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| CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) | | |
| COUNCILLOR | PORTFOLIO | DATE |
| Liz Dowd | Communities and Partnership Engagement | June 2024 |

COMMUNITY SAFETY & ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Why Fly Tip? is part of a £50,000 grant to tackle rear entry and on street fly tipping. An area of Bootle has been identified to pilot a scheme to clear rear entries and work with residents and landlords to address the reasons why people fly tip. The scheme is scheduled to go live in July.

Community officers have met with Cleansing, Berkeley Shaw, and the developers of Park terrace Waterloo to try to resolve the ongoing issues around waste collection and parking on the public right of way. Berkeley Shaw will contact all tenants and landlords to remind them of the waste collection arrangements and to ensure parking on the public right of way is addressed. Traffic Services have designed a parking enforcement sign to compliment the conservation area and Berkeley Shaw have been approached to pay for the 10 signs required to be installed along the footpath.

Work is almost complete on the installation of 5 covid memorials across the Borough. Once installed a communications campaign will be launched to publicise the memorials and the purpose of them and Councillors will be approached about possible launch activities.

Youth Engagement team

The youth bus is deployed 4 nights per week across the borough. The team are currently looking for a suitable location in Crosby to deploy as well.

Across open access sessions delivered and the youth bus deployment the team have engaged with:

- 128 8/15 years old (72 females 56 males)
- 122 11-15 years old (60 females 62 males)
- 30 15/19years (24 females 6 males)

Additionally, 30 adult residents have engaged with staff at the youth bus or sessions.

Community Safety

The Sefton Dog strategy developed by Superintendent Holden has been shared with the Safer Sefton Together Partnership (SST) and was agreed. Planning has started to develop a dynamic multi agency action plan. Sefton communications team is now linked in to share any information and advice in line with Merseyside Police's campaigns. A multi-agency day of action is planned to take place in one of Sefton's parks to provide advice, enforcement around the PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) and to provide an opportunity for joint Comms messaging.

There is an ASB issue with rough sleepers at St Georges Church on Lord Street. Issues have been on-street drinking and litter and drug use. The ASB Team have been working with the Police and supporting partners to look at ways of addressing the issue.

A site meeting took place recently with Councillors from Blundellsands, Jen the Area Coordinator and colleagues from Sefton ARC at Burbo Bank Beach car park (next to RNLI Lifeguard station). There are ongoing complaints and reports of ASB in the car park after

hours. Sefton ARC are developing a quote for adding on site security in a bid to resolve/reduce this issue

Anti-Social Behaviour

The recruitment to the ASB officer vacancy is complete and Chelsea Starkey started in post on 21/5/24, she will be the ASB Officer for the central region of Sefton.

Hate Crime

As part of Hate Crime Awareness week in October 2024, the team are working with partners from LCC, Wirral, Knowsley, LCR pride and OPCC to develop an event plan to hold a conference.

Online training is ongoing, and dates have now been set into 2024. Hate Crime Ambassador training for elected members is being launched in Sefton by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner following a successful project in St Helens. This will take place in July 2024.

Equality Diversity & Inclusion

The newly appointed officer has had meetings with a range of partners and stakeholders to identify areas for development and/or collaboration and has also been working in collaboration with a combined authority initiative to provide bespoke training for Sefton staff. There have been discussions about additionally developing 'bitesize' sessions that are useable within team meetings.

Cost of Living / Welfare Reform

Sustainable Affordable Living Coordinator

Healthy Start Training commences 10/06/24 at Bootle Town Hall. Ben has been reaching out across the Council asking for data we hold that can be used to identify potential eligible residents. The latest information regarding uptake shows that Sefton is no longer at the bottom of the Merseyside table.

The Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) Cash First Leaflet is in its first draft, and Ben is currently in the process of confirming with the respective leads for each organisation that they will be happy to be featured. Ben is working with Comms to develop a one-month social media campaign alongside the launch of the leaflet, and potentially physical assets such as posters to place in relevant spaces.

Holiday Activity Fund (HAF)

All Easter HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) reporting has been submitted to the Department for Education. 1567 primary aged young people and 253 secondary aged young people attended HAF provision over the Easter holidays across 6,595 individual sessions. Our clubs provided a large amount of feedback and case studies to share with the DfE indicating the impact and necessity of the HAF programme in Sefton.

Applications for summer HAF are currently open and will close on June 7th, grant decisions will be made week commencing 10/06/2024.

Sefton Crowd

The Council have implemented a procurement process for a crowdfunding platform. Sefton Crowd is an initiative that gives residents and community groups with an idea to improve their community the opportunity to gain funding using a crowdfunding platform helping the borough become more vibrant, resilient, and connected. The successful crowdfunding supplier who has been awarded the contract with Sefton MBC will be announced in the coming weeks.

SEFTON DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE

The Council awarded a 12-month proof of concept contract to SWACA on 1 August 2023 with a mobilisation period of 3 months, meaning the service started fully in December 2023.

The contract has 6 main strands:

Community Workers – the service will be delivered across the 3 Sefton localities and in our communities. This is underway with SWACA delivering interventions across locations in the North, South & Central.

Boroughwide Helpline 8am-6pm Mon – Fri – this has been operational since December. As the number & service becomes more widely known we expect call numbers to increase. We know the most popular times that victims call is around lunchtimes – and the busiest days are Mondays and Wednesdays with the quietest day being Friday.

Programme Group & Drop In – a variety of victim recovery programmes are on offer such as formal programmes like the Mirror programme and Recovery Toolkit as well as informal support group sessions. Drop Ins are to be delivered one per week in each locality. Take up has been extremely low so far so is an area that SWACA has been asked to continue reviewing and promoting through social media, leaflets, posters, and continued communication with partners to increase take up.

Training & Volunteer Coordination – the aims of this are to coordinate the training offer regarding DA across Sefton as well as those that wish to volunteer – particularly victims/survivors that want to support with their lived experience. The training offer is a modular offer which will cover a range of options and themes. A number of sessions have been delivered, including online sessions focusing on coercive control. Training dates have been circulated across Sefton partnerships – Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, Safer Sefton Together, Safeguarding Children’s Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board.

Counselling – the counselling offer is delivered via SWAN and SWACA have collaborated with SWAN to increase the number of sessions offered. Over the last 5 weeks an average of 15 sessions a week have been offered with take up at 80%.

Linked into Locality – links with education settings and delivering healthy relationship sessions to children and young people as well as links with the Primary Care Networks (PCN)s to ensure seamless pathways from GP practices into service – the IRIS programme will also support this work.

The healthy relationships ‘Expect Respect’ sessions delivered to children have been incredibly popular – the worker delivering these sessions is booked up now until July 2024.

| Month | Number of children |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| January 2024 | 520 |
| February 2024 | 961 |
| March 2024 | 328 |
| April 2024 | 560 |
| Total | 2,369 |

So far, it is the primary schools that have engaged the most – but SWACA are looking to target High Schools to deliver sessions from September onwards as this is traditionally the best time for High Schools.

Domestic Abuse Procurement Exercise

There are two pieces of procurement underway with regards to domestic abuse. The first is the 3-year procurement exercise in relation to the Integrated Domestic Abuse Service. Sefton's Cabinet approved plans to conduct a full open procurement process for a longer-term contract in February 2024. The specification for this contract has been amended to reflect some of the learning we have gained from the proof-of-concept contract outlined above. The procurement exercise is now underway and the contract tender is live on the Chest until 17 June 2024. Officers from Community Safety and Engagement, Children's Social Care and Cheshire and Merseyside ICB (Sefton Place) have been involved in the development of the contract specification and will be part of the procurement evaluation process. We are likely to be able to award the contract in July 2024.

The second piece of domestic abuse procurement relates to the Complex Lives Domestic Abuse Accommodation Service for women. This contract is has been developed by the Community Safety and Engagement, Homelessness and Strategic Housing Teams. The procurement exercise is now underway and tenders have been received and are currently being evaluated. Again, this contract is likely to be awarded around July 2024 too.

OASIS

The new case management system that the IDVA Team and MARAC use went live on Monday 1 April 2024. OASIS will give us a much better data, more quickly and allow us to identify trends and gaps much quicker – it will also help us produce a data dashboard for use by the DA Partnership Board.

2024/25 Grant Funding for Domestic Abuse

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside has continued the existing grant funding arrangements for domestic abuse for 2024/25.

Sefton receives £45,000 for additional victim support. This is commissioned as follows:

- Contribution towards the Active Sefton Restart, Reset and Rethink programme which supports improving wellbeing through physical activity specifically for victims of domestic abuse (including children and young people). This was recently expanded to include an additional pathway for RASA Merseyside to offer support to victims of sexual violence and abuse. This has been a partnership approach – RASA have provided free trauma informed training to Active Sefton staff working on the programme (around how certain physical activity can impact individuals who have experienced trauma), Sefton RASA clients can benefit free additional wellbeing support which includes 1:1 mentoring and access to Sefton Leisure Centre facilities.
- Phoenix Healing to deliver a Freedom programme (domestic abuse focused group programme)
- Contribution towards SWACA/SWAN therapeutic support (from September 2024 this will be part of the new SDAS procured contract)

Sefton IDVA team also receives funding for 4 additional IDVA posts via the OPCC from Ministry of Justice which continues until March 2025.

Sefton contributes to the Merseyside wide sexual violence support contract managed by the OPCS and this will continue in 2024/25. This is collaborative approach between Community Safety and Engagement and Public Health.

Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

The Board last met on the 15 May 2024 for a half day workshop session to review the work achieved so far against the Strategy Objectives and Action Plan and what needed to be prioritised going forward. The outcomes of this will be shared at the next Board meeting in July.

Domestic Homicide Review Statutory Guidance Review – Government Consultation

The Home Office is consulting on the draft updated and revised Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Statutory Guidance. The Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner has contacted community safety partnership leads (who are responsible for coordinating DHRs in their local authority area) and offered to compile and submit a collective Merseyside response. Sefton has responded to this and provided feedback to be included.

LIBRARIES

£80,000 secured from the Library Improvement Fund

A recent bid to the Library Improvement Fund has been successful. £80,000 of capital funding has been awarded to pay for improvements to Bootle Library including relocating the children's library, refurbishing the toilets to improve accessibility, and improving the garden space. This is the second time in 3 rounds of funding that Sefton has been successful in bidding to a highly competitive and oversubscribed funding stream. Unfortunately, this is the last round of funding available, with the fund closing later this year.

Heritage Fund bid success

The Heritage Fund have announced that Sefton's bid for funding has been successful, awarding £9,999. The funding is to run a project to create a community archive on the Quadrant Park nightclub in Bootle, which hosted the first raves in the country. The project is called Queue Up and Dance and is a unique collaboration with Libraries existing partner Rule of Threes, who have also secured £12,000 of funding for the project.

□The project will see:

- The creation of a digital archive of the music and ephemera linked to the club, which held the first over-night raves in the country and led on to super clubs such as Cream.
- A series of community workshops including inter-generational DJing/audio production workshops.
- The collection of oral histories of those who DJ'd at the club and those who attended events there.

Queue Up and Dance Will bring together those who frequented the club in the 1980s and 1990s and young people living in Bootle today, creating intergenerational links through Bootle's local heritage. □

Grief and healing Programme

Sefton Libraries are running a programme of work to support those living with grief and loss. The programme will consist of light touch interventions; reading group sessions, shared

meals, talks and get togethers. The programme will build on the work of the Death Friendly Library campaign and is funded by Arts Council England.

The programme starts in March with the creation of a reading group at Bootle Library and the plan is to develop the programme with mental health specialists and artists who are experienced in this field. This is not a grief counselling programme but offers alternative interventions for those who are living with grief.

New streaming offer

Sefton Libraries have become an early adopter of an exciting new streaming platform of film provided by The British Film Institute. The platform holds a fascinating cultural archive of digitised film and TV - designed to educate all ages about the changing attitudes, habits, and geography of British culture. With content as diverse as government safety adverts, to community film archives and documentaries about a whole host of subjects, which will be available to library users in Sefton from March. There is also the potential to run facilitated sessions for young people, making the most of the curated selections on the site, exploring ideas such as climate change and disability, using film as a jumping off point for discussions and activities. The new platform is called Replay and is provided free to public library services. As an early adopter, Sefton has been asked to feedback on use and useability of the site.

Work with Migrants and Sanctuary Seekers.

10 Staff have recently attended training courses run by the Red Cross about Understanding the migrant journey and process. A further meeting with the Red Cross team and the Netherton Case Worker is planned for 9th May to discuss their potential support for a weekly Advice & Support coffee morning for Sanctuary Seekers at Netherton Library. Sue Ashe and her team have also offered ongoing support, with this in mind Louisa from the re-settlement team is going to visit Bootle's International Café, to get a flavour of the structure and sort of advice and support requested at that location. The re-settlement team are currently working on a detailed map of what communities are where in Sefton. Once complete this will help libraries target activities more accurately.

Debt drop in sessions

Bootle library is hosting "Money Matters" a weekly drop in for people looking for support with Money Management and debt advice, led by financial advice from Venus. This is the first activity of a much larger Debt Management Project, which is funded by the European Fund. Alongside the practical debt advice sessions, Bootle Library, and At The Library will be running some artist and/or librarian led creative sessions. The aim of the sessions is to help break down the stigma of being in debt, thereby making it easier to ask for help. Part of the funding is to train a member of library staff in the delivery of sessions focusing on debt management.

First session will be on 22 May; sessions will be 12-2pm – if it's busy, we will look at extending the hours.

Community Garden at Crosby Library

Work has begun on the creation of two community gardens at the front and rear of Crosby Library. Recruitment sessions for volunteers have taken place with the support of the Gateway Collective who are advising on the garden works and planting. The project is aimed at creating an activity that attracts Crosby and Waterloo residents living in social isolation or with poor mental health. These volunteers will help create a flower garden at the front of the library and a vegetable and herb garden at the rear of the library. As well as providing a social, and relaxing activity for residents, the produce grown will be used for community meals and any excess donated to the food bank.

THE ATKINSON

Theatre Programme

In addition to its popular monthly music features, Cake & Classical and Grateful Fred's Americana, in June the Atkinson welcomes the return of perennial favourites The Lancashire Hotpots. John Lydon makes a spoken word appearance, which will reflect on his extraordinary career with the Sex Pistols and Public Image Ltd (19 June). Fun & laughter comes in the form of BBC2's Mock the Week stand-up comedian Mark Quip (20 June).

Exhibitions Programme

The Atkinson's galleries have been in exhibition turnaround following the conclusion of the hugely successful Sefton Open, which received over 11,000 visits. Saturday 1st June saw the launch of the Summer exhibitions programme, featuring four wonderful new projects :-

The Ties that Bind

This wide-ranging exhibition explores family life, working relationships, love stories and close-knit communities. It examines how artists take inspiration from our personal and communal bonds. Some artists have chosen their own personal relationships as the focus of their work. Others look at the role that society plays in controlling and censoring the actions of the individual in society and within the family. In the middle of the twentieth century the Northern School began to explore the effect of industrialization on our communities; more recently featured artists question the accepted power balance inherent in stereotypical relationships and re-tell familiar stories from the classical past to create a space where roles are not defined by gender (concludes March 2025).

Eternal Summer: Paintings by Philip Connard

From an unpromising start as a Southport painter and decorator, Philip Connard rose to prominence as a successful Impressionist artist and a Royal Academician. This exhibition charts his career including a remarkable period as a war artist serving on the Navy's first submarines to an important muralist who created magnificent decorations for the room housing Queen Mary's dolls house. This exhibition brings the work of an overlooked artist back into the spotlight, featuring examples of his work from our national collections (concludes November 2024).

Edwardian Impressionists: Philip Connard's contemporaries

Philip Connard worked alongside some of the greatest artists of his generation, many of them leading British Impressionists who opposed the artistic establishment at the turn of the nineteenth century. This exhibition features key works from The Atkinson's collection, including paintings by Philip Wilson Steer, Walter Sickert, Wilfrid de Glehn and Henry Scott Tuke (concludes November 2024).

Bill Tidy: Is there any news of the iceberg?

The late cartoonist, TV personality and author Bill Tidy MBE lived for many happy years in Southport. This exhibition pays tribute to the comic genius who gave us The Cloggies and The Fosdyke Saga, as well as countless other cartoons in our national newspapers and magazines (concludes October 2024).

Museum Programme

As part of the Borough's 50th anniversary celebrations, the Atkinson has supported a community project focusing on the Dockers Strike from the 1980s. Co-ordinated by artist Dot

Rogers, the project has led to the creation of a 10-meter long tapestry. It features scenes of protest in a minimalist style of embroidery. The project was funded via Sefton CVS' Heritage Lottery award, and the tapestry is currently on display outside the Museum landing space.

Southport Library

The library team partnered with Sefton CVS during Dementia Action week in May to deliver a series of Dementia Friends sessions. The library also hosted a BBC interview on adult literacy. It features Peter Lloyd from Southport, who learned to read in his 40s by attending sessions at Southport Library, delivered by the volunteer-led Read Easy charity programme. The full article is available on the BBC website at - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cxe8jx17mkro>