

Report of: Head of Stronger Communities

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

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For consideration

Outer North East Community Committee – Update Report

Purpose of report

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

Main issues

Updates by theme

Environment & Community Safety: Councillor Matthew Robinson

3. Since the last Community Committee on 14 September 2020, the Environmental Sub Group met 18 November 2020. Representatives Parks & Countryside, Waste Management and Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team attended to provide an update on their services and a plan for going forward. The main headlines that were discussed in the meeting was weed spraying, parking concerns in residential areas due to more people walking in scenic routes, de-leafing and the potential for using the big recycling bins in the area.

Children and Families: Councillor Dan Cohen

Christmas School Message

4. Due to the difficult year and the current government restrictions in place, the local councillors thought it would be a great way to spread some festive cheers by asking schools to record a Christmas message which can be shared with all the other schools in the community committee area.
5. The councillors have asked schools to join in to record a short message, involving as many students and staff members as possible, wishing other schools a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Once all the videos and photos have been received, they will all be compiled into one big video, in which schools can play during the last week of term.

Youth Summits

6. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, officers in the Communities Team have not been able to make plans and preparations for the Youth Summits in the usual fashion this year. A discussion has taken place with Chairs at their September meeting where they were invited to discuss options for the Youth Summits for 2020/21. Chairs agreed that due to the ongoing restrictions, their preferred option was to move the summits to a remote format for the remainder of 2020/21, and that these should be scheduled to take place in the New Year (2021).
7. By having virtual Youth Summits, the service is able to build upon its commitment to engage and involve children and young people in decision making in their own communities, young people get involved in choosing which activities should be supported by the Community Committees.
8. The proposals and the timescales of then youth summits have been Other North East Councillors.

Health, Wellbeing & Adult Social Care: Councillor Norma Harrington

Community Volunteer Hubs

9. Both Moor Allerton Elderly Care (MAECare) and Wetherby In Support of the Elderly (WiSE) continue to offer support to those vulnerable residents in Outer North East Leeds as part of the city's ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
10. MAECare has confirmed the Hub is pretty quiet these days. The handful of referrals tend to be people who are having to self-isolate because of symptoms/test results or COVID 19 so have hit a short term crisis.
11. General MAECare stuff is more about re-configuring services every couple of weeks as we enter into the latest Tier or lockdown. We had resumed some physical exercise classes and some small groups prior to lockdown. At the moment its telephone support, virtual activities, weekly fish and chip deliveries, Doorstep walks and small

groups for people who are vulnerable, and one to one IT support. And we're planning for a lockdown Christmas

Ward Business

12. Since the last Consultative Forum, Ward member meetings are now taking place on a regular basis. Services attending those meetings are; Cleaner Neighbourhood Team, Parks and Countryside and Traffic and Highways maintenance and Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

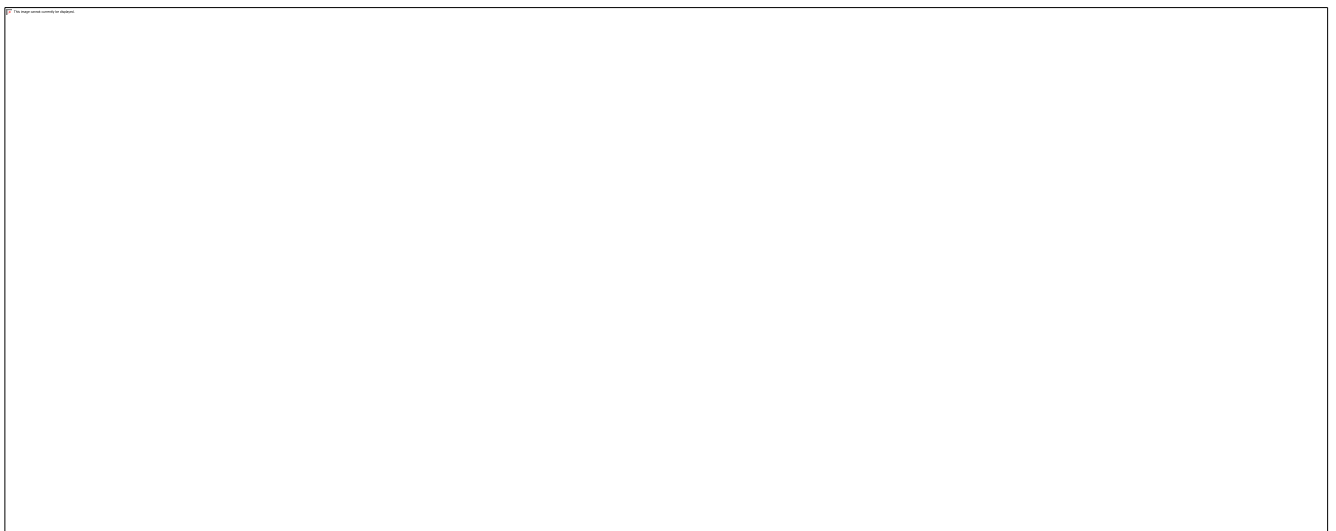
13. On 22 October the first Town and Parish Council Forum meeting took place since the pandemic began. The Business Development Manager from Parks and Countryside attended to discuss Wildflowers and Reduced Mowing. Updates were also provided by the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Community Engagement: Social Media

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

Updates from Key Services

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team



15. Since the previous meeting there has been a slight decrease in the requests for removal of fly tipping, the complaints to the department regarding bins have improved significantly, however I feel that over the next month or so this may increase slightly due to the staffing levels and as the team leader having to pool resource from other locations has an impact on the bins as the locations of the bins has previously fallen to the staff that have the historical knowledge of the bins. This is currently being worked upon with partnership working with parks and countryside.

16. The team are currently working on the removal of leaves across the outer area and currently everything seems to be as it should be, we are working from Wetherby to Harewood then on to Alwoodley and then they will return to Wetherby and start again. Where we have had issues with the roads being of a speed we cannot safely work on e.g. where the road is 50- 60 mph this is to be worked upon on a weekend where I have gained some flexibility with clearing leaves, however this is also a very limited resource with the current climate.
17. One of the priorities for the new team leader is creating a strong working bond with the new staff. The team leader is working with them to build their confidence, in a time when there is a lot of information that they have to retain from day to day which can have an effect on their motivation and confidence.

Youth Service

Ensure the most vulnerable are protected

18. The service continued to focus their detached youth work provision across Wetherby centre and surrounding areas, Boston Spa High Street and surrounding areas, Cramner Bank Park, centre and surrounding areas, Barwick Main St, and Leeds Road. Through regular provision in these areas we have continually engaged with Young people and had the opportunity to discuss various issues with them and the subsequent challenges presented by these issues. Understandably, the most discussed issues was the current and ongoing pandemic and the direct and indirect consequences of this.
19. During a time when Young People were unable to access our centres, the service instead met with them in their local community to carry on our longstanding engagement with those who need it most.
20. In addition to our detached youth work provision our team have delivered numerous one-one welfare checks with Young People from the local areas, the one-one provisions have provided much needed support and guidance to several young people.
21. The service have also increased its presence across a number of communities where it has been identified that they are at an increased risk of anti-social behaviour. The service has linked in with local Neighbourhood Policing Teams to identify areas which are in most need of Youth Work support
22. The youth work teams had several conversations (both virtually and via our detached provision) to identify what young people from the local areas wanted to do once the Government restrictions eased slightly. The service continually found that workers were receiving similar feedback in that young people were just desperate to be out spending time with their peers and for a brief time been able to forget about the challenges of recent months. Our youth work team therefore began planning various engagement opportunities that would facilitate exactly this.



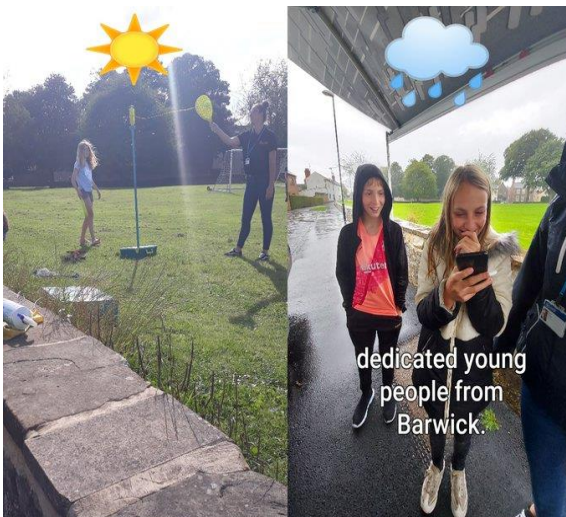
23. A huge challenge for young people in recent months was the impact of what their next steps in respect of education, training, and employment would look like following the dynamic issues presented both prior to and after the release of exam results.

24. Our youth work teams allocated a significant amount of our provision to engaging with the young people affected by this. Our pathway team were able to identify those who had been directly impacted and our youth work team went out to engage with those young people.

25. This provided the opportunity to highlight future options, provide a range of support and advice, complete referrals to local support agencies and also engage with parents/carers about the impact this had upon them.

Improving Social, Emotional and Mental Health Wellbeing

26. After consulting with young people about how they would like to take their minds off the challenges and pressures associated with the pandemic and the subsequent impact this has had upon both home and school life. Young people informed youth workers that they wanted to set up some 'Old School Sports Day Activities'. It was clear that after several weeks of lockdown and engaging in various levels of online activity (both formal and informal), Young people were desperate to be outside enjoying themselves.



27. The youth work team responded by delivering various sporting and fun activities across both the Inner and Outer North East. Youth workers have further consulted with young people across a number of wards to also identify specific focused sessions they would like to be involved in once restrictions were relaxed. Several topics such as emotional wellbeing, education, and staying safe online were all highlighted.
28. As highlighted above, one of the key pieces of feedback that we continually received from young people was how they had missed the opportunity to spend time with peers. Whilst we could not access our previous centres, we took the decision to bring our centre based youth work to young people. Using our mobile van and several gazebos we were able to facilitate a range of activities and events no matter what the weather.
29. Activities included both BBQs, picnics in the park, and a range of sporting activities. Each of these provided the opportunity to engage with young people with the key themes which included how to support one another during these current times and how to look after our own wellbeing.



30. Once again, the service had to adapt the programming having entered the second period of lockdown. This has taken the form of delivering a variety of provision via Zoom. Young people recently engaged in their first sessions which took the form of quizzes and informal learning. We are excited to see these provisions develop further in the coming weeks and months.

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

31. The service has delivered various sessions with young people after concerns were highlighted by local young people (across all wards) that young people from out of the area were coming to the wards during periods of warm weather. This brought the potential for various flash points between groups of young people. Youth workers

increased both presence and engagement throughout this time to ensure local young people kept themselves safe. Youth workers also highlighted to young people who they could contact if they felt they were at risk or if they had any concerns.

32. During the period of warmer weather the service increased the youth work presence in and around the Wetherby River area. Youth workers have engaged young people with respect to keeping safe when jumping/swimming in the river. Youth workers have delivered a range of interventions around the associated dangers of swimming in the river and been out in the heat for pro-longed periods of time.
33. During the last quarter the service was delighted to once again be able to take our mobile Youth service vans back out and open the doors to young people in the community. Ensuring the vans were made Covid 19 Secure allowed us to once again engage with young people in space in which they had previously identified as safe and someone where they would speak with Youth Workers. We covered various topics including education, wellbeing, substance misuse and sexual health. The return of the mobile vans proved a huge success across all wards and engage with young people who otherwise would have been out in the community at an increased risk of causing Anti-Social Behaviour.



Public Health

Public Health Covid-19 Preventative Work - General Update

34. Leeds City Council Public Health officers, partners, volunteers, the third sector and community's team members continue to door knock and promote key messages in our poorest neighbourhoods and to our most vulnerable citizens across the city.
35. The Covid-19 Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) has been working from the Mandela Centre and is now moving to the Little London Community Centre from Monday 2 November to target these neighbourhoods. The Mobile Testing Unit is a free, walk in and no booking required service. These units come with third sector and volunteer door knocking and leafleting teams to advertise the MTU and how to stay safe during a pandemic.

36. All citizens who display symptoms are actively encouraged to go for testing.

37. Where to go for testing:

<https://www.leedsccg.nhs.uk/health/coronavirus/coronavirus-where-to-go-for-testing/>

Hands Face Space

38. New government campaign to prevent the spread of coronavirus indoors this winter.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-campaign-to-prevent-spread-of-coronavirus-indoors-this-winter>



39. Since 5 November 2020, Leeds is part of the national lockdown, it is essential citizens are helped to do the right and wash their hands regularly, wear an effective face covering and socially distance to help beat the coronavirus epidemic by bringing infections rates down.

Flu Vaccinations For The Coming Winter

40. Flu vaccination is important because:

- if you're at higher risk from coronavirus, you're also more at risk of problems from flu
- if you get flu and coronavirus at the same time, research shows you're more likely to be seriously ill
- it'll help to reduce pressure on the NHS and social care staff who may be dealing with coronavirus

41. If you've had COVID-19, it's safe to have the flu vaccine. It'll be effective at helping to prevent flu. More information can be found within the link below.

- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>
- [Advice on who should have the flu vaccine can be found below.](#)
- www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/who-should-have-flu-vaccine/

42. The video below is a short video about vaccination and Covid-19 for Children's & Families. It is a short and friendly video which is easy to understand for children.

- o <https://youtu.be/6MIUSVloJwA>

Leeds Anti-Social Behavioural Team

43. The team continues to operate under COVID 19 restrictions which means working from home where possible however we can access, through a booking system, a limited number of desks at Deacon House for urgent operational issues such as printing, preparing legal files and postage. Officers are currently advised not to visit people in their homes unless this is absolutely necessary in order to progress a case that is having a serious effect on someone's mental health and wellbeing. Where this is the case a risk assessment must be completed and authorised by a manager and then full PPE must be worn.
44. In the 6 months to the end of September demand on our service saw a 35% increase with caseloads in the East team reaching their highest since LASBT started in 2011. In recent weeks this demand has levelled off a little however the Halloween/Mischief/Bonfire period always see another rise in demand which we are experiencing now.
45. In Outer North East we have 32 Active cases across all case types with no specific trends.
46. Public Space Protection Order (PSPO's) renewed in part of Wetherby with some amendments. These decisions were taken by Safer Leeds Executive.
47. LASBT staff, when out and about in the community, subject to COVID risk assessments of course, are tasked to report breaches of COVID regulations and this will remain in place although staff are advised to work from home whenever possible. I stress these are not COVID patrols merely to report observations when out and about on other duties.
48. LASBT continues to participate in local multi agency operations such as Operation Brewlock and Operation Bobby.
49. The temporary CCTV camera remains in place in Sandringham Park, Wetherby and any incidents reported are checked by LeedsWatch engineers to see if footage is available which would be of evidential value.
50. Casework is steady in the area though thankfully has reduced since the peak in late summer to more manageable levels for the two case officers deployed in this area.
51. **Hotspots** - no specific locations currently

52. **Emerging issues** – reports of some youth nuisance at the Moor Allerton Centre but nothing specific as yet.

Housing

53. Parks & Countryside's East Team are now in the same situation as the West Team, i.e. backlogged and short staffed. This means that they are not doing site visits, drawing up quotes or taking on any new environmental projects for the foreseeable while they manage their backlog of work.

54. Budget left for ONE HAP - £33,760.45 there are some projects in the pipeline, mostly environmental but with some community based bids that can be acted upon without Parks and Countryside input.

55. These are;

- Durrant Close parking signs
- Moss Syke planters
- Aberford litter group
- Black Moor Road Community Orchard
- Hardstanding surface for Recycle bin at one block at the Lingfield's
- Possible Health & Wellbeing projects, pending further information;
- Village noticeboard

56. Bids approved so far this year

- Virtual Father's day celebration
- WMCA Fitness Equipment
- City Wide Parenting Programme

57. Community Matters Yorkshire are wanting to pilot a training and development programme to train Community Health Champions and they have chosen Wetherby. They are applying for Lottery funding. However, in order for them to do this, they need a survey running in Wetherby, The Tenant Engagement Officer is waiting to hear back on the new questions for the survey given Lockdown 2.0. The Tenant Engagement Officer has been asked if he could assist in getting the survey out.

58. Each Tenant Engagement Officer has a theme of work to pursue in their role. The Tenant Engagement Officer for ONE has been given the work theme of Health & Wellbeing. Previously the theme was Digital Inclusion. The Officer is seeking out Health & Wellbeing related projects to put before the ONE HAP panel as community based bids, as opposed environmental, can be acted upon.

Community Hubs

59. Due to the lockdown Moor Allerton Community Hub, Wetherby Library and Boston Spa Library have been closed from 5 November as part of the national lockdown.

60. Staff are being reallocated duties either providing services at home via the phone or physically in other parts of the council

Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

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

Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration

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

Council Polices and City Priorities

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

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

Resources and Value for Money

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

Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

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

Risk Management

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

Conclusions

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

Recommendations

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

Background documents¹

69. 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.