

APPENDIX ONE

1. Communities & Wellbeing - Portfolio Overview

Locality Working

- 1.1 A key ambition of the Council and the Communities Team is to develop a greater, more effective culture of working with communities and placing them at the heart of everything we do. To achieve this the Communities Team has implemented a locality role, with identified officers taking responsibility for specific geographical areas.
- 1.2 Developing a locality role
- Sees residents, communities, business and organisations as equal partners
 - Brings people together to achieve things we cannot do alone
 - Shares powers with local people, and adds value to their local activity
 - Aligns strategic priorities with local communities to deliver joint action
 - Provides the tools and support to local people to take action
 - Shares information, skills and resources and collaborate with partners and people
- 1.3 The benefits to be achieved by locality working are clearly articulated in the adopted Communities Strategy, and would strongly contribute to:
- Increasing active citizenship
 - Increasing local and community ownership of issues and challenges
 - Increasing local solutions
 - Reducing demand for council services
 - Improving Transparency and accountability for local people
 - Providing local communities with the opportunity to influence change
- 1.4 To underpin BDC's approach to locality work, officers work to fully appreciate the need to make use of all community assets, including assessing the resources, skills and expertise available in a community most importantly including the residents themselves. They work with the community around issues that affect and move them into action and support them to determine and take the appropriate action. This requires a real focus on maximising the strengths and assets in an area, and not to focus solely on the negatives and needs.
- 1.5 Every Councillor has a locality budget. This funding is available to support small-scale community groups and projects or contribute towards larger projects. As of 25 November 2022, £20,231.77 has been allocated of the £85,266 Babergh locality budget.

- 1.6 The Communities Team has been divided into three locality areas. Please see the Communities Team Sway below for details. [Communities Team \(office.com\)](#)

Community Safety

- 1.7 The council is committed to ensuring our communities are safe and resilient and features strongly within the Communities Strategy and the Wellbeing Strategy. The Communities Team manages the Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership Panel in Babergh, contributes towards the delivery of priorities agreed with the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership and develops and advises senior officers and councillors on key issues such as Safeguarding, Prevent, Hate Crime, Violence against Women and Girls, Exploitation and Modern Slavery.

The Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership

- 1.8 Community Safety Partnerships were set up as part of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988 and are made up of representatives from the 'responsible authorities' and includes police, local authorities, fire and rescue, probation and health partners.
- 1.9 Responsible authorities work together to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer.
- 1.10 The current priorities of the WSCSP that we are working with are:

Criminal Exploitation: including supporting victims, engaging with communities, agreeing an awareness and training programme, tackling drug dealing and supply, safeguarding vulnerable adults at risk and young people being criminally exploited.

Violence against Women and Girls: This priority includes actions to address domestic abuse, sexual violence, modern day slavery and sexual exploitation.

Hate Crime: including the identification and support for victims of hate crime, working with partners to raise awareness and continue to build confidence in our communities to report hate crime incidences.

Prevent: as part of the Government's CONTEST strategy to counter terrorism, "prevent" aims to raise awareness within our communities to stop people being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support at an early stage.

Modern Slavery: Modern slavery is a serious crime being committed across the UK in which victims are exploited for someone else's gain. It can take many forms including trafficking of people, forced labour and servitude.

Fraud: A new priority for WSCSP, adopted in April 2022 to tackle the exploitative methods used by criminals to manipulate people, often targeted at the most vulnerable in our communities.

- 1.11 The council supports the CSP priorities through delivery of individual projects such as the work completed at Belle Vue Park with young people during the summer to deter ongoing ASB and providing young people opportunities to participate in activities of their choice and a safe space from potential exploitation and gang crime.

- 1.12 Working with Active Suffolk it was decided to work with ITFC to provide a youth football drop-in session at the park and sessions ran from April and throughout the summer.
- 1.13 Music areas were also created to so that people could play their music without interference to other residents.
- 1.14 In addition to projects, we also support the priorities through the effective use of campaigns. Currently the council is supporting the White Ribbon Campaign, launched on 25th November. White Ribbon Day is then followed by 16 days of action to end violence against women and this year the council is working with several partners including SCC on promotional material and with Sudbury Rugby Club to raise awareness. A Domestic Abuse Champions Network meeting and Domestic Abuse champion training has also been organised to take place during the 16 days of action. The Communities Team have received Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding training, and many are also DA champions.



Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

- 1.15 The Western Suffolk CSP also has responsibility for domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) to review the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom he/she was related or with whom he/she was or had been in an intimate personal relationship with a view to identifying any lessons to be learnt from the death. This can also include suicide.
- 1.16 Communities Team Corporate Manager and Assistant Manager are a key part of these panels. The purpose of conducting a DHR is to establish what lessons might be learned from the domestic homicide, regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims.
- 1.17 A DHR Review Panel is commissioned by the Chair of the WSCSP and is led by an independent chair and reviews each agency's involvement in the case and makes recommendations to the WSCSP to improve responses in the future. The panel will also consider information from the victim's family, friends, and work colleagues. This information is also shared with the Home Office.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- 1.18 Babergh is a safe district to live however, we do recognise that some of our communities are not immune from crime and disorder, including anti-social and other behaviour affecting the local community. Tackling issues when they arise, collaboratively and professionally remains a key priority for the partnership and the Community Safety Team.
- 1.19 ASB activity which is not assessed as high risk, can be referred by members of the community, Police or Councillors. This information is passed to our Community Safety Team and partners to resolve issues, support victims and investigate the use of our enforcement powers in the first instance. We recognise the need for adopting early, low level intervention in anti-social behaviour cases, as mild cases can often escalate if not addressed.
- 1.20 The team are often dealing with neighbourhood disputes, typically with complaints of:
- Foul and abusive language
 - Fly-tipping
 - Screaming and shouting / noise nuisance
 - Safeguarding concerns
 - Waste complaints
 - Littering
 - Parking
- 1.21 In all cases the team's ASB officers will investigate and work with all appropriate partners such as internal housing teams, including private sector housing, relevant housing associations and the individuals / families involved in the dispute to achieve positive outcomes for all.
- 1.22 Often with the effective use of independent mediation services good outcomes are achieved and ongoing support provided
- 1.23 Babergh has an ASB 'professionals' panel which we chair and focuses on high risk, repeat and/or vulnerable victims and each case is managed through the shared case management system and data sharing protocol. From time-to-time high risk ASB incidents occur, and it is imperative that our partnership ASB arrangements and internal ASB arrangements are fit for purpose, well understood, and effectively delivered.
- 1.24 An example of a high risk ASB incident that occurred more recently was Stella Maris, a supported living scheme on the outskirts of Ipswich. It was set up to provide accommodation for vulnerable people with complex needs. The first tenants moved into the flats in December 2018 and over the following 18 months, residents and tenants expressed concerns about noise and antisocial behaviour, but these concerns were not responded to in a way that led to an improvement in the situation. As a result of an independent enquiry by Anthony Douglas all partners involved in the enquiry are fully committed and engaged and have worked together to ensure that all

recommendations in the report are embedded in partnership and multiagency practices and procedures.

CCTV

- 1.25 The team also take a lead on the councils Operational Group that manages the contract with West Suffolk Council to provide a CCTV service in the district, and recently responded to reports of vandalism to a bus shelter and drug related activity within Sudbury.
- 1.26 With limited resources to attend the area regularly officers presented a business case to deploy a mobile CCTV camera at the location which was agreed.
- 1.27 The outcome was favourable with no more costly incidents of vandalism, drug related activity waned and in addition the camera helped assist a MISPER (Missing Person) enquiry.

Safeguarding & Section 11 Audits

- 1.28 Babergh District Council provides a range of services and facilities to the community. The nature of the provision means inevitably employees (permanent, temporary, or contracted) and councillors of the organisation will meet children, young people, adults at risk and their families in a variety of settings.
- 1.29 The Council recognises it has a corporate responsibility towards safeguarding children and young people and adults at risk in those settings and has developed a Safeguarding Policy to ensure that any vulnerable person who encounters an employee, volunteer or any aspect of the council's activities feels safe and protected, is listened to and has their views taken into account. The current policy is being refreshed by the team's assistant manager with a view to being published in the New year.
- 1.30 In addition to leading on safeguarding and the development of a revised policy the community safety team is also responsible for completing an annual review of Safeguarding practices known as Section 11. A section 11 audit was completed in April this year and reviewed by the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership.

Health & Wellbeing

- 1.31 Across Babergh District, our priority is for our residents to lead healthy, safe and independent lives and ensure there are opportunities to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing. We aim to create sustainable places and spaces to maximise health and wellbeing opportunities, as well as reducing health inequalities.
- 1.32 Wellbeing is already a theme that weaves into many of our Council Services and is adopted into plans and policies and our intention is to build upon this work and ensure that our services, projects and initiatives seek to improve the wellbeing of our communities which includes working closely with our statutory health partners and voluntary and community sector partners.
- 1.33 This is being achieved by the Communities Team in a number of ways, including: supporting the older population with health interventions and dementia as well as children and young people activities for those families eligible for free schools' meals.

- 1.34 For those the older population and those living with dementia, we have developed a community offer working with Dementia Connect to support awareness and training needs in the area. In addition, working with Orchestra Live to develop a dementia friendly creative session. The ICOPE project is undertaking assessments with participants aged 75+ living at home to understand their health and wellbeing needs and provide preventative care through community interventions. This work is partnering with local GP surgeries, Social Prescribing teams, Suffolk & Northeast Essex Integrated Care Board (SNEE ICB) colleagues and University of Suffolk to support and evaluate the progress.
- 1.35 In October, half term activities were provided for children across the district including film making, dance camps, football camps and swimming, run by a variety of providers including Abbeycroft Leisure, Anglia Sport Management, Maxim Sports and Offshoot Foundation and preparation is underway for the Christmas Holiday activities and Food programme to ensure there are activities for those eligible for free school meals.
- 1.36 Focusing on health & wellbeing and connecting our partners, has led to our residents being supported through a joined-up approach. Here are a couple of lived experience examples to demonstrate the impact:
- One resident involved in the ICOPE assessment process needed assistance and support with hearing loss, as well as additional support for a family member living with dementia. Through the interventions that were discussed with the assessor from the Communities Team, the resident had the motivation to seek help from the hearing support service in Sudbury and organise some additional home care support for their family member. The discussion they had gave the resident ownership of their own health and wellbeing, supporting them to seek help to live a healthier and happier life.
 - The Sudbury Family Fun event held in August provided an opportunity for all families to have a go at lots of different activities including climbing, music and drumming and family outdoor cooking. 176 activity space were pre-booked by families on the HAF programme and one resident informed the team it was such a lovely day, with no fear of not being able to afford certain activities. There was also a presence from groups and businesses to provide advice and assistance with any cost of living concerns.



- 1.37 We work closely with key stakeholders across Suffolk & Northeast Essex Integrated Care Board (SNEE ICB) and Suffolk County Council to encourage a collaborative and integrated approach around health and wellbeing for our residents. We have been taking an active role in supporting the Core leadership team for each Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) in Ipswich & East Suffolk Alliance ensuring the community development and locality work is discussed and helps achieve the overall INT goals.
- 1.38 We have established and continue to develop the Connect meetings within each INT area, bridging the gap between the Core Leadership Team goals and the challenges faced at a local level. The Connect sessions provide an opportunity for those attending to discuss key issues and collaborate on projects. In addition, Connect & Catch-up sessions have been developed, these are an informal setting where statutory, voluntary and community groups can come together to expand their knowledge on specific topics, listen to guest speakers and discuss ideas, as well as forming further connections with partners and colleagues.

Community Grants & Development

- 1.39 One of the ways that support communities to be the best they can is through providing grants.
- 1.40 Like countless organisations, many of the groups we've been working with have been severely impacted by Covid-19. We've been so impressed to see how hard they're working to adapt and develop new initiatives so that they can continue to offer valuable services and support to communities and residents across Babergh.

- 1.41 The grants team offer support to the community and voluntary sector and can give advice on applying for Babergh grants and external funding (except for grants available to individuals). We use the Funding4Suffolk search portal to help them find available funding. External funding provides an opportunity for organisations to access additional funding to support their cause.
- 1.42 Where organisations are unsuccessful in securing funding we signpost them for support to Community Action Suffolk who can support with funding, governance and training. We believe that through investment in developing their skills in areas such as bid/grant application writing, development of policies they will gain confidence and be successful in future funding applications.
- 1.43 The grants team provides community grants, administers developer contributions and offer funding support and signposting. Capital grants are available to support improvements to existing or the development of community facilities which includes village and community buildings, play areas, sports clubs and recreational facilities. To compliment this, Section 106 can be applied for through the grants team who access the database to see how much funding is available in any given parish. Projects that can be supported are for Open Space, Sport and social infrastructure, recreation, sport and community infrastructure.
- 1.44 CIL funding is available and has a similar criterion to capital funding. Applications are processed by the grants team in collaboration with the CIL team who are the ultimate decision makers. Funding can be applied for to either increase the capacity of existing community infrastructure or provide new community infrastructure.
- 1.45 Through September and October 2022, the grants team administered the Community Development Grants programme distributing £200,000 across Babergh. The aspiration being that every applicant feels supported even if their application was unsuccessful. The funding was awarded carefully, fairly and equitably so that it has the most impact and gets the best outcomes for the residents of Babergh. The financial investment supports with the delivery of local initiatives and activities, where gaps in provision have been identified. We also had the aspiration that every applicant felt supported even if their application was unsuccessful.
- 1.46 Here are just a couple of the incredible organisations that were funded through the Community Development Funding.
- COMMUNITY ACTION SUFFOLK – PARENT AND CHILD GROUPS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT - £8,018
- 1.47 This project involves organising training and development opportunities to the volunteer led parent and child groups working across Babergh
- 1.48 Specifically, this funding will allow for the following courses, support, and services to be offered, this will be a combination of direct delivery by CAS, and delivery by expert training providers and the Early Years Alliance in partnership with CAS.

- 1.49 The funding will shore up provision for parents and toddlers, improving the quality and safety of the settings and helping to ensure that each setting is sustainable in the longer term by helping them to become constituted and to get everything in place that they need. Supporting our Communities and Wellbeing strategies



THE SPORTING MEMORIES FOUNDATION - £9,942

- 1.50 Supporting and connecting older sports fans through meaningful reminiscence and physical activities designed to improve mental and physical well-being and to reduce loneliness.
- 1.51 These weekly sessions will feed into a monthly 'Themed' Sporting Memories activity that is linked to a calendar of current sporting events with wider cultural interest such as the Grand National, Wimbledon, the six nations etc all designed to engage a wider range of residents in the care homes including those less interested in sport.
- 1.52 Crucially these sessions will be used to build confidence and encourage residents to take part in new physical exercise. This project supports Babergh's three strategies by providing new local community activities in local places and spaces that have core outcomes towards individuals mental and physical wellbeing.



Leisure, Sport & Physical Activity

- 1.53 In 2021, the Council's Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy was refreshed to reflect the successful delivery of key investment schemes across its core facilities, the

changing nature of sport and leisure activities and the likely impact of Covid 19 on residents and the industry.

- 1.54 The new strategy adopted late summer detailed an extensive set of strategic outcomes focusing on three distinct but interrelated themes:

Active People

- Reduced levels of inactivity amongst communities and in localities experiencing greater health inequalities
- Increased opportunities for all residents to move more through an accessible, diverse and inclusive programme of activities.

Active Places and Spaces

- Sustainable community sport, leisure and physical activity facilities that enable and support all residents to be active
- Green and open spaces providing formal and informal opportunities for all residents to be 'everyday active'

Active Partnership

- A strong, sustainable and strategically aligned ecosystem of partnerships supporting all residents to be more active
- A skilled, knowledgeable and enabled workforce and volunteer base supporting communities to be more active

- 1.55 Ensuring our residents and families lead active lifestyles is a key priority and our leisure facilities provide key physical assets that plays a critical role in the successful delivery of our strategy and providing activities and services to help get more of our residents active.

- 1.56 We work with Abbeycroft Leisure to provide a fantastic open offer at the leisure facilities, plus offers for residents who are living with long term health conditions who are being supported by an Active Living Referral Pathway. The pathway is supported through GP surgeries, and Social Prescribing teams with 140+ active clients currently across the Kingfisher Leisure Centre and Hadleigh Pool & Leisure Centre and 60% of clients scored improved wellbeing after a 24-week programme.



- 1.57 From this programme, one resident who suffered from long-term health issues with back and hip pain stated that since being a part of the referral scheme, they had improved their balance, and significantly reduced the pain suffered. This wouldn't have been possible without the belief and encouragement from the dedicated staff and service they provided. The impact of being part of the programme has allowed that resident to improve their own physical movement and get back to normal life.
- 1.58 A significant contributor to supporting both physical and mental wellbeing of our communities is that offered by our Leisure Provider, Abbeycroft.
- 1.59 A specific priority in the LSPA Strategy is to try and secure community use of sports facilities on schools sites and we continue to work with Gt. Cornard Leisure Centre and Holbrook academy (fitness studio) to ensure a community service is maintained.

2. Future Activities include

- 2.1 Continued work on the refreshed Cost of living Action Plan
- 2.2 Supporting a three-year funded programme of Central Government grants funded activities through the UK Shared Prosperity fund to deliver community and wellbeing priorities such as youth social prescribing, food sustainability, support for social enterprises and youth engagement activities.
- 2.3 Continue to support and enable sustainable VCSE community activity to deliver local initiatives and services through the allocation of community revenue and capital grants
- 2.4 Work with health partners, VCSE and Abbeycroft Leisure to deliver targeted interventions to support wellbeing initiatives using insight and population health management data
- 2.5 Continue to deliver and expand opportunities for young people as part of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme
- 2.6 Develop the councils Domestic Abuse network, increase the number of DA Champions, and raise greater awareness of DA and Violence against women and girls
- 2.7 Continue to develop the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership and priority areas