

Report of: Head of Locality Partnerships

Report to: Inner North East Community Committee
(Chapel Allerton, Moortown and Roundhay)

Report author: Localities Officer - Zahir Lunat

Date: 13 June 2022

for consideration

Inner North East 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 Zara Hussain

Youth Service

3. Youth Service continue to run a number of centre-based youth provisions across the wedge to ensure many Young People are able to access various safe spaces to engage with Young Workers / Youth Work Support on a weekly basis. This includes provisions at Prince Phillip Youth Club (Chapel Allerton) Reginald Centre (Chapel Allerton) Mandela Centre (Chapel Allerton) Islamic Centre (Chapel Allerton). In addition to this we have provision at Allerton Grange Fields (Roundhay), Carr Manor (Moortown) and finally Meanwood Community Centre (Moortown). We also have Detached / Mobile sessions across Inner North East

which allows us to take provision to Young People and as such ensure a wider coverage of delivery.

Improving social, emotional, and mental health wellbeing.

4. In recent months we have continued to see a rise in Young People reporting issues with managing and understanding their own wellbeing. Youth Workers have delivered various issues-based sessions which have informed, educated and empowered Young People with regards to gaining an insight and understanding into their wellbeing. We have also placed a heavy focus on developing a number of our lower attending groups through various publicity and outreach work. This has created environments and opportunities for new groups of young people to come together and engage with other Young People who they previously may not have met before.
5. Youth workers have also seen an increase in the need for our one-one support, Young People have reported individual issues which are impacting upon their mental health and as such youth workers have provided various one-one opportunities for Young People to engage. Our aim will be to ensure these Young People are diverted into our core offer provisions.

Support young people to make good choices and minimise risk-taking behaviours

6. Youth service continually review their provisions to ensure they meet the needs of both Young People and the community. A recent example of this would be session within the Scotwoods area (Chapel Allerton) in which we have diverted our mobile provision to area to provide an opportunity for young people to engage within a location that is safe and familiar to them. A contributing factor to this diversion was the increase in reporting of ASB in the area and therefore workers have spent time engaging groups in provision focused on the impact of ASB on both themselves and the local community.
7. Youth workers have also worked with a number of Young People who are reporting concerns about their future and how they will be able to support themselves financially in the future. Young People have spoken about the potential of becoming involved in various criminality with the aim of been what they perceive as successful. Youth Workers have delivered various focussed sessions on this, explored the reasons behind this thought process and potential engagement in criminal behaviour. As part of these session Young People have engaged in various activities focused on the pros and cons of a range of behaviours and choices and the potential impact these can have on their life. Workers empowered Young People to explore the reality of both current and future decision making and the subsequent consequences these choices could have on both themselves and others.

**Environment: Councillor Mohammed Shahzad
Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team**

8. World Triathlon is taking place in June and cleansing schedule is being finalised to ensure route is cleaned prior to the event.
9. Meanwood Road to Farm Hills ginnel has now been cleared.
10. Back Newton Groves issues have now been directed back to individual parties for resolution as this isn't Councils remit and the previous support provided by CNT is no longer considered proportionate.
11. New yellow RotG bin to be placed outside Chapel Allerton Park once delivery has arrived as this would benefit due to footfall that visits the park.
12. A bin has been placed on Elmete Walk and the request of Cllr Martin/resident due to issues with dog walkers and will be monitored regularly for usage.
13. CNT is dealing with a couple of complex hoarding cases involving the same owner that are progressing well with their full cooperation.
14. A fine has now been issued to a homeowner in Roundhay and the team have removed the waste from their property which will subsequently be re charged back to the owner.
15. CNT have been working with residents on Mexborough Drive regarding nuisance caused by wheeled bins continually blocking the road.

Health & Well Being: Councillor Eileen Taylor

FREE THERAPY SESSIONS FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR OTHERS.

16. There are six free therapy sessions on offer with the possibility of another six free sessions after consultation with the client and therapist if you are experiencing feeling difficult to cope with after caring for others during the Covid-19 epidemic. There is also an opportunity to have an initial informal wellbeing 'chat' with a counsellor if you are unsure.
Here is a link to our at-a-glance page which contains links to all our offers
<https://wystaffwellbeinghub.co.uk/support-for-me/get-support>

The key messages are these:

- If you work in a health and care organisation, or care for others, have volunteered during the Covid-19 pandemic or work for a third sector organisation active and

again looking after others during the coronavirus epidemic. In West Yorkshire and are experiencing feelings that are difficult to cope with, our mental health workers are here to support you now and find the extra help that is right for you.

- The service is completely free and confidential, wherever you work, and offers advice and support that can help with a range of issues. The Hub is for everyone – including volunteers.
- The staff support line operates every day, 8am-8pm and is staffed by trained listeners. Call free on 0808 196 3833.
- You can self-refer for one-to-one therapy. Referrals are actioned within one working day and a first appointment will be offered for within a week. This is our self-referral page <https://wystaffwellbeinghub.co.uk/support-for-me/self-referral>

Uptake of Long Covid-Support Services

17. Work is currently underway to encourage local people across all Leeds City wards to understand and identify if present Long Covid-19 symptoms as appropriate and then seek help through their local GP service. Uptake is low within some of our wards which is nothing to be alarmed about as cases are proportionally low across the city. However, we would like any residents who feel they may have symptoms to access the service. There is a Leeds City Council Public Health information sheet attached with more detail from the Long-Term Conditions Team.

For more information, please contact the following Public Health Officers.

Carl.Mackie@leeds.gov.uk or Jonathan.Hindley@leeds.gov.uk

Covid-19 Support

18. The pandemic continues to impact significantly on local wards with the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, Leeds City Council, Third Sector Organisations, Volunteers and Elected Members encouraging those who have not done so to take up the offer of a free Covid-19 vaccination.

Advice on where to get a Covid-19 vaccination in Leeds can be found here.

- <https://www.leedscg.nhs.uk/health/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine/walk-in-clinics/>

How to stay safe in Leeds and advice on any support required can be found here.

- <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Air pollution and our communities.

19. Poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK, as long-term exposure to air pollution can cause chronic conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, as well as lung cancer, leading to reduced life expectancy.

20. To help mark Clean Air Day in June, this session will address the issue of air pollution, raising awareness of the types of pollutants, their harmful effects and how we can support communities to improve their health by modifying behaviours and minimising their exposures to air pollutants.

The session will specifically address:

- what air pollution is and the types of pollutants
- the health effects of air pollution
- the data gathered nationally and locally and what this means
- air pollution and its relationship with vulnerability and inequalities
- what we can do about air pollution and how you can help yourself

21. The session will be aimed at all colleagues in the public health wider workforce including frontline workers and third sector staff.

22. It will be presented by Public Health Specialists (Leeds City Council), Environmental Health, and Office of Health and Disparities (formally Public Health England).

Community Safety: Councillor Mohammed Rafique

23. All LASBT staff are now back to full operational status. Deacon House is open and fully staffed albeit with a reduced number of desks.

24. Cases Opened in the last 3 months by ward.

Chapel Allerton = 9 of which 3 x Noise, 2 x ASB, 4 x Hate.

Moortown = 7 of which 3 x Noise, 4 x ASB.

25. Current Case Load - 23 cases spread across 2 case officers.

26. There are no emerging issues amongst the new cases, the vast majority being issues between neighbours, even those recorded as hate which have started out as neighbour disputes but then have escalated with alleged racist language being used.

27. Working with Police colleagues LASBAT have secured a couple of Premises Closure Orders and the Injunction obtained regarding issues in the Monet Close area seems to be having a positive impact.

Updates from Key Services

Tenant Engagement Update COVID-19.

Engagement / Involvement

28. Continue to keep in regular contact with groups and involved residents in the area on at least a monthly basis. Still no commencement of meetings at Button Hill TARA and there is some concern over the future of the group following the passing of Maddy Hunter who was TARA leader.
29. Community Cafes and Community Centres continue to be a major source of ideas for projects.
30. Aware tag consultation and monitoring period on performance and cost of heating in Potternewton Heights has now completed. Awaiting final report.

Housing Advisory Panels

31. INE HAP started the year in April with a budget of £30,761.85 (including a carry-over from last year of £1,026.89).
32. Spend up to and including meeting of 10 May 2022 - £10,623.00 (34.53%).
33. One project outstanding from previous contractors – Wrightways. All other agreed projects completed and publicised on Facebook.
34. Latest project completions – Beckhill Grove (installation of bollards to prevent vehicular access to hillside, Brackenwood Drive, Lincombe Rise and Larkhill Walk – Installation of fencing / gates to stop ASB and fly tipping).
35. Recent funding approvals by the Housing Advisory Panel – BAME Health and Wellbeing Centre – Yoga Classes, 1st Meanwood Guides – Equipment, Meanwood Olympics and funding to Green Guardians to have a gardening scheme for vulnerable tenants that will run until October 2022.
36. Still have vacancies for Housing Leeds residents on Inner North East Housing Advisory Panel and the Tenant Engagement Officer is actively looking to recruit.

Community Payback / Skill Mill

37. Community Payback have now started to remobilise. Currently only one team in place city-wide with plans to go back three teams in coming months. Contract still awaited.
38. The Skill Mill is funded by Mears as part of the social value obligations, currently on hold as coming to the end of trial period and looking at future funding/agreements. The project has been well received with many projects completed in a timely manner and to a good standard.

Working In Partnership

39. Regular conversations with Localities Officer on potential projects, bids etc.

40. Continued work with community organisations – e.g., InterAct.

Housing Update

Income Collection

41. 66b now published on a weekly basis along with the 7+ weekly arrears report. Inner North East currently have 331 tenants who owe 7+ week arrears May 2022.

42. Rent Collection Figures / Comparison – (Compared with last year as requested at previous HAP) – 66a.

43. Rent Collection: Week 5 2022 = 88.88 %

Rent Collection: Week 5 2021 = 93.67 % (Difference: -4.79 %)

44. HMA / Total Debt: Week 5 2022 = £680,199.30

HMA / Total Debt: Week 5 2021 = £505,065.10 (Difference: HMA increase: £175,134.20)

45. (Inner) – 22nd in City at present, “Rent Collection Rank”. Court applications can be made, and cases progressed.

Walkabouts

46. All walkabouts for last financial year are now completed. Housing Officers in process of arranging walkabouts as per usual in Q1 April to June. Some walkabouts are scheduled already for next week. Consultations with Members & HAPs around the frequency yet to be confirmed however (pending) approval to reduce to only twice per year. Awaiting decision to be finalised. Housing Officers to ensure invites are sent to members and tenants and residents in the area they are wishing to attend.

Annual Home Check In

47. New process now LIVE. Launched 03.05.2022 - Proposed 22/23 Programme

It is acknowledged that due to workload pressures linked to universal credit & council tax, resources are not available to visit every tenant this year. Housing Officers are now in the process of completing priority “Annual Tenancy Visits” and have already completed a majority this week.

48. To make best use of resources and target the most vulnerable tenants or those likely to be experiencing difficulties managing their tenancy, we are proposing the following. All general needs tenants will be visited at least once every 3 years, on a 3 yearly rolling programme. Where tenants are identified as a priority for contact because they have not had an ATCI for some time or because of ongoing

vulnerabilities they will be visited annually. For new tenancies the New Tenancy Visit will be completed in the first 28 days of tenancy and will also count as the ATCI within the first year. The visit form and questions remain the same as for 2021/22. Non-priority tenancies may be contacted more frequently than every 3 years by visit, telephone, or online survey if we believe that contact is required because of a change in information being made available or where contact is needed with a specific block/area, e.g., linked to improvement works. Retirement Life tenants will not be covered by the ATCI programme and instead key tenancy related questions will be included in the Support File Review which takes place every 6 months.

Block Inspections

49. We are completing weekly block sweeps on all high-rise blocks at Lidgett Towers & Gledhow Towers. We also received daily cleaning reports from our cleaning contractors. We action the recommendations in the report. We also carry out monthly stage 2 fire safety checks and report all the findings and raise the necessary repairs as required. Low rise block inspections are also being carried out on a quarterly basis in line with the fire safety checks.

Anti-Social Behaviour

50. Housing Officers continue to contact tenants to review outstanding cases, and to close any historic cases where situations have improved. Monthly audits/review of all active cases carried out monthly by Team Leaders – This is on-going. Police officers are working very well within the team and sharing information where appropriate. Regular LASBT meetings. Maria Wheeler from LASBT also working closely with Housing Officers. Partnership approach with LASBT continuing with monthly meetings to discuss casework. Attendance at tasking meetings and working closely with Neighbourhood Policing Teams with a problem-solving approach to local issues.

Staffing Changes

51. Housing Officers continue to cover patches in clusters. Recruitment on-going for both Housing Officers & Housing Assistants.

52. Good News - Inner have NIL vacant patches. Recent recruitment completed, and Housing Officer appointed to Inner Patch Number 9.

Repairs

53. HL Repairs still working on back-log.

54. Technical Officer appointments currently wait time for "Mutual Exchanges" and "Property Inspection" – 6-8 weeks.

55. Although X2 new contractors now working with LCC, there is still a back-log of repairs which Housing Repairs are working towards their recovery plan.

Parks & Greenspaces

Woodland Creation

56. Ward member consultation is ongoing about previous woodland planting and to identify potential future sites.

Streetscene Grounds Maintenance

57. Grass cutting commenced at the end of February gradual start focussed on premium grass. Hedge cut 1 is now complete ahead of the bird nesting season. Relaxed mowing on high-speed roads away from residential properties commenced last year and will remain in place with no extension to scope planned, with signage being rolled out to indicate the benefits to wildlife and the environment. A 1.2m mowing margin will be cut in late summer in addition to ensuring that sight lines are maintained throughout the growing season.

58. Weed spraying has commenced during late April and May when weeds are active and visible with operations due later in the summer.

Leeds Quality Parks

59. All community parks in NE Inner achieved the Leeds Quality Park standard namely Chapel Allerton, Norma Hutchinson, Meanwood and Potternewton. A further assessment is due to commence in the near future.

The Reginald Centre Community Hub and Library

60. The following weekly session takes place at the Reginald Centre:

- Citizens Advice every Tuesday & Thursday pre booked appointments only
- Registrars Monday Wednesday & Friday pre booked appointments only
- Police drop in every Wednesday 10am – 12pm
- Story/rhyme time 10.30am every Wednesday getting more popular.
- Zumba classes Monday 5.30pm £1 payment to participate. About 15 attendees each week
- Yoga classes 6pm – 7pm Fridays £1 payment to participate and approx. 10 attendees each week.

61. We hosted a visit from Well North Yorkshire and Lord Mawson to showcase our work of the Community Hubs and Libraries and our stakeholder relationships.

February 2022

62. Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods exhibition, including launch event with keynote speaker from Feel Good Factor, plus poetry performances by pupils from Bankside and Chapel Allerton Primary School.

63. Free family friendly performance of *The Old Green Time Machine* by Coalesce dance theatre, to an audience of around 40 attendees (children and grown-ups).

March 2022

64. Independent Lives visited the Reginald Centre where the team showcased our work to a group of adults with learning difficulties and our services available to them.

65. A pop-up Cancer Awareness stand with information for the community was held in collaboration with the NHS.

66. Shakespeare Week - hosted 3 x immersive Shakespeare workshops for classes from Bankside, led by Chicken Shop Shakespeare and Wrongsemble theatre companies.

67. Healthy Holidays - included a librarian-led session with immersive Lego story-building and a DIY plant-pot making, decorating and seedling planting event for HH attendees.

April/May 2022

68. Homes for Ukraine – Welcome Centre for new arrivals fleeing the war in Ukraine is collaborating with stakeholders from the voluntary and community sector. The Reginald Centre offers £200 cash payments, bus passes, food parcels, leisure passes, Welfare Rights appointments offering advice and assistance to claim benefits, advice on how to apply for bank accounts/school places.

Chapel Allerton Library – February to May 2022

69. Programme of author events including Pat Young (24/2), Ben Machell in conversation with Alex North (13/4) and Chris Nickson (20/4) – each sold out in advance, had audiences of between 30 and 45 attendees.

70. March – April: REAP exhibition - community art exhibition featuring work by Oakwood Church Art Group and Roundhay Craftivists. Launch event was a particular highlight with a packed library of around 40 attendees and with Cllrs Rafique, Taylor, and Dowson in attendance.

71. 5/4/22 – Easter holiday event for children and families – Seeds and STEM – a combination of plant-pot making, planting, and then coding a micro: bit to take moisture readings – sold out in advance and 7 children attended.

72. 20/4/22 – Positive Patches embroidery workshop

Moor Allerton Community Hub and Library

Regular sessions

73. Moneybuddies Sessions every Monday 1-4pm. This is a drop-in service where customer can access financial and debt advice and receive representation on specific issues.

74. Chess club run in partnership with Chess in Schools and Communities takes place fortnightly. Open to players of all ages and abilities. It has 15 regular attendees.

75. Monthly film club (which will now switch to Reginald Centre from June) 9.3.22.

76. Launch of new fortnightly Chess Club, run by Chess in Schools and Communities. Has now built up a core group of 15 regular attendees, of all levels of ability.

February 2022

77. Library has been hosting a series of Local History and storytelling sessions, delivered by storyteller Matthew Bellwood, with classes from Allerton Primary. This is an ongoing project, with more details to follow.

March 2022

78. 16.3.22 – Jacqueline Golding author event linking in with International Women's Day.

April 2022

79. 7.4.22 – Chris Mould illustration workshop, where Chris led a draw-along for children and families based around *The Iron Man* and *The Return of the Iron Man*.

80. Moor Allerton Hub hosted a fostering pop up on 22nd April. A fostering advisor & foster carer ambassador was on site offering advice and guidance.

81. Hearing Aid Clinic took place on 28th April 1.30pm to 3pm. This service is appointment only and is facilitated by Leeds Hearing and Sight Loss Service. This enables customers to have their hearing aids serviced and repaired free of charge.

Update from Senior Localities Officer

82. The new conservatory at the BAME Health & Wellbeing Hub was officially opened by the Lord Mayor, Cllr Asghar Khan, on the afternoon of 18th May 2022. The enjoyable event was the culmination of a long running capital project to create more usable space to support the brilliant work the centre does to support older people from BAME backgrounds in our city. Funded by the Chapel Allerton Ward Councillors with Ward Based Initiative funding, the £90k+ scheme created an orangery type extension that will not only provide additional indoor space for activities at the day centre, but also better connect the building to the external space and included landscaping and accessibility works which allow the users to enjoy the outside area and stay active.

83. For the official ribbon cutting ceremony, the Lord Mayor was joined by the Chapel Allerton Ward Councillors, Jane Dowson, Eileen Taylor and Mohammed Rafique, and the Executive Board Member for Public Health & Active Lifestyles, Salma Arif. On a sunny afternoon, representatives from Adults & Health, Leeds Building Services, Aspect Building Solutions (contractor), Communities Team, centre staff and service users, enjoyed music and food to celebrate the official opening of what promises to be a valuable addition to the facilities at the Hub.





Neighbourhood Centre Coordinator

Update From Businesses

84. Small and medium sized businesses in Chapel Allerton, Moortown and Roundhay have been visited to see how they are getting on (footfall, sales, issues, hopes for future etc) and to ask for their email address so they will in future receive the weekly Updates on items of interest to independent businesses. Whilst central government has relaxed the rules on wearing a facemask etc, it has been decided to leave the advice signs up in district centres for the time-being on the basis that encouraging shoppers and staff to keep being careful will help reduce infection rates and give shoppers confidence to keep visiting the district centres.
85. As a result of reading about the national Love Your Local Shops Valentine's Day promotion, a Chapel Allerton business contacted the overseer to see how the shopping area could become involved in the event. A positive visit was held at Moortown and a business there is looking to launch a trader's group in the coming weeks.

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 Polices 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 can 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

94. 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.