

# **Full Council Meeting – 5 October 2021**

## **Report of Councillor Chris Booth - Community**

### **Voluntary and Community Grants Review**

The working group has heard over the last month and half from a number of different recipients, from Citizen Advice to Homestart West Somerset. By the time of this meeting the working group will have concluded its review will take us up until the of this council.

### **Youth Funding**

Funding for youth resilience has been agreed with the county council. £30,000 will be spread equally across the four One Team areas (Taunton East, Taunton North, Wellington and West Somerset) to those that are most in need of support and guidance in particular to return to work or enter the employment market for the first time.

### **Domestic Abuse**

Funding for domestic abuse of £32,000 has been released by Government as part of the new burdens associated with the Domestic Abuse Act. At the time of writing, the absolute use of this fund has not been agreed but it is likely to be used to support new responsibilities requiring domestic abuse to be treated as priority need in homelessness – and therefore used to support work in our Housing Options team

### **Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board**

The ongoing impact of Covid continues to be the primary concern of the HWBB. This relates to the direct impact of the disease itself, and also the knock-on effects to the general health of the population e.g. impact on mental health. Alongside this, there is the Health and Care Bill. This Bill establishes how the Government intends to reform the delivery of health services and promote integration between health and care in England. Somerset (along with all other localities) was designated an Integrated Care System (ICS) from April 2021. The ICS are new partnerships between the organisations that meet health and care needs across an area. They are tasked with coordinating services and to plan in a way that improves population health and reduces inequalities between different groups. The implications of the Health and Care Bill, and the delivery of the ICS, are key considerations for the HWBB. Within these conversations, it is pleasing to see that housing is regarded as a key determinant of health. Many of the conversations at the HWBB consider the interplay of health, care and housing. Over the next few months the HWBB will be considering the following:

-Covid (impacts across health and systems)

- Adult Mental Health (including the long-term effects of Covid)
- Children and Young Person's Mental Health
- ICS (structure, Integrated Care Board, Integrated Care Partnership, and key challenges for the sector)
- Climate Change Strategy (as it relates to health and wellbeing)
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Covid
- Integration of Housing with Health and Care (various topics, including the Better Care Fund and homelessness reduction)
- Healthwatch

Finally, the Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP) have begun a review of the Somerset Physical Activity and Sports Strategy. Covid has seen a decline in the number of people taking active participation in sports and play, particularly among younger age groups. As a council, we shall contribute towards the review of the strategy.

### **Support for those Not in Education Employment or Training (NEETS)**

SWT has provided funding through the HPC section 106 funds to the Quantock Hills AONB to provide a land-based skills programme in partnership with Somerset Works (a county wide NEETS project). The programme includes team building, practical land management skills, and competency qualifications.

The Employment Youth Hub based at the Minehead Eye opened in early July 2021. The youth hub is running in partnership with DWP Youth Coaches, Somerset Works and Somerset Skills and learning to support 16–24-year-olds into education, training or employment. This is currently on an appointment basis to ensure safety is retained.

The Economic Development team have worked with Somerset Works on their Community Renewal Fund submission for a transitional college for NEETS to provide intensive support back into mainstream education, training or employment.

### **One Team and Locality Updates**

#### ***Halcon - Rich Shadrick***

ASDA Litter pick - community day I supported the Asda community officer to organise a community litter pick at Viridor park where they are hoping to install picnic benches for families. We also organised a really successful family fun day on the green at All Saints Church.

National Citizens Service (NCS) – I helped coordinate the volunteers and provide resources for their restoration project in Viridor park where they cleaned up, planted shrubs and painted play areas and equipment to revitalise the area.

Bluebird Theatre company I organised the company to put on a show for families on the All Saints church green.

Link Centre – I am supporting the Link Centre with aspirations to develop a community shop on Roman Road. Specifically they are looking to re-develop the stores into a community run shop, encouraging local products and volunteers.

The Link Centre held a fantastic open day to announce their Big Lottery funding success and inform the community of its future plans.

Holiday Sports and games activities - Over the summer holidays I arranged for the delivery of daily sports and games activities for children at Holy Trinity school and provided one evening a week for older age groups.

YMCA – I am supporting the YMCA to seek funding for a community music studio for young people to develop their interests in a range of musical genres. They have already secured equipment but now plan to redevelop a room on site to house studio equipment and instruments.

### ***West Somerset - Sam Murrell***

SWT Newsletter - I still work on this weekly publication which goes out to Members and the Parishes every Friday. It continues to be well received and I am thankful to partners and colleagues for their regular contributions and key messages.

Community Events - I am continuing to work with RSLs in Minehead (LiveWest and Magna), Minehead Eye and the Minehead and West Somerset PCSOs to promote community cohesion. Now restrictions are lifted the partners are holding weekly workshops on the Seaward Way Estate MUGA to connect with young people, improve community confidence and promote various initiatives. Some workshops and free food events are being planned and delivered by the youth workers at the Minehead Eye. They have also enlisted the help of a local street artist who will be assisting the children with their designs for the MUGA panels. The PCSO's have already undertaken some free bike marking and are doing regular ASB patrols. This mixed occupancy estate is of particular interest to SWT as it is next to the land where 55 new general need Council Houses are due to be built. Other events are in the pipeline including nature walks, picnics and outreach youth work.