

Report of: Head of Stronger Communities

Report to: Inner West Community Committee
[Armley, Bramley & Stanningley, Kirkstall]

Report author: Karen McManus 0113 5350727

Date: 16th March 2021 **To note/discuss**

Inner West Community Committee - Update Report

Purpose of report

1. To bring to members' attention an update of the work which the Communities Team is engaged in, based on priorities identified by the Community Committee. It also provides opportunities for further questioning, or to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.
2. This report provides regular updates on some of the key activities between Community Committee meetings and functions delegated to Community Committees, Community Champions roles, community engagement, partnership and locality working.

Main issues

Updates by theme:

Children and Young People: Champions Cllr H Bithell, Cllr L Cunningham & Cllr C Gruen

3. The Inner West Children and Young People Sub Group took place on 15th December 2020 via Zoom.
4. Colleagues from Public health were in attendance to discuss Covid-19 infection rates amongst young people and how this has effected the local community.
5. The Principle of Dixons Academy and Leeds West Academy updated the Sub Group on how schools had managed returning to school and how they were adhering to Government Guidelines and the challenges they faced.

6. Elected Members passed on their thanks to all the services for their hard work and creativity during the pandemic to keep children and young people safe and as active as possible.
7. The next meeting will be held via Zoom, details to follow.

Inner West Youth Summit

8. The Inner West Youth Summit has been cancelled due to the national lockdown, in its place, an online survey has been sent out to all local schools and Youth Groups, the survey will enable and encourage all children and young people to influence how youth activity funding is allocated in the Inner West area. Please share the link with your community as we hope to engage with as many children and young people as possible <https://tinyurl.com/y58k6snu>
9. The survey will be available until 30th April 2021, after that date, the information will be collated to recognise the top 5 priorities which will then be shared with local councillors, and this will influence how they allocate their Youth Activity Funding budget for 2021/22.

Environment: Champions Cllr J Illingworth & Cllr A Smart – Update from Chris Chamberlain

Covid-19 Update

10. Over the third lockdown period, staffing levels have remained a challenge across CNT and West in particular. There are currently 7 staff (6 street cleansing staff and 1 EAO) who fall within the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable category and they have continued to shield. We have had 5 staff who have tested positive for COVID since November and 50 cases of self-isolation and this has affected both street cleansing operations and enforcement work. We currently have 9 members of staff isolating with a latest COVID positive result yesterday (07/03/2021) and we are currently undertaking track and trace to identify any staff that may need to isolate as a result. We are monitoring staffing levels and will revise the service offer and priorities as needed to ensure key work can still be maintained. I will ensure to keep all Ward Members updated as necessary. These absences along with the Christmas and New Year Period, Annual Leave and general sickness absence has resulted in some work not being able to be completed as often such as manual litter picking in and around the estates. The recent snow and icy conditions also had a slight impact on this work. We still have some staff assisting CEL to combine resources to deal with the backlog of outstanding void and vulnerable properties. This is being reviewed regularly and the number of outstanding void properties is reducing enabling housing to get these properties re-let. There is 1 Team Leader that has been reallocated to help in the East team due to some of their staff being reallocated to Waste Management.

General Staffing

11. The Inner West area currently has 4 allocated Environmental Action Officers. One EAO is currently recovering from a knee operation so isn't able to carry out any visit but is working from home. In January, we recruited to Wayne Tonks' vacant position through a flexible redeployment for a Team Leader from Waste Management. This is Diane Otley who has many years supervisory experience and fitted into the role and team really well. She is covering zone 14 Bramley / Stanningley and Kirkstall. We are fully staffed within the Inner West for street cleansing except for an Assistant Chargehand and streetking sweeper driver within the Armley area. We are still waiting to recruit to these roles. There will be 4 staff leaving on ELI at the end of the month from West with 2 of these being currently assigned to IW. This will create a further Assistant Chargehand and a streetking driver vacancies which we will be recruiting to. Sarah King who is my opposite Area Manager for the INW and NW has secured a temporary promotion within Waste Management and has started this post approx. 4 weeks ago. I have been covering in her absence with her replacement, Victoria Whalley starting last week. Victoria has moved from the City Centre where she did a similar role for the past 8 years. Victoria also has some enforcement experience.

Enforcement

12. Enforcement activity is still reduced and Officers have been instructed to keep face to face visits and on site meetings to a minimum and only really to complete if there is an imminent public health issue. This is in accordance with advice from Environmental Health services who are coordinating the COVID enforcement work. Visits have been completed but to obtain evidence only within the social distancing guidelines and contact minimalized. This has caused a slight delay in getting some issues resolved as contact has had to be made with perpetrators either on the phone or by post. A suitable interview room has not been sought and is ready for use once the lockdown restrictions are eased over the coming weeks and months. We have a number of cases ready for the interview stage and hopefully we will be able to progress these fairly quickly where necessary. Environmental Action Officers are still working remotely from home but are visiting the office regularly and are in contact with each other and the Team Leaders. Some prosecutions have been heard but at Kirklees Magistrates. There has been a clear difference in results where some cases have been adjourned where the perpetrator has failed to attend whereas they would have been heard in absence in Leeds. There has also been an emphasis on the fine rather than allowing the recovery of costs of the prosecution to the LA which has been notable. Courts have been opting for higher fines which get paid to central government and lower amounts of costs being awarded back. 1 result for flytipping in Kirkstall (Woodbridges) was: Fine £300 (similar to the FPN we would issue), Victim Surcharge of £30 and awarded Costs £450 (half of what was asked for). Total £780 payable at £20 per month. The main factor is that this is a successful conviction for fly tipping. Overall, cases are still delayed and are being referred to the nearest available Magistrates within the Yorkshire and Humber region. This is obviously having an impact on attendance and we have seen a rise in warrants being issued for failure to attend. The PSPO enforcement has been out on hold for the

moment to prioritise other enforcement work. The PSPO education and start for INW has been postponed due to the students not being in the area

De-leafing

13. The de-leafing programme has been completed and this saw an increase in the areas added to our maps. The weight of leaves collected this year is only slightly higher than previous years, with a total of 1071 tonnes being removed. The schedule included visiting every zone once a week to share the road sweeping and Continental resource. There were some pros and cons to this which we will be discussing in a debrief over the next month or so. Any comments from Ward Members is welcomed on their thoughts to how it worked compared to previous years. Obviously there were more staff challenges to overcome this year due to COVID.

Community Work

14. There has been a he increase in community volunteers throughout Leeds over the past few months and this has definitely been the case in West. The batch of purple Litter Free Leeds bags delivered in December has seen 32,000 bags being distributed across Leeds. The number of purple bags being left by bins and for collection has grown significantly and keeping street cleansing very busy. This work is highly appreciated and acknowledged and we will continue to support the various groups in INW as best as we can. Unfortunately, we are still unable to lend an equipment for community events but there has been an influx of Ward Member requests to purchase litter pickers and hoops on their behalf which they have kindly funded. These will be delivered asap and are on order. Support is still being given to volunteer groups across INW such as the Bramley Wombles, New Wortley Urban Task Force and the Litter Free Groups.

Community Safety: Champion Cllr K Ritchie – update from Scott Lobsiger (LASBT)

15. Currently 76 cases active in Inner West

Armley – 26

Bramley & Stanningley – 23

Kirkstall – 27

16. Most predominant case is 'Drug/Substance misuse/dealing' 5 in Armley, 3 Bramley & Stanningley & 4 in Kirkstall.
17. Noise we have 10 in total, 7 of these are in the Kirkstall boundary which again a number of these will be attributed to the student population. The highest number is currently in the Kirkstall ward with 7.
18. Threats/Actual violence is at 3 in Armley, 7 in Bramley & Stanningley and 8 in Kirkstall.
19. Hate crime is at 5 in total, all race. There are 3 in Armley, 2 in Bramley & Stanningley & 0 in Kirkstall.

Armley

20. We are currently looking at possession applications for X3 properties for Drug related offences. There is also a closure order for Burnsall Gardens in place until 24th February 2021, however it is very unlikely at this stage for an extension due to lack of evidence.

Bramley & Stanningley

21. There have been 2 hate crime cases which are both race related. We are currently looking at a possession application for 1 property drug related offence.

Kirkstall

22. Ongoing work by LASBT resulting in 2 further closure orders in recent weeks.

Health and Wellbeing & Adult Social Care: Champion Cllr L Cunningham & Cllr F Venner, Update from Jon Hindley

23. During the pandemic as you would expect many of the Public Health commissioned have been re-purposed to run the ward hubs to support citizens during the crisis.
24. 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.

Bramley Food Environment Work

25. Elected members, partners, public health officers and Leeds Beckett Business School have been conducting a study into the food shopping, eating, cooking and consumption by local residents. This is part of a larger piece of work from the Bramley Our Place Councillor Chaired Children's and Young Person's sub group looking at supporting and helping local children living with obesity and weight management issues. Researchers have been examining family shopping and consumption habits and also in tandem have been talking to local business, the night time economy, food take away and food retailers with a view to helping them offer healthier alternatives. In turn also attempting to create a local business club of retailers where we could create the benefits of combined buying power, perhaps a local discount card for residents and a chance to have their voice heard. The results from the first section of the academic research on local families shopping habits is very illuminating. To view the results of the local family survey please contact: Emma.Strachan@leeds.gov.uk.

Covid-19 Ward Prevention Plans Armley

26. The Red Cross vulnerability matrix has identified Armley as a particularly vulnerable ward to the impact of the pandemic, although obviously all wards have had a significant

negative effect felt on them. Isolated single men with low mood and poor emotional and physical health were also identified as a major target audience. This has attracted funding and from an initiative from central government grants for this ward and Farnley have been made available. Five projects applied and all five were successful. All are free to access. They are;

1. **Connecting Armley-** An I-Pad loan scheme to connect local people with low computer literacy to services that can improve their health and keep it that way. For example walking groups, virtual peer support groups and employment training. For more details please contact; Ben Benjamin.Feely@leeds.gov.uk
 2. **Talking Sheds-** A man's health project designed to bond men and create a peer support group over the construction of allotment sheds there is also a shared lunch and therapy session connected to this project. For more information please contact; Lucy, l.wheeler@tcv.org.uk
 3. **Wildlife Walks-** Guided walking tours in the local area exploring nature and our connection to it. This project combines elements of gentle physical activity with improved mental and emotional health. Please contact Lucy, l.wheeler@tcv.org.uk
 4. **Listening Room-** A virtual space where local isolated residents can talk about their problems and seek support. This project also link to various on line tutorials aimed at men around, basic cookery, car maintenance, gentle exercise and D.I.Y. For more information please contact; Mick, Michael.howard@armleyhelpinghands.org
 5. **Treasure Books-** A family learning scheme centring on mathematics and literacy skills. Aimed at vulnerable poorer families, those with low education levels struggling with lock down and home schooling. All projects are interlinked and are also connected to the local GP practice based social prescribing services as well as larger scale physical activity schemes such as Active Leeds. For further details please contact; Gael Gael.Timbers@leeds.gov.uk
27. Please note: should you require further information there are two brief and informal field note reports available describing the outreach from the provider's and from a LCC Public Health perspective. Please contact Jonathan.Hindley@leeds.gov.uk should you require a copy.
28. Protecting and supporting vulnerable citizens experiencing suicidal thoughts and the rapid training of volunteers in suicide prevention training.
29. As you can appreciate the scope and quantity of Public Health work by the council across the city during the coronavirus pandemic has been immense. The council is very appreciative of the massive amount of work of the cities' superb volunteers, third sector organisations and partners. The city owes them a huge debt of gratitude.
30. One of the challenging and upsetting tasks when the support system was put in place until other resources (RUOK helpline) came on line was when volunteers received calls from residents who were harming themselves and experiencing suicidal thoughts. One of the many pieces of work Public Health put in place was the rapid on line training of volunteers and partners in suicide prevention.

31. Full Training:
https://www.relias.co.uk/hubfs/ZSACourse4/story_html5.html
32. Micro Course
https://www.relias.co.uk/hubfs/ZSAMicroCourse/story_html5.html
33. USE THESE RESOURCES:
<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/phrc/current-awareness/suicide-prevention>

Community Engagement: Social Media

34. **Appendix 1**, provides information on posts and details recent social media activity for the Inner West Community Committee Facebook page & Covid-19 ward pages.
35. **Census 2021**, Census day is Sunday 21st March 2021, Organisations such as local authorities and charities use census data to plan and fund the services we all need. Things like transport, education and healthcare. An update on how best to take part will be given at the meeting.

Town Centres Update – Update from Pete Mudge

Armley

36. Like most UK high streets, Armley has now lost nearly all its non-food national chains: Coral betting, Card Factory, Boots, Fultons. (The latter being bought out nationally by Pound Land so in Armley it will be moved into that unit) But it means there are 3 empty units on the first part of Town Street. Coral and Card Factory already have interest from new businesses. The former Wilsons Pie shop has now become Greens Pies and another shop is now a speciality frozen foods outlet. Other major improvements to the offer of the town are progressing at another venue.
37. Last year the former Yorkshire Bank wanted to reopen as shops on ground floor and said they had tenants waiting however creation of a shop frontage was turned down so this has now been lost as a business and is being converted to flats. After the 1st lockdown, street drinking returned in a big way on Town Street along with begging and drug dealing. Police have reduced these though there is national concern areas suffering after the 1st lockdown may do so again in the coming months. We have placed signs at 4 locations which is a new trial for Leeds and looks to make dealers and buyers feel uneasy in those areas.
38. The government provided some funding to investigate the potential of a BID vote for Armley. Due to the pandemic this investigation is on hold for the time being. Similarly the Town Teas around the city have gone on hold till non-essential shops and hospitality

reopens. Leaders in the local business communities are however still contacting me with ideas and also undertaking communication with local businesses.

Bramley & Stanningley, Kirkstall

39. Weekly updates are being circulated to Bramley and Kirkstall businesses for which the Neighbourhood Centres Co-ordinator has email addresses. One day each week the co-ordinator visits areas of the city to obtain more email addresses from businesses.

Updates from Key Services

Community Hubs – Update from Jason Newman

40. As a service we have been very limited due to the ongoing pandemic however we have still been able to provide services to our communities. Throughout the latest lockdown we have been able to provide a click and collect library service and maintained a provision of public access computers. In addition to this we have also been able to help customers facing emergency situations, with repairs, access to emergency food or funds. We have also been providing telephone appointments for customer service enquiries.
41. In addition to running the above services our staff have adapted to different ways of working helping customers over the phone and via email providing support for Track and Trace, CEV support lines, the flexible shielding fund, local welfare support scheme to name a few.
42. Charlotte Batty the areas Community Hub Manager left the service via ELI at the start of November and has been replaced by Jason Newman. Jason has had many years' experience in the service, most recently managing the services workforce planning alongside the Peripatetic Team (which covers across the city when needed) and the Mobile Community Hub and Library Service. Jason is looking forward to building on the links already formed by the hubs and helping to contribute to our communities as soon as the situation allows.
43. The service has been successful in receiving some ESIF funding for the next three years to support the work of its Job Shops in helping people in our communities find employment and supporting them through the initial stages of that employment.
44. Following a recent customer consultation it is proposed that the opening hours of the Hubs and Libraries will be standardised across the city into three tiers. In the inner west area the proposed opening hours are
45. Armley Tier 1, Monday to Thursday 9am until 7pm. Friday 9am until 5pm and Saturday 10am until 4pm.

46. Bramley Tier 2, Monday 9am until 5pm. Tuesday 10am until 5pm. Wednesday 9am until 5pm, Thursday and Friday 9am until 5pm and Saturday 10am until 4pm.
47. Hawksworth Tier 3, Monday 9am until 5pm. Tuesday 10am until 5pm. Wednesday to Friday 9am until 5pm. The timing and the details of the implementation of this proposal is currently being worked through.

Housing Leeds – Update from Paul Hodges & Paul Densley

Walkabouts

48. Estate walkabouts are now underway since September 20. We have been completing walkabouts on the estate, social distancing and PPE, but in line with the risk assessment we are only authorised to complete this with one other person. Key themes having been waste in gardens, overgrown hedges and leaves in some communal walkways.
49. Although we are now back in lockdown we are still fully remobilised and therefore still undertaking daily and weekly block sweeps and stage 2 fire safety inspections / checks. We have seen some failed collection of waste in the High Rise blocks, this was due to the weather adverse weather conditions but these missed collection were resolved the next day.

Inner West HAP – November 2020

50. When lockdown was imposed we introduced a Low Value Application Form for bids under £500. This form is much simpler than the standard application and was developed to encourage smaller groups or individuals to deliver small scale projects that would go some way to addressing some of the issues people were facing such as accessing food, isolation and inactivity. Details of the new form were shared with members directly via email and with partners and stakeholders through meetings and phone conversations. The Low Value Application Form will continue to be part of our offer for the foreseeable future so please continue to promote this as a funding opportunity.

51.

Budget for 2020/21	£54,532.86	
Carry Forward from 2019/20	£11,494.85	
TOTAL 2020/21 BUDGET	£66.027.71	

Approved Budget Spend 2020/21	£39,651.22	
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Available Budget	£26,376.49	
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HAP	Number of projects submitted	Number of projects approved	Amount Committed by Panel	% committed
Inner West Total	35	24	£39,651.22	60.05%

52. Bids Approved since last update for 2020/21

Address/Who	Scheme	Amount Awarded by HAP
Armley	Craft Trail Packs	£379.48
All Inner West	Youth Christmas Packs	£210
All Inner West	Fruit Works Grafting	£250
B&S	Langley Cres Handrail	£3,680
Armley	Wyther Park Road Greenspace	£4,920
Armley	Groundworks Gardens	£7,000
Armley	The Highrise Project	£1,000
B&S	Snowden Notice Boards	£454.50

Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

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

Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration

54. 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

55. 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

56. 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

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

Risk Management

58. 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

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

Recommendations

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

Background documents¹

61. 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.