



Report of: Head of Stronger Communities

Report to: Outer East Community Committee

Cross Gates & Whinmoor, Garforth & Swillington,

Kippax & Methley, Temple Newsam

Report author: Senior Localities Officer - Bali Birdi **Tel:** 07712 214727

Date: Tuesday 10 December **For Information**

Outer 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:

Children and Families: Champion – Cllr H Hayden

3. The Children and Families sub group had a meeting on the 16 September 19.

Updates were received from young people on how well the YAF were running in the Outer East area.

The Youth Summit took place on the 30 October in Firthfields Community Centre, Garforth.

Further meetings to be arranged.

The Youth Activity Funding round is now open for 20/21 to accept new applications. The closing date is Monday 3 February 20.

Environment & Community Safety: Champion Cllr P Grahame

4. A sub group meeting took place on the 10 September 2019.

The next meeting will take place on the 11 February 20. A consultation will take place on the parks and green space strategy.

LASBT

Cross Gates & Whinmoor

- Successful multi-agency residents meetings arranged by local ward members
- Whilst youth issues continue, there has been a recognised improvement between the last two residents meetings.

Garforth & Swillington

- ASBI Warning issued to a youth suspected of causing damage and climbing on roofs.

Kippax & Methley

- Injunction with power of arrest granted against a threatening male

Temple Newsam

- 14 interim youth injunctions granted at court. Intensive project of work continues on Halton Moor estate.

Targeted Ward – Halton Moor

5. Halton Moor Wood clean up took place in October and was very successful. Around 30 volunteers turned up to the event and over 250 bags of rubbish were collected. This was organised through Friends of Temple Newsam and Leeds City Council with help from some funding through Veolia and supported by local ward members. The Leeds United KICKS programme continues to run on Halton Moor 7 days a week and is proving a great success. This provides activities for young people from across the area to get involved in free of charge.

Work is ongoing with Parks and Countryside and Planning to look at a potential community facility on Halton Moor and different areas are being explored as a potential location.

Picture of Halton Moor Clean Up



Cleaner Neighbourhoods

Cross Gates & Whinmoor, Temple Newsam

6. The service is focussing on de-leafing at this time of year which means they will share resources.

Neville's - all building sites have been visited about mud on the road and asked to put measures in place to minimise the mud.

Overgrown vegetation has been identified at various locations.

Fly-tipping on Red Hall Chase and Temple Newsam will be processed by the legal team.

Due to the issues on Halton Moor the team members are not doing any lone working in the area, a minimum of two team members attend to the area and is visited on a regular basis.

The team are asked to remove bonfires on open-land. Any bonfires in Halton Moor will be removed with the police present.

Fly-tipping is now being left in situ which is taped up and stickered which enforcement are investigating. This is having a positive effect and some of the fly-tipping is being removed by the perpetrators.

Garforth & Swillington, Kippax & Methley

7. Fly tipping is down from the previous 3 months by around 50 % in the Garforth Ward and around 70% in the Kippax ward. This is due largely to the continued hard work of the street staff working with enforcement to bring awareness to the communities and their responsibilities in regards to waste disposal.

CCTV is being used throughout at the request of several communities within the wards. The team is working with these communities to identify hotspots and locations of interest, there has been several successful captures on film of waste being deposited on the highway.

Employment, Skills & Welfare: Cllr J Lennox

8. A fantastic opportunity has arisen to join a brand new team working at the exciting new Motorway Services Development at Skelton Lake.

Currently recruiting for Forecourt Customer Assistants to work in the Texaco filling station and SPAR shop.

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

Winter Friends

9. In preparation for the 2019/20 winter and to build on the existing network of Winter Friends in Leeds, we would encourage organisations (staff and volunteers) to become a Winter Friend.

The Winter Friend network has been steadily growing over the past 4 years ensuring that vulnerable residents who are most susceptible to cold weather can increase their resilience.

Winter Friends will understand which evidence based interventions or programmes enable vulnerable people to get the support they may need to increase their winter resilience.

A Winter Friend briefing is now available electronically by visiting the public health resource centre website and searching the “public health priority based training” section the presentation takes around 15 minutes to watch and supporting resources are available to prompt positive conversations

You can also contact the Public Health Resource Centre at phrc@leeds.gov.uk or call **0113 378 6200** to collect resources to support you and vulnerable residents in Leeds this winter.

The national Influenza Immunisation Programme 2019/20

Influenza immunisation aims to provide direct protection to those who are at higher risk of influenza associated morbidity and mortality. Vaccination is provided via your GP or participating pharmacies. Please note that the vaccine will be delivered to GPs and pharmacies in phases so please check availability at your preferred immunisation site. In 2019/20, influenza vaccinations will be offered under the NHS programme to the following groups:

- All those aged two and three on 31 August 2019 (date of birth on or after 1 September 2015 and on or before 31 August 2017), in general practice
- Health and Social care workers including hospice workers
- All primary school-aged children (date of birth on or after 1 September 2008 and on or before 31 August 2015), in the school-based programme
- Six months to less than 65 years of age, clinicians should offer immunisation, based on individual assessment, to clinically vulnerable individuals such as those with:
 - chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis
 - chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
 - chronic kidney disease at stage three, four or five
 - chronic liver disease
 - chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson’s disease or motor neurone disease, or learning disability
 - diabetes
 - splenic dysfunction

- a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment)
- morbidly obese (defined as BMI of 40 and above)
- pregnant women (including those women who become pregnant during the flu season)
- 65 years or over (including those becoming age 65 years by 31 March 2020)
- People living in long-stay residential care homes or other long-stay care facilities where rapid spread is likely to follow introduction of infection and cause high morbidity and mortality. This does not include, for instance, prisons, young Offender institutions, university halls of residence, or boarding schools (except if children in boarding school are of primary school age)
- Those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or who are the main carer of an older or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill
- Household contacts of immunocompromised individuals, specifically individuals who expect to share living accommodation on most days over the winter and, therefore, for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable.

The list above is not exhaustive, and the healthcare professional should apply clinical judgement to take into account the risk of influenza exacerbating any underlying disease that a patient may have, as well as the risk of serious illness from influenza itself. Influenza vaccine should be offered in such cases, and will be reimbursed, even if the individual is not in the clinical risk groups specified above.

GPs must actively invite 100% of eligible individuals (e.g. by letter, email, phone call, text) and ensure uptake is as high as possible.

'Stay Well This Winter' Small Grants scheme

Public Health commissions Leeds Community Foundation to deliver the "Stay Well This Winter" Grants (previously Winter Wellbeing Community Grants). This is the 7th consecutive year the scheme will take place. The grants will support a range of community-based projects in Leeds.

Projects must target vulnerable people who are the most susceptible to the adverse effects of cold and severe weather. These are roughly in line with target groups for vaccinations as described earlier. Projects will take place during the winter of 2019-20. Successful applicants will be announced early November 2019.

Smoke Free Side Lines

The local Football Association have been leading on a smoke free side lines initiative across all West Yorkshire Authorities. Junior Leagues have been informed about the initiative and all have endorsed the approach. The initiative was soft launched in September, at the beginning of the season, with emphasis being put on clubs to inform parents and spectators about the no smoking or vaping policy on the side lines.

Work is ongoing within the Council to look at changing hire agreements for Council facilities to include a no smoking policy thus supporting the initiative.

Financial Inclusion

Debt Forum Joint Annual Meeting

On Thursday 10th October the Lord Mayor opened the Leeds Debt Forums' Joint Annual Meeting at St George's Centre, Great George Street. The theme of this year's meeting was

'Protecting the financially vulnerable'. The meeting was been organised in close partnership with the LCC Financial Inclusion Team.

Speakers from Leeds City Council presented the current picture of financial inclusion and financial resilience in Leeds, using findings of research commissioned by LCC from 2004 to 2018 and other information. A speaker from Citizens Advice Leeds reported on the problems of people asking for advice on money and debt. Other debt advice organisations also updated on problems they encounter. Cllr Alice Smart gave an update on the Leeds City Council's approach to tackling Financial Vulnerability.

People in Leeds can access a good range of advice services and projects to help those struggling. A key part of the work of the Debt Forum partners is to signpost these services – to get the word onto the street – and the programme looked at how this can be done more effectively. There were also updates from the Money Buddy Project, the Holiday Hunger programme and the Money hacks in Schools project. Discussion groups looked at promotion of Credit Unions for savings and affordable credit, at ways of tackling Food Poverty, Problem Gambling and Poverty and Homelessness.

Money Buddies Book

The Money Buddies Story was written by Sylvia Simpson, the Chief Executive of Money Buddies. Dewsbury Road Community Hub, under the umbrella of financial inclusion applied for £5k funding from Stop Loan Sharks UK Proceeds of Crime fund to turn the story into a fully illustrated children's story book. The application was built on the need to educate children from an early age on the importance of looking after their money and also from a financial safeguarding stand point of the dangers of Loan Sharks.

Dewsbury Road Community Hub launched the book on 11/10/19 at New Bewerley School at a special school assembly of 120 children, where the book was read by a professional story teller. Hillary Benn MP, a local ward member, Sylvia and other representatives from Money Buddies, the Illegal Money Lending Team attended and Radio Aire. The book has been extremely well received and copies will be made available across all Leeds Libraries and also be distributed to Leeds Primary schools at nil cost.

Community Engagement: Forums

10. The following schedules below for the Community Forums

Manston & Swarcliffe Forum dates:

30 April 20

16 July 20

19 November

Whinmoor Forum dates:

27 April 20

23 July 20

26 November 20

Garforth & Swillington dates:

20 January 20

Temple Newsam

TBC

Community Engagement: Social Media

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

12. **Appendix 2**, displays the Outer East Community Committee Newsletter. The newsletter will be provided twice a year for the December and March Committee meetings.

Housing Update

Environmental Actions Halton Moor and Swarcliffe Offices

13. **Performance**

Voids Levels (empty properties)

Demand in all areas remains high especially for houses. Applicants on Band A bidding for a 2 bed property can wait in Cross Gates and Whinmoor Ward an average of 59 weeks, Temple Newsam Ward an average 37 weeks. The Leeds average is 46 weeks.

Sheltered complexes such as Sherburn Court and Naburn Court in Whinmoor have proved difficult to let, however since the Highways residents have been awarded Clearance priority demand for these blocks has increased.

There are a high proportion of adapted and sheltered properties in this area which take time to allocate due to matching needs of customers with properties, and OT referrals. In Halton Moor/Osmondthorpe in particular there have been concerns with property condition and disrepair, which affects void levels, also the incidence of ASB and hate crime has affected the letting of some properties and this is being dealt with by LASBT and the Police.

The Neville's new build properties have had rent approval and have now been advertised and shortlisted.

32 new build properties are to be available to let in 2020.

The breakdown of property types is as follows, an agreed LLP will be applied to the properties.

4x 1 bed bungalows
4x 2 bed bungalows
5x 2 bed houses
19x 3 bed houses

12 of the 3 bed houses have been allocated to customers and offers made.

Work is being undertaken to reduce void levels by advertising properties on notice, viewing in repair when safe to do so, and maintaining deadlines for customer proofs and contact. Multiple viewings are undertaken on properties which are being refused regularly. Viewings, sign ups and final fixes are a priority. There is regular liaison with Contractors for property return dates.

Since April 2019 the number of properties we have allocated is as follows:

Swarcliffe/Whinmoor: 54

Halton Moor/Osmondthorpe: 30

Total: 84

The percentage of stock currently in void is as follows:

Office	% of stock void (local target under 0.85%)
Swarcliffe / Whinmoor	0.72% (14)
Halton Moor and Osmondthorpe	1.13% (16)
City Average	0.2% (398)

Income Collection

Income collection continues to be a continuous role taking up the majority of Housing Officers, Team Leaders and Managers time to try and improve collection rates. The teams are working hard to make contact with customers in arrears to provide help and support where required and assist in any way to help increase their income and reduce arrears. Universal Credit continues to be a challenge for staff and customers.

The Enhanced Income Officer assists with enhanced cases Universal Credit cases where a higher level of support and assistance is required applying for APA's (Alternative Payment Arrangements) as required. These payments are received in a four weekly cycle.

Accounts are being audited and monitored on a regular basis to ensure we are providing the help and support required and that the arrears process is being adhered to.

Office	Collection rate (66a) City Target 97.5%
Swarcliffe / Whinmoor	95.04%
Halton Moor / Osmondthorpe	95.16%

Annual Home Visits

Halton Moor and Swarcliffe are currently slightly behind target for this point in the year. We continue to identify some support needs and Housing Officers work very closely with Housing Support and the Enhanced Income Team to provide help and support to those in need. Planned action days have been arranged to carry out a blitz on the underperforming patches.

Office	Annual Home Visits completed
Swarcliffe / Whinmoor	63.35 %(1141)
Halton Moor / Osmondthorpe	69.51(962)
City total	70.04% (37870)

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

Housing Officers continue to carry out the scheduled quarterly walkabouts identifying untidy gardens, pot holes, overgrown trees etc. liaising with partnering agencies to rectify an issues.

Approval has been obtained to demolish a number of garages in the Naburns area this will improve general parking for residents.

Staff continue to work closely with the Enforcement Officer from Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team in tackling both private and LCC untidy gardens.

Staff are continually looking for potential HAP bids in order to improve the areas.

There has been a recent increase in ASB on the Halton Moor estate and partnering agencies have been working closely together to remedy the problem with a number of Injunctions been served on youths in the area. All agencies will continue to monitor these Injunctions for any breaches and tenants have been advised their tenancies are at risk should their children continue to cause problems.

Garforth & Swillington, Kippax & Methley

Performance

Voids Levels (empty properties)

Demand for family type housing (houses, maisonette's) remains incredibly high in the Garforth & Swillington and Kippax & Methley ward with a low turnover of properties. The current wait on Band A for a 2 bedroom house in Garforth & Swillington is 64 weeks, and in Kippax & Methley 73 weeks. The average wait time citywide is 64 weeks.

Challenges still remain with letting bedsits in our Retirement Life complexes. A recent letting of a bedsit at Cross Hills Court significantly affected our turnaround times in lettings. We currently have four properties on notice or in void at Cross Hills Court so initiatives are being looked at on how to most suitably and effectively re-let the properties when interest is low. It is likely to involve partners such as Leeds Housing Options and Adults & Health.

Due to a high percentage of adapted and Retirement properties, when allocating properties, Occupational Therapists are required to attend viewings to ensure a property is suitable for an applicant's medical needs.

Work is being undertaken to reduce void levels by advertising properties on notice, viewing in repair when safe to do so, and maintaining deadlines for customer proofs and contact. Multiple viewings are undertaken on properties which are being refused regularly. Viewings,

sign ups and final fixes are a priority. There is regular liaison with Contractors for property return dates. Since the introduction of our new IT system, we have been able to advertise properties through a fast track function, which has been utilised for hard to let properties. We continue to link in with the work happening at Leeds Housing Options to support corporate priorities and re-letting of properties.

Since April 2019 the number of properties we have allocated is as follows:

Kippax/Garforth: 86

The percentage of stock currently in void is as follows;

Office	% of stock void (local target under 0.85%)
Kippax / Garforth	0.6% (12)
City Average	0.73%

Turnaround target: 30 days

Office	Average turnaround time
Kippax / Garforth	33.95
City Average	31.94

Income Collection

Kippax and Garforth is currently 1st citywide for the percentage of rent collected as at week 27. In addition to this, the office is one of four across the city that has improved collection in comparison to the same week of 2018/19, with a local improvement of 0.12%.

To support the increased number of Universal Credit claimants, robust processes are in place to support tenants and protect rental income. The current impact on rent arrears attributable to Universal Credit is an average of £2.72 per case.

The schedule of actions created for Q2 has proved to have been beneficial and a schedule has been created for Q3.

We are promoting direct debit and currently have approximately 51.3% of tenants paying by this method.

Office	Collection rate (66a) City Target 97.5%
Kippax / Garforth	98.14%

Annual Home Visits

Housing Officers continue to work hard in reaching the year-end target. Kippax is currently within target at this point of the year. We have recently undertaken additional quality checks and reviewed follow on actions when support needs have been identified in the over 75 questions. There are no visits overdue by 2 years.

Office	Annual Home Visits completed
Kippax / Garforth	61.9% (743)
City total	69.3% (34,743)

Environmental Actions Garforth and Kippax Office

Housing Officers continue to carry out the scheduled quarterly walkabouts identifying untidy gardens, pot holes, overgrown trees etc, liaising with partnering agencies to rectify an issues. We are currently in the process of obtaining a quote to do some significant environmental cleanup in the Garden Village area with viewing to funding the cost from the Environmental budget.

A number of garages will be demolished at Victoria Street, Allerton Bywater to be replaced with car parking.

A garage has been identified at Church Gardens, Garforth, as requiring demolishing and we aim to have this completed and replaced with car parking by the end of the financial year.

Staff continue to work closely with the Enforcement Officer from Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team in tackling both private and LCC untidy gardens and dog fouling.

Housing Advisory Panel (HAP)

14. The Housing Advisory Panel started the financial year with £47,674.32 including a carry-over figure from 18/19. After September meeting £22,450.10 allocated.

HAP	Number of projects submitted	Number of projects approved	Other funding confirmed/given in kind	Amount Committed	% committed
Environment & Housing	9	1	£ -	£ 3,844.10	6.39%
Health & Well-being	4	2	£ 47,331.00	£ 15,531.00	32.58%
Community Safety	2	1	£ 3,875.00	£ 3,875.00	8.13%
Employment & Skills	0	0	£ -	£ -	0.00%
Total	15	4	£ 51,206.00	£ 23,250.10	47.09%

Approved Spend by ward

Cross Gates & Whinmoor	Garforth & Swillington	Kippax & Methley	Temple Newsam
1 Project	2 Projects		2 Projects
£3,044.10	£4,075.00		£16,131.00

Engagement

- Micklefield continues Resident Group continues to be supported by both Garforth Hub and Tenant Engagement.
- Proposal currently at embryonic stage to develop a small orchard in Micklefield.
- Work to create a residents group at Kippax Common underway. Two meetings scheduled, afternoon and evening 6 November to see support for a group or other engagement model.
- Small group looking to potentially create a group in the Whinmoor area. At this stage a meeting with a potential organiser held with information on creating a group given.
- Garden Competition for Halton Moor area – Date agreed for award ceremony. Cllr Coupar to host event. Engagement Team to administer for event.

Community Payback

Ward	Number of referrals	Open	Complete	Started	Days Work
Cross Gates & Whinmoor	3	2	1	0	5
Garforth & Swillington	8	7	1	0	2
Kippax & Methley	6	4	2	1	3
Temple Newsam	5	4	0	1	0

Youth Matters

Cross Gates & Whinmoor

15. Youth Service had a packed summer with Two Activity days, attended by hundreds of young people, parents and carers.

Young people were consulted and put forward their preferences for trips including: Horse-riding, Canoeing, Flamingo Land, Go Karting, Swimming, Ice Skating, Quad Biking Paintballing, Bowling, Quasar.

Staff kept all the night time provisions open which included youth clubs, street work, mobile session, youth matters and one to one support.

Youth workers continue to work with partner agencies to address issues around ASB and we have had two partner agency meetings recently with Councillors/Police/Housing/LASBT.

Youth Matters Group are delivering a session on Recycling at the Youth Work Conference on November 6th 2019.

We continue to attract more young people into our service with numbers around 60 to 80 attending Swarcliffe Youth Club.

The Team have recently attended Mental Health First Aid Training for young people, this was a two day course and now staff are qualified.

Youth Workers have planned October Half Term programme to include:

Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Quad Biking and Scary Maze.

Temple Newsam ward

16. Youth Service had a packed summer programme. Unfortunately our Activity Day had to be cancelled at short notice and we are re scheduling this to take place.

Young people were consulted and put forward their preferences for trips including: Horse-riding, Canoeing, Flamingo Land, Go Karting, Swimming, Ice Skating, Quad Biking Paintballing, Bowling, Quasar.

Staff kept all the night time provisions open which included mobile sessions in Halton Moor, Colton and Temple Newsam, supporting the Kicks Programme.

Youth Matters Group was closed for the summer due to the school holidays (Meadow Field Primary School) and one to one support.

Youth workers have been addressing issues around ASB in Halton Moor and sharing intelligence with police and also attending Tasking meetings. Updates are that injunctions and curfews have been initiated and any breach of the orders will be reported to the police. For now, youth workers are aligned to an extra mobile session to monitor whilst also offering support to local community around any issues.

The mobile sessions offer issue based work around, drugs & alcohol, citizenship, health & wellbeing and more whilst consulting then on holiday programmes.

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 Policies 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 documents¹

25. 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.