



**Report of:** **Head of Stronger Communities**

**Report to:** **Inner North West Community Committee**  
**Headingley & Hyde Park, Little London & Woodhouse and Weetwood.**

**Report author:** **Marcia Cunningham** **Tel: 07545 604317**

**Date:** **3<sup>rd</sup> December** **For Decision**

## **Inner North 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:**

#### **3. Children and Families: - Champion Cllr J Pryor**

- A meeting of the Children and Families Sub-Group took place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November

The group has considered the proposals for a Youth Summit to be held via Zoom in early March 2021. All Schools in the Inner North West will be contacted throughout December to make them aware of the summit and encourage their involvement. The Sub-group will meet again in January to agree the date for the summit and to plan the event. The Sub-Group also discussed the introduction of more flexibility in the use of the YAF fund for 20/21. The Sub-Group proposes that the INW Committee does not hold a funding round at the beginning of 2021 and instead works with communities to deliver on priorities and outcomes from the youth summit while at the same time considering any applications which are submitted.

#### **4. Environment: Champion – Cllr A Garthwaite**

- “A sub-group meeting focussing on graffiti took place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October .

The group discussed the problem of graffiti in Hyde Park both in terms of its' prevalence and the lack of a local community group to tackle it. The group had input from community representatives from both Little Woodhouse and Headingley who each described how they had tackled the issue in their respective areas and lessons learnt. The group agreed to meet again in January and plan a graffiti removal event in early spring in the Harolds area. It is hoped working alongside both the tenant involvement and housing officers and also the University that this event will attract volunteers from the community and the University and will hopefully lead to more action and ultimately the creation of a community group focussed on environmental issues in Hyde Park. A further meeting is planned for January to plan the event. Unipol will also be invited as they work closely with a number of landlords operating in the Hyde Park area and it is important to bring them onboard with this agenda.

## **Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team**

**This report is in relation to work completed by the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team for both street cleansing and environmental action.**

### **Covid-19 update**

Current staffing levels across the whole of West CNT are still being affected by Covid-19. The second national lockdown has meant some staff have been required to shield.

We continue to have a number self-isolating and this figure changes daily as staff move through the 14 day isolation period. When this affects Environmental Action Officers they are able to continue working from home and other officers will cover their site visits. To ensure social distancing measures within the depot, we are still staggering staff start and finish times. Therefore we are still not yet back to full capacity but are working together across wards when required. All possible health and safety measures are in place to protect our teams.

### **De-leaving**

Is now underway. The full de-leaving programme with the aid of Continental Landscapes began on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. We've seen a quick leaf fall this year with a large proportion of trees now completely bare. This means it takes longer to clear each road as the leaf fall is heavier, but once it has been cleared there should be little or no need to return. To help with this we hired an additional road sweeper this week for a period of 5 weeks in increase our collection capacity. Weekly emails are to be sent to the ward councillors so they are kept informed of progress within their ward. Please continue to refer through any areas of concern to your Team Leader so we can factor these in.

### **Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)**

Unfortunately Covid-19 meant our planned start date of late September/early October was not achievable. A meeting with local ward councillors is being scheduled to discuss progress. Feedback received from local residents of the Little Woodhouse Community Association will be fed into discussion with councillors. Unipol held a landlord zoom meeting to update them on the process and their role within the PSPO.

## **Zone 16 – Headingley & Hyde Park, Little London & Woodhouse**

Street cleansing vacancy- one vacancy currently for an Assistant Chargehand, recruitment on hold during Covid-19 pandemic.

Street Warden Vacancy- This post remains on hold during the Covid-19 pandemic

## **Zone 17 – Weetwood**

Street cleansing vacancy –one vacancy currently for an Assistant Chargehand, recruitment on hold during Covid-19 pandemic

### **Graffiti**

We do have a backlog of work the team are working through, prioritising offensive graffiti in the first instance.

## **5. Employment, Skills and Welfare: Champion Cllr C Knight**

No update received for this meeting

## **6. Health and Well-Being : Champion Cllr Neil Walshaw**

Inner North West Health & Wellbeing Report - Public Health November 2020

### **Public Health Covid-19 preventative work in Inner North West and -General Update**

Leeds City Council Public Health officers, partners, volunteers, the third sector and community's team members continue to door knock and promote key messages in our poorest neighbourhoods and to our most vulnerable citizens across the city.

The Covid-19 Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) has been working from the Little London Community Centre from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November to target these neighbourhoods. The Mobile Testing Unit is a free, walk in and no booking required service. These units come with third sector and volunteer door knocking and leafleting teams to advertise the MTU and how to stay safe during a pandemic.

The areas in INW have been extensively and systematically door knocked and leafleted by an army of council officers, housing officers, public health personal, third sector workers, councillors and volunteers with thousands of leaflets being distributed and hundreds of doors knocked to inform local residents, how to stay safe, what services are available to support them and how to access the free, no booking, walk to pop up Covid-19 mobile testing units. Shops, schools and early years' settings have also been targeted to promote the testing site.

## **Children and Families Best Start Zone in the West**

Our Children's Centres and Best Start Zone partners in Inner North West continue to support our most vulnerable families during these challenging times. The Children's Centre has a number of exciting events planned for families in the New Year.

- Wellbeing walks
- Virtual PBB – Commenced 2 weeks ago (Pregnancy Birth & Beyond)
- A virtual HENRY course (Health Exercise and Nutrition for the Really Young)
- A zoom baby massage

## **7. Housing**

### **Performance information Weetwood & Little London**

**Week 22/2020:**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Collection rate (higher is better) At Week 22/2020</b>
Weetwood	95.70 (Up from 95.46% last year)
Little London	96.44 (Up from 96.02% last year)
<i>City average</i>	96.33%

<b>Office</b>	<b>Arrears as % of rent charged (lower is better) At week 22/2020</b>
Weetwood	3.75% (170K – 7K down on last year)
Little London	3.28% (£309K – 10K up on last year)
<i>City average</i>	3.47%

<b>Office</b>	<b>In Year income collection figure at week At week 22</b>
Weetwood	96.76%
Little London	97.29%

Kirkstall have reduced the arrears from last year.

Little London arrears have increased from last year. There are a number of reasons for this including an increase of universal credit cases and the arrears have increased due to the pandemic. Little London area are showing an improvement in the income collection and there is confidence this will improve

### **Universal Credit**

The Inner West area have seen a substantial increase in the number of people who are claiming Universal Credit.

Number of Universal Credit Cases;  
Weetwood -

236 Cases  
Average Debt: £42.16  
APA's: 80

Little London –  
670 Cases  
Average debt: £44.12  
APA's: 212

### **Annual Home contacts**

% of completed Annual Telephone Contact (To low risk customers) - 50% completion by the end of October, we started this work at end of August, 2020:

- Weetwood 172 Contacts Made
- Little London -223 Contacts made

### **Lettings: - Number of properties let to date.**

Office	No of properties let
Weetwood	9
Little London	26 (including PFI)

### **Update on Anti-Social Behaviour**

As you can imagine, since lockdown we have seen an increase in community tensions, especially noise nuisance due to the main reason people of living next door to each other 24/7. The increase in case load is a lot and we are operating in challenging times, whilst working remotely until we are fully remobilised.

### **Inner North West Housing Advisory Panel**

#### **Inner North West Housing Advisory Panel update November 2020**

The Inner North West Housing Advisory Panel continues to meet, virtually, to hear how housing services are responding to the coronavirus and to consider funding applications for community and environmental projects which benefit council tenants and the wider community.

For the financial year 2020/21, the Inner North West HAP received a budget allocation of £36,090 - including carry forward of £2,946. So far the HAP has committed 60% of its budget allocation on seven projects:

- Howden Place: Funding for planters as part of proposed wider community environmental project –*work to commence early 2021*
- Blenheim View: replacement benches – *approved in principle, awaiting exact quote*
- Hyde Park Close landscape: *work almost completed* (essential funding support received from Inner North West Community Committee.)
- Welcome In Community Centre (OPAL): contribution towards bar renovation *work completed*
- 127 Woodhouse Street (Caring Together): contribution towards building refurbishment-*work ongoing*
- Hyde Park Source: contribution towards Covid19 food/supplies project – *project ongoing*
- Dadtastic online family event: organised by Leeds Dads – *event completed*

Lee Wright  
Tenant Engagement Officer, November 2020

## **8. Project Updates: Wellbeing**

### **Jungle Camps : October Half Term – Weetwood**

This project ran during the October Half Term providing a variety of activities and lunches both indoor and outdoor for local children identified by local schools. The project was very successful despite the challenging delivery circumstances of the ongoing pandemic.

### **Covid -19 Pots**

### **Headingly & Hyde Park , Little London & Woodhouse Wards**

### **Swarthmore Bookclub :**

This was a project jointly funded by the 2 wards to address isolation and loneliness . All participants had the books delivered through the post followed by a Zoom discussion approximately 4 weeks later to discuss the book. These sessions were led by a tutor from the Swarthmore Centre. 26 participants attended the bookclub which was well received and encouraged many to start reading again. As a result of this project, Swarthmore are looking to continue the zoom sessions with participants purchasing their own books. In addition, Bramley Elderly Action are seeking to set up their own book club as they liked the concept so much. The Owls group were involved in publicising the Swarthmore project to their members and beyond.

### **Little London & Woodhouse**

## **Art Packs for Children**

A purchase of materials to make up 300 art packs for local children who are isolated and in need of activity. These packs were initially given out to children attending the testing centre set up at Little London Community Centre. The remainder will be distributed by Family Support Workers to local vulnerable families over the next few weeks.

## **Weetwood**

### **Money Buddies Sessions**

Since the summer, Money Buddies have been delivering one to one advice sessions for local residents located in various community venues across the ward. The physical distance from services and high cost of public transport alongside the recent increase in unemployment in the ward have resulted in an acute need for this.

## **9. Social Media**

Appendix 1, provides information on posts and details recent social media activity for Inner North West Community Committee Facebook page.

### **Corporate Considerations**

#### **Consultation and Engagement**

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

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

11. 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**

12. 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**

13. 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**

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

### **Risk Management**

15. 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**

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