

**Report of:** Head of Locality Partnerships

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

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**For decision**

## **Inner North West Community Committee Update Report**

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### **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.
3. To make nominations to each of the Inner North West Sub Groups for 2021/22.

### **Main issues**

#### **Sub Group Nominations**

4. Members will have considered Appointments to Outside Bodies and Community Champions elsewhere on the Community Committee agenda. Members are now asked to make nominations to each of the Inner North West Community Committee Sub Groups for 2021/22. The current representatives are shown below:

<b>Sub Group</b>	<b>Number of places</b>	<b>(Current) appointees</b>	<b>(Current) Community Committee Champion</b>
<b>Environmental Sub Group</b>	3	Cllr Garthwaite (Chair) Cllr Bentley Vacant slot for Little London & Woodhouse	Cllr A Garthwaite
<b>Children &amp; Families Sub Group</b>	3	Cllr Pryor (Chair) Cllr Howley Cllr Marshall-Katung	Cllr J Pryor

- Members are invited to nominate representatives for each of the Inner North West Community Committee Sub Groups.

### **Updates by theme**

#### **Children and Families: Champion Cllr Pryor**

- The Children & Families Sub Group has not met since the last Inner North West Committee meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- A separate report is attached with the committee agenda papers for discussion elsewhere in the meeting in relation to the Inner North West Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey.

#### **Environmental: Champion Cllr Garthwaite**

- The Environmental Sub Group has been focused on planning the 'Big Clear Out' and tackling graffiti in Hyde Park. The Big Clear Out was organised as a collaborative project with the University of Leeds and private and third sector partners; coming together to plan the various stages of the project including leafleting, collection and transportation of donations and running pop up shops across the most deprived neighbourhoods of the city, to ensure people in need could benefit from the donations. This project faced a number of challenges mainly due to COVID-19, however the partnership of the different sectors is very positive, especially with private landlord and letting agency involvement.
- The graffiti group made up of several Leeds City Council teams and other public, private and third sector representatives has met 3 times since December 2020, to work on a joined up approach to graffiti in Hyde Park. The group has decided to develop a graffiti free zone starting with the Thornville's. The work will be developed in stages, obtaining consent from private owners, cleaning off graffiti, then covering areas with anti-graffiti paint. Another idea to be developed is the installation of trellises with plants onto walls to discourage graffiti and promote a greener neighbourhood.

#### **Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team (Street Cleansing and Environmental Action)**

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

- Chris Chamberlain Area Manager, Hyde Park, Little London and Woodhouse is looking in to the timeframes for implementation of the Public Space Protection Order.

## **Headingley & Hyde Park, Little London and Woodhouse**

### **Student Changeover**

11. The deployment of additional resources began on the 16<sup>th</sup> June and is still ongoing. There have been additional refuse vehicles operating in the area, supporting the work of the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team who brought in several extra street cleansing crews and enforcement staff. Most waste that was collected by these teams was taken to the city's Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility (RERF).
12. There was some uncertainty this year of how many students would have left their accommodation early. It has been a challenging period in relation to the amount of waste which has been collected and in particular, the clear up work around this. Additional recycling bring banks were located across the area and the frequency that they were emptied was increased during the student changeover period.

### **Street Cleansing Vacancies**

13. 1 x Assistant Chargehand vacancy recruitment taking place later in July.

### **Weetwood**

#### **Street Cleansing Vacancies**

14. 2 x Environmental Action Operative vacancies recruitment taking place in July/August.

#### **Graffiti**

15. Continuing to prioritise offensive graffiti in the first instance.

#### **Employment, Skills and Welfare: Champion (Vacant post)**

16. The next update from Employment & Skills will be provided for the September committee meeting.

#### **Health and Well-Being: Champion Cllr Walshaw**

#### **Uptake of Long Covid-19 Support Services**

17. Work is currently underway to encourage local people within inner west wards to understand and identify if they present with 'Long COVID-19' symptoms and if so, seek help through their local GP service. Uptake is low within some wards but this is nothing to be alarmed about as cases are proportionally low across the city, however we would like any local residents who feel they may have symptoms to access the service provided. There is a Leeds City Council Public Health information sheet with more detail from the Long-Term Conditions Team. For more information please contact the following Public Health officers; [Carl.Mackie@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Carl.Mackie@leeds.gov.uk) or [Jonathan.Hindley@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathan.Hindley@leeds.gov.uk)

## **Best Start Zone**

18. The Best Start Zone is a partnership group of statutory and third sector organisations who work with families and children in this zone. The aim of the group is to make the first 1,001 days of a child's life the very best it can be, so that they reach their full potential and can contribute to civic life. The work is varied and below are some examples of current projects.

## **Wellbeing Baskets Perinatal Mental Health**

19. From a request in February 2021, funding was successfully secured from the Leeds City Council Public Health Resource Centre Budget. The money was requested to provide family support packs (wellbeing baskets) which also include guides on overall parent/carer/family holistic wellbeing, home education and wrap around support services provided by Leeds City Council children's centres and essential community partners. As identified by the children's centre management, the project will work as follows:

- Focus around maternal/paternal mental health and wellbeing (a small number of baskets will be reserved for male parents/carers/guardians).
- Work to put together some packs for families (mother or father) where Public Health identified need (the packs would not be gifted to everyone).
- Packs are targeted, making it a very specific allocation to be provided alongside the intervention, so they reach the families who most need the support.

## **Art Packs for Children**

20. Local councillors have very kindly gifted the remaining art packs given out at the pop up COVID-19 testing centre in Little London, to go out alongside the wellbeing baskets to the most vulnerable families. These packs have been warmly welcomed by parents.

## **Baby Box Scheme**

21. It is not known why some babies die suddenly from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or cot death but the NHS have found that there is an association between sleeping with your baby on a bed, sofa or chair (co-sleeping) and SIDS.

22. You should never sleep with your baby on a sofa or armchair and you should not share a bed with your baby if you have been smoking, drinking alcohol or taking drugs. A baby should be placed on their back in a cot or Moses baskets in the same room as their parents for the first 6 months. Some of our poorest parents, carers and guardians are short on space and spare rooms. Some of our local families live in shared accommodation, multiple occupancy accommodation and extended family circumstances, where available space is at a premium.

23. Many of our local parents do not have the income or finances to purchase cots or Moses baskets. The Baby Box Scheme was a fantastic success, with high demand by local children's centres. The baby box allowed the child to sleep close to his or her parents on a

safe surface with room to breathe, as baby boxes in effect are non-toxic, sustainable cardboard cribs.

### **Moses Basket Scheme**

24. In conjunction with the Leeds City Council Project Development Team, Public Health and children's centre managers, money has now been secured for the Moses Basket Scheme, with support from local councillors and the Localities Officer. This project has commenced with 50 baskets being made available to local families who are most in need.
25. Supplying Moses baskets to local mothers now the Baby Box Scheme has ceased, is really important. This allows midwives to sign post the poorest families to access free Moses baskets to promote safe sleeping behaviour and new-born welfare and importantly develop wrap around care from health professionals and local charities to promote safe, healthy and strong childhood development.
26. This project is in partnership with the community organisation The Cardigan Centre to utilise expertise in community engagement in a culturally diverse catchment area.

### **The Moses Basket Project: Hyde Park**

27. There is a persistent gap between deprived Leeds and Leeds overall, especially in the resources poorer families have at their disposal to facilitate safe sleeping for their babies. Hyde Park historically has been one of the poorest wards in the city in terms of child poverty, with as high as 56.7% of children living in poverty. Family Outreach Workers from local children's centres see this poverty and lack of resources on a daily basis.
28. Because of the high need and demand for early year services, support and resources for families due to levels of deprivation, there has been a Best Start Zone presence in the ward for the last 4 years. Best Start Zones are partner driven initiatives looking at making the first 1,001 days of a child's life the very best it can, as from conception to year 2 are the fundamental building blocks for a child's development.
29. One of the most important aspects of this project is that it does not simply involve giving the parent a free or on loan Moses basket and then leaving the parent unsupported. This evidenced, tried and tested scheme allows early year's health professionals and practitioners such as Midwives, health visitors and Family Outreach Workers to assess which families are most in need of a service like this. Once engaged with the parent it allows a local children's centre, trusted third sector partners and health professionals to assess a parent and child's requirements. It can then wrap around the family a whole host of services which help the families become confident and successful parents and provide the child with its very best chance to develop to its full potential.
30. Courses such as PBB (Pregnancy, Birth and Beyond) and HENRY (Health, Exercise and Nutrition for the Really Young) allow parents, carers and guardians to develop knowledge, skills and practice to raise a healthy and happy family. Service provision is a wide spectrum extending to ESOL language classes as required.

31. Introducing local community members who are new or existing parents to local services via the Moses Basket Scheme can also help services identify and help with other extremely serious family issues such as safeguarding, domestic abuse and violence and financial difficulties such as eviction and court cases concerning debt.

### Better Together

32. Our local Leeds City Council commissioned outreach services Better Together continue to promote safe COVID-19 messages door to door and business to business, around testing, safety and vaccinations. The outreach teams work alongside Community Health Development Workers, volunteers and Public Health officers. Teams have recently been promoting the roving COVID-19 Vaccination Bus which has been situated at the Leeds Grand Mosque.

### Updates from Key Services

#### Housing Leeds

#### Performance information for Rent Collection: Weetwood & Little London

Office	Collection rate at week 11 2020/21 (higher is better)
Weetwood	92.58% (down from 92.61% last year) – reduction of 0.03%
Little London	93.95% (Higher from 93.04% last year) - increase of 0.91%
City average	93:73%

Office	Arrears as % of rent charged at week 11 2020/1 (lower is better)
Weetwood	4.20%: in monetary terms, £192k Last year the debt was £193k, a reduction of £1k
Little London	3.51%: in monetary terms, £331k Last year the debt was £373k, a reduction of £42k

33. Rent collection has reduced for the Weetwood office compared to last year and increased in the Little London area. The latest performance figures are carrying an extra week's worth of rent i.e. a 5 week month and the impact of COVID-19 has also been taken into account.

34. Debt has reduced for both Weetwood and Little London compared to week 11 last year. The direction of travel is good for both areas and hopefully this trend will continue.

#### Universal Credit

35. The Inner North West area has seen an increase in the number of people who are claiming Universal Credit.

#### Weetwood

- 271 cases
- £5.72 of debt
- 105 managed payments to landlords and 66 3<sup>rd</sup> party deductions

## Little London

- 728 cases
- £20.46 of debt
- 211 managed payments to landlords and 123 3<sup>rd</sup> party deductions in place
  
- Total number of cases for the city = 15,943
- Total average debt for the city = - £1.35

## Annual Tenancy Check In Programme

36. Housing Leeds have recently launched an Annual Tenancy Check In Programme (formerly known as Annual Tenancy Contact/Annual Home Visit). The Annual Tenancy Check In Programme was launched on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 and following feedback now reflects the different ways in which contact might happen. Rather than all check-ins being completed in the tenant's home, face to face, it will be completed either face to face, over the telephone or online, depending on circumstances.

### Online

37. Letters/emails will be sent to a pilot group of 1,000 customers who have been chosen to have an online check in. This will give the residents identified the opportunity to complete the annual tenancy check virtually. After the pilot group has taken place this will be reviewed.

### Telephone Group

38. The information on customers who have been identified as needing a telephone check-in has now been developed. All officers have a list of all residents to contact in order to complete the annual tenancy check in.

### Visit Group

39. The main visit programme will not begin until at least the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021. However, Housing Leeds recognise that there are a small group of tenants (under 3% of tenants citywide) where they have a particular vulnerability e.g. hoarding, poor internal property condition, previous safeguarding concern, where it is important that they review their situation to monitor health and safety risks to the tenant and others living nearby. For these tenants the officers have been tasked to look into visits as a priority and to begin making contact and undertaking annual tenancy check ins from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

## Lettings

Housing Office	Number of properties let
Weetwood	14
Little London	19

## **Estate Walkabouts**

40. All this year's walkabouts have been arranged and dates confirmed. Housing Leeds have advised the Housing Officers to book them in their diaries and invite the local ward members and tenant representatives to attend, in line with COVID-19 risk assessments. Key themes having been identified from walkabouts so far are; waste in gardens, overgrown hedges and leaves in some communal walkways.

## **Block Inspection or High Rise Feedback**

41. Housing Leeds carry out weekly block sweeps on all high rise blocks. All issues that are identified by the Housing Officer are actioned accordingly. Housing Leeds also receive daily Stage 1 Fire Safety Reports from its cleaning contractors which are actioned in line with the Fire Safety Procedure. Stage 2 fire safety checks are also carried out with any necessary repairs actioned.

## **Anti-Social Behaviour**

42. During the pandemic and the restrictions that have been put in place, Housing Leeds have seen a rise in reports of noise nuisance and breaches of social distancing guidelines. Housing Leeds, the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team and West Yorkshire Police are working together at this difficult time and encourage residents to report all breaches either online or over the telephone. All breaches of Government restrictions must be reported to West Yorkshire Police.

## **Housing Advisory Panel**

43. The Inner North West Housing Advisory Panel continues to meet virtually, to hear how housing services are responding to the pandemic and to consider funding applications for community and environmental projects which benefit council tenants and the wider community. For this financial year, the Inner North West Housing Advisory Panel received a budget allocation of £36,090, including a carry forward figure of £2,946.

44. Projects continue to be funded, with the following due to start in the near future. Some of these were postponed in the last financial year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;

- Howdens Community Environmental Project: HAP contribution £1,650
- Marlborough Community Gardening Project: HAP contribution £2,375
- Citywide Parenting Programme: HAP contribution £2,216
- Little London Community Day: HAP contribution £2,165

## **Breeze Team**

45. The vision for Breeze Membership is to give all children and young people in Leeds access to a wide range of rich and diverse cultural and sporting activities. This will be achieved through a range of free, discounted and VIP access to services, to make Leeds the best city for young people to grow up in.

## Aims

46. Providing opportunity for all children and young people to access quality provision by working with cultural, sporting and commercial leisure sectors in Leeds, to offer discounted or free access to services and activities with a Breeze Leeds membership by;

- Removing barriers for those most vulnerable and in need, to ensure all young people can access Breeze membership benefits in an inclusive and equitable way.
- Offering engaging, accessible and easy to use communication channels with information about membership benefits, discounts, Breeze events, as well as other services from partners across the city.
- Ensuring young people are consulted with and at the heart of what we do, offering them the opportunity to shape and develop the cultural and sporting offer in Leeds.

## Strategy

47. A strategy has been developed to ensure that this can happen:

- To introduce a paid annual membership to Breeze, to add value and credibility to the scheme.
- To offer a free membership to children on free school meals.
- Re-brand the membership to position it as a new product but maintain links with the quality recognition of the events and services provided by Breeze.
- To engage with council services and the commercial sector to secure discounts (annual and seasonal) or exclusive VIP offers (early bird ticketing, VIP packages) in areas of:
  - a. Family and young people leisure venues
  - b. Visitor attractions and museums
  - c. Leisure centres and sporting facilities
  - d. Cinemas and theatres
  - e. Play Centres
  - f. Holiday events and activities
  - g. Sporting events (Leeds United and Leeds Rhinos)
  - h. Concerts and festivals
  - i. Shops
  - j. Food venues
- Redevelop the website to support the new brand and its offer and sign up, to ensure it is engaging and attractive to the target audience.
- Develop an 'app' to support the membership along, with push notifications of new offers and promotions.

- Devise a successful 'launch' marketing campaign through schools, digital platforms and through cultural and sporting venues.
- Develop a full communication strategy to continually support the services provided by the membership to be focused on social media and digital communications.
- To establish a young people's project team to be able to continually consult and support the development of Breeze and all its services.

#### **Project updates: Wellbeing, YAF, Capital and CIL**

48. To be provided for the next meeting.

#### **Project updates: COVID-19**

49. To be provided for the next meeting.

#### **Social Media**

50. Appendix 4 provides information on posts and details recent social media activity for the Inner North West Community Committee Facebook page.

#### **Corporate Considerations**

#### **Consultation and Engagement**

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

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

52. 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**

53. 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**

54. 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**

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

## **Risk Management**

56. 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**

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