

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL - CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

TO: COUNCIL	REPORT NUMBER: CMU1
FROM: Cllr Mary McLaren Cabinet Member for Communities and Wellbeing	DATE OF MEETING: 23 January 2023

TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND WELLBEING

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In recent years the Communities' Team has undergone significant changes to its structure, priorities and working practices driven by the need to better focus resources on delivering the priorities of the Corporate Plan and more directly those set out in the Communities Strategy, Wellbeing Strategy, Leisure, Sport & Active Participation Strategy, the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership.
 - 1.2 Our vision is for "communities that thrive" now and in the future - built on a balanced and targeted range of services and support, equally accessible to all our residents and their future generations.
 - 1.3 Our strategic aim is to provide guidance, support, and inspiration to our communities so we have a clear picture of what we can achieve together now and, in the future.
 - 1.4 The Communities Team are responsible for the delivery of 4 Key functions and in their broadest sense cover:
 - Community Safety (ASB & Safeguarding)
 - Health & Wellbeing of Communities
 - Community Development & Grants
 - Leisure, Sport & Active Participation
 - 1.5 Each of those functions underpin the Councils Corporate Plan through the delivery of the following Strategies or Plans
 - Communities Strategy
 - Wellbeing Strategy
 - Leisure, Sport & Active Participation Strategy
 - Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Action Plan
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- 1.6 In addition to the work delivered within each of the key functions the team also lead on organisational priorities such as leading the community response and management the Home but Not Alone service during the pandemic and more recently the creation of the councils Cost of Living Five Point Plan and subsequent refresh action plan presented at Cabinet on 5th December 2022.

Portfolio Highlights

- 1.7 A key ambition for Babergh District 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. Developing a locality role will be key to making sure that we utilise all our community assets, skills and resources that already exist in our towns and parishes.
- 1.8 The council is also keen to ensure our communities are safe and resilient and features strongly within the Communities and the Wellbeing Strategy. The Communities Team work alongside internal and external teams to ensure that Anti-Social Behaviour is kept to a minimal and appropriate interventions are implemented when necessary. It also manages and 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.
- 1.9 The wellbeing of our communities is key theme that weaves into many of our services and is threaded into plans and policies. Our intention is to build upon this work and ensure that our services, projects and initiatives seek to improve the wellbeing of our communities. To do this we work closely with our statutory health partners and voluntary and community sector partners and include initiatives that support our older population with health interventions, those living with dementia as well as children and young people.
- 1.10 A key programme of activity is the work developed to deliver an extended Holiday Activity and Food Programme for children eligible for free to meals. 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 programme.
- 1.11 The communities team also support communities to be the best they can be through providing grants. 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.
- 1.12 We have also been working hard to support the Cost-of-Living work through the establishment and allocation of Winter Warmth grants.
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- 1.13 To date we have supported 30 successful projects, awarding a total of £55,000 to provide warm spaces and activities to support older people, vulnerable adults and families and include activities such as monthly film clubs, coffee mornings and after school clubs. Some warm spaces also include a meal and activities whilst some are providing indoor sporting activities for young people with a focus on encouraging healthy lifestyle, building confidence and self-esteem.
- 1.14 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.
- 1.15 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.
- 1.16 Appendix One provides greater detail on the work delivered in support of the councils Communities and Wellbeing strategies and Appendix Two includes the current localities & contacts and map.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council notes the report.

3. APPENDICES

Title	Location
1. Communities & Wellbeing - Portfolio Overview	Attached
2. Communities Officers – Locality Areas	Attached