

Report of: Head of Locality Partnerships

Report to: Inner West Community Committee
(Armley, Bramley & Stanningley, Kirkstall)

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Date: 17th November 2021

To note

Inner West 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.

Updates by theme

Children and Young People: Champions Cllr Gruen & Cllr Heselwood

3. The Inner West Youth Summit was planning to return to a physical event this year, to be held in The Banqueting Suite at Leeds Civic Hall, with a provisional date of Tuesday 23rd November 2021.
4. In preparation for the planning for this municipal year's Youth Summits, the Communities Team recently met with the Voice & Influence Team. At this meeting, the Voice and Influence Team offered their support to reflect on previous year's events and learning to inform future ways of working. However, they expressed their concerns around staff reductions and service pressures, which would impede their ability to support the Youth Summits going forward. They also shared concerns around bringing young people together from different schools/groups for a physical event, as there

continues to be concerns over COVID-19 infection rates, particularly in schools. We are seeking the latest advice on this matter.

5. We're aware that the Inner West Children & Families Sub Group requested that we plan for an event before Xmas, however as the landscape has now changed, we would welcome your support to push back the Youth Summits into the new year, to enable the Communities Team to hold further discussions with members of the Children & Families Sub Group and Children's Champions, in light of this information, to explore options to inform future Youth Summit arrangements, alongside the latest guidance regarding the safety measures that schools are putting in place over the following months.

Employment & Skills: Champions Cllr Heselwood & Cllr McKenna

6. An update will be provided for the next committee meeting in March 2022.

Community Safety: Champion Cllr Ritchie

Armley

7. The Leodis Team have recently been successful in obtaining an extended Closure Order on Armley Town Street, in response to street drinking and begging. Groups of youths have been identified for harassment towards at least 1 resident on the Wyther's. Acceptable behaviour contracts have either been agreed or are scheduled to be discussed with the involved youths and their guardian(s). A Section 80 has been issued on a Hedley Green property for a loud music party. A possession application is due to go to trial for a problematic address on Wyther Park Estate.

- **Total cases: 28**
- Threats/actual violence = 6
- Hate Crime = 5
- Noise = 4

Bramley & Stanningley

8. A recent possession order has been obtained on a prolific anti-social behaviour and crime offender on Snowden Estate. A suspended possession order has been obtained on Summerfield Estate, following Cannabis cultivation and there has been an extension of a Closure Order on a problematic address, including drug use.

- **Total cases: 33**
- Threats/Actual violence: 13
- Hate Crime: 4
- Rowdy Behaviour: 4

Kirkstall

9. Anti-social behaviour issues within the Inner West area remain the same, with a number of addresses where tenants and associates have a mixture of substance issues and/or mental health problems. This results in these tenants congregating with other people, with behaviour impacting on others.

10. The Anti-Social Behaviour Team currently have 5 closure orders in place across the ward area for cases of this nature. Four of these orders are on individual properties, whilst 1 is on communal areas within a tower block. Possession is being sought on 2 of the individual properties where the closures are in place. There is another property where a closure order has recently ended and a possession is being sought on this address too. Lastly, there is a contested hearing for a Closure Order which is being heard in Court on the 3rd November.

- **Total cases: 27**
- Noise = 6
- Threats/Actual violence = 5
- Drug/substance misuse/dealing = 4

Health & Wellbeing and Adult Social Care: Champion Cllr Cunningham

COVID-19 (Key Messages)

11. As Leeds moves towards the colder winter months and more people move in doors, it is essential that residents in Leeds follow the advice below regarding vaccinations.

12. When local residents are called for their vaccination/or ‘booster jabs’ it is extremely important they attend to help reduce infection rates within Leeds so we can return to a normal life as soon as possible. If any local community members have any fears or anxiety about receiving the vaccination they can talk to their local doctor, health professional, LCC Public Health Officer or visit these approved information sites:

- ✓ <https://www.leedsccg.nhs.uk/health/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine/>
- ✓ [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/vaccine/coronavirus/)

Leeds City Council Contract Tracing Service

13. The outreach component of this service is delivered through our trusted commissioned third sector partners (Barca in the West), many who have worked in their communities and geographical areas for over 25 years. This service has over a 48% success record and helps local residents track contacts they may have had if they test positive, as well as offering isolation advice and help. The service is highly flexible and is proving a strong model for work of this nature.

14. Below are some examples for contacts in the last few months in Inner West wards.

June 2021

Wards	Referrals
Armley	14
Bramley and Stanningley	23
Kirkstall	25

July 2021

Wards	Referrals
Armley	60
Bramley and Stanningley	56
Kirkstall	59

August 2021

Wards	Referrals
Armley	45
Bramley and Stanningley	31
Kirkstall	32

September 2021

Wards	Referrals
Armley	58
Bramley and Stanningley	63
Kirkstall	26

Would Like To Know More Sessions from Leeds City Council Public Health Resource Centre

15. Leeds City Council Public Health Resource Centre are offering a number of free sessions currently in webinar form due to the Coronavirus epidemic. Please note all the sessions are recorded so if you miss the event you can catch up at your leisure. Currently on offer to attend or catch up at a later date are:

- ✓ Getting Ready for Autumn and Winter Vaccinations: COVID-19 & Influenza Webinar (Thursday 4th November 2021 12:30pm to 2:00pm)
- ✓ Young People Gambling & Gaming Webinar (Wednesday 3rd November midday to 1:00pm)
- ✓ Mental Health in an Unequal World: COVID-19's Impact Webinar (Friday 8th October 11:00 am to 12 noon midday)

Launch of UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)

16. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) becomes fully operational, bringing together the health protection functions of Public Health England and NHS Test and Trace, including the Joint Biosecurity Centre. The new agency will be responsible for planning, preventing and responding to external health threats, including infectious diseases and chemical, radiological, environmental and other hazards, as well as providing scientific and operational leadership at a global, national, regional and local level in partnership with our stakeholders. You can read more about UKHSA [UK Health Security Agency - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Update by ward

Armley

17. This ward was identified by the Red Cross Vulnerability matrix during the COVID-19 pandemic and consequently there was a small pot of Government funding released to fund a series of projects to help local vulnerable citizens. The priority Neighbourhood of New Wortley falls under this ward.
18. All of the projects listed below are gateways to other services, including support and help such as social prescription, mental health, holistic health and wellbeing, as well as improving and maintaining physical fitness. The digital, education and men's information projects continue and have been a great success.
19. The two remaining projects which are still available to join are:
 - ✓ Wildlife Walks - this is a project organising walks for socially isolated or lonely residents, where there is a commentary and explanation of the local flora and fauna. These have proved very popular in the past, so for more information please contact Lucy Wheeler l.wheeler@tcv.org.uk
 - ✓ Talking Sheds - a men's health project which helps isolated men bond over a common project i.e. constructing a shed on a local allotment. After lunch there is a coaching therapy session around emotional health, sharing tips and techniques on coping with low mood and anxiety. For more information please contact Lucy Wheeler; l.wheeler@tcv.org.uk

Bramley

Pop Up-Bramley Vaccination Bus in Bramley

20. The Bevan Nurses successfully managed to run one pop up vaccination clinic in the car park at the Spa at Bramley. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond anyone's control the remaining sessions had to be cancelled, however a return is planned soon before the end of the year to make getting a vaccination as straightforward and convenient as possible for local residents.

Leeds Big Chat in Bramley

21. September and October 2021 sees the Big Chat return. The Big Chat on Tour is slightly different due to COVID-19, so teams went out in smaller groups in a COVID-19 safe manner and risk assessed way, to talk to people at markets and shopping centres, as well as within online forums (as this sometimes works better for local residents), local community and children's groups. If you would like more information please contact; Jonathan.Hindley@leeds.gov.uk
22. Despite the weather some really insightful chats were had and it was a very worthwhile afternoon for the Bramley Team who undertook it. The results will be published later when all the events across the city have taken place.



The Bramley Food Environment Project

23. The Bramley Food Environment Project first stage has now completed. The project was in two parts, one looking at the eating, shopping and cooking habits of local families in relation to healthy eating and the second part looked at the food offer of local food retailers and takeaways. This piece of work is a part of a larger piece of work, looking at reducing children's and young person's obesity. The project is from the Councillor chaired Bramley Our Place Group.

24. This was an incredibly difficult project to complete during a pandemic, however the final project report is now complete and available. The report will inform our working across all other weight management project streams and it is hoped that in the future when it is appropriate to do so, local businesses will be approached again and encouraged to join a mutually beneficial Bramley Business Club and look at profitable healthy food options. For more information Emma Strachan; Emma.Strachan@leeds.gov.uk

Men's Health Groups set to continue into the winter months

25. Due to the ongoing success and general popularity of a variety of local men's health groups in the area, they are now set to continue after lockdown and offer a full menu of services, support and friendship groups. As well as contributing to aiding local men to recover and become healthier and more resilient, they can also help men to;

- ✓ Access a free loan I-pad and associated training to become more digitally literate (this in turn also opens up a world of on line support groups, exercise classes, cookery lessons, basic D.I.Y and an opportunity to talk openly and confidentially about their problems and issues and how these might be solved).
- ✓ Access to financial inclusion services to help manage debt and money worries.
- ✓ Access to free smoking cessation and weight management services, either within a group scenario or an intensive personal support option.

26. For more information please contact Ian Pepper; ian.pepper@barca-leeds.org or Joe Kemp; joek@touchstonesupport.org.uk; or Russ Giles russ.giles@nhs.net

Updates from Key Services

Leeds Youth Service

27. An update will be provided for the next meeting.

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team

28. An update will be provided for the next meeting

Town Centres Update

29. In October 2021 new signage was placed in all the district centres, advising shoppers and workers to wear a mask, keep a safe distance from others, use hand sanitisers and use contactless payments where possible. As previously, this is funded by the Government and EU and is intended to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading in the district centres.

30. Following meetings with Leeds Community Gambling Service (Leeds CGS) information about support and treatment to those affected by gambling are being made available from collection points. Similarly, details of help available to businesses looking to resolve problems or expand is also being made available from these outlets through the City Development funded project led by Insight with Passion. All the above information plus many other news items to help business and strengthen district centres are circulated via the weekly business newsletter.

Armley

31. A partnership led by the Police and LASBT has reduced anti-social behaviour and street drinking in Armley Town Centre. The incidents are now nearly as low as they were before the start of the pandemic and as a result the Town Team and Action Group are in collaboration, progressing projects to develop an ever more positive image for the town centre. By getting more local people to shop in Armley, anti-social behaviour will further reduce and ever more projects can develop. The Police and LASBT have successfully extended the Closure Order for a further 3 months which will help ensure anti-social behaviour can remain at low levels, during which time the street drinkers coming from other areas of the city and neighbouring towns will hopefully stop visiting Armley.
32. Armley Action Group is an ever-strengthening force for good in the town centre. Led by Cllr Cunningham and Lou Megson it is a coming together for people working on improving the town centre with projects including the festival, In Bloom, street performers and more recently, delivering the 'meters and greeters' funded by the central Government's Welcome Back Fund and assisting the Highrise Project with an art display in Armley Town Centre.
33. Currently the highrise displays are in a meeting room at the entrance to the library but the aim is for a more permanent base on Town Street. The Highrise Project's key focus is working with residents in and around social housing but remains open to everyone in the community.
34. The Action Group has finalised arrangements for Armley Town Centre Ambassadors funded by the Welcome Back to High Streets Fund. The jobs are currently being advertised and this project will be closely linked with the ongoing investigation of Armley becoming the third area of Leeds to have a BID (Business Improvement District).
35. The Action Group is also taking the lead role in the stage and pocket park, replacing the demolished public toilets near Burnstall Grange. The public and private sectors have come together to make this possible with the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team clearing and maintaining the site and Leeds City Council Highways Department levelling the surface and laying a suitable performance area.
36. Armley Town Team holds its next meeting, its first official one since lockdowns ended for all its attendees, on 3rd November 2021. The meeting will include discussion of priorities for the coming year to help make the town centre ever better and the possibility of a Christmas shop window display, with a private sector funded cash award for winning entries to further enhance a positive image to local shoppers.

Bramley

37. Bramley businesses will be visited by the microbusiness representative and the Neighbourhood Centres Co-ordinator at the start of November, to further explain what

help is available to ever strengthen their business. Details will be left at shops so even if the business has no need of the free help, they can pass the details on to others.

Kirkstall

38. Kirkstall Road businesses will also be visited by the microbusiness representative and the Neighbourhood Centres Co-ordinator at the start of November. The Local Centres Project provision of benches is progressing and the Highways and Regeneration leads are investigating the most suitable benches to be placed on the main street and adjoining roads.

Community Hubs and Libraries

39. An update will be provided for the next meeting.

Housing Leeds

Estate Management and Walkabouts

40. All this year's walkabouts have been arranged and dates confirmed, with local ward members informed. The COVID-19 risk assessment states that officers are only allowed to undertake walkabouts with one other person, however with restrictions lifting, the service continues to adapt and is currently reviewing the various risk assessments in place. Hopefully this will allow residents, local ward members and other partners to attend future walkabouts together.

41. Grass cutting has ceased for the year and contractors have begun winter works such as cutting back of bushes and dealing with overgrown areas.

Block Inspection and High-Rise Feedback

42. Weekly block sweeps are carried out on all high-rise blocks. These inspections help look for things that will improve the block such as ordering repairs, removing items that have been left in communal areas, or identifying improvements that could be made.

43. Should you wish to get involved or are interested in becoming a 'block champion', you can help in coming along and pointing out areas of concern, or sharing your ideas on how to improve your block. Please contact on 0113 378330, or via email on housinginvolvement@leeds.gov.uk if you are interested. Alternatively, you can talk to your local Housing Officer.

44. Low rise blocks inspections are also being carried out now on a quarterly basis in line with the fire safety checks.

Fire Safety

45. Housing Leeds receive daily stage 1 Fire Safety Reports from its cleaning contractors and action the recommendations in the report and log this on its computer system, in line with its Fire Safety Procedure. Housing Leeds also carry out monthly stage 2 fire safety checks and report all the findings and raise the necessary repairs as required.

Anti-Social Behaviour

46. Since restrictions have been lifted, the service has seen a reduction in the complaints related to noise nuisance caused by living in proximity with neighbours, which is positive but it remains the most common theme for anti-social behaviour cases across the Inner West. Housing Leeds, LASBT and West Yorkshire Police are working together in this difficult time in many areas across Inner West in order to help tackle the crime related activity and ASB we are experiencing.

Good News Stories

Armley

47. The Poplar block are on the next phase to have the new Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHP) installed. This work should start in November and local ward members and residents have been informed.

48. Wednesday 27th October and Thursday 28th October showed some excellent partnership working, carrying out litter picks and undertaking a 'meet your neighbour' event. Both days provided some excellent results and Wortley Wombles helped pick up in the region 35 bags of litter. The 'meet your neighbours event' also received positive feedback and allowed New Wortley Community Centre to consult with the local community in getting their voice heard on what they would like to see change/improve within their locality. The partners involved over the 2 days were; The Wortley Wombles, New Wortley Community Centre, Housing Leeds, Tenant Involvement Team, Urban Task Force and Youth Services.

Bramley

49. New controlled entry doors have been fitted to flats on Ganners Way and Ganners Walk. An environmentally focused action day has been planned involving Councillors, partners and community groups for the Rossefields area on Wednesday 17th November 2021.

Kirkstall

50. Housing Leeds will be undertaking improvement work to Moor Grange Court which will include concrete repairs to the external areas of the building, external wall insulation, work to the roof area, communal walkway and landing repairs and resurfacing work, ground floor entrance lobby upgrade and external balcony replacement.

Housing Advisory Panel

Budget for 2021/22	£49,091.97
Carry forward from 2020/21	£28,892.49
Total 2021/22 budget	£77,984.46
Approved budget spend 2021/22	£39,783.71
Available budget	£38,200.75

HAP	Projects submitted	Projects approved	Amount committed by Panel	% committed
Inner West Total	44	18	£38,783.71	51.01%

Bids approved since last update in August

Address/Who	Scheme	Amount awarded by panel
Snowden Crescent Tree Planting	To plant 4 semi-mature trees on the greenspace to reduce water run-off and beautify the area.	£735
Ganners Lane Fencing	To replace tired wooden fencing with metal bar fencing.	£4120
Fairfield Close Ginnel Fence	To improve access to a ginnel by removing hedges and installing metal palisade fencing.	£6,700
Broadlea Gardens Knee Rail Fence	To install wooden post with metal bar fencing across the green space.	£3,475
Stanningley Court Bins	To extend the recycling bin area so an extra communal recycling bin can be housed.	£2,628
Breakfast Banter Armley	To support a weekly breakfast club for 6 months.	£500

Parks & Countryside

51. An update will be provided for the next meeting.

Community Engagement: Social Media

52. **Appendix 1** provides information on posts and details recent social media activity for the Inner West Community Committee Facebook page & Covid-19 Facebook Groups.

Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

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

Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration

2. 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

3. 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

4. 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

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

Risk Management

6. 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

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

Recommendations

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

Background documents¹

9. 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.