

<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b> <b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)</b>		
<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Liz Dowd	Communities and Partnership engagement	September 2024

### **Community Safety and Engagement Team**

The Why Fly Tip (WFT) campaign clean up in zone 1 took place on the 19/07/24. Two skips were placed by the Local Authority and 2 Skips placed by Prima Housing.

A further WFT clean-up took place in zone 2 on the 04/09/24 with OVH and Prima Housing placing community skips.

Southport Operational Group met 29/08/24. Officers from BT Openreach presented a detailed account of the current plans to roll out full fibre broadband across Southport and to address the issue of the telegraph pole installation. The presentation centred on the historical context behind the operational plans, specifically the technical considerations of the existing copper wiring infrastructure and how the broadband fibre will integrate. Openreach then took questions from members. Around 100 protesters gathered outside the Town Hall to demonstrate against the installation of telegraph poles.

Ainsdale Councillors have asked for the possibility of having beach wheelchairs for use at Ainsdale Beach. The wheelchairs are designed to be used by children and adults with a physical disability. While the project is at a very early stage, discussions will be held with colleagues in Green Sefton regarding the potential storage of the wheelchairs.

### **Youth Engagement team**

The team has met with youth partners/providers across the Borough to explore opportunities to develop an enhanced offer. As part of the ongoing development of a dynamic offer there is now an SST youth subgroup which has met to look at membership and aims. The group includes all key funding partners in order to explore collaboration opportunities and sustainability for youth provision across Sefton

### **Community Safety**

A multi-agency day of action is planned to take place in one of Sefton's parks to provide advice, enforcement around the Dog PSPO (Public Space Protection Order).

Sefton communications team is now linked in to share any information and advice in line with Merseyside Police's campaigns. The most recent being 'Take the lead' campaign to help reduce dog bite incidents in Merseyside.

Green Sefton have also been working with the Dog Trust to provide advice and education to visitors to Sefton's popular dog walking locations, including the coast and parks.

Safer Sefton Together Partnership requested a review following a road traffic incident that resulted in 2 fatalities.

One of the recommendations of the review was to set up a subgroup of the SST to look at road safety.

The first meeting looked at the report and the recommendations. Going forward we will be looking at developing an action plan which will be guided by the data from Highways department.

The team have been working with the Children's Society, looking at developing a multi-agency response to Child Exploitation in Southport and Bootle. The community safety team have been successful in securing VRP funding to develop a bespoke outreach work model.

## **Hate Crime**

The Hate crime officer has met with individuals and groups to provide reassurance following the events in Southport and across the country.

The draft hate crime strategy and action plan has been circulated and should be approved by the Sefton Safer Together Partnership in November.

## **Modern Slavery**

Officers secured a location in Bootle for the modern slavery awareness bus to attend on the 7/9/24. The bus was organised as part of the Merseyside Modern slavery Network facilitated by the Police and Crime Commissioners Office.

## **Equality Diversity & Inclusion**

Responding to the disorder that took place in Southport the Equality Diversity and Inclusion officer has created guidance for Sefton Council managers and school teams to support Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic staff, children and young people when schools return for the Autumn term.

## **Sustainable Affordable Living Coordinator**

The project coordinator is engaging with relevant partners to distribute Healthy Start promotional materials and they are currently working on a digital campaign to run concurrently. The campaign will be in two parts with a call to action and then an engagement piece.

Facilitation sessions have taken place and practitioners have had sessions on Healthy Start within their meetings and a colleague from Early Years set up a separate training course to embed the learning wider. Public Health have also attended team meetings to deliver sessions on Healthy Start.

## **Sefton Crowd**

The procurement process for a civic crowdfunding platform for SMBC has now been completed with Spacehive being the successful bidder. Spacehive have also secured the contract to provide a Crowdfunding platform for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (initially for 1 year).

## **LIBRARIES**

### **Sefton Super Reads**

The annual Sefton Super Reads event was hosted at Crosby Library in June. Sefton Super Reads is an activity that aims to encourage teenage reading. Teenagers read 6 books and chose their favourite which is awarded the title of Sefton Super Reads. 8 secondary schools

took part and 70 teenagers attended the event. This year's Sefton Super Read was Stitch by Pdraig Kenny, which was a retelling of the Frankenstein story.

### **Library Improvement Fund**

In March 2024 funding was secured from the Library Improvement Fund to make structural improvements to Bootle Library. £78,000 was allocated to Sefton to be used on creating a community garden at the side of the library, refurbish the toilets, and redecorating the library. This funding has to be completely spent by March 2025. To date, the garden has had [paving laid to make it DDA compliant, landscaping has taken place to level off the ground and an awning added to the rear of the building. Currently, contractors are on site completing the refurbishment of the toilets. All the funding has been allocated and should be completely spent by December, well ahead of the deadline.

### **Live theatre at Formby Library**

Formby Library hosted a live theatre event on a Saturday afternoon when the library was closed. Theatre group Altro Drama based in south Liverpool who delivered a reworking of the story of Rumpelstiltskin. The event was fully booked and was the first time that our new event booking system, LibCal, was used by the library. The event was very successful and we received some positive feedback on LibCal., which had sent attendees automatic reminders of the event. The next outing for Rumpelstiltskin will be at the Atkinson over the summer.

### **Bootle Library becomes first Device Bank in Sefton**

Following a recent application to the National Device Bank, the Library Service has been notified of its success. The National Device Bank scheme provides refurbished ICT equipment to organisations to gift to residents who are digitally excluded. The Library Service application requested 30 laptops which could be gifted to migrants being resettled in Sefton who have arrived with next to no possessions. The Resettlement Team are helping with the distribution of the laptops, and this will take place from Bootle and Netherton Libraries.

### **New Libraries App being tested and rolled out**

During a recent service planning event, library staff identified the need for a library app to improve the way customers interact remotely with their library. Following research, national data indicated that the average adult spent 3hrs and 41 minutes online a day, with most (2hours and 47 minutes) being spent on a smartphone. The Library Services customer portal, Aspen, is based around them using pc's, laptops or tablets and front-end presentation on a smartphone makes the text small and difficult to read. Following further research and discussions with our systems supplier, and App, not currently available in the UK has been identified as providing a suitable platform for smart phone usage of Aspen. Sefton Libraries has secured this App for free and staff are testing it on behalf of our suppliers before it goes live. Our library service will be the first in the country to use this app called Aspen LiDA and it will be available for customers to download for free from the App store and Google Play Store.

### **Partnership project with The Plaza Cinema**

On Sunday 14th July, At The Library, in partnership with Liverpool Arab Arts Festival, London Arab Film Club and The Plaza Community cinema screened three Arabic films, all enjoying their Liverpool premiere. Over 50 people, both locals and people from across the city region and beyond, had a chance to watch two short films and a feature film. The films were introduced by the country's leading curator of Arab cinema, visiting specially for the event, Sarah Agha, who co-selected them with women from the Libraries' Colour of Pomegranates group. Sarah, and Toufik, from LAAF, were both delighted with the event and have separately given positive feedback to the team.

Alongside the films, Crosby Library provided Arabic sweets and music, as well as space in the library for children of parents seeing the films to participate in creative activities like printing and stencil making. This was facilitated by library staff who came in on their day off to attend and help with the event.

## **THE ATKINSON**

### **Theatre Programme**

Children's Shows: the summer programme has entertained young theatre-goers with its August performances of Horrible Histories: 'Rotten Royals', which attracted hundreds of families. The month concludes with Altru Drama's musical re-imagining of the classic 'Rumpelstiltskin' story.

Sleeping Beauty Panto Promotion Day: Thursday 5 September marks the Atkinson's pantomime promotion day. Promotional materials will be filmed featuring all the main cast, including Blue Peter star Joel M. This is the first time all of the cast will have met, so it will make for an exciting day for everyone involved, including some fun interactions with visiting customers.

### **Exhibitions Programme**

The Atkinson launches a new exhibition on Saturday 7 September. 'Windrush: Our Story, Our Community' celebrates the contribution of the Windrush generation and their descendants to our community, from healthcare to arts and culture. Organised in partnership with SACHA (Southport African Caribbean Heritage Association) the project presents first-hand accounts of the experiences and challenges faced by African Caribbean people living in Sefton and the wider region. It will feature portrait photographs by Ean Flanders and a film by Christopher Chadwick and will create a legacy of oral history recordings.

### **Museum Programme**

The August *Make It!* summer craft sessions for young families have proved very popular, especially with activities linking to the Southport Flower Show. A colourful mural was displayed on the museum landing to share the fun and encourage participation.

Further museum engagement has been provided via an in-house publication – *Arty Adventurers* is an activity book which leads visitors around the building to discover the Atkinson's many curiosities. The book was developed with support from the Atkinson's volunteer cohort and showcases many interesting artefacts and heritage trivia relating to the displays.

As part of the Museum Accreditation process the Atkinson hosted an Emergency Planning training day on 21 August for staff and volunteers. This included a review of priority tasks such as objects recovery and document restoration. The Emergency Plan will be updated to reflect the activity.

### **Other news**

The Atkinson closed on 20<sup>th</sup> August with front of house staff diverted to support the reception for HRH King Charles and the families of those involved in recent Southport events.