

Report of: Head of Stronger Communities

Report to: Outer North West Community Committee

Wards: Adel and Wharfedale, Guiseley and Rawdon, Horsforth and Otley and Yeadon

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Date: 8th March 2021

to note

Outer 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.

Main issues

Updates by theme:

Children and Families: Councillor Pat Latty

3. Due to the announcement of the national lockdown at the start of January, it was agreed to postpone the virtual youth summit until later in the year. Despite this, schools in the area are still being encouraged to complete the online budget consultation questionnaire, in order to receive information and encourage youth participation. There will be the consistent approach across all Community Committee areas, with relevant findings presented to the summer round of Committees to help inform spend going forward.

Environment and Community Safety: Councillor: Barry Anderson

- Councillor Anderson to provide a verbal update.

Transport- Cllr Wadsworth

- Councillor Wadsworth to provide a verbal update. The next transport sub group meeting will take place in March 2021.

Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care: Councillor Graham Latty

- Councillor Latty to provide a verbal update. The next Health and wellbeing sub group meeting will take place in March 2021.

Employment, Skills & Welfare: Councillor Ryk Downes –

7. Outer North West Employment and Skills update

Universal Credit

The table below shows the revised figures for the number of people claiming Universal Credit in the Outer North West Community Committee area that were unemployed in November 2020 is 2,269. This is an increase of 110% since March 2020 and an increase of 29 on the previous month.

	Universal Credit Claimants (Not in Employment) 16-64yrs					
	March 2020		October 2020		November 2020	
	Number*	Rate**	Number*	Rate**	Number*	Rate**
Outer North West	1,080	2.1%	2,240	4.4%	2,269	4.5%
Adel & Wharfedale	257	2.3%	535	4.9%	542	4.9%
Guiseley & Rawdon	207	1.5%	487	3.5%	497	3.6%
Horsforth	268	2.0%	525	3.9%	518	3.9%
Otley & Yeadon	348	2.7%	693	5.4%	712	5.6%

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

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

Employment and Skills Services

The table below shows the number of people being supported from the Outer North West 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)
Outer North West	361	375	78	98	177	237
Adel & Wharfedale	114	152	27	33	70	95
Guiseley & Rawdon	56	57	12	23	17	33
Horsforth	115	98	22	21	57	68
Otley & Yeadon	76	68	17	21	33	41

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, 361 of whom were from Outer North West, a reduction of 4% when compared to the same period last year.

Across the city the service has supported 2,701 people into work, this reporting year (April – December 2020). 78 residents from the Outer North West have been supported into work, a reduction of 20% 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 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

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.

Between April – December 2020 the service has supported 4,703 people across the city to improve their skills. From the Outer North West, 177 residents have completed a skills, a reduction of 25% 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.

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

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

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

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

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://employmentskillsleeds.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

Public Health update

Health and Wellbeing & Adult Social Care – Update from Jon Hindley (Public Health)

Covid-19 Information / Key Messages

8. As you will be aware the UK is currently in lockdown status to halt the spread of the Coronavirus epidemic. The most important action we can take is to stay at home if we can. Now it is essential we adhere to government guidance to help defeat the virus at this critical time as the vaccines are rolled out. Below is some general information on the pandemic constrictions;
9. What you can and cannot do during the national lockdown.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#summary-what-you-can-and-cannot-do-during-the-national-lockdown>

Hands-Face-Space

10. Approximately 1 in 3 people who have coronavirus have no symptoms and could be spreading it without realising it:

- HANDS – wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds
- FACE– wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- SPACE – stay 2 meters apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 meter with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings).

What signs and symptoms should I look out for?

- a high temperature,
- a new, continuous cough,
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

When, how and why should I get tested?

11. Appointments can be booked via the NHS online booking system or by calling 119. When booking, you will be shown a list of the nearest places to go for your test. It is important to be tested no more than five days from when your symptoms started.

When to get a test:

- For yourself, if you have coronavirus symptoms now (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste).
- For someone you live with, if they have symptoms.
- If you live in England and have been told to have a test before you go into hospital, for example, for surgery.

How to get a test:

<https://www.leedscq.nhs.uk/health/coronavirus/coronavirus-where-to-go-for-testing/>

- Apply online www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119 (if you have problems using the internet) to book either:
- Drive through test [Drive-Through Testing Video.](#)
- [Home test - Home Test Video.](#)

Why to get tested:

12. Testing is really important because if you know that you have tested positive for Covid-19, you can protect your family and friends.

<https://www.leedsccg.nhs.uk/health/coronavirus/coronavirus-where-to-go-for-testing/>

Vaccinations

13. It is important if you are in a priority group, starting with the over eighties and you are offered the Covid-19 vaccine you take up this potentially lifesaving opportunity. Information around the safety of the vaccines being used are contained in the link below.

<https://www.leedsccg.nhs.uk/health/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine/>

Flu vaccine and coronavirus (Covid-19)

14. In 2020, the flu vaccination is especially important because:

- if you're at higher risk from coronavirus, you're also more at risk of problems from flu
- if you get flu and coronavirus at the same time, research shows you're more likely to be seriously ill
- it'll help to reduce pressure on the NHS and social care staff who may be dealing with coronavirus

15. If you've had COVID-19, it's safe to have the flu vaccine. It'll be effective at helping to prevent flu.

16. The vaccines are free to the over 65s and further information can be found here: <https://www.leedsccg.nhs.uk/health/campaigns/flu-vaccinations/>

Key facts on vaccines:

<https://nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-safe-and-important/>

Men's Health Groups in Your Area (West Leeds)

17. Human connection and interaction is essential for YOUR overall holistic wellbeing. Many men who are single, separated and unemployed quickly become isolated, lonely and some potentially suicidal. Unable to use or access a computer can exasperate the problem. The Covid-19 has amplified these isolation issues for men who have become disconnected from their communities.

18. This project targets Men's Health and seeks to help these detached and lonely residents. There are many activities for men available below and a free I-pads on loan with credit and internet access as well as straightforward and helpful training to help men stay digitally included.

Updates from Housing

Outer North West Housing Advisory Panel (HAP):

1. The aim of the HAP panel is:

- To use HAP funds to support a range of community and environmental projects in line with the Council and local priorities.
- To work closely with local housing and other council teams to help review and monitor the delivery of local services and help shape services that meet the local community's needs..

The HAP is part of a wider Tenant Engagement Framework and one of the ways Housing Leeds involve tenants. Within the Regulatory Framework the 'Tenant Involvement and Empowerment Standard' requires all social housing providers give tenants a 'wide range of opportunities to influence ' and be 'involved in the formulation of their landlord's housing related policies', and the making of decisions about how housing related services are delivered'.

HAP's continue to have an important role in supporting communities impacted by COVID and prioritising funding application that help community groups and community activity in response.

This year HAPs are prioritising and welcoming shorter applications for lower amounts of funding. HAPs are especially keen to receive requests from individual residents that have come together to help others, or community and third sector groups who are helping communities in their response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

This could be in many different ways, such as helping residents feel less isolated, giving practical day to day help, or dealing with some of the longer term impacts such as reduced incomes or improving digital skills and confidence.

There is a remaining HAP Budget of £31,647.68 for Outer North West and there are currently some projects in the pipeline, most of the projects are environmental and some are community based.

- Holtdale Ground Stabilizing Mesh
- St James signage
- St James drive gate
- ST James block 23 bin store
- Wayland Croft Planters
- Billing View bin stores and other work
- Willows bin stores and security to rear windows
- Holtpark cut backs, graffiti removal
- And possibly Some Health & Wellbeing projects (awaiting further info)

Bids approved so far this year

- Virtual father's day celebration
- Otley Action for Older People to run activities
- Greenlea Verge Signs to stop parking on grass
- Horsforth Children's centre activity packs to the community

HAP priorities

The current HAP priorities are outlined in the 'plan on a page' below and this year Climate Change will be added to the priorities as agreed by panel members.

<p>Wider Community Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Partners to improve local services • Develop and make better use of community assets • Enhance the quality of our parks and public spaces • Increase community activity and local residents involvement in decision making 	<p>Wider Community Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote healthy lifestyles and tackle health inequalities • Improve access and engagement in sport and cultural activities 	<p>Wider Community Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support activities that make people and places feel safer • Support children and young people to be engaged, active and inspired 	<p>Wider Community Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for people to get jobs, volunteer or learn new skills
<p>Housing Leeds Priorities:</p> <p>To improve the environment and green spaces and make the estates a better place to live. Working with partners and colleagues across LCC arranging action days, clean up and encouraging recycling.</p>	<p>Housing Leeds Priorities:</p> <p>Improve housing conditions by identifying issues of disrepair and vulnerability during AHV's and aim to achieve 100% AHV. Work in conjunction with local Care partnership.</p>	<p>Housing Leeds Priorities:</p> <p>Working with partners to address community safety including targeted hot spot areas by completing action days which include crime prevention advice.</p>	<p>Housing Leeds Priorities:</p> <p>Improve rent collection and reduce arrears and possession proceedings by early intervention with customers in arrears to make suitable payment plan and offer advice on Welfare Reform and Benefits. Encouraging tenants to get online and help with UC</p>
<p>HAP Priorities:</p> <p>To enhance the environmental appearance of neighbourhoods including those that address littering, dog fouling and overgrown shrubs & trees.</p>	<p>HAP Priorities:</p> <p>To support projects that give tenants an overall better quality of life in terms of health & wellbeing including mental health & social isolation.</p>	<p>HAP Priorities:</p> <p>To support community cohesion projects and engagement projects that address social problems i.e ASB, burglary, drugs and domestic violence.</p>	<p>HAP Priorities:</p> <p>Support projects that assist tenants affected by Universal Credit and other welfare reforms, budgeting, numeracy & literacy skills, jobs and skills projects.</p> 
 <p>If you'd like to find out more about HAPs, get involved or find out more about funding visit: www.leeds.gov.uk/hap</p>			<p>Housing Advisory Panels - Shaping a local community</p>

Community Engagement: Social Media

- Information on posts and details recent social media activity for the Outer North West Community Committee Facebook page is provided at **Appendix 1**.

Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

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

Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration

- All work that the Communities Team are involved in is assessed in relation to Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration. In addition, the Communities Team ensures that the wellbeing process for funding of projects complies with all relevant policies and legislation.

Council Polices and City Priorities

- 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

- 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.

Recommendations

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

Background documents¹

18. 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.