

Report of: Head of Locality Partnerships

Report to: Outer East Community Committee

Cross Gates & Whinmoor, Garforth & Swillington, Kippax & Methley, Temple Newsam

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For Information

Outer East Community Committee - Update Report

Purpose of report

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

Main issues

3. Updates by theme

4. Health and Wellbeing & Adult Social Care: Champion Cllr James Gibson

The latest Director of Public Health Annual Report for Leeds is available for sharing along with an accompanying short film, both titled *Ageing Well: Our Lives in Leeds*.

To hear the experiences of some of the 900 people surveyed, read the reports and watch the film, linked below;

Full report: [Ageing Well: Our Lives in Leeds](#)

[Executive Summary](#)

Film [Our Lives in Leeds](#)

This year's report focuses on experiences of ageing well in Leeds and inequalities amongst different groups. It combines survey responses from over 900 local people with latest data and trends on factors impacting ageing – such as diet, smoking, alcohol intake, mental health, travel, housing, employment, and financial wellbeing.

The recommendations in this report build on our long-standing commitment to being an Age Friendly City, identifying further actions to increase the number of years spent in good health.

This report and supporting film will be shared and discussed at the Health and Wellbeing Board and various other meetings over the coming months.

We're also delighted that our Leeds' report has been commended as one of the best in-depth single topic submissions nationally by the Association for the Directors of Public Health.

We always welcome feedback on our Director of Public Health Annual Report. If you have any comments, please email publichealth.enquiries@leeds.gov.uk

Public Health Resource Centre Want to Know More Session - Prioritising mental health in the workplace

Thursday 10 October 2024, 10am to 11.30am

This online session will explore the critical relationship between employment, mental health, and the wider determinants affecting wellbeing in Leeds. We'll provide valuable insights into the challenges faced by both employees and employers, with a particular focus on reducing mental health stigma in the workplace. This webinar is suitable for anyone interested in fostering a more supportive work environment.

This session will cover:

- an overview of headline data from Leeds and the impact of wider determinants on mental health
- into how employment affects mental health
- a case study from a Leeds employer on handling mental health in the workplace
- discussion around the impact of stigma and stigmatising language on mental health

The session will be led by representatives from the Public Mental Health Team (Leeds City Council), Mindful Employer (Leeds Mind) and Touchstone.

5. Housing

Performance Information: August 2024 Swarcliffe and Halton Moor Housing Office

Voids Levels (empty properties)

Demand for properties remains high across my management area, especially for houses. The Lettings Team is working hard to ensure properties are allocated in a timely manner. Referrals continue to be made for issues and waste/fly tipping, which is aimed to remove the items in a timely manner to ensure properties enjoy an appealing kerb-side appeal.

Current number of Ready to Lets are as follows:

- Swarcliffe/Whinmoor – 3
- Halton Moor/Osmondthorpe – 5
- Total – 8

Income Collection

Our rent collection figures at week 21 are:

- Swarcliffe -94.98%
- Halton Moor -93.59%

We are working closely with our residents to maximise their income, particularly through the cost-of-living crisis, by referring cases through to Benefit Advisors, assisting with Discretionary Housing Payments in acute cases and involving third party support agencies. We are also supporting our most vulnerable customers by utilising the Housing Support Fund to assist with rent arrears.

We continue to make referrals to Leeds Credit Union for tenants who would benefit from budgeting accounts and who are experiencing the effects of the cost-of-living crisis. Our Housing Officer (Income) is working with our more complex cases, linking in with support agencies, to ensure tenants receive advice on how they can maximise their incomes.

ASB

Focus on directing customers to Triage Team for ASB who will risk assess every complaint, set out expectations in terms of reporting and ensure that the cases are passed to the correct team (Housing, LASBT or no further action). The team have strong links with local police officers to share information.

There are 7 ASB cases across the Swarcliffe and Halton Moor areas which are managed by the Housing Officers and reviewed monthly by the Team Leader.

6 weekly partnership working meetings booking in with the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team to share information and discuss ongoing cases between the teams.

Annual Tenancy Check-in (ATCI)

We are now into the third cycle of the Annual Tenancy Check-in programme. Officers aim to complete 100% of visits by the end of the financial year. For those customers who we find difficult to access, officers are to follow the enforcement process to gain access.

Environmental Actions Team

Quarter 1 Estate Walkabouts have been carried out, with Quarter 3 walkabouts to be scheduled for October/November. The key issues identified during the walkabouts is fly tipping. Housing Officers ensure they report any fly tipping on the estate whilst carrying out their day-to-day duties. Teams have access to the Skill Mill scheme, where referrals can be made for ad-hoc estate improvement work.

Performance Information: August 2024

Garforth & Kippax Housing Office

Voids Levels (empty properties)

Demand for properties remains high across my management area, especially for houses. The Lettings Team have worked hard to reduce the number of ready to let properties and currently have just 3 in the area where applicants have been identified.

Income Collection

Our rent collection figures at week 21 are: 96.28%

We are working closely with our residents to maximise their income, particularly through the cost-of-living crisis, by referring cases through to Benefit Advisors, assisting with Discretionary Housing Payments in acute cases and involving third party support agencies. We are also supporting our most vulnerable customers by utilising the Housing Support Fund to assist with rent arrears.

We continue to make referrals to Leeds Credit Union for tenants who would benefit from budgeting accounts and who are experiencing the effects of the cost-of-living crisis. Our Housing Officer (Income) is working with our more complex cases, linking in with support agencies, to ensure tenants receive advice on how they can maximise their incomes.

ASB

Focus is on directing customers to Triage Team for ASB who will risk assess every complaint, set out expectations in terms of reporting and ensure that the cases are passed to the correct team (Housing, LASBT or no further action). The team have strong links with local police officers to share information.

There are 4 open ASB cases across Garforth and Kippax and the surrounding villages which are managed by the Housing Officers and reviewed monthly by the Team Leader.

6 weekly partnership working meetings take place with the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team to share information and discuss ongoing cases between the teams.

Annual Tenancy Check-in (ATCI)

We are now into the third cycle of the Annual Tenancy Check-in programme. Officers aim to complete 100% of visits by the end of the financial year. For those customers who we find difficult to access, officers are to follow the enforcement process to gain access.

Environmental Actions Team

Quarter 1 Estate Walkabouts have been conducted, with Quarter 3 walkabouts to be scheduled for October/November. The key issues identified during the walkabouts were fly tipping and overgrown / untidy gardens. Housing Officers ensure they report any fly tipping on the estate whilst performing their day-to-day duties. Teams have access to the Community Payback and Skill Mill scheme, where referrals can be made for ad-hoc estate improvement work.

Corporate Considerations

6. Consultation and Engagement

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

7. Equality and Diversity/ Cohesion and Integration

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

8. Council Policies and City Priorities

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

- Vision for Leeds 2011 – 30
- Best City Plan
- Health and Wellbeing City Priorities Plan
- Children and Young People's Plan
- Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
- Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy

9. Resources and Value for Money

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

10. Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

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

11. Risk Management

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

Conclusions

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

Recommendations

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

Background documents¹

14. None.

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