

**Report of:** Head of Stronger Communities

**Report to:** Outer East Community Committee

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

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**Tel: 07712 214727**

**Date:** Tuesday 8 December

**For Information**

## **Outer East Community Committee - Update Report**

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### **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:

#### **Children and Families: Champion – Cllr H Hayden**

3. The Youth Activity Funding round for applications for 21/22 will be reviewed next year as current projects for 20/21 are on hold due to the Coronavirus pandemic and will commence when safe.

A Children and Families sub group meeting took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> November, Christmas Boxes are be looked into being delivered to young people within all four wards. Youth Services and the School clusters will be delivering this project.

Youth Summit offer has been agreed with Cllr Coupar and the Chairs in the Community Committee Chairs Forum on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Youth Summits will now be arranged after the start of the New Year and delivered virtually via Zoom Pro in order to guarantee events taking place. The aim for the summits is once again, for as many children and young people as possible to take part via schools/youth groups.

These will be delivered as electronic packs so that as many young people as possible can take part, at a time that is suitable and convenient to themselves, as we are mindful of the fact that schools in particular have their own challenges and competing priorities at this difficult time.

The lesson plans will take the format of what has happened in the past in Youth Summits and will include; an introduction to democracy, monopoly game that asks the young people to provide feedback on the activities they think the committees should be funding from their YAF Budget, designing an activity and a questionnaire that includes asking the children & young people "How has life been during COVID-19?".

There will also be a competition to design the best backdrop for a Zoom call that will be used as part of the electronic lesson plan and we are proposing that the winner/s are announced by the Children's Champion/Chair, along with the best activity competition winner in the summit (the winner of the best backdrop would be used for the virtual Youth Summit).

The Youth Summits will incorporate the democracy element of the events which have taken place in the past and would involve the Children's Champion and the Chair of the Committee (to possibly also include a question and answer session with the young people and the Lord Mayor). The summit would also involve the children and young people's feedback from the electronic lesson plans.

The lesson plans, feedback from the lesson plans and the virtual Youth Summits will all feed in to the spring round of Community Committees via the Update Report, which is written by the Localities Officers, so we're proposing that the summits take place before the date of the committee.

Young people will also be invited to the committee meeting in March to provide their feedback and to get involved in the discussion regarding the Youth Summits.

Youth Summit to involve youth groups, as well as 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations and schools, to engage children that are disadvantaged/have special educational needs, as well as the more academically inclined.

Children that are consulted/ or involved in the Youth Summit, will attend schools in the area and are not from outside the committee.

## **Environment & Community Safety: Champion Cllr P Grahame**

### **Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team (LASBT)**

#### **4. Cross Gates & Whinmoor**

LASBT Officers are still working from home. They are only able to carry out visits where absolutely necessary to progress. Most contact is still being conducted over the phone or via email. Where face to face contact is absolutely necessary, risk assessments have been completed and staff have been supplied with the necessary PPE.

#### **5. Garforth & Swillington**

Ongoing issues have been recently highlighted in the area recently. This was brought to attention by colleagues at Parks & Countryside. A letter drop was distributed to local residents. Police and Youth Services are also assisting to enable to identify those involved.

#### **6. Kippax & Methley**

There is a hate crime is disability related case in the area. The Case Officer is linking in with the Hate Crime Coordinator to resolve this issue.

#### **7. Temple Newsam**

The team took over this ward in the summer during the first lockdown and continues to operate under COVID 19 restrictions which means working from home where possible.

In the last six months demand on the service saw a 35% increase with caseloads in the team. In recent weeks this demand has levelled off a little however the Halloween/Mischief/Bonfire period always sees another rise in demand.

Since 1<sup>st</sup> September the team has:

- Established multi agency working with Housing and West Yorkshire Police and Travellers Team in the area.
- Working with Youth Services to establish outreach in key locations
- Day to day case investigations within the extent of the restrictions to resolve cases as quickly as possible.
- Arranged installation and funding for additional lighting column in Highland Court.

## **Cleaner Neighbourhoods**

### **8. Cross Gates & Whinmoor, Temple Newsam**

The team have actively been removing reported fly tips, the cut back of ginnels have temporarily put on hold as the de leafing season is upon us which will run from November to the end of February. The team are still leaving some fly-tips in situ for a few days then putting environmental hazard tape on them. This is proving quite successful and items have been removed by perpetrators.

### **9. Garforth & Swillington, Kippax and Methley**

Like lots of services Covid 19 has had, and continues to have, a huge impact on how the service is operating. Many changes have been made that impact on the efficiency and consequently service delivery.

Since the second lockdown round the service is operating a single two person crew across the whole of the South Cleaner Neighbourhoods team. This is to safeguard staff (stay home, protect the NHS, save lives) but also because a significant proportion of the workforce were required to self-isolate.

The service is still operating to remove all fly tips, emptying all litterbins, some manual litter picking and mechanical sweeping.

The enforcement team are dealing with waste in gardens, fly tipping, overgrown vegetation and noxious waste in gardens as well as nuisance and vermin complaints.

Bulky refuse collections are still available, at a cost of £20 per collection of 4 items. To access this service please do so by visiting- <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/bins-and-recycling/get-rid-of-unwanted-items> or by telephoning the contact centre on 0113 2224406.

Face to face enforcement still remains a challenge and letters, warnings, notices and fixed penalty notices are being issued via post to limit the potential for confrontation.

Staggered shift start times are still being practiced of the street crews to facilitate social distancing at the depots, only two staff members in a vehicle at one time.

The team continues to work exceptionally hard in difficult circumstances to deliver essential street cleansing services in the area.

An overall summary for Garforth, Swillington, Kippax and Methley wards.

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Household Bulky Collection</b>                         |            |
| September   | 47         |
| October   | 110        |
| November  | 27         |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> September - 9<sup>th</sup> November</b> | <b>184</b> |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Street Operational Team Service Requests</b>           |            |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> September - 9<sup>th</sup> November</b> |            |
| Contaminated bins   | 8          |
| Dead animal removal                                       | 2          |
| Fly tipping removal                                       | 75         |
| Footpath sweep  | 4          |
| Road sweep  | 5          |
| Ginnel clearance  | 1          |
| Housing communal area clearance                           | 15         |
| Litter bin requests                                       | 0          |
| Litter complaint  | 7          |
| Needle removal  | 0          |
| Dog fouling   | 7          |
| Leafing   | 6          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>130</b> |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Housing Referrals</b>                                  |           |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> September - 9<sup>th</sup> November</b> |           |
| Void garden   | 0         |
| Vulnerable gardens  | 5         |
| Communal land clearance                                   | 5         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>10</b> |

## **Enforcement Update**

| <b>Enforcement Service Requests</b>                       |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> September - 9<sup>th</sup> November</b> |            |
| Abandoned caravan/trailer                                 | 5          |
| Bins left out   | 8          |
| Duty of care- commercial                                  | 6          |
| Domestic waste issue                                      | 5          |
| Fly tipping   | 12         |
| Ginnet  | 0          |
| Graffiti  | 5          |
| Housing defect  | 3          |
| Litter problem  | 2          |
| Nuisance accumulation                                     | 2          |
| Nuisance other  | 5          |
| Nuisance premises   | 1          |
| Overgrown vegetation                                      | 15         |
| Waste in gardens  | 8          |
| Dog Fouling   | 4          |
| Drainage  | 5          |
| Mud on the road   | 2          |
| Highways obstruction                                      | 8          |
| Smoke from bonfire  | 7          |
| Smoke from Chimney  | 2          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>105</b> |

## **Employment, Skills & Welfare: Cllr J Lennox**

The Range Store will be opening at The Springs, and advertising vacancies.  
There will also be further vacancies being advertised at Next and at the local supermarkets.

The latest Universal Credit (UC) statistics show that between March 2020 and October, there had been a 92.3% increase in Universal Credit claims in Leeds.

Universal Credit claims from people not in work increased by 79.5% in the same period.

Universal Credit claims represent 13.3% of the working age population in Leeds.

The council's Employment and Skills teams are evaluating and adapting their offer to make sure there are plenty of resources online, and now alongside key digital basics and skills training, they are looking at a ways being able to quickly channel newly redundant qualified/experienced workers into suitable vacancies. They will also provide information from benefit buddies/money buddies, who are still present for anyone needing support.

Redundancy advice is available from the TUC at [www.workingthroughthecrisis.org.uk](http://www.workingthroughthecrisis.org.uk)

## Health and Wellbeing & Adult Social Care: Champion Cllr P Gruen

### 10. Health and Wellbeing

#### Covid-19 Testing

Within Leeds there is a 'go to' page which provides details for all the testing opportunities available across the city. This site is regularly updated with details including the locations and timings of the Mobile Testing Units. <https://www.leedscg.nhs.uk/health/coronavirus/#where-can-i-go-for-testing>.

In addition to this there is a local response to testing with a pop up facility that is moved to meet demand. The centre has been based at Bilal Centre in Harehills, Mandela Centre in Chapeltown and is currently operating out of Little London Community Centre. A team of door knockers has been linked to the pop up with the key role of providing information to those living in the area about the facility and encouraging testing where needed.

#### Food Mapping

A food-provision mapping exercise was undertaken during the summer, initiated by the locality specialists when it became apparent that data collected city wide level on food parcel provision was providing incomplete data on food need. This mapping of food provision revealed the tremendous efforts of our voluntary sector partners who were procuring food from across the district and engaging businesses for food donations. This mapping exercise informed the city wide food response and was gratefully received by the teams involved.

#### Physical Activity

##### **Physical Activity Ambition Progress update November 2020**

The ambition is for Leeds to be the most active city in England. This is outlined in the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy 'get more people, more physically active, more often' and is a key component of reaching our vision to be a healthy and caring city where people who are the poorest improve their health the fastest.

As part of the development of the new 'Physical Activity Ambition' a city wide conversation 'Get Set Leeds' started in January 2019. 'Get Set Leeds' is the name of the proactive engagement campaign, aimed at encouraging a city-wide conversation about physical activity. It is a chance for people to share ideas on what getting active means to them and what might support them to move more. It follows the conversation started at the Big Leeds Chat and focuses on identifying assets, barriers and co-producing solutions.

Engagement with the people of Leeds and professionals took place between January – December 2019 through a variety of targeted approaches. This is the largest-ever study completed (in Leeds) around the importance of physical activity in the lives of over 4000 residents covering all Leeds postcode areas.

These conversations will shape a shared ambition for Leeds to get more people, moving more, more often, driving a radical cultural shift in the take up of physical activity. This shared ambition and associated work programmes will be co-produced at all levels. It will also require the long term promotion and consistent messaging of physical activity over months, years and decades.

From the analysis of these conversations (led by Leeds Beckett University) five key messages were identified:

1. **Most people want to be physically active but find it hard to be** – motivation isn't enough
2. **People do not feel their environment makes it easy to be active**– this includes having space to move and be active in, feeling safe in the places around us, access to transport and child-care, good air quality and local information
3. **Inactive people want to be active, but feel they aren't able to be or don't know where to start** - People worry about their basic needs before they can think about being

active (e.g. access to housing, employment, food, education, technology, and good health)

4. **The following target groups were identified:**
  - People with disabilities and/or long-term conditions
  - Women
  - 14-24 year olds
  - Asian and 'Other' ethnic minority groups
  - LGBT groups
5. **Small changes to how capable people feel can lead to big changes in physical activity levels** - For everyone in Leeds to be more active, it is important they feel they can be

The full Get Set Leeds Conversation Report can be sent on request.

The next steps to develop the Physical Activity Ambition is to produce an action plan with people who live and work in Leeds based on four key ideas taken from WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018-2030:

**ACTIVE SOCIETY** – In Leeds I see people like me being physically active, and people around me make it easier for me to be physically active.

Leeds will create a social norm where it is the easiest choice to be physically active every day.

**ACTIVE ENVIRONMENT** - In Leeds I am surrounded by things that make it easy and obvious for me to be active.

The team will work with people to understand the external drivers affecting their physical activity levels

**ACTIVE PEOPLE** - In Leeds I feel able to be active every day.

The team will work with identified target groups to create small changes to how capable they feel to be physically active every day and test new ways of working.

**ACTIVE SYSTEMS** - Leeds will work with people and in partnership with others to create a healthier place, a greener city and a stronger local economy; focusing together on “place making”, where all our neighbourhoods have the space and connectivity to enable moving more and can prioritise sustainable mobility.

A summary of the report, key findings and next steps can be found through this animation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyqCyft9YWU&list=PLggQFjpTLgpljQS5E4NGDyJqmHq1-E0nS&index=18>

### [Stay Well This Winter Grants](#)

[A grants panel was held on 7<sup>th</sup> October in relation to this year's](#) Stay Well This Winter Small Grants.

Applicants have now been informed of the outcome of their applications and 19 groups/agencies were successful in gaining funding for additional activities over the winter period.

The grants pot was worth £53,000.



## **Housing**

### **11. Halton Moor and Swarcliffe**

#### **Income Collection**

Income collection throughout the City has been impacted due to COVID-19 and remains high on the agenda the usual Rent Arrears process has been on a limited basis only with no formal action being taken. Home visits are being carried out only if the team have been unable to make contact by phone/text and E mail. Staff have been offering help and support and directing customers to food banks etc.

Universal credit remains a challenge with the Enhanced Income Officer continuing to assist customers with these claims to try and reduce the impact for customers where possible.

| <b>Office</b>              | <b>Collection rate (66a) City Target 97.5%</b> |
|----------------------------|--|
| Swarcliffe / Whinmoor      | 95.80%   |
| Halton Moor / Osmondthorpe | 94.48%   |

#### **Annual Home Visits**

The team have recently stated completing telephone Annual Home Visits only on low risk customers where there are no known support or vulnerabilities.

#### **Environmental/Anti- Social Behaviour issues Halton Moor and Swarcliffe Offices**

Following the completion of the necessary Risk Assessments staff are now increasing their estate visits with regards to untidy gardens/environmental issues etc., however the scheduled Quarterly Walkabouts are still suspended but staff are still be picking up issues. The majority of environmental work such as tree maintenance/grass cutting/ fly tipping will now have resumed with teams working to deal with any backlog.

Anti-Social Behaviour cases have increased in parts of the Halton Moor area with staff carrying out visits in pairs for safety.

Tasking meetings are still continuing and the team have continued to work with partners West Yorkshire Police/LASBT etc. throughout lockdown however until restrictions are fully lifted the team are unable to take tenancy action via the court process.

## **12. Garforth & Swillington, Kippax & Methley**

### **Income Collection**

The team continues to maximise support and income for tenants with many positive outcomes through the interventions of the Benefit Advisor and Enhanced Income Officer

Referrals are being made to Leeds Credit Union who are supporting tenants with budgeting accounts. This service has been especially useful for those who have moved onto Universal Credit or have been furloughed.

### **Annual Telephone Contacts**

These are currently being completed in the absence of Annual Home Visits to ensure that customer contacts continue and support needs and safeguarding concerns can still be captured. Audits are taking place by the management team to ensure quality remains high and consistent.

### **Environmental Actions Garforth and Kippax office**

The team remain committed to addressing environmental issues and messy gardens. Housing Officers are able to undertake estate inspections and carry out site visits on external tenancy breaches.

## **13. Housing Advisory Panel (HAP)**

There is currently have 21K available to spend  
All Community Groups have been contacted and encouraged to apply whether it is for Covid-19 support or to assist with more online activities  
Tenant Engagement  
Tenant Engagement Team continue to support the Pop up Covid Test Centres.  
Community Payback have re- mobilised but teams are smaller

### **Youth Services**

#### **14. Cross Gates & Whinmoor & Temple Newsam**

Youth Clubs at Swarcliffe Community Centre have not yet re opened though all risk assessments have been passed and all Covid & PPE in place, therefore youth workers are working on mobiles and detached street work four evenings per week with the main question being \*When is youth services going to open\*

Young people are now back at school and youth workers have been supporting young people through the new changes especially those that are finding it hard to adjust to the new rules around social distancing and staying in the same classroom all day.

Young people accessed go karting trips although we could only take four young people due to social distancing on minibuses.

Whilst some of the sessions have been addressing Anti-Social Behaviour, youth workers have been proactively supporting young people's mental health & wellbeing.

Young people returning to school after a long period of lockdown have mixed feelings but on the whole they are getting used to new rules around social distancing and staying safe and youth workers stay in touch with some young people who may need extra support. Detached and mobile sessions are taking place in the ward with youth workers also supporting the Leeds United KICKS Programme on Friday evenings which is well attended. Youth Workers gave out Halloween packs to the younger people attending the sessions. Young people attended Go Karting trip, Youth Services only take four young people due to social distancing on the minibus.

### **15. Garforth & Swillington / Kippax & Methley**

The decision making group “YPmyG” (young people my group) carried on having online monthly meetings. The group were consulted and made the final decision on the contents of the Halloween themed activity bags. They also decided on the contents of possible Christmas themed activity bags.

All building based provision remained closed during the September – November period. However mobile provisions were permitted to reopen in September and October with a small number of young people.

Youth Workers also continued to deliver nightly detached work throughout the period in both wards. Youth Services spoke to young people regarding being in large groups and social distancing and to encourage them to return home once the 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown was announced. Youth Services worked nightly in “hot spots” of Anti-Social Behaviour around the wards.

These hot spots were identified via complaints from residents and intelligence from the Police and Ward Councillors.

Youth Services have also:

- Continued to offer the c-card pick up service for young people who were already registered to collect free condoms.
- Delivered weekly phone calls to check in with vulnerable young people.
- Invitations were sent out for small group Youth Activity Funding trips to Go Ape at Temple Newsam during October half term. The planned trips to Yorkshire Wildlife Park had be postponed due to South Yorkshire going into Tier 3.
- A small number of activity bags were delivered to young people’s homes for Halloween to give them something positive to complete. These contained pumpkin art & craft, colouring in and leaflets for places to go online for mental health support.
- Young people were encouraged to like and follow the Youth Service Facebook/Instagram/Twitter pages so they could contact Youth Workers for support during the lockdown.
- Youth Services signposted young people to online/virtual support such as the Market Place safe zone, Kooth, Mind mate website and Teen Connect.

## **Community Engagement: Social Media**

16. **Appendix 1**, provides information on posts and details recent social media activity for Outer East Community Committee Facebook page and the Coronavirus ward pages.

## **Corporate Considerations**

### **Consultation and Engagement**

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

### **Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration**

18. 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**

19. 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**

20. . 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**

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

### **Risk Management**

22. 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**

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

### **Recommendations**

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

### **Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

25. None.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.