

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills - 28 July 2015)

<i>COUNCILLOR</i>	<i>COMMITTEE</i>	<i>DATE</i>
Patricia Hardy	Communities & Housing	13 July 2015

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Strategic Partnerships

- **Area Partnerships**

Area Partnership priorities are as follows:-

Sefton East	Health Food growing project: ongoing work with Maghull High School. Dementia friendly initiative: first sub group meeting held to discuss initial ideas and agree areas to focus on. Meeting planned with Alzheimer's Society to look at the requirements of a Dementia Friendly Communities Plan.
	Youth services in Sefton East – ongoing.
Formby	Crime and Community Safety – sub group working with Parks and Greenspace department to take forward Duke Street Park project.
	Health and well being – older people Ongoing work ensuring continued use and promotion of the hub.
Crosby	Meetings with Crosby Area Partnership members are being arranged.
Southport	Following a review of the Partnership's priorities these have now been agreed as Street Life, including the street drinking service, Community Learning –looking at making Southport more Dementia Friendly and Southport Quality Destination – looking at the perception and promotion of the town. Sub groups looking at each of the priorities are in place.
South Sefton	Impacts of Welfare Reform and building community resilience, looking at many issues such as foodbanks, debt advice and fuel poverty. Gun and gang crime (including community safety ASB) – working to develop local approaches to tackling the issues, looking at prevention and exit.

- **Sefton Safer Communities Partnership (SSCP)**

- The SSCP has now agreed its priorities for 2015/16 which include Organised Crime Groups, Domestic Violence, ASB, Hate Crime and Drug and Alcohol Misuse.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner has confirmed Community Safety Funding for 2015/16 at the same level as the last financial year, £374,000.
- The Disarm cross border work with Kirkdale is continuing.
- The Multi Agency Response to Gun and Gangs (MARGG) continues to use a holistic approach to tackle and disrupt families who are involved in these illegal activities. The Youths at Risk group continues and a further six month review of all cases was undertaken in June 2015. There is now a more joined up approach to information and intelligence sharing, both internally and externally with our partners.
- Sefton will undertake Peer review for MARGG activity – this is a police initiate but will challenge council services / strategy

Neighbourhood Co-ordination

Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU)

The table below highlights performance figures of the Sefton Anti-Social Behaviour Unit as at June 2015.

ASB Incidents reported on HUB (Police, Registered Social Landlords (RSL's), Elected Members etc)	63
ASB Incidents reported through Sefton Contact Centre (Victim self referrals)	52
Current LIVE Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Orders	9
Criminal Behaviour Orders – Pending	7
Live	2
Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (A.B.C.'s) – Pending	8
Live	32
Parental Control Agreements (P.C.A.'s) – Pending	0
Live	16
Closures – Pending	3
Live	3
Public Spaces Protection Order – Pending	2
Live	0
Tenancy warnings – Pending	0
Live	7
Community Triggers (threshold met)	2

Neighbourhood co-ordination activities have continued in the areas with recent involvement including:

- A Digital Inclusion Project is ongoing at the HUB.
- Ford Lane Community Centre is now holding Citizens Advice Bureau sessions when the Foodbank Sessions are running. These are proving popular and are now halfway through.
- A Summer Event in the Park will be held at Bowersdale Park, currently assisting in the set up.
- A programme of Street Cage Soccer has just ended in the Violet Road area in response to incidents there. Feedback from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service has been positive and young people engaged well.
- L30's Million are funding an outdoor cinema event screening "The Goonies" in Killen Green Park on 27 August.
- Working with Eden Netherton at the Emmanuel Baptist Church organising a five day Community Event on Killen Green Park from 26 - 31 August. Activities will include holiday club, bands, interactive youth bus and volunteering activities which will include painting the park railings.
- After the success of 2014, the South Park event will be held again on 21 August. The family fun day will run from 1 – 4.00pm and will be free to all residents. The event has been organised in partnership with Liverpool CC, LMH, Pier Head Housing, Friends of South Park, Bootle New Strand, Merseyside Police, Disarm and Linacre and Derby ward members.
- Netherton Mini Olympics will be held in various locations within the L30's Million catchment area including, Marian Square , Netherton Activity Centre and Killen Green Park. Activities will run from 23 July until 30 August and include horse riding, archery, dodge ball, street dance, canoeing and bubble football. Sessions have been funded by L30's Million and will be free to residents.

- Living Christmas Tree on Glovers Lane has now been planted. Donations for the tree were received from One Vision Housing, St Oswalds Primary School and Area Committee funding. An event will be organised around Christmas for the switch on, which will involve local community groups and a Christmas Market.
- Funding has recently been agreed for a project looking at the dangers of using legal highs and volatile substances (mainly nitrous oxide) for schools within the L30's million catchment area. Sessions will also be provided for parents, community groups, Police and youth workers who operate in the area.
- Successful delivery of Taxi Marshals in Southport Town Centre after discussions with Sefton Arc, Merseyside Police and Southport BID team regarding the appropriate 'high priority' weekends to provide them, resulting in a reduction of alcohol related incidents compared to the comparable evenings last year.
- A number of projects aimed at addressing loneliness and social isolation are progressing or will commence shortly. These include, for example, the Formby Hub which has held a number of events including WW1 commemoration and VE Day. Both events saw increases in the number of referrals to partners forming the group.

Community Support Fund

To date, schemes totalling £946,402 have been approved (subject to call in period). New approvals include the refurbishment of the kitchen at the Dove Trust in Formby and contribution towards the Jamie Carragher Sports and Learning Academy towards development of female changing facilities and a teaching classroom.

Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) Sector Review

Successful delivery of offer letters to Sefton's Voluntary, Community and Faith sector providing them with confirmation of their funding for 2015/16. Discussions will take place starting from early summer with organisations regarding the re-commissioning of services in future years.

Domestic Violence

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Referrals

	Number of Referrals	Number of Repeats
April 2015	60	14
May 2015	66	13
June 2015	31	10

The current MARAC repeat rate is 32%

HOUSING

Budget for Extending Rough Sleeper Services

The Council decision and options for use of the approved £26,000 resources has been reviewed. This will be used to extend commissioned homelessness services, should demand for services exceed service capacity. This has become more likely given recent legal changes, which will likely result in the Council having a duty to accommodate a greater number of 'vulnerable' single people.

Housing Market Renewal

The housing redevelopment at Bedford Queens is nearing completion, and the earlier phases of the Klondyke redevelopment are also complete. Demolition of the properties in the (final) Phase 2-3 area of Klondyke is well under way. Bellways have planning approval for construction of 142 new houses on this site.

Over the forthcoming months purchase and disposal arrangements for the Klondyke 2-3 site will be considered as well as the Options for the future of the Mel Inn, Harris Drive Shops and Penpoll commercial site, which the Council acquired through CPO in 2008. There is a residue of HMR Assets, including some shops on Stanley Rd. Options for these properties will be looked at, including the potential to offer some shops as new business start up premises.

Housing Strategy development

The Strategy Advisory Group, which will oversee the development of a new Housing Strategy will be established.

Homelessness service commissioning process is completed and new services went live on the 1st July. A Council Press release to highlight this has been issued.

The Housing Options & Homelessness services are undergoing external review as part of a Government programme called the Gold Standard. A Report on the outcome of this review will be produced and this will be used this to update the Homeless Strategy Action Plan. Recent Homelessness case law has placed a new requirement for new Temporary Accommodation Policy, which will be endeavoured to be in place over the forthcoming months.

The Council have been working with Emmaus and Riverside Housing, to develop a new combined homeless accommodation and training facility in Seaforth. Emmaus hope their scheme will be opened by August 2015.

Housing Standards & Private rented sector

Options for the potential introduction of a Selective Licensing Scheme will be explored as a priority. The impact of recent Govt Guidance and possible timeframes to deliver a scheme will be considered.

A Landlord Accreditation scheme was launched in July 2013. We have accredited circa 700 properties in the first 2 years of operation. We continue to promote the scheme and encourage more applications. We are consulting with property agents with a view to extending the scheme to accredited agents who manage properties on behalf of landlords.