



Report of: **Head of Stronger Communities**

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

Report author: **Lyn Bambury Tel: 07891 276639**

Date: **3rd March 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: Councillor Scopes

Children and Families Sub Group Meeting

3. The Inner South Children and Families Sub Group has been planned for Wednesday 24th February 2021, via Zoom.
4. An update on this meeting will be included at the next community committee meeting.

Environment and Community Safety: Councillors: Cllr Gabriel (Environment), Cllr Iqbal (Community Safety)

Environment and Community Safety Sub Group

5. The Inner South Environmental and Community Safety Sub Group met via Zoom on Tuesday 26th January, 2021
6. Following comments at the previous meeting, the sub group agenda was reviewed by the Chair and communities team. Suggestions have been incorporated, such as reducing the number of ward-specific items and there is also now an open floor discussion for all sub group attendees to update on any initiatives they would like to promote. Cemeteries have also been added as a regular standing item and written updates will also be received by the City Centre Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and the Cleansing Team moving forward.
7. In addition to updates from the usual environmental and community safety focussed council services, the chair of the West Yorkshire Police & Crime panel delivered an overview of how the panel works at a strategic level.
8. Following this, the Neighbourhood Policing Team updated on how they have increased enforcement and issuing of fines in Covid hotspots and the additional resources available for larger scale non-compliance. Following numerous complaints about people not following government regulations, e.g. not wearing masks in shops, they would also welcome help from partners in managing public expectations, as the police can't be everywhere.
9. At the request of the committee, there will be also be a regular update from the Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) team. At this meeting, the action plan was highlighted, (including actions raised by members at the December community committee meeting).
10. The next meeting of the sub group will be on the 18th May 2021 (via Zoom).

Employment and Skills Update: Inner South

Universal Credit

11. 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 November 2020 is 6,850. This is an increase of 70% since March 2020 and an increase of 123 on the previous month.

	Universal Credit Claimants (Not in Employment) 16-64yrs					
	March 2020		October 2020		November 2020	
	Number*	Rate**	Number*	Rate**	Number*	Rate**
Inner South	4,023	7.1%	6,727	11.9%	6,850	12.1%
Beeston & Holbeck	1,295	7.5%	2,148	12.2%	2,211	12.6%
Hunslet & Riverside	1,311	6.3%	2,242	10.5%	2,298	10.8%
Middleton Park	1,417	8.1%	2,337	13.2%	2,341	13.2%

*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

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

	Accessing Services		Into Work		Improved Skills	
	2020 (Apr – Dec)	2019 (Apr – Dec)	2020 (Apr – Dec)	2019 (Apr – Dec)	2020 (Apr – Dec)	2019 (Apr – Dec)
Inner South	1,393	2,415	562	783	726	1,005
Beeston & Holbeck	452	725	157	216	231	318
Hunslet & Riverside	593	1,022	237	336	308	427
Middleton Park	348	668	168	231	187	260

13. Due to the ongoing impact of COVID and the temporary closure of face to face services since March 2020, the employment and skills delivery models have been adapted and are continuing through a virtual or remote offer along with email and telephone support. During April to December 2020 8,755 people have accessed the Service, 1,393 of whom were from Inner South, a reduction of 42% when compared to the same period last year.

14. Across the city the service has supported 2,701 people into work, this reporting year (April – December 2020). 562 residents from the Inner South have been supported into work, a reduction of 28% when compared to the same period last year. They were supported into work across all sectors with the largest numbers in health and care, food retail, logistics, distribution and transport. Over 258 new businesses were supported to recruit new staff and to provide support for staff facing redundancy. Recruitment continues in the health and care sector as it deals with winter pressures, and in digital roles across all sectors.

Leeds Employment Hub

15. This is 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 team of Employment Advisors deliver the programme by providing one to one support for eligible residents. The Service has been successful in securing an additional £4m ESIF funding to support around 4,000 people in Leeds to improve their skills and significantly increase their prospects of moving into sustained employment. The funding is agreed from January 2021 to December 2023. This project will offer tailored preventative and remedial support to residents who are disadvantaged in the labour market. Delivery will be through the Community Hubs with Employment and Skills managing the contract with DWP.

Vaccine Programme

16. The Service has been facilitating the recruitment of the Vaccinating Leeds programme on behalf of Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust, including the recruitment of Admin, Health Care Assistants and Front of House positions. The first in-take of interviews have been scheduled with roles currently ring-fenced for candidates from the Employment Hub. Interviews have been arranged for over 100 applicants, 72 of whom have passed the interview stage and are awaiting either references and or DBS/right to work checks before undergoing training with NHS.
17. Between April – December 2020 the service has supported 4,703 people across the city to improve their skills. From the Inner South, 726 residents have completed a skills, a reduction of 28% when compared to the same period last year. Delivery of the 2020/21 programme commenced in September 2020 with 16 commissioned providers delivering online courses with an increased focus on digital skills and work focused courses. Since the start of the new academic year, September 2020, 490 courses have been advertised on the Leeds Adult Learning website.
18. New methods of Adult Learning delivery were supported to include blended learning. This has involved digital delivery through mobile phones, coupled with home learning options, remote delivery, including outdoor learning and the return to face to face learning when restrictions were lifted and delivery spaces will be reworked to ensure they are COVID secure. In addition home learning resource packs have been developed to enable a flexible approach, increasing pastoral support with a particular focus on vulnerable learners and learners who are unable to access online learning.

Leeds Apprenticeship Festival

19. Leeds Apprenticeship Festival (LAF) will take place during National Apprenticeship Week, 8th - 12th February 2021 and will be held virtually for the first time. A dedicated webpage, created by an external organisation ODI, will host the festival. Visitors will be able to watch exhibitor Apprenticeship presentations and videos, contact

employers directly, book meet and greet Q&A sessions with exhibitors and receive IAG support. 77 exhibitors have confirmed their attendance. A promotional campaign to advertise and raise awareness of the event commenced 4th January 2021.

Levy Match

20. The Levy Match Leeds was launched on 5th October 2020 to boost Apprenticeship numbers. Supported by a web based platform, the service enables large levy payers to transfer up to 25% of uncommitted funds to small and medium enterprises wishing to support an Apprenticeship. The online brokerage service aims to make this as simple as possible to ensure maximum levy investment is retained and invested locally to create more Apprenticeship opportunities. To date 19 SMEs and 5 Levy Payers have accessed the website and over £100,000 has been committed so far to support Apprenticeships.

Kickstart Scheme

21. The Kickstart Scheme, part of the Government's Plan for Jobs 2020, launched in September. The Employment and Skills service is now a registered Kickstart Gateway supporting businesses to offer 6 month paid placements for young people aged 16-24 currently on UC and at risk of long-term unemployment. Since the Kickstart Gateway started at the beginning of October 2020, 247 placement opportunities have been submitted to DWP, offered by 62 employers.

Subscription Service

22. A new subscription service, "The List", was launched in November 2020 through the Leeds City Council Website. Subscribers to The List receive the service's weekly job vacancies, Apprenticeships and course information. Since December 2020 those registered to receive our emails have increased by 114% to 4,685 and 17,000 emails were delivered.

For further information please visit:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKLEEDS/subscriber/>

For further information on Employment and Skills services and the support available please visit:

<https://employmentskillssleeds.co.uk/>

For help or advice to find a job, an Apprenticeship, a course or training, please contact: esleeds@leeds.gov.uk Telephone: 0113 378 4576

Health and Wellbeing & Adult Social Care: Councillors: Cllr Truswell (Health & Wellbeing) and Cllr Almass (Adult Social Care)

Proposed Health and Wellbeing Sub Group

23. Following requests for more frequent health & wellbeing updates by champions, a health and wellbeing sub group has been proposed as a vehicle for delivering this

and to also provide an opportunity for the champions to look at the relevant issues in more depth.

24. This is currently in the planning stages, but it is anticipated to launch following the first municipal meeting of the year, (June 2021). It would cover the whole of the Inner South, with a representative from each ward and would report back to the community committee, in line with other sub groups.
25. Public Health and the communities team will jointly support this sub group, with more information to be provided to the committee, when it is available.

Belle Isle and Middleton Third Sector Covid Response Group

26. The final meeting of the Belle Isle and Middleton Third Sector Covid Response group for 2020 was held in December. Further meetings are set up to run through January, February and March. One of the actions from the December meeting was to produce a calendar of services that were open over the Christmas period. It was hoped that this would help support residents through the festive period by providing a quick reference guide to which services could still be accessed and when.

Moving into January, there is large amount of work taking place to look at digital inclusion for residents in the area. The group is hoping that by linking all third sector organisations together this work can be effectively delivered to as many vulnerable residents as possible.

Covid-19 focused work

27. Work this quarter has focused on the outreach response. Teams of door knockers have continued delivering the key safety messages and promoting the location of the pop up testing site. Anecdotal evidence has revealed that those using the pop-up testing site have done so as a direct consequence of the door-knockers promotion.

The testing centres at St Georges and Rowland Road Working Men's Club continue to be used by the community.

COVID-19 vaccine

28. Pfizer BioNTech and Oxford AstraZeneca vaccines

The NHS is now offering vaccinations to people who are most at risk from COVID-19. The two approved vaccines; Pfizer BioNTech and Oxford AstraZeneca are safe and have been through rigorous checks, as well as extensive trials.

Both vaccines do not contain any animal product or egg. The vaccines are free of charge and only available through the NHS. Anyone who claims to be able to provide you with a vaccine for a fee is likely to be committing a crime and should be reported to the Police online or by calling 101. The NHS will never ask you to press a button on your keypad or send a text asking you to confirm you want the vaccine.

Priority groups to receive the first vaccine

29. The NHS is planning to vaccinate everyone in the top four priority groups identified by the Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) – including older care home residents and staff, everyone over 70, all frontline NHS and care staff and all those who are clinically extremely vulnerable.

You will only be able to book an appointment when you receive an invitation from your GP practice, please do not contact your GP practice or any other NHS services as you'll need to wait for your invite. When you receive your invite, please act immediately and attend your booked appointments.

Please continue to protect yourself and your loved ones and reduce the spread of coronavirus by following the guidelines - hand hygiene and social distancing in particular - this will help save lives.

Key facts on vaccines

30. Please see the following facts on vaccines:

- All vaccines are tested and regulated to make sure they meet safety standards
- After clean water, vaccination is the most effective public health intervention in the world for saving lives and promoting good health
- Immunisation currently prevents 2-3 million deaths every year from diseases like diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza and measles
- Vaccines protect other people in your community – by helping to stop diseases spreading to people who cannot have vaccines
- It's safe to give children several vaccines at a time and this reduces the amount of injections they need
- Vaccines teach your immune system how to create antibodies that protect you from disease

Information about the COVID-19 vaccine can be found on the NHS website by visiting the following link [nhs.uk/CovidVaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/CovidVaccine)

Better Together

31. The Better Together providers have continued delivering food parcels, making welfare calls and offering emotional support to those people in need. Some groups had moved from an online platform to physical delivery with success; a lot of groups were offering a mixed delivery method of online and physical for those service users who had lost confidence in venturing outside and those who were apprehensive.

Responding to the announcement of a January national lockdown the majority of groups will revert to online delivery once more, with one group offering mental health support remaining open to 6 service users.

Hamara are continuing in their role as the Community Care Hub for Middleton Park ward area. Demand for their food parcels and hot meals service has seen an exponential growth. Figures for November show 631 food parcels delivered and a total of 2006 hot meals provided. These figures are not represented in the official LWSS service as people, having learnt of the provision are generally turning up for food. Hamara have kindly shared this information.

Your Space

32. Your Space have again evolved to provide their services online. Given the mental fragility of some of the members, they are using a person-centred approach to determine the type of provision required, online or physical groups. The groups are nature walks. They expect a small number of people will need the physical support.

Beeston and Middleton Local Care Partnership

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

- Increasing digital inclusion among older people with a health care access perspective. This group is piloting a test and learn model of developing a digital health Hub. If successful, this model will be rolled out across the city. The steering group comprises, LCP Development manager (Chair), 100% digital Leeds, Age UK, Central Forum and Public Health. The basic notion of the Hub model is for one organisation to lead for an area referring an interested person to a participating organisation of their choosing. A grant award application form is currently under development with a view to being live imminently. This work strongly emphasises the benefits of meaningful partnership working in areas and has a budget of £50k
- Mental health and wellbeing. An asset map is currently underway, which will also ascertain the service provision knowledge of the group. The level of knowledge will help determine the next steps of the group. Simultaneously a mental health service user consultation has been launched to review various aspects of provision including crisis support, supported accommodation and specialist community support services among others. The group has agreed to help facilitate some of these discussions. Chair: Clinical Director for Middleton
- Health Inequalities Bid. The CCG has awarded a group formed from the LCP £50k to mitigate the impact of Covid 19 on low income communities. Steering group members include: Health for All, Involve Leeds, LCP Development Manager and Public Health (Chair). The project aims to connect local people with local opportunities in mentoring, shadowing and volunteering with a view to expanding a persons' interests, skill set and horizons.

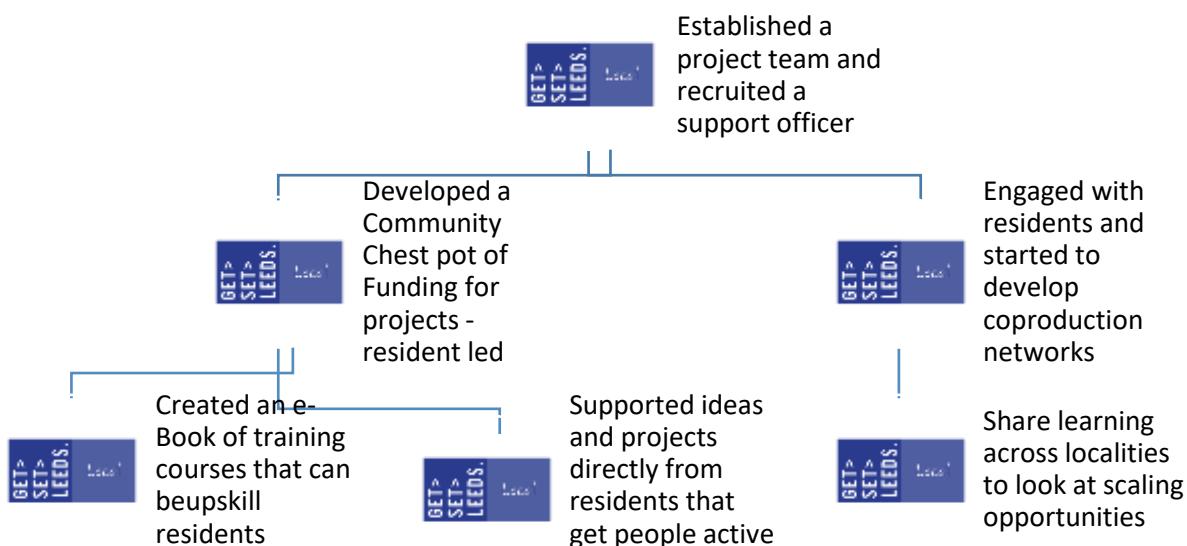
Get Set Leeds Local

34. Physical Activity Project targeting Beeston Hill, Holbeck, New Wortley and Seacroft
– Using an asset based approach to develop the capacity of the local physical activity system.

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

Having secured significant external funding from Sport England the project team, which comprises of representatives from inside the Council including Active Leeds and Public Health plus voluntary community sector delegates, have set about building the ground work for the three year project.

In the first 12 months of the project we have achieved the following outcomes that were set out in our project delivery model agreed by Sport England the Funder.



In December the Get Set Leeds Local sub team held a series of digital community conversation events which have allowed us to accelerate the development of Co-production networks within the target localities and a range of ideas and concepts were brought forward by the community.

In the last 6 months a number of key co-produced projects have started to develop, targeting a range of sub groups in the community these include the following:

- Walking, Cycling and Jogging development across all target areas with partners – LS14 Trust, Leeds Dads, Holbeck Together, South Leeds Lakers, Re-establish Youth Group and Bangla Square Youth Group.
- Community running project which targets residents that are recovering from addiction – Drugs and Alcohol and uses physical activity as a recovery tool
- Play – Playsufficiency project which looks to develop Childrens play across the localities

- Table Tennis supporting residents to engage in Ping Pong at home using a community box approach and digital sessions
- The High Rise – Arts and social change project looking at green spaces and physical activity and building a conversation with residents.
- Seacroft Community on top and the Community Gym project at Dennis Healey

For any more information please contact Neil Jones – Partnership Manager Active Leeds at neil.jones@leeds.gov.uk

It is our intention to develop a regular Newsletter that will be circulated in due course

Active Leeds Health Programmes

The Keeping Well at Home Programme

35. Active Leeds and Public Health created the Keeping Well at Home resources to support people that are shielding, clinically vulnerable or have mobility problems to keep moving during the lockdown. These resources are to be extended from Monday 18th January 2021, to provide further support for people wanting to stay mobile and active at home. The new programme includes;

- Online Exercise Activities via Zoom
- IPAD Loan Scheme
- Personalised Support
- Digital activities on YouTube
- Activity DVDs
- Peer Support Groups
- Printed Resources such as the Keeping Well at Home Booklets

To request any resources or to seek support in accessing our programmes, please complete an online enquiry form <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/38MS7L/> or give us a call.

For more detailed information about the Keeping Well at Home Programme, please look at our website active.leeds.gov.uk/keepingwellathome

Active Leeds Health Referral Programme

36. Active Leeds is accepting referrals and self-referrals to its referral programme throughout lockdown. The programme focuses on adults and support people with that are demotivated or just don't know where to start to become active. Each person has their own Health and Wellbeing Coach who will support people in accessing and following a range of resources to keep them going during lockdown. To access the programme complete the online enquiry form:
<https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/SLNH3/> or contact us by phone or email.

How to contact us or access programmes?

37. Active Leeds accepted enquires and referrals through a range of methods;

- Keeping Well at Home Enquiry Form: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/38MS7L/>
- Online Enquiry Form : <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/SLNH3/>
- Email: Health.Programmes@Leeds.gov.uk
- Tel: 0113 3783680
- Healthcare Professionals can refer directly through the Healthy Living Template on Systemone.

Working Together to Keep People Well during spells of Cold Weather

38. Every year the Cold Weather Plan for England describes the actions we can all take to reduce the negative impact of cold weather on our health and wellbeing. Although there are several factors that contribute to this, in many cases simple preventative action could avoid many of the deaths, illnesses and injuries associated with the cold. Many of these measures need to be planned and undertaken in advance of cold weather.

Public Health takes a life course approach and aims to increase the effectiveness of interventions throughout a person's life. It focuses on a healthy start and then targets people at critical periods when they are more vulnerable to the effects of cold weather e.g. pregnancy and older age.

Cold weather presents risks to certain groups listed below. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic can add and pose additional risk to those who are clinically and socially vulnerable.

Impact of COVID-19

39. A number of important risk factors are shared across cold weather and COVID-19, which may amplify an individual's risk to both hazards. The potential interactions between cold weather and COVID-19 include:

- shared risk factors amongst population sub-groups affected by both cold temperatures and COVID-19
- clinical impacts arising due to concurrence of cold weather and COVID-19
- increased exposure to cold temperatures due to change in patterns of energy use at home, fuel poverty and reduced access to warm public spaces
- reduced access to social and community networks and resources
- change in patterns of health and social care use, access and delivery and health seeking behaviour

Some things we are encouraging services in Leeds to do:

[Sign up to receive Met Office Weather Alerts](#)

40. Watch and listen for the Met Office weather alerts on TV, Radio and Internet and email all year round. These alerts can assist you with information to help your staff and clients. Please **sign up** for these alerts [here](#).

[Sign up to receive Cold Weather Alerts](#)

41. These Alerts are comprised of different levels of response and actions needed based on cold weather threshold. These responses are set within the Cold Weather Plan for the UK. The thresholds have been developed to trigger an alert when severe cold weather is likely to significantly affect people's health. The alerts take account of temperature along with other cold weather threats such as ice and snow.

42. The Met Office will issue specific Cold Weather Alerts from 1 November 2020 through the Christmas and New Year period to 31 March 2021. There are five levels:

- Level 0 (long term planning, all year)
- Level 1 (winter preparedness and action, 1 November to 31 March)
- Level 2 (severe winter weather is forecast – alert and readiness)
- Level 3 (response to severe winter weather – severe weather action)
- Level 4 (major incident – emergency response, declared by central government)

[Support your Workforce to become a 'Winter Friend'](#)

43. By watching the fifteen minute animation, anyone working or volunteering in Leeds can increase their knowledge of the nine evidence based high impact interventions to support people during winter. Free resources can then be accessed from the Public Health resource centre as well as winter planning checklists which could help you or members of your wider team. More information can be found on the Public Health Resource Centre webpage under 'Seasonal Health (summer and winter planning)'.

Watch the animation and become a Winter Friend [here](#)

Familiarise yourself with and make use of the NHS Help Us Help You campaign resources

44. In recent years there has been an increasing emphasis on people taking responsibility for staying healthy and managing their own health and 'Help Us, Help You' is a powerful new way to build on this.

The 'Help Us Help You' campaign focuses on high impact interventions such as promoting flu vaccinations, increasing medicine uptake, keeping warm and eating well. All of us can take simple steps to look after our health and of others, this includes staying warm, eating well and checking up on vulnerable neighbours. By looking after yourself and those around you, you really will be helping us help you. This campaign helps people – whether you work on the frontline or are a member of the public – to understand how you can stay well.

Enhancing Access to Community Public Access Defibrillators (CPADs) Progress Report (City-Wide)

45. Inner South as a collective was allocated 8 defibrillator cabinets through this programme of work. Currently 7 of these 8 units have now been successfully installed, through consultation with elected members, and the collaboration of community venues in the areas. Below is a breakdown of the status according to ward:

Beeston & Holbeck

46. Beeston & Holbeck was allocated 4 defibrillator cabinets through this programme of work.

- **Cottingley Community Centre.**

This was successfully installed on 5th March 2020

- **St Andrew's Church Hall.**

This was successfully installed on 6th March 2020

- **Holbeck Together**

This was successfully installed on 2nd July

All three of the above devices have been fully registered with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service, with suitable Guardians established at each location.

The final installation for Beeston and Holbeck is:

- **Beeston Library** - The library is currently undergoing a refurbishment, it is hoped that the defibrillator will be installed, last week in March.

Middleton Park:

47. Middleton Park was allocated 4 defibrillator cabinets through this programme of work.

- **Belle Isle Working Men's Club**

This was successfully installed on 14th February 2020

- **Greedy Monkeys Café**

This was successfully installed on 13th February 2020

- **St Cross Parish Church**

This was successfully installed on 14th October 2020

- **St George's One stop Centre**

This was successfully installed on 12th February 2020

All of the above devices have been fully registered with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service, with suitable Guardians established at each location.

Inner South Community Committee: CIL Funded Defibrillators

48. Hunslet & Riverside ward

15 defibrillators were approved by the committee, to be installed at venues in the ward suggested by Hunslet & Riverside ward members.

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**

Most of the installed devices have been successfully registered with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service, with suitable Guardians being confirmed at these locations.

The remaining 5 locations are progressing, being at varying stages. Updates will be given to members at regular intervals.

Middleton Park

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

Sainsburys, (near Middleton Park Circus) has been installed, with a named Guardian at this site, with the 2nd location suggested, (**Belle Isle Stores**), on hold due to lockdown.

Following the lifting of lockdown, it is anticipated that the final Belle Isle location will be able to be progressed.

Community Engagement:

Community Engagement – Beeston & Holbeck ward

Holbeck Residents Meeting

50. Following on from the Holbeck Residents meeting noted at the last Inner South Community Committee, we took a slightly different route for community engagement in Cottingley and on 9th December joined in with the established Cottingley TRAC

(tenants and residents group) meeting mechanism. Cllr Almass attended on behalf of the ward members.

51. We're currently engaging with the Beeston Forum to replicate this 'we'll come to you' approach at their next meeting – the date is to be decided. As social media is still our easiest mechanism to reach a large proportion of the ward, we're sharing info, consultations and good news stories as often as we can. Current examples include sharing the consultation documentation regarding the IS CC funded Creation Order in relation to the rough path behind Asda on Old Lane in Beeston and the Your Voice survey for residents suggestions to make improvements to Cottingley.

Covid-19 Meeting

52. On 28 Jan 2021 colleagues from the Communities Team, Public Health and Environmental Health came together with local ward members to formulate a plan to tackle the increasing transmission rate seen in the ward from 24 December, when the rates began to spike dramatically and continued to be much higher than the general Leeds rate for all ages, but particularly high for the over 60s. Deep dives into the statistics revealed community transmission is high so a plan to target the spike with hyper local messages via neighbourhood social media, assessments of social distancing measures in shops (and offer improvements), plus linking up with key groups to help spread the messages is being established and rolled out. A local engagement plan and communications audit has been created and will be used to share the local messages.

Community Engagement - Hunslet & Riverside Ward

Beeston Hill Residents Meeting

53. Beeston Hill Residents virtual meeting will take place on Zoom on Tuesday, 2nd February, 2021, 6:30pm, with an update to follow in due course.

Hunslet Moor & Hall Residents Meeting

54. Hunslet Moor Residents virtual meeting has been planned for Tuesday 16th February 2021, and will take place on Zoom.

Improving Brickfield Park

55. As part of our continued effort to improve local green spaces, Hunslet & riverside ward members alongside Communities Team, Parks and Countryside Team and Active Leeds are looking to make improvements to Brickfield Park, to ensure this space remains well used and loved. A consultation is ongoing with residents to have their say over improvements to this important piece of green space. Brickfield Park is located on Lady Pitt Lane next to Beeston Hill and close to Lady Pitt Lane Allotments. The deadline for completing this survey is Monday 25th January 2021.

Community Engagement - Middleton Park Ward

Improving the New Forest Village Plantations

56. 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, what's liked about the greenspace and what improvements could be made to enhance users' experience.

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.

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.

A community meeting is scheduled for mid-February, in which the draft improvement plans will be shared with local residents for discussion.

Love Where You Live: Belle Isle & Middleton

Grit Bins

57. In order to reduce the risk of residents slipping and injuring themselves during the colder months, (especially for older and disabled people), it has been proposed to provide additional grit bins in the Middleton Park ward.

Provision of 18 x 200lt bins including salt will be provided to Middleton Park communities and will be funded from the 2020/21 *Belle Isle & Middleton: Love Where You Live* budget.

Westwood's Working Group

58. The Westwoods working group met in January to discuss various estate and environmental improvement initiatives for the area. It was noted that issues around fly tipping and refuse fluctuate throughout the year, aligned to key periods such as Christmas and the school holidays. To help combat these issues Cleaner Neighbourhoods, Housing and Communities will create and manage a social media campaign calendar for 2021. The purpose of which is to share key information and messages with residents on the lead up to and during these busy periods.

Community Engagement: Social Media and Newsletter

59. **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

60. The Holbeck core group met on the 22nd October 2020 and was facilitated by colleagues from Active Leeds about the Get Set Leeds Local project. As members will be aware, Active Leeds had been successful in securing funding from Sport England for 4 of the priority neighbourhoods, of which the Holbeck neighbourhood is one. The meeting provided an opportunity for stakeholders to come together and discuss how this funding could make the best impact in the area and how it could also ensure that all the communities in Holbeck could access these opportunities.

With changing demands and officer roles having to be re-assigned to prioritise the COVID-19 response, one to one meetings with individual service partners have been held in addition to the core group meetings.

The Communities Team will continue to work with the core groups to co-develop local support and provide the opportunities for partners to update on work and initiatives, which have been progressing in the area.

Middleton Park

Belle Isle and Middleton Neighbourhood Improvement Board (NIB)

61. Digital exclusion was highlighted as priority issue by several partners at October's Belle Isle and Middleton NIB meeting. As a result, a 'Digital Exclusion in Focus' meeting was organised in order to bring local partners together to:

- develop a clearer understanding of the challenges digital exclusion poses to local projects, services and people
- find out from one another, what resources and support are available locally to tackle digital exclusion
- become aware of emerging opportunities to work together to address digital exclusion at ward-level

The meeting was designed with oversight from 100% Leeds and chaired by Councillor Groves and BITMO's Community and Tenant Support Manager, Carla Yeomans; anchoring the partnership approach desired to tackle this issue.

From the information shared at this meeting we:

- Created a digital support asset map detailing the various places / services across the ward where people can access digital equipment, guidance and support.
- Established an 'LS10 Digital Network' Whatsapp group, a place where partners can share information quickly, keep up to date with the latest funding opportunities and troubleshoot any digital challenges.
- Linked up organisations with digital inclusion project ideas with relevant funding opportunities.

Going forward, we will be exploring the feasibility of setting up a digital device recycle scheme for the ward.

Hunslet & Riverside

Beeston Hill Core Group.

62. With changing demands and officer roles having to be re-assigned to prioritise the COVID-19 response, one to one meetings with individual service partners have been held in addition to the core group meetings.

The nature of the pandemic has resulted in an increased demand for services with the needs of residents becoming increasingly complex. Services are also seeing an increase in new residents accessing services that hadn't previously sought assistance. It is inevitable that these challenges and its effects will ensue throughout and after the pandemic and the demand on services will intensify.

63. One of these challenges includes the widening gap in digital inequality. With more residents having to work, learn and interact online during the pandemic, the gap has widened for those who lack digital skills or access. The digital divide and exclusion has also intensified for migrant families, where parents are unable to support with their children's education and projects like the homework club run by Hamara (which had been offering this support), had to temporarily close.

64. A number of initiatives have since been developed in Leeds to address digital exclusion, such as the Leeds Tech Angels scheme led by Digital Access West Yorkshire and the COVID-19 fund launched by the Leeds City Digital Partnerships team, in partnership with Forum Central and 100% Digital Leeds. The funding will enable organisations to use digital solutions to work more effectively in lockdown or to directly support residents by providing data packages and / or equipment. Local organisations Holbeck Together and Hamara were successful in securing £750 and £1,000 respectively from the COVID-19 fund.

65. During the summer the two Inner South Community Hubs (Hunslet and Dewsbury Rd) resumed a limited service, which meant a number of support services that had previously been on offer such as the Job shop, activities for children and access to study space have all had to be put on hold. The Support Hub at 5 Recreation View has also been closed during the course of the pandemic. Whilst services are still available online, through pre-booked appointments and by phone, the frontline face to face offer for residents has unfortunately been restricted. As a result, the number of people accessing support services had reduced including contact from regular service users.

The Communities Team will continue to work with the core groups to co-develop local support and provide the opportunities for partners to update on work and initiatives, which have been progressing in the area.

Local Centres Programme (LCP)

All Wards

66. Businesses for whom we have email addresses around the city are sent weekly updates (excluding 2 week Christmas break) on news to help them manage their business amidst the Covid nightmare. The Updates are also intended to provide confidence and a chance for businesses to circulate the business to their neighbours.

67. New signage was placed at 120 local shopping areas (roughly 4 per ward) across the city in December. This included rules on facemasks, NHS app etc. (A copy of the poster is attached.) The A3 corex signs were placed on lighting columns at the following Inner South locations on the assumption they are main footfall areas - as supermarkets arrange their own exterior signage:

<u>Beeston & Holbeck</u>
Cottingley Vale - LS11 0JY Post by Pharmacy
Dewsbury Rd - LS11 7JX KFC (111 D121)
Dewsbury Rd - Park House B&B (101 D121)
Top Moor Side LS11 9LW Holbeck Wines (3 T315)
Beeston Rd - LS11 7HX Deli Snacks (6 B267)
Middleton Ring Rd - LS11 5LG Bensons (S224)
Lodge Lane (Beeston Hill shops) - LS11 6AZ (267)
<u>Hunslet & Riverside</u>
Dewsbury Rd - LS11 5EG Royal Smokehouse (47 D121)
Dewsbury Rd - LS11 5HZ Sheik General Store (57 D121)
Balm Road – Pelican Crossing post by shops Hunslet Carr Fisheries

Church St - LS10 2AP Light column behind phone boxes

Middleton Park

Belle Isle Parade - LS10 3AH Andys Barbers (B3 254)

St George's Rd post near Bus stop near Shopping Centre (2 S1121)

Middleton Park Circus - LS10 4LU Betfred (8 M275)

Middleton Park Circus LS10 4HP Mobys Fish n Chips (4 M275)

Additionally, more queueing vinyls were provided for businesses to place outside their shop to ensure queueing safety. (1,700 have now been circulated outside the city centre)

68. **Middleton Park** – The Town Team was emailed asking when they would like the next Town Team meeting. They decided that rather than hold Zoom meetings (as are being undertaken in some areas) they would like to wait until the pandemic is over. In the meantime they get information via the weekly updates and I visit the area on a roughly monthly basis as part of my ongoing checks of all shopping areas outside the city centre. On my most recent catch up the Town Team member for Middleton Shopping Centre confirmed they are circulating information we send to them.

At the start of this year I contacted the markets manager who met with the town team last year, to check they can still progress with street markets in Middleton Circus. They confirmed this is still the intention once we have confirmed to them it is safe to do so.

I am linking with Regeneration over some upgrading to Council owned shops in Belle Isle and Sissons Mount. Funding for this is being considered through HAP. Businesses in the shopping centre advised that fly tipping was not being removed by the overseeing agent. I have contacted them and copied in Ward Members and relevant contacts in the Council.

69. **Hunslet and Riverside** – Similarly Dewsbury Rd Town Team businesses have decided to not hold meetings until the pandemic is over. In the meantime they get information via the weekly updates and I visit the area on a roughly fortnightly basis. The information is circulated by Town Team trader contacts and they regularly update me on items of interest.

70. Penny Hill – the shopping arcade has received a slight facelift on soft landscaping. I have written to the agency asking for further improvements (and will copy Ward Members in on anything received). A proposal is being drawn up for creating a village square and pocket park between the library and Penny Hill shops in addition to an improved activities area outside the refurbished Hub. The activities area is progressing and funding has been secured however an estimate of the costs is still

being awaited for the remainder of the project (the square, soft landscaping etc). Once the costs are received a meeting will be held with ward members to determine the best way forward.

71. **Beeston and Holbeck** – Despite being in lockdown, in February businesses in Holbeck, Cross Flatts, Old Land and Dewsbury Rd (both sides of the road) from Tommy Wass to Cross Flatts Park were visited, to obtain contact details to send updates to. Many shops were shut and some had significant queues, but despite this 20 new contacts were made. This will hopefully enable messages to be shared and also spread to neighbouring businesses.

Community Hubs Update

72. Dewsbury Road and Hunslet continue to provide a public service but in a further restricted way due to the current lockdown. St Georges Centre remains closed for Hub services due to the wider space and controlled environment required by the NHS.
73. Customer services enquiries are dealt in a twofold way - quick enquiries are dealt with on site, but for lengthy enquiries an appointment is made the customer will receive a call back by the Hub officer. Trussell Trust and Local Welfare Support payment vouchers continue to be issued, and customers are able to drop off benefit proofs and council tenancy keys. Issuing of temporary parking permits have temporarily been suspended in the current lockdown. Library browsing has also been suspended in the current lockdown but customers are able to order and collect library books. More public access computers are now available on a pre-booked basis (13 at Dewsbury Road and 16 at Hunslet). The use of these computers has been restricted in the current lockdown for emergency and job search use only. The Credit Union remains open at Dewsbury Road.
74. Employment – as part of an ESIF contract and in partnership with Employment and Skills, the service will be transitioning to provide a more extensive support package to those seeking employment and during their initial period in a new job. Additionally iPad lending has been made available (13 at Dewsbury Road and 16 at Hunslet) to enable those who do not have internet access to be able to job search and make job applications from home.
75. Healthy Holidays – in a continuation of the support programme which ran over the summer holiday, children affected by food insecurity received food hampers and activity packs over the Christmas holiday period.
76. Telephone support - staff have helped to resource a number of telephone services: the Test and Trace programme - making outbound calls to residents who have been advised to self-isolate; calls to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable residents who have requested a call back; the LWSS line; and council tax and benefit line

77. Census – preparation is underway for Dewsbury Road to be a Census Support Centre for residents who will need support to complete their census return.

78. Hub and Library opening hours public consultation – to fulfil the budgetary savings that the service needs to make an online public consultation is taking place throughout January 2021, on the standardisation of opening across the Hub and Library service.

Housing Advice Panel (HAP) Update

Inner South Housing Advisory Panel (ISHAP) for April-December 2020.

79. The ISHAP meet to consider the funding of environmental and community projects and services that benefit our housing Leeds Tenants, in the wards of Beeston and Holbeck, Hunslet and Riverside and Middleton Park. The HAP is represented by three ward members, Councillors Angela Gabriel, Elizabeth Nash and Paul Truswell.

This year we have gained two new Tenant HAP members each in their 40's and 2 more HAP friends.

Funding Priorities:

80. The 2020/21 priorities of the panel are outlined in the 'Plan on a page'

- Enhance the environmental appearance of neighbourhoods including initiatives which address parking, fly-tipping, dog-fouling and overgrown shrubs and trees.
- To contribute to projects which will give tenants an overall better quality of life in terms of their general health and well-being, especially social isolation and mental health.
- Support applications with other council teams, service providers and voluntary organisations to address social problems including burglary, ASB, drugs and domestic violence.
- Assist tenants affected by universal credit and other welfare reforms through projects which include digital inclusion, work preparation and budgeting.

81. Budget:

- Total Budget for 2020/21 of £44,654.25.
- The total spend for the year to date is £13,535.92

82. Projects:

Of the 13 projects that have been brought to panel so far:

- 10 were approved
- 2 were rejected
- 1 has been deferred

Of the 13 approved projects 12 were community support projects leaving 1 as environmental projects to fund a parking sign.

Community Bids

83. £10,500 of the Community bids went to the groups and charities to support people who were struggling to pay for food during this year's pandemic.

£2684.24 was spent on three projects to support families/children's wellbeing. The funding provided, table tennis sets and games sets from Active Leeds, 8 sessions of doorstep dance sessions run by DAZL and Festive Decorations for school children with which to brighten their homes.

£320 worth of litter picking equipment was supplied to Westwood Primary school to support the teaching of community pride and skills and to improve the environment.

Working in Partnership

84. Housing Managers continue to support the IS HAP by attending meetings to provide up to date information about rent, voids and Annual Home Visits performance data so panel members are clear about what is happening in their area. Performance information is put in context both with issues affecting our communities in relation to citywide data and Key Performance Indicators (KPI). These reports indicate performance in Inner south Leeds continues to be on track.

Working in partnership with the Community Committee continues to be an important objective for the IS HAP. The details noted earlier regarding funding bids clearly shows this is working in practice as both groups make sure tenants and residents benefit from this joint working approach in the range of projects funded. The IS HAP and Community Committee work carefully to make the best use of available funds, get value for money and use money wisely to benefit our communities.

Inner South HAP for 2021/22

85. The HAP are keen to help support and raise awareness about future Community Committee activity, work with officers to explore joint funding opportunities to tackle joint priorities and help the Committee with community engagement.

HAP's move towards more use of social media to promote the works and gain potential bids from the wider community has encouraged different groups to apply for funding. We continue to recruit HAP members across the city and, it is hoped, social media will play a strong role in this process and in appealing to our younger tenants. Each HAP area now has its own officer run HAP Facebook page on which bids, action logs and agendas are published.

Housing Leeds Purchased a year's Trial of an engagement software which we are calling 'Your Voice Leeds' this is a bespoke consultation tool which housing will use for some of its tenancy consultations and service reviews. We may use this in future to review Housing Advisory Panel bids and similar consultation.

Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

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

Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration

87. 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

88. 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

89. 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

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

Risk Management

91. 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

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

Recommendations

93. 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.