

Report of: Head of Locality Partnerships

Report to: Inner South Community Committee:
Beeston & Holbeck, Hunslet & Riverside, Middleton Park

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Date: 1st September 2021 To Note

Inner South 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:

Children and Families - Champion: Cllr Almáss

Children and Families Sub Group Meeting

3. The Inner South Children and Families Sub Group met on the 26th May 2021, via Zoom, and has not met since the last community committee meeting. (An update was received at the July meeting).

4. A handover meeting between the previous children's champion and the new champion took place on the 5th August. Amongst other topics, the preparation for the next Inner South Youth Summit was discussed. The champion would like this to take place in January/February 2022 at the Centenary Pavilion, Elland Road, depending on the venue's availability. Once the date has been confirmed, a diary invite will be emailed out to members.
5. Themes for the Youth Summit were discussed, including the environment and young people's mental health (which we know has been significantly impacted by the pandemic). The Chair is keen to encourage role models from a variety of sports to attend, (both male and female), to inspire boys and girl to take part in sports. A fuller update will be provided at the next committee, following the meeting of the Children and Families Sub Group on 16th September, via MS Teams.

Environment and Community Safety - Champions: Cllr Gabriel (Environment), Cllr Iqbal (Community Safety)

Environment and Community Safety Sub Group

6. The Inner South Environmental and Community Safety Sub Group met via MS Teams on 15th June 2021. The sub group hasn't met since the last community committee meeting, but an update was received at the last CC meeting.
7. At the last meeting, there was a discussion around grass cutting issues in Inner South. Members requested that a letter be sent to the appropriate Executive Board member, highlighting these problems. The Chair also requested senior officers in Parks & Countryside to be copied in. We have since received a response from P&C, which has been circulated to members.
8. The next meeting of the sub group will be on the 5th October 2021 (via MS Teams).

Employment and Skills Update: Inner South

Universal Credit

9. The table below shows the revised figures for the number of people claiming Universal Credit in the Inner South Community Committee area that were unemployed in May 2021 is 7,438. This is an increase of 85% since March 2020, a decrease of 141 on the previous month. The increase in claimants is reflective across all wards due to the impact of COVID-19.
10. The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough) will cease at the end of September, and there is an expectation that a number of people will be made redundant which could subsequently increase claimants to Universal Credit.

Universal Credit Claimants (Not in Employment) 16-64yrs						
	March 2020		April 2021		May 2021	
	Number*	Rate**	Number*	Rate**	Number*	Rate**
Leeds	23,618	4.6%	47,061	9.1%	46,061	8.9%
Inner South	4,023	7.1%	7,579	13.4%	7,438	13.1%
Beeston & Holbeck	1,295	7.4%	2,427	13.8%	2,368	13.4%
Hunslet & Riverside	1,311	6.2%	2,517	11.9%	2,474	11.6%
Middleton Park	1,417	8.0%	2,635	14.9%	2,596	14.6%

*Number is the number of people claiming Universal Credit that are not in employment

**Rate shows the number of claimants not in employment as a percentage of the working age population

Employment and Skills Services

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

	Accessing Services		Into Work		Improved Skills	
	2020/21 (Apr – Mar)	2019/20 (Apr – Mar)	2020/21 (Apr – Mar)	2019/20 (Apr – Mar)	2020/21 (Apr – Mar)	2019/20 (Apr – Mar)
Inner South	1,615	2,888	724	1,097	753	1,008
Beeston & Holbeck	501	881	203	286	238	338
Hunslet & Riverside	684	1,224	313	489	317	408
Middleton Park	430	783	208	322	198	262

Priority Neighbourhood	Accessing Services		Into Work		Improved Skills	
	2020/21 (Apr – Mar)	2019/20 (Apr – Mar)	2020/21 (Apr – Mar)	2019/20 (Apr – Mar)	2020/21 (Apr – Mar)	2019/20 (Apr – Mar)
Crosby St, Receptions, Bartons (B&H)	57	134	35	36	28	49
Stratford Street, Beverleys (H&R)	67	153	28	59	34	41

12. COVID-19 has had considerable impact since March 2020, with closures of face to face services, the employment and skills delivery models were adapted and continued through a virtual or remote offer along with email and telephone support. During April 2020 – March 2021 10,071 people accessed the Service, 1,615 of whom were from the Inner South, a reduction of 44% when compared to the same period last year.

13. Across the city the service has supported 3,413 people into work, (April 2020 – March 2021), of whom 21%, 724 were residents from the Inner South, a reduction of 34% when compared to the same period last year. Customers were supported into work across all sectors with the largest numbers in health and care, food retail, logistics, distribution, and transport. Over 325 new businesses were supported to recruit new staff and to provide support for staff facing redundancy. Recruitment continues in the health and care, hospitality sector and digital sector as these sectors offer more flexibility through varied hours and shift patterns.

Leeds Employment Hub

14. A single point of contact for ESIF funded programmes and Jobshops that provides tailored and comprehensive support into employment or education to all unemployed Leeds residents. A large team of Employment Advisors deliver the programme by providing one to one support, tailored preventative and remedial support to eligible residents who are disadvantaged in the labour market.
15. The Service continues to be successful in securing ESIF funding that will now be in place until December 2023, supporting around 3,500 people per year in Leeds to improve their skills and significantly increase their prospects of moving into sustained employment. The service and its partners will be spending in the region of £2.7m in this financial year on the delivery of employment support programmes.
16. A further ESIF bid to support 15-24 year old Leeds residents has been submitted and the service expects to hear by the end of August 2021 if successful. This will replace two existing programmes that are due to finish at the end of December 2021.
17. ESIF programmes are predominantly focused on residents who are not employed. The service has therefore sought to gain funding for residents that are ineligible for ESIF programmes, supporting underemployed residents in low paid, low skilled jobs as well as those at risk of redundancy. Residents at risk of being redundant will be offered support beyond the limited statutory minimum offered by DWP and National Careers Service and residents seen as underemployed will be able to access services and support that to now have not been offered through ESIF and other mainstream support.
18. All Jobshops are now fully open, 5 days a week for face to face appointments which include Dewsbury Road, Hunslet, St Georges and City Centre Community Hubs. Morley Community Hub has reopened one day per week on Mondays.
19. Due to COVID-19 the annual Leeds Next Steps event will not take place face to face this summer. The event is usually held the day after GCSE results day, where young people can talk to local colleges and providers, get information and advice about post-16 learning opportunities, individual courses, apprenticeships, and traineeships will be available on-line. Information from a wide range of schools, colleges and other providers will be available via the 'Start in Leeds' website.
20. Between April 2020 – March 2021 9,236 customers accessed support, 2,597 customers were supported into work and 4,850 were supported into training or further education. From the Inner South, 1,553 customers accessed Leeds Employment Hub including Jobshops, 640 customers were supported into work and 753 were supported into training or further education.

Leeds Learning Hub

21. The service delivers and commissions adult learning (post 19) with courses designed to help adults take their first steps or re-engage with learning before progressing to accredited learning within community settings. This provision is targeted to the 20% most deprived SOAs with a focus on Priority Neighbourhoods. Our programme includes Family English, Maths and Language (FEML) provision designed for parents (or other carers of children) with English and Maths needs or is for families where English is not the primary language. Often these courses are linked to schools or Children's Centres.
22. Over the last 12 months, new methods of delivery were developed to ensure learners could continue to access our courses. This included blended learning e.g. digital delivery through mobile phones coupled with home learning options, remote delivery options including outdoor learning, and the return to face to face learning when restrictions permitted with reworked COVID-19 secure delivery spaces. The service also developed home learning resource packs to increase pastoral support, with a particular focus on vulnerable learners and those unable to access online programmes.
23. Developing You is a pre-employment support programme incorporating wellbeing and employability modules and targets unemployed priority neighbourhood residents with mild to moderate mental health challenges. Due to COVID-19 the pilot programme was delivered online during autumn/winter 2020. From Monday 27th September the free 10 week course will be delivered face to face at St Matthews Community Centre, Holbeck for residents living in Inner South. For those who can't attend the face to face learning there will be further online courses starting in October.
24. Between April 2020 – March 2021 the service has supported 4,857 people across the city to improve their skills. From the Inner South, 753 residents have completed a skills course, a reduction of 25% when compared to the same period last year. For Inner South, 39 courses, including ESOL, language for the classroom and digital skills, were delivered across 5 different venues in the 2020/21 Academic Year.

Employer Support

25. Over the last 15 months the Service has engaged with 384 businesses 33 large and 351 SMEs. The highest number of engagements have been within construction, health and social care, IT, and digital and professional services sectors.

Vaccinating Leeds Programme

26. The Service supported, in partnership with the Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust, the recruitment of Admin, Health Care Assistants and Front of House positions for the Vaccinating Leeds programme. 90 Leeds Employment Hub customers successfully passed the recruitment process, including HR checks and an initial training programme, 24 customers commenced work with the NHS in March 2021, the other

customers were invited to join the talent pipeline to be put forward for other opportunities.

Kickstart

27. Part of the Government's Plan for Jobs 2020 launched in September. Employment and Skills is continuing to act as a "Kickstart Gateway", to help provide placements for young people who are currently on Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment. The programme provides funding to employers to offer 6 month placements for eligible businesses. Since January 2021, 391 placements have been approved with 140 placements filled.

Retail and Hospitality Sector

28. Developing a programme with employers, Leeds City College and The Engine Room, to provide taster sessions and upskilling support for participants in order to allow them to access opportunities in the sector. The initial programme is set to be delivered in August 2021, with a one week programme covering key skills in hospitality.

Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust (LTHT)

29. Working in partnership with LTHT to support the recruitment of a large number of Apprentice Clinical Support Workers and Apprentice Facilities Technicians roles within LTHT. Virtual information sessions to explain the role and application process are being delivered from September. Support arrangements are in place through the Leeds Employment Hub and targeted local promotion is being arranged.

Health and Wellbeing & Adult Social Care – Champions: (Vacancies): Chair: Cllr Burke

Health and Wellbeing Sub Group

30. In order to provide the more frequent and relevant updates, it was proposed by the Communities Team to launch a health and wellbeing sub group as a vehicle for delivering this information and to also provide an opportunity for the previous champions to look at the health and wellbeing issues in a more focussed way.

31. The sub-group would cover the whole of the Inner South, with a representative from each ward and will report back to the community committee in line with the other sub groups, with Public Health, Adult Social Care and the Communities Team jointly supporting the group.

32. A meeting between the new Chair, the representative from Hunslet & Riverside, Public Health and the Communities Team was arranged. In order to avoid duplication of work being progressed in other health related groups, Public Health gave the Chair an overview of the work currently taking place in Inner South. A meeting between the Chair and the Inner South councillors has been arranged on 25th August, as she wishes to take a collegiate approach to direction of travel and setting future priorities for the sub group. Following this meeting, an interim work plan will be developed.

COVID-19 focused work

33. Public Health is continuing to focus on reducing or eliminating the barriers some communities face in accessing COVID-19 vaccination. Beeston Primary Care Network (PCN) and Middleton PCN have a Health Inequalities Vaccination Plan, which is currently undergoing a refresh, following a number of PCNs not continuing with phase 2 of the vaccine rollout. Public Health is currently looking at the vaccine data to develop a local needs assessment and is investigating low uptake demographics exploring what is available in the community in terms of engagement opportunities for people who remain vaccine hesitant. This will include exploring possible interventions, including the options of small, community clinics if the need is identified.
34. The testing centres at St Georges and Rowland Road Working Men's Club continue to be used by the community and is closely monitored.

Better Together

35. The Better Together providers have continued delivering food parcels, making welfare calls, and offering emotional support to those people in need. Overall, 178 people engaged with Better Together group provision; 24 different groups have run over the past quarter. The groups tended to be physical activity based, friendship groups or art and craft groups. Average attendance is 8 people per group. These are a mixture of face to face and digital groups.
36. The Better Together providers have been heavily involved in the COVID-19 response for the Inner South and are the lead for the local Test and Trace service. This service is facing high demand with current rising rates. The role of the team, having once received the alert of a person who has tested positive, is to contact that person by phone or door knocking, ensuring they are aware of the need to self-isolate and where they can get support if required. The Better Together providers have also supported door knocking activities to promote the vaccine bus and the women's only vaccine drop-in hosted by Asha.

Your Space

37. Your Space are now in year 3 of their contract and their contract has been extended for one year with funding from Public Health. This quarter the team recruited a further 44 new people to their service and provided 20 different groups including Self-Care, Exercise & Dance, Creative, Nature & Growing, Games and Quizzes, Skills & Social, Cooking and Baking. Overall, there were 653 attendances to Your Space groups.
38. The team are still delivering 121 sessions for those in need with 208 meaningful one to one conversations taking place between April and June. Sustainability and encouraging the community to take ownership of groups is integral to the project. 12 groups were co-producing this quarter, 9 groups were operating semi-independently

and 4 groups are now running dependently, comprising 82 people. There were also 3 newly trained volunteers. Social media continues to play a pivotal role in engagement with 2,694 likes and retweets overall. Of these 447 were from residents from LS11. The approach to engagement in LS10 was face to face. 41 contacts were made during the distribution of leaflets.

39. A snapshot quarterly outcome capture illustrates 98% of service users feel more connected to their community and report improved mental wellbeing. 94% of which are taking positive action to improve their mental wellbeing and are aware of services, knowledge and resources that can help them. This far exceeds the Your Space team target of having 50% report on these outcomes.

Beeston and Middleton Local Care Partnership

40. There are now three sub groups formed from this partnership:

- a) The Digital Health Hub grants have been awarded to Holbeck Together, Hamara, MHA Communities South Leeds, BITMO, Middleton Elderly Aid. These give a good geographical spread of organisations. All organisations are working with the Digital Health Hub steering group to ensure a bespoke service to the community. Currently the steering group are looking at models of evaluation and the most appropriate indicators to collect.
- b) Mental health and wellbeing. Gaps in collective knowledge of the group revealed missing stakeholders. Efforts to find the correct person to join the group have been successful. The forthcoming meeting will look to start shaping the focus of the group.
- c) Health Inequalities Bid. Health For All successfully recruited to the post and the post holder has been networking with the partners and communities. A new name for the project was agreed amongst the partners – Starting Points – to reflect the various starting points people accessing the project will have in their journey with the project. The project is now operational, with Health For All taking the reins and chairing the group.

Winter Grants

41. The 2021 round of Winter Grants have now been launched with Leeds Community Foundation. This programme aims to fund projects supporting vulnerable people who are most at risk of becoming unwell over winter due to cold and severe weather. Grants are available from £500 to £5000 and the deadline for applications is 12 noon on 3rd September 2021

Inner South Community Committee CIL Funded Defibrillators

Hunslet & Riverside Defibrillators

42. 15 defibrillators were approved by the committee, to be installed at venues in the ward suggested by Hunslet & Riverside ward members. All defibrillators have now been installed, apart from one.

43. So far defibrillators have been installed at:

- Al-Madina Mosque, (Bangladeshi Centre)
- Woodhouse Hill Community Centre
- The Hunslet Club
- Gurdawara (Guru Nanak)
- Church of the Nazarene
- H2010 Housing Development
- Hunslet Community Hub
- Church of the Nazarene (Lupton Street)
- Hamara Healthy Living Centre
- Rowland Road WMC
- Joseph Priestley (Burton Road)
- KMWA Community Centre (Hardy Street)
- Beeston Hill United Free Church
- St Lukes Cares

The final location - Crescent Grange High Rise is currently awaiting installation.

Middleton Park Defibrillators

44. The committee also approved 2 additional defibrillators for Middleton Park ward, at venues to be suggested by Middleton Park members.

45. Sainsburys, (near Middleton Park Circus) defibrillator has been installed, with a named guardian at this site, whilst the second location - Hunslet Delivery Office - are interesting in having a defibrillator, but it is still being progressed with Royal Mail head office.

Community Engagement:

Community Engagement – Beeston & Holbeck ward

Holbeck Priority Neighbourhood Newsletter

46. Beeston & Holbeck members wished to improve the communication of good news in the Holbeck priority neighbourhood and appreciate that not everyone likes or uses social media. To that end they wanted to continue with the traditional communication

methods. Building on the success of issue 1 (spring 2021) would like to deliver a hard copy of the newsletter to all properties in the priority neighbourhood, and the wider Holbeck neighbourhood.

47. The Communities Team have designed a 6 sided A4 newsletter with articles / input from partners via the Holbeck Core Group.

48. 2,500 copies of the Summer edition have been printed. 200 were destined for the Holbeck gala, 700 for the Holbeck Priority Neighbourhood and the remaining 1,800 copies for community venues (eg St Matthew's Community Centre, The Holbeck, local shops and to go out with food parcels to the target area via Holbeck Foodbank and Hamara). It will also be shared across our socials.

Community Engagement - Hunslet & Riverside Ward

Beeston Hill Residents Meeting

49. Beeston Hill Residents virtual meeting was held on Zoom on Monday, 5th July 2021, 6:30pm. Residents received updates from Councillors, Police, Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team, and Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Dewsbury Road Community Hub and the Communities Team.

50. Residents raised issues relating to anti-social behaviour and begging, speeding at various locations throughout the area, drug supply and use near residential areas. Also, fly tipping and dumping of waste remains a prevalent issue in the area. Officers present did take note of issues raised, answered questions, and took away actions.

Hunslet Green/Leeds Dock Residents Meetings

51. Hunslet Green and Leeds Dock virtual meetings were held on 7th and 20th July respectively. Issues raised include dog fouling and fly tipping.

Community Engagement - Middleton Park Ward

Improving the New Forest Village Plantations

52. In total 265 responses were received to the New Forest Village Plantation improvement survey. The feedback provided detailed insights into who uses the Plantations, what they are used for, what's liked about the greenspace and what improvements could be made to enhance users' experience.

53. Drawing on this, Parks & Countryside officers alongside ward members were able to develop a draft schedule of improvement works which include path resurfacing, foliage reduction and increased signage around dog fouling and littering.

54. Moreover, the survey feedback suggests that the Plantations are a place well used by families with young children, providing a space away from traffic where children can play, explore and 'learn about nature.' With a view to build on these assets, further consultation will take place with residents around the creation of a nature trail for children.

55. A public engagement event is now scheduled for mid-September at St George's centre. Residents will be able to drop by, share their views on the proposed improvement plan and plot their green space improvement ideas on a large-scale map of the Plantations.

Community Engagement: Social Media

56. **Appendix 1**, provides information on posts and details recent social media activity for the Inner South Community Committee Facebook page and COVID-19 ward groups.

Community Engagement

Priority Neighbourhoods and Targeted Wards

Beeston and Holbeck

Holbeck Core Group

57. The Holbeck core group has not met since the last community committee meeting. The next meeting is currently being arranged, to take place in September.

Middleton Park

Belle Isle and Middleton Neighbourhood Improvement Board (NIB)

58. The Belle Isle and Middleton Neighbourhood Improvement Board met in late July. The focus of this meeting was to share and review the initial findings of the Belle Isle North Health Needs Assessment (HNA) with key LCC directorates and third sector partners to inform a multi-agency action plan.

59. Unfortunately, due to LCC IT issues this meeting was poorly attended and thus the item has been postponed until the October NIB.

Hunslet & Riverside

Beeston Hill Core Group.

60. The Beeston Hill Core Group has not met since the last community committee meeting. The next meeting is currently being arranged, to take place in September.

Local Centres Programme (LCP)

61. Hundreds of independent businesses now receive updates on items to help their business and through this we connect with neighbourhood centres around the city. All district centres are receiving new signage: *Living with Covid #Together Leeds*, in August regarding safety measures during this latest phase. By refreshing the signage it will again be noticed and the safety advice reinforced. The signage (and previously 10,000 masks and about 2,000 floor vinyl's) have been made available by various government grants to combat the pandemic.
62. As part of the work across the city, the Neighbourhood Centres Co-ordinator (NCC) visited all independent shops which were open before April 12 on Dewsbury Road, Holbeck, Cross Flatts, Middleton Circus and Shopping Centre. Subsequently weekly updates have been sent to all businesses with contact details to keep them informed of help available and local business news.
63. The Neighbourhoods Centre Co-Coordinator (NCC) has called into independent shops open in all district centres (in IS - Holbeck, Beeston, Beeston Hill, Dewsbury Rd, Penny Hill, Middleton Circus, Middleton Shopping Centre, Belle Isle parade) to give and take contact details and explain the role of town teams. He is now visiting businesses around the city which have reopened since the 3rd Phase.
64. As face to face meetings have only been reintroduced in the last month, it is taking time to get all the Town Team meetings around the city scheduled. In part this is because the teams have an AGM and this has not been possible since the first lockdown and so the relaunch meetings for each area will be an AGM. This gives the Neighbourhood Centres Co-ordinator the opportunity to visit every district centre business in Leeds to see how they are doing and discuss any opportunities. The AGM relaunch meeting for Dewsbury Rd is proposed for Thursday 9th September.

Dewsbury Road

65. A key piece of work just starting is to ensure the district centres are aware they will receive NCC help to launch traders' groups if they wish to. Dewsbury Road already has partnership working and a group is also being strengthened in the Middleton and Belle Isle area. Both have confirmed meetings should resume after hospitality has reopened. Emails are being sent to contacts in the other areas to see if they wish to launch traders' groups like those already underway.

Penny Hill

66. There has been a change in agents managing the shops in the Penny Hill Centre. It is now managed by LCP Properties. We are still awaiting an estimation of cost for rejuvenating Hunslet Square. Until we have these only projects like the hub additions can be installed. The NCP agreed this with LCC Design Planning and the Council approved designers in 2019. The projected costs will (ultimately) be sent to the Hub manager.

Middleton

67. A date of mid-September is being proposed for the Middleton trader's AGM. Details will be circulated to all businesses in the Circus, Shopping Centre and Belle Isle. Middleton was the last Town Team Meeting to be held before the initial lockdown and at that point was investigating some fair rides in the vicinity of the Shopping Centre, the return of market stalls at Middleton Circus and a guide book of Middleton's many attractions. At the AGM consideration will be given to suitable 2021 projects.

Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

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

Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration

69. 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

70. 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

Resources and Value for Money

71. 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

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

Risk Management

73. 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

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

Recommendations

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

Background documents¹ 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.