concentration of residents from ethnic minority communities (about 35.3%), particularly in the Beeston Hill area.
- As a migration hub, the Ward has hundreds of languages spoken and numerous faiths live in close proximity (62.1% of households identify as being religious against a Leeds average of 65%).
- 57.4% of households don't have access to a car or van.
- Fuel poverty for the Ward stands at 17.1%, 9.1% of households don't have central heating.
- Crime is higher than the Leeds average with violence and sexual assault, public order, criminal damage, other theft, vehicle crime and ASB and presenting as the main issues.

### **Prevailing issues**

- Poor environmental conditions, particularly in the back-to-backs (and in particular environmental issues in relation to binyards) which influence the perceptions of neighbourhoods
- Environmental blight continues to present as an issue. Domestic waste and Missed bin collections, flytipping, binyards – many filled with waste, no gardens or yards for bins
- Harsh environment, lack of green space
- Problems of anti-social behaviour in parts of the Ward: begging/sex work.
- Known issues include; - Anti social behaviour, - Drug dealing,- Drug taking,- Organised crime gangs,- Violence and sexual offences,- Speeding cars
- Transient community in private rented properties
- Community tensions and lack of cohesion particularly in Beeston Hill.
- Recent HNA finding revealed lack of access to G.P Practices
- Women- high- Health issues in the ward.
- Life expectancy is lower than the Leeds average (74.2 male, 78.8 female)
- Top health issues recorded by GP are Asthma, Chronic Heart, Disease, Common mental Health, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Close proximity to M621 motorway
- Issues of low levels of reporting, linked to lack of confidence in the Police and Leeds City Council
- The layout/design of the place makes it a challenge for services. (Beeston Hill)
- Poor state of some of the private rented accommodation: overcrowding, disrepair, lack of adherence to healthy and safety regs, damp, infestations;

## **Preliminary activity:**

- Selective Licensing rollout and the push to make the most of services crossing the threshold of private rented homes.
- Utilising local relationships being made by the ABCD worker.
- .The Voluntary & Community Network Partnership established to collectively work together to enable a plethora of services and support for our communities. Its aim is to share resources, overcome barriers, offer peer support, apply for collective funding and share best practice to support one another through this challenging time.
- Ward Councillors have approved funding to employ a dedicated Civic Enforcement Officer (CEO) to cover both Hunslet & Riverside and Beeston & wards. It has allowed Councillors to target problematic areas plagued with illegal parking or reduce litter and dog fouling problems effectively. The officer themselves are well regarded in the wider community and they have been making a real impact.”
- Pocket Parks improvement work continues. Following the successful investments made at Trentham, Rowland Road, Church Street parks, partnership work between Communities Team and Parks and Countryside continues to enhance the existing greenspaces including recent investment at Brickfield Park. This recent work has been a great partnership between the council and the community. Ward members have approved significant Community Committee funding to improving these green spaces.
- Dewsbury Road Town Team launched and covers the bottom end of Dewsbury Road, between Hunslet fire station and Hunslet Hall Road. A partnership of retailers in Beeston working together to serve the wider community, and to make improvements to their shopping district. Working closely with the Council and other agencies, to tackle issues including anti-social behaviour, litter, highways problems, and other issues.
- Multi-agency meetings are regularly taking place regarding tackling problem street drinking and the seasonal challenge of Bonfire Night. VRU funding is being granted to local groups to target at risk children and young people around serious and violent crime. There is also a vibrant youth provision offer in the Ward, that is supported by both Wellbeing and Youth Activity Fund monies.
- Community Champions and Public Health colleagues continue to work locally to drive up vaccine uptake and create a relationship via new projects.
- Data dive on LSOA is underway and Core Team to meet in late Autumn.

# **Killingbeck & Seacroft Ward**

## **Data Snapshot:**

(Source: <https://observatory.leeds.gov.uk/> )

- 24,901 people living in Seacroft, 5727 of those are aged 0-15.
- 3 LSOAs within the ward fall within the 1% most deprived nationally (3 priority neighbourhoods).
- 75% of all LSOAs fall within the 10% most deprived nationally.
- 41.4% of the overall ward population are living in local authority housing. Within a priority neighbourhood in K&S this rises to 77%.

- 67.2% of the overall ward population live in accommodation classed as Council Tax Band A this increases to 98% in the 1% LSOAs.
- 24.1% of people aged 16-65 are claiming Universal Credit, compared to 13.8% in Leeds.
- 38% of working aged people have no qualifications in the overall ward population, compared to 23.2% in Leeds and 22.5% in England.
- Between August-21 and July-22, 2,315 violent and sexual offences were reported, equating to 99 per 1,000 persons, compared to 60 in Leeds and 35.3 in England, in the 1% LSOAs this was 136 per 1,000.
- 4<sup>th</sup> highest crime rate across the city.
- Higher levels than the Leeds average in common and severe mental health challenges (Seacroft Primary Care Network).
- Significantly higher levels of smoking, obesity, diabetes, COPD and CHD than Leeds average.
- 7.1% of the overall ward population have no central heating, compared to 2.7% in England.
- 23.4% of the overall ward population are living in fuel poverty.
- 44.4% have no transport, compared to 32.1% in Leeds and 25.8% in England, within the LSOAs this rose to 63.8%.

### **Prevailing Issues**

- Cost of living crisis and increasing demand on local provisions and services, including third sector food banks and food pantries.
- Hate crime prevalent, particularly targeted around ethnic minorities. Community cohesion issues and residents vulnerable to far-right extremism.
- High rates of domestic violence.
- High levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime, particular issue around ASB and crime linked to motorcycles.
- Lack of confidence in police and low levels of reporting.
- Lack of confidence in support services, including NHS, LCC
- High numbers of young people residing in the ward, and high numbers engaging in ASB.
- Ongoing issue with vacant properties and clearance of flats at Kingsdale Court.
- No clear direction on the future of The Gate site where the pub was demolished nearly 3 years ago.

### **Preliminary Activity**

- There is a resilient partnership approach in working to develop a localised response to support the community through the cost-of-living crisis, involving a range of partners including LCC, and led by the third sector. Two successful workshops have been held with a strong focus on practical measures resulting in a support leaflet of the local offer to be delivered to homes in Seacroft as a starting point.
- Training delivered within the locality in partnership with LCC Migration and Prevent teams. Positive feedback and engagement from a range of services and third sector organisations. Subsequent 'Stand by Me' training secured and delivered by Communities Inc, which offered a range of community representatives and relevant services information on how to safely support victims of hate crime. Successful bid to the Home Office by local third sector organisation to continue this work.



- High levels of domestic violence have led to a focus within the LCP and several local projects, such as; a focus on toxic masculinity within a local boy's group, and a newly funded project for local women and girls focused on education around healthy relationships.
- A new mechanics project for young people at Denis Healey Centre has recently opened, which diverts motorcycle passion into something positive, for those who have engaged in or are at risk of engaging in ASB. Teaching mechanics skills and offering the opportunity to ride safely and legally as a reward.
- Recent engagement days took place with police and the community over the summer holidays, aiming to strengthen relationships and increase confidence.
- LASBT have begun regular drop ins at a community centre within the ward after residents requested more support to tackle the ongoing criminal behaviour. Reporting is low due to a fear of reprisals or a lack of confidence in action being taken, and it hoped this local intervention will help to address this.
- Employment and Skills are delivering adult learning courses in a local community centre, rather than at an LCC community hub which has resulted in improved take up by residents.
- Two recent successful applications to Violence Reduction Unit, which will enable specific work with young people, focused on violence reduction.
- Work is ongoing in Rein Park to deliver a pump track which was identified through community engagement and funded through S106. This will be complete in December '22 and follows large scale investment in the park to provide play equipment in 2021.
- Successful groups focused on sustainable living and the climate emergency have emerged, engaging local people in a community orchard and community growing project.
- Wellbeing funding is being utilised to provide training to local people on Climate Action and Cultural Diversity and Inclusion. There will be 6 months of learning with residents, local third sector and frontline workers to collectively look at creating a local strategy and projects on the 2 themes.
- The formation of 'We Are Seacroft', a collective of local third sector organisations, working collaboratively to best support the needs of the local community, including joint funding applications. Led by the local Community Anchor LS14 Trust We are Seacroft has launched their own website identifying local activities and support for residents in the ward.

## **Appendix 2**

# **Development of Community Committees**

### **Champions Role**

In 2019, the Head of Locality Partnerships offered individual meetings with each of the Community Committee Chairs to gain a better understanding of their committees and the challenges and opportunities of each one. A recurrent theme was the role of the themed Community Committee Champions and it was agreed at a subsequent Chairs Forum that a review of the Champions Role would take place, which would include the development of a role profile for the Champions that better outlined what the role and its responsibilities entailed.

The Champion's Role profile was discussed at the summer cycle of Community Committee meetings, with themed Champions appointed at each committee. Discussions are now therefore currently taking place with the relevant Executive Members to re-establish the Champion city wide arrangements following COVID-19.

The Champions Role and its strategic leadership function will be key to the programmes of work that are developed in each committee area over the next 12 months, as they will be acting as an interface and playing a substantial role in shaping the committee's agenda and local services. This connectivity is essential in order to achieve increased service improvement and provide local influence on service delivery.

### **Youth Summits**

Amongst other things, the pandemic has provided us with an opportunity to reflect upon the Youth Summit model and consider how we adapt responses and approaches to meet the needs of young people in our respective communities, as well as reviewing the aims and objectives for the Community Committee Youth Summits.

Following a meeting with various officers from the Communities Team, the Voice & Influence Lead for Children & Families and the Youth Service, a standardised baseline approach was agreed, that set out clear aims and objectives, across all committees.

Localised conversations are now taking place regarding the Youth Summits/Youth Activity Fund consultation, in accordance with the Children's Champions and relevant Children & Families Subgroups. As we appreciate and understand that each community is different, the specific arrangements for each summit/Youth Activity Fund consultation will be worked through and progressed by relevant officers in the Communities Team, the Voice & Influence Team and the Children's Champions for each respective area, as long as the baseline aims and objectives are achieved.

All Youth Summits will be delivered between October 2022 & March 2023.

## **Priority Setting Framework (Developing an Intelligence Based Approach)**

The Communities Team are in the process of reviewing current practices, in order to build on learning and existing good practice to develop a Prioritisation Framework to support the work of the Community Committees, Community Committee Champions and the Community Committee Sub Groups.

This review will include how we currently identify the information needed to set priorities, the process, how the priorities are used, what they inform and when they are reviewed. The Prioritisation Framework will help to inform decision making and focus resources more effectively.

The proposed Community Committee Prioritisation Framework Delivery Model has been categorised into a number of phases:

- Phase 1 - Intelligence gathering
- Phase 2 - Ward Member and Partner Engagement
- Phase 3 - Community Committee Priority Setting Workshop
- Phase 4 - Ratifying Priorities
- Phase 5 - Local Area Plans

Work is progressing for Phase 1, intelligence gathering. The proposal is that the Priority Setting Workshops will be delivered in March 2023, so that informally agreed priorities can start to inform budget spend for the new financial year, with priorities formally ratified in the summer cycle of meetings.

## **Community Engagement (Working Smarter)**

At the Chairs Forum meeting in February 2022, there was an acknowledgement that engagement with committees had declined as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We agreed that one of the priorities for the Communities Team would be working with Chairs to increase engagement with the Community Committees, as well as raising awareness of what they do.

This means that we will review our engagement approach through research/sharing good practice, to identify the most appropriate channels and platforms to use and how these can be incorporated to create more inclusive engagement work; looking at how 'in person' and digital approaches can blend together to make effective and accessible engagement.

We will also look at agendas and reports that are taken to the Community Committee meetings; looking at how we can re-shape the Update Report to be more engaging; how we can better demonstrate the value and impact of projects taking place in their respective wards in reports that go to the committee; how they can link up with Local Area Plans and how they can look more attractive and visually appealing to encourage people to read them.

## Appendix 3

# Examples of Locality Working Activity

- 1 As documented in previous Scrutiny Board and Executive Board reports, there have been many examples of more integrated ways of locality working since the model was agreed. With the approval of the refreshed Locality Working Framework earlier this year, and the expansion into all 12 most disadvantaged (1%) LSOAs and a more targeted approach across 6 Priority Wards agreed, significant progress continues to be made.
- 2 **Appendix 1** shows the data gathering and the breadth of preliminary activity being undertaken across the six Priority Wards, but further flavour of the range of work involved is illustrated through the following examples. These are split under the three strands of the Locality Working Framework of Citywide (as delivered through the Community Committees), Targeted interventions within the six Priority Wards, and Seasonal and Responsive interventions around specific need.

## Examples of Citywide Activity

### a) Youth Summits

The pandemic has provided us with an opportunity to reflect upon the Youth Summit model and consider how we adapt responses and approaches to meet the needs of young people in our respective communities, as well as reviewing the aims and objectives for the Community Committee Youth Summits.

Following a meeting with various officers from the Communities Team, the Voice & Influence Lead for Children & Families and the Youth Service, a standardised baseline approach was agreed, that set out clear aims and objectives, with measurable outcomes, across all committees.

Localised conversations have been taking place regarding the Youth Summits/Youth Activity Fund consultation, in accordance with the Children's Champions and relevant Children & Families Subgroups. As we appreciate and understand that each community is different, the specific arrangements for each summit/Youth Activity Fund consultation is being worked through and progressed by relevant officers in the Communities Team and the Children's Champions for each respective area, as long as the baseline aims and objectives are achieved. All Youth Summits will be delivered between October 2022 and March 2023.

As one of the key aims and objectives is that we engage with a wide variety of young people that truly reflects the diversity of the city and not just young people who are academically inclined, or naturally engaged with these type of events, a colleague in the Communities Team recently attended the SEND Summit on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022, to consult with young people that have special education needs and disabilities.

So far 3 Community Committee Youth Summits have been delivered (as well as a SEND Summit), with over **250 young people** being engaged, **56 of which are young people that have special education needs and disabilities**.

In addition to the physical Youth Summits, a Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey has been created using new and innovative ways of consulting with young people, such as using a QR code that takes young people directly to the survey when the QR code has been scanned with a Smartphone, as well more traditional methods of collecting data, such as filling out paper consultation forms at Breeze Events.

The **Youth Activity Fund Consultation is open** until the end of March 2023 and **we've already had in excess of 1,000 responses** from young people. This, in amongst feedback from young people at the Youth Summits, will in principle inform the Community Committees Youth Activity Fund budget spend for the next financial year.

### **b) Enhancing Access to Community Public Access Defibrillator (cPAD) Project**

This programme of work was introduced to address significant cardiovascular health issues that existed across the city. As the largest cause of premature death, with very low survival rates from out-of-hospital cardiac arrests, community public access defibrillators (cPAD's) have been identified as the most important development in the treatment of sudden cardiac arrest.

Across Leeds there existed a disparity with regards to the number of 24/7 access to cPAD's located in different wards. This project addressed that disparity, by ensuring that all wards in the city were increased to a minimum of 4 cPAD's actively in operation, making our communities safer, stronger and more resilient in response to out of hospital cardiac incidents.

The project fulfilled a total of 54 new installations, situated in areas of the city most in need. Through a process of engagement with community groups and Elected Members, the project ensured the appropriate siting of the installation, with consideration to geographic spacing, areas of high footfall and local health data.

Partnership working has been the key to the success of this citywide rollout, with the support of third party partners, community groups, local volunteers and Leeds City Council partners; each hosting devices in key locations and ensuring the active status of the devices through the appointment of a network of Guardians. The impact of this has brought conversations around cardiovascular health to the forefront in many of our communities, encouraging resident engagement to support the life saving devices.

The rollout of the project has now been completed by the Safer Stronger Communities Team. The ongoing support of the equipment, including the supply of replacement consumables will be fulfilled by Public Health.

### **c) Outer West Skills, Learning and Employability**

Throughout 2021-22, the Outer West Community Committee placed emphasis not only on making Outer West a vibrant place to live but also on encouraging local people to be the best they can be.

A wellbeing grant project that epitomised this approach was the 'Rock up to do a Mock-up' sessions ran by Building Futures Together. Covering all wards in the Outer West, the

initiative provided support for employability amongst young people, especially those at risk of being drawn into anti-social behaviour and those seeking employment after criminal justice. Within a live business setting, participants learned skills of the building industry through hands-on activities including plumbing, electrical work and joinery. These sessions proved highly popular with all sessions very well attended.

The project delivered inclusive growth by placing young people at the centre of skills-based learning, which in turn will benefit businesses in the local area. Following the success of the programme, one of the participants was taken on by the host organisation as an apprentice, because of new skills developed and attitude to development shown.

The Youth Activity Fund was also utilised in Outer West to focus on skills and learning, one example being the 'Beats on the Street' Project, delivered by The Music Box in Pudsey. With an aim of tackling anti-social behaviour, this project ran workshops on urban music and visual arts, to engage a younger audience. Participants learned how to Beat-Box, mix music, write lyrics, and produce graffiti art. Young people who attended the sessions highlighted the benefits of having a safe space to meet new friends and learn new skills.

#### **d) Outer North West Police Football Project**

The Outer North West Community Committee approved £4,518 for the West Yorkshire Police Football Project. West Yorkshire Police worked in partnership with Guiseley Community Foundation to run 6 Level 1 Sports Leaders Courses at Guiseley Football Club.

The aim of the project was to address the lack of community cohesion felt by some young people, who had expressed feelings of hopelessness and helplessness, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, thus the project linked into the council's health and wellbeing strategy. The 6-week programme consisted of both sports theory and practical work, delivered in 4 hour sessions every week. Each session focused on how to coach football and emphasised the leadership skills, as well as the team working, and communication skills also needed. This resulted in a nationally recognised award of Level 1 Sports Leaders, which could be used towards future apprenticeship opportunities.

The project engaged with 38 young people (target was 36), guiding them towards higher levels of self-esteem, as well as teaching self-restraint, anger management and respect for the local community.

Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers acted as students for the young people to practice what they had learned, with staff also delivering more intensive 1:1 sessions, where literacy was a challenge. This served as a really useful engagement tool with some young people who were 'difficult to reach' and has formed some trusted relationships, with the project resulting in a clear improvement in anti-social behaviour in the local community.

#### **e) Outer South Environmental Activity**

Young people across the Outer South Community Committee area focused on their local environment in 2021/22, with a variety of youth groups engaged in making the environment safer, cleaner and greener for the local community. Groups were assisted by the committee

who provided funding for local activities that linked into the core Leeds City Council ambitions of being carbon neutral; reducing our impact on the planet and health & wellbeing; to be a healthy and caring city for everyone.

The Outer South Youth Matters Group worked with young people to litter pick in local parks at Smithy Lane, Dartmouth Park, Lewisham Park & Hembrigg Park. The group also focused on reducing dog fouling, as they designed posters that were used in the parks. Young people also collected apples from the orchard in Robin Hood and distributed these to local foodbanks.

Tingley Transition Group worked with young people to grow their own food, including potatoes, peas, beetroot, lettuce and chillies, as well as a plum tree, 2 apple trees and a pear tree. Once products were ready to be harvested the group members made them into meals for everyone.

St Gabriel's Youth Club worked in their community garden, weeding and cutting back hedges that made the outside of the building look better and Teen Green members learned how to look after fruit trees, as well as making new beds to plant in allotments and learning how to make compost heaps and creating organic fertiliser.

## **Examples of Targeted Activity**

### **f) Nowell Mount Community Centre**

One of the more significant projects to emerge as part of the priority neighbourhood approach in the Clifton and Nowells has been the building a £250k extension to Nowell Mount Community Centre. This new space is working well, hosting a busy and diverse weekly programme of activities throughout the week. Youth work remains the focus in the evenings and holidays, with daytimes being used by a mix of LCC Children's Services provision, local third sector services, with around half the timetable being taken up by local volunteer led activity supported by the Adults and Health Commissioned ABCD Community Builder.

As previously reported, the impact of the provision has been very positive for the area, but this brief update focusses on the unique local management arrangement partners have developed for the centre.

The building is a council asset vested with Children Services. With the expansion of use, it became apparent that for the space to work effectively and meet the needs and expectations of the local community, a new local management arrangement was needed.

The Communities Team approached Leeds Community Spaces (LCS) for advice, who run Kentmere Community Centre and Meanwood Community Centre, following a Community Asset Transfer. Whilst Leeds Community Spaces core business is running the centres transferred to them, they have a broader aim to support community centres generally to become busy, thriving places that meet the needs of their local communities.

To this end LCS have been instrumental in supporting the development of Nowell Mount. A modest amount of funding has been secured to pay for their time, the equivalent of 5 hours a week. In return for this LCS handle to the day-to-day programming of the centre, arranging

building inductions for new users, ensuring health and safety procedures are adhered to, problem solving, conflict resolution; and this the support has been invaluable. LCC Lettings manage the booking support, adhering to the systems that are in place across other council facilities. Decisions are taken locally involving the Children's Centre Manager, The Nowells Community Group and The Communities Team Locality Manager.

This hybrid approach to managing a community space between the council and the third sector has proven very effective and is under consideration as to if it might be a useful model for elsewhere in Leeds.

### **g) Get Set Leeds - Local**

In December 2019, Sport England awarded funding to the Get Set Leeds Local (GSL-Local) Project to develop and test locality-based approaches to raising levels of physical activity in four of our priority neighbourhoods:

- Stratford Street, Beverleys in the Hunslet and Riverside ward – Beeston Hill
- Crosby Street, Recreations, Bartons in the Beeston and Holbeck ward – Holbeck
- New Wortley in the Armley ward - New Wortley.
- Boggart Hill and the Wykebeck Valley in the Killingbeck and Seacroft ward - Seacroft

Adopting an asset-based approach, the Leeds physical activity approach comprises three core elements to deliver on the Physical Activity Ambition: (i) improved collaboration and connectedness across the city; (ii) more in-depth dialogue with people who live and work in the city; and (iii) behaviour change techniques. GSL-Local is the start, any lasting solutions are reliant upon a whole system change. The project has been fully integrated with the city's wider physical activity governance structure from the outset, allowing transparency, connectivity, support and learning both into and out of the project.

Get Set Leeds Local supports local ideas to help get people in our communities become more active through a community chest pot fund, training opportunities and larger co-produced projects. Examples of projects include: People Matters Health and wellbeing project; Ping Pong4U Activator training course; Leeds Athletic football coaching training; Together for Sport kit donation; Leeds United Foundation Active Through Football; Inner East Cycle Hubs and Cross Flatts Swim, Bike and Run.

### **h) Denis Healey Centre Mechanics Project**

A community-based project offering young people the opportunity to learn mechanics skills, and to ride motorcycles safely and legally has recently been established at Denis Healey Centre in Seacroft. The project has been very popular, and despite being in its infancy is already at capacity, with a group of 15 young people engaging weekly.

The project aims to divert local young people from motorcycle ASB, whilst still being able to focus on their motorcycle passion, in a safe and positive environment. The project is run by local people and has been supported with funding from the Inner East Community Committee and the Safer Streets Fund.



Three trips to Bumpy have been organised for December, which will offer young people the opportunity to ride safely and legally. These trips will provide a reward for the young people who have consistently engaged in the project.

Due to the project's popularity, the team are exploring how the offer could be expanded in the future, to enable more young people to benefit.

### **i) Pocket Park Improvements**

As part of the continued effort to improve local green spaces, Hunslet & Riverside ward members alongside Communities Team, Parks and Countryside Team and Active Leeds worked in partnership to make improvements to Brickfield Park, to ensure this space remains well used and loved.

A consultation was carried out to invite residents to have their say over improvements and also with the view to galvanised residents led action to take ownership of the greenspace. Following the initial consultation and feedback, a group of residents and local voluntary and community partners came together to form a focus group to further carry out more consultation including a listening campaign which helped to amplify the voices of people who live next to and use this park (or would like to use it!). The feedback from this exercise further complemented the initial findings, ensuring that residents had the opportunity to shape and co create their greenspaces.

This has boosted residents' enthusiasm and has led to various residents led community activities at the park supported by council officers. Following the upgrade and installation of new equipment, the residents organised a celebration day to mark the partnership work of all involved, local residents, St Lukes Cares, Kidz Club, Leeds Citizens, Active Leeds, Communities Team and local Councillors. This has been the start of a powerful journey with local people helping shape the future of this park, with the aspiration of forming a 'Friends of Brickfield Park' and turning the park that was mainly full of dog waste, rough sleeping and throughfare to a much loved and well used community space.

### **j) Armley Community Safety Planning**

Following on from the successful focus on community safety within the New Wortley Safer Cleaner Greener subgroup, a workshop was organised and held by the Communities Team in partnership with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team. The event took place within the locality, and the attendance and engagement was fantastic, with a wide range of internal services, external delivery partners and third sector organisations attending and showing their commitment.

Within the workshop there was a focus on 3 key areas – New Wortley, Town Street and the Wythers. These areas were identified as priorities based on data and community intelligence. Attendees had the opportunity to discuss each of the 3 areas, in relation to what was working well and ideas for partnership working to improve community safety. A wealth of information was shared, and common themes and ideas have since been identified. Not only did the event support future planning, but it enabled a range of people to network and connect organising quick wins which have benefitted the Armley ward.

Since the event, work to develop community safety plans for each of the 3 areas has taken place, in connection with the NPT. Our next steps will be to finalise these, then consult on the plans, and check that they capture the ideas and opportunities for future partnership working on this agenda. We will then work to collectively drive forward actions with the overall aim of improving community safety.

## **Examples of Seasonal and Responsive Activity**

### **k) Seasonal - Bonfire planning and diversionary activity**

The period between Halloween and Bonfire Night is traditionally one of the "busiest times of the year" for emergency services in Leeds; a period that has also seen anti-social behaviour blight Wards across the city. This tradition for disorder reached its peak in 2019, when lawless crowds in Harehills threw fireworks and bricks at emergency services on Bonfire Night. Thirteen people were subsequently convicted following the incident, with five people receiving prison sentences of up to 36 months.

Officers pledged to clamp down on violence and anti-social behaviour, with a focus on continuous improvement in the way that we work, building on the learning and ways of working from previous years. This has culminated in a seasonal year on year locality working response, with a strong emphasis on more integrated multi-disciplinary ways of working.

Many wards in city now have a task-finish multi-disciplinary team that activates in advance and operates over this challenging period. As an illustration in microcosm, this year in Harehills partners from statutory services such as the Police, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service work in collaboration with Ward Councillors, council officers from the Communities Team, Youth Services, Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team, Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team, LeedsWatch and Active Leeds as well as local schools and community and voluntary sector groups (inc. Community Action to Create Hope (CATCH), Junior Sports Hub and Youth Association) to create a programme of operational activities in a bid to offset the anti-social behaviour and criminality that occurs over this period.

This integrated way of working takes a number of forms; primarily the bonfire planning meetings themselves ensure vital connections are made between key partners months in advance, where partners can work collaboratively to co-produce innovative local solutions. Examples include pre-emptive visits by partners to schools, youth provisions, faith groups and radio stations (Fever FM) to warn of the risks in participating in ASB; outreach and diversionary activities are designed and put in place for the period to engage and dissuade young people from becoming drawn into any criminality; communication links are made between the frontline staff including the use of live WhatsApp groups to keep people informed of developments in real time and hotspot areas are targeted hardened and kept free of any debris by council services.

This year, in light of the postponement of all Leeds City Council bonfires in 2022, the Safer, Stronger Communities Team were once again allocated the task of upscaling this offer and help ensure that the £30,000 cost savings was redistributed into providing diversionary activity across key Wards of concern. Given the tight timescales this proved a challenge, but the programme of activities proved comprehensive involving several youth providers as well as

schools and community and voluntary sector groups. In Harehills hundreds of children and young people from the local area engaged with youth providers and the diversionary activities over the key Bonfire Night period. Activities at CATCH and nearby Hovingham Primary School included music, pool, arts and crafts and gaming competitions. CATCH also partnered with the Active Leeds to put on a football tournament and roller-skating sessions; both of which proved hugely popular. Leeds City Council's Youth Services and Junior Sports Hub also saw their diversionary activities packed to the rafters with local children and young people who were drawn-in by the offer of games, activities and even a late-night barbecue (despite the inclement weather).

Post Halloween and Bonfire Night, the feedback is that the majority of residents in Leeds were able to enjoy bonfire night/weekend safely, there were only a small number of isolated incidents that were managed by West Yorkshire Police and West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

### **l) Responsive - Halton Moor Partnership Approach**

Halton moor is a thriving community with various investment over the last 10 years. Services and statutory bodies began to see an increase in calls for service relating to ASB and crime and disorder. This was substantially above the norm for the area.

In Mid 2021 a Neighbourhood Improvement Partnership was developed, which reports to the Outer East Community Committee. This is a quarterly meeting led by Cllr Coupar where all the key stakeholders attend and discuss all areas of work. e.g Police, LASBT, Localities, Social care, youth service and provisions, third sector.

Several issues were identified along with best working practices. This resulted in a new innovative M365 teams-based SARA problem solving plan, whereby it has created a bespoke monthly task and finish process, that reports back to the quarterly NIP.

It is still in the early stages but has already identified best practice as well as gaps in service provisions and intervention opportunities.

The plan is continually developing, and we are currently developing an information sharing protocol/agreement so the Teams channel can be accessed by statutory authorities such as the Police.

The NIP and SARA problem solving plan makes it easier to bring partners together as issues are identified and work together quickly to ensure these are resolved.

### **m) Cost of Living - Community Kitchen and Cooking Efficiently**

A new project has begun in Seacroft, focused on developing a local community kitchen, as well as working with the community to look at how to cook more efficiently. The project has been developed in direct response to the cost-of-living crisis and food insecurity and local conversations with residents. The project has been jointly funded by the Inner East Community Committee and Public Health. The community kitchen project is being led by local people and offers a range of cooking courses for the Seacroft community, with a focus on cooking healthily and efficiently, using microwaves and slow cookers and batch cooking for the family. The project has built in sustainability with attendees having the opportunity to

take home recipes and ingredients whilst being linked into the local food pantry with an additional offer to be gifted a slow cooker if required.

The project also has a strong social element, providing an opportunity for the community to socialise whilst cooking and eating together. Researchers from the University of Leeds are planning to support the project by evaluating the use of slow cookers and other appliances as an alternative to ovens.

#### **n) Cost of Living - Burmantofts & Richmond Hill Community Anchor Network**

Voluntary Action Leeds have been providing support to the third sector across the city to explore the concept of a city-wide community anchor network. This idea emerged following the success of the Community Care Volunteering Hubs that were set up to provide support during the pandemic. In Burmantofts and Richmond Hill there is a strong VCS with a good track record of working collaboratively, early discussions amongst partners were clear that in BRH ward no single organisation could be the Community Anchor – it would only work if it was a network or partnership of local organisations.

Leeds Mencap have played a lead role in contacting local groups and talking to them about the concept. Early outcomes from this process have been to establish hyper-local regular catch ups for local groups – These are referred to as “patch meetings”, they offer partners a weekly half hour opportunity to meet physically or virtually with each other.

BRH Community Anchor Network (BRH CAN) have developed a virtual information system for the ward. This addresses the perennial challenge of how to keep up to date with relevant information about services, activities and sources of support for communities in the ward. Leeds Mencap staff have invested substantial time in pulling together information and organising it into a sharable “Google Docs” format. This is called VIRB - Virtual Information for Richmond Hill and Burmantofts. So far the VIRB has sections on

- Finances and Benefits
- Services and Support
- Course, Classes, Groups and Things to Do

Cost of Living pressures are impacting on households within the ward, BRH CAN have responded to this by establishing 3 food pantries in the ward to compliment the emergency food support offered by food banks. Organisations have worked together to open a number of warm space provisions across the ward – this process has benefited from the coordination offered by the partnership in that thought has been given to the timetable ensuring good coverage throughout the week. LCC Financial inclusion team have connected with BRH CAN providing food and fuel vouchers through the Household Support Fund to distribute locally to individuals in financial crisis.

In terms of next steps BRH CAN have asked for support from The Communities Team to pull together a multi-agency workshop on cost of living support with the aim of developing a simple but effective local referral system.