

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills – 3 July 2018)

COUNCILLOR	PORTFOLIO	DATE
Patricia Hardy	Communities and Housing	June 2018

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Area Coordination

The first constituency forums for the South and Central areas took place at the end of June in Bootle Town Hall and Crosby Lakeside centre. The North Forum will be held on the 5 July in the Atkinson Studio room in Southport from 18.30.

A new footpath has been installed at Gardner Avenue allotment to allow disabled residents to access them.

A family fun day took place at the TA Barracks in Netherton as part of the celebrations arranged to commemorate George Masters VC. As part of the celebration Pelham Way in Netherton has now been renamed Georges Masters Way. New street name plates have been installed.

Aintree Youth & Community Centre has now closed for refurbishment works. It is due to reopen at the end of July. All users have been accommodated in other buildings where necessary.

The Community Payback service continues to operate on a weekly basis and has delivered over 4,720 hours of unpaid work in Sefton since its inception in 2017.

Welfare Reform

Summer food project

There are 8 Childrens Centres, 1 school and a voluntary organisation taking part in this year's programme. All Centres have confirmed their participation and the days in which they will be allocating food during the summer.

Sefton CVS will be working with voluntary groups to support the programme on days when there is no offer from the main centres. They are also working with us to help serve food in Childrens Centres that are struggling to staff this year's programme by providing volunteers.

Food Bank

The number of people accessing the Foodbank in South Sefton from April 2017 – March 2018

- Vouchers presented: 5712
- Adults fed: 7593
- Children Fed: 5431
- Total number fed: 13024

The number of people accessing the Foodbank in North Sefton from April 2017 – March 2018

- Vouchers presented: 2361
- Adults fed: 3317
- Children fed: 2230
- Total number fed: 5547

Domestic and Sexual Abuse

The contract for the joint Sefton and Knowsley domestic abuse campaign was awarded to a company called Social Marketing Partners. They are leading the design and implementation of the campaign with involvement from local partners from a range of agencies. The overall target audience is the general public but the campaign will also raise awareness with professionals and frontline staff, especially in relation to coercive and controlling behaviours. The campaign is due to be launched in July 2018. Whilst the campaign itself will be for short period of time, consideration for longevity of the message is being built into the approach to ensure it can be continued after this.

The contract for the pan Merseyside sexual violence support contract was awarded to RASA (Rape and Sexual Abuse) Centre Merseyside and RASASC (Rape and Sexual Assault Centre Cheshire). A total of £448,500 has been committed by partners per year for the next 3 years. Sefton has contributed £50,000, £25,000 from Sefton Safer Communities Partnership and £25,000 from Public Health.

The Merseyside Strategic Domestic Violence and Abuse Group (SDVAG) is working on developing a new a new strategy for the group. Local strategies, policies and priorities will form part of this work, which is being facilitated by SafeLives, a leading national domestic abuse organisation.

Sefton Council submitted its response to the Government's public consultation on domestic abuse before the closing date of 31 May. A Council representative also attended the consultation event in Manchester hosted by the Ministry of Justice to provide feedback.

Hate Crime

Preparations are underway for the Liverpool Pride 'Coming out of the shadows' event and the Remembering Srebrenica day.

Equality and Diversity

Sefton Council has been awarded the Navajo Merseyside & Cheshire LGBTIQ Chartermark. The assessment that took place in March identified some areas that the Council needs to improve on, and there will be an action plan developed to meet these needs. The award was presented at the Navajo awards event on the 17 May in Liverpool.

SSCP Update

The end of year report and action plan for 2018/19 has been presented to the partnership.

Community Transition fund

A total of £755,092 has been approved for projects, leaving a balance of £270,101 uncommitted.

INTEGRATED YOUTH SERVICE

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Overview and Scrutiny Panel regarding key headlines and achievements of the Integrated Youth Service.

2 Recommendation(s) That: The Overview and Scrutiny Panel notes the report

3. Youth offending Team (YOT)

3.1 YOT - Performance

- 3.1 Sefton's performance for reoffending has improved and is good compared to Merseyside and Cheshire YOTs in achieving reductions. The number of reoffenders is low and the number of re-offences per reoffender has also reduced.

- 3.1.2 This reoffending measure has been newly introduced by the Youth Justice Board which compares data over a shorted time frame, therefore the results will fluctuate, for example previous Sefton's reoffending rate has increased and this result indicates a decrease. A longer term view will provide a more rounded picture.

- 3.1.3 YOT has audited cases to understand reoffending patterns and the majority of re-offences are committed within the first month to 3 months which is before YOT interventions have been able to make a significant impact.

- 3.1.4 Rates in relation to first time entrants into the criminal justice system remain very good. The use of custody has also improved. In March a Sefton young person appeared in Liverpool Crown Court and she was expected to receive a custodial sentence, however the pre-sentence report provided assurance that YOT could manage the young person within the community and the court supported this, praising the practitioner on the quality of her report. This represents a far better outcome for the young person.

- 3.1.5 YOT has completed a self-evaluation against the new HMIP Inspection Criteria which includes the use of out of court disposals for the first time. YOT has an action plan to improve on some specific areas including breach of order processes. A workshop was held for staff in March to support their learning.

3.2 HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) - Revised Inspection Framework

- 3.2.1 HMIP is currently developing new standards for inspection of adult probation and youth offending services. Currently the proposed framework is in a process of consultation to agree standards that represent good quality work.

- 3.2.2 Further development will follow from collated responses and learning from pilot inspections in 2017 and early 2018. From spring 2018 the revised inspection cycle for Youth Justice Services will be introduced with the intention of inspecting each YOT every four years; some inspected more frequently based upon a targeted approach using intelligence led information.

- 3.2.3 Sefton YOT has not been inspected since 2013 and is likely to be inspected within the new framework.

- 3.2.4 The proposed quality standards will cover the broad spectrum of YOT work by incorporating 'Out of Court Disposal' work which has never been included before. The draft standards are grouped into three domains with each being underpinned by key questions and prompts.

3.2.5 The three Domains are:

- Domain 1 – Organisational Delivery
- Domain 2 – Court Disposals
- Domain 3 – Out of Court Disposals

3.2.6 An overall judgement rating will be categorised as either inadequate, requires improvement, good or outstanding, which will be published. In preparation, the YOT Team will undertake a service audit to inform an action plan for Improvement in preparation for inspection.

4. Targeted Youth Prevention

4.1 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Pilot

4.1.1 In December 17, colleagues from the Integrated Youth Service completed the ACE recovery toolkit training and are part of a pilot project to deliver two 10 week programmes to parents over the course of 2018

4.1.2 The aim of the project is to support parents to understand the impacts of their own childhood experiences on them as parents and develop strategies to overcome the impacts to increase their parenting capabilities. This project is in partnership with Liverpool and Knowsley Councils and will be evaluated through John Moore's University Public Health Institute.

4.1.3 Sefton commenced the first pilot course May with nine parents who have experienced multiple adverse experiences. The feedback after the first session was excellent and work is ongoing to secure engagement for the remainder of the project.

4.2 Local Government Association (LGA) – Case Study

4.2.1 The Local Government Association recently showcased Sefton's New Beginnings project at an exhibition in Parliament in May for the 'Bright Futures' campaign.

4.2.2 New Beginnings LGBTQ (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Questioning) Group supports children and young people within the LGBTQ community by providing a safe space to discuss their issues and engage in raising awareness sessions but also receive tailored support should they encounter difficulties. The offer extends to parents who have stated that the support is highly beneficial to them and their children.

4.2.3 The group has expanded and delivers sessions in the Southport in response to increased demand for support. Colleagues who deliver the sessions have supported partner agencies and have provided training to schools and police cadets.

5 Recommendation

5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is requested to note the contents of this report.

LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES

Our North Book Launch

Publication launch of Our North – a book created with young people in Sefton (and Runcorn) courtesy of Rob Hancock in youth provision, Sefton.

We're launching a book made with photographers and young people. The book explores the fashion, heritage and identity of the North today, through collaborative photography with young people from Sefton and Runcorn. Young people distributed free copies of the title through Sefton's Libraries.

Human Library – continuation of funding from Arts Council

The Library Service has been successful in its latest Arts Council England grant application to continue support for the Human Library project. £44,800 has been granted and the funding will enable the project to reach beyond the immediate Bootle area and planning is underway to deliver some pilot projects in Crosby and Netherton. This will include having a volunteer steering group, with volunteer representation also on the project steering group itself.

Digital Inclusion skills

Arts Council Funding for the Human Library project has enabled the library service to extend its work in digital inclusion. Working in partnership with Barclays Digital Eagles the summer activities programme for children will now feature enhanced coding clubs, including the programming of robots.

Staff spent a day at Bootle library, learning a variety of coding skills. This will enable them to deliver sessions to the community using digital resources in an effort to enhance STEM knowledge in all generations. Examples of use could be using Micro: Bits to create stepometers to promote healthy lifestyles or to assist start-up businesses with low cost programmable technology.

THE ATKINSON

Happy Birthday to The Atkinson

This May was The Atkinsons 5th Birthday. The team is working with communications team to promote the huge success of the venue and to celebrate some of the fantastic highlights of Sefton's exhibition, music, comedy, theatre programme.

Southport Festival

11-13 May the annual festival returns to the town and The Atkinson are at the heart of the event working with Tourism, Southport Bid and community arts groups to create a diverse and engaging festival to attract visitors and residents into the town

Locality Working – Lion King Literacy Project

A project with The Atkinson, Libraries, Children Centres and School Learning started on 24 May. Using film and new teaching methods we aim to upskill and develop creative learning, imagination and overall literacy within preschool and infant children. It was screened on 6 June with follow up sessions until 3 July when we will host a celebration event outside The Atkinson in Diana Gardens. The children and teachers will see the Lion King and it will be used as a catalyst to develop teachers training and to engage with their pupils creatively creating memories and characters.

Business advice surgeries Legacy

A Children's book launch is to take place at The Atkinson as the result of a successful business start-up given by John Mathias.

Volunteer Fair

A building-wide and very successful Volunteer Fair took place to promote and celebrate the incredible variation of volunteering in Sefton on Weds 6 June as part of Year of the Volunteer.

HOUSING

HOUSING

Liverpool City Region

I represent the Council on the Sub-Regional Housing & Spatial Planning Board (feeds into the LCR Combined Authority Strategic Agenda).

I previously reported that the Homes and Communities Agency announced the availability of a Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) to help unlock large housing development schemes, and part of the

fund is only available for Combined Authorities to bid for. The LCR CA completed a bid and application for the city region. The outcome of this bid was announced in February and the LCR failed to secure funding under this programme.

The Government have also announced additional funding to develop services to combat rough sleeping. £27m has been offered to 3 Combined Authorities: Liverpool City Region, West Midlands, and Manchester. The Board will be looking to oversee the development of a 'Housing First' service proposal to utilise the resources to be offered to LCR CA. A service proposal is still being finalised, although the new Housing Minister announced the LCR CA will be allocated £7.7m over the first 3 years of this initiative.

The LCR has recently received confirmation that the 2017/18 Homelessness Trailblazer funding has been approved and Year 1 funds have arrived with the Combined Authority. This will be a 2 Year funded programme.

More details are yet to be shared relating to any grant conditions that may be imposed. There will then need to be agreement and arrangements for proposals to be progressed.

It may be possible to utilise the homeless prevention element of the LCR Trailblazer funding for local service development that would help deliver our homeless prevention interventions.

Registered Provider Sector

Work by a collaboration of 5 housing associations LCR has led to a successful Estates Renewal bid focussing on parts of Bootle, and they were awarded £150k.

The RP consortia have confirmed they are using this funding to pay for consultancy work to look at designing a collaborative investment plan for all RPs property in the area. The RPs have procured Halsall Lloyd Partnership consultancy who are currently carrying out this work on their behalf. We await their proposals coming forward.

Homes and Community Agency (now Homes England)

I have previously reported that the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) announced a number of programmes and funding, which are designed to help deliver new house building.

I have previously approved a Sefton bid for infrastructure funding to help deliver new housing on the 503-509 Hawthorne Road site. We learnt in January that this bid wasn't successful. However, the notification we received from HCA states; ...for unsuccessful bids MHCLG will explore using some of the additional £10 billion of funding allocated to housing delivery in the Autumn Budget to support some local authorities to develop their housing ambitions. This suggests there may still be opportunities to explore funding support for our scheme/site.

The HE also has an 'Accelerated Construction Programme', under which they will look to provide tailored solutions to help bring sites forward for development. The former Peoples site on Hawthorne Road is being considered under this programme.

Housing Development Company

I am the Cabinet Member sponsoring the establishment of a council wholly owned housing company that could build and sell (and/or rent) properties, which was approved by Cabinet in October.

Work is ongoing to formally establish the company. There are a lot of detailed activities to be addressed during the transition to delivery period, leading to the legal establishment of the company.

We have recently appointed a new Commercial Director, who started with the Council in May. Part of his role will be to lead on the implementation of the Housing Company.

Private Rented Sector Licencing

Our 3 private landlord licensing schemes went live on the 1st of March - focusing on the licensing of all private landlords in Bootle, but developing stronger 'Additional HMO' licensing schemes to cover more types of HMO properties for Southport and Waterloo.

We have been actively promoting these schemes to ensure as many landlords as possible apply for Licenses. We will begin to carry out compliance visits where we issue licenses. Following an initial 6 month 'amnesty period' we will begin to take enforcement action where we find private rented properties where the landlord hasn't applied for a license.

As at the 5th June, we had received 239 full applications and 255 partially completed applications, and issued 20 full licences and 23 draft licenses.

It has come to light that a significant number of the properties for which we have received licence applications, did not have a current gas safe certificate in place. We have noted (from the date on the certificate) that many have only recently been obtained, which suggests that it is the need to apply for a licence that has forced the landlord to have the checks carried out. This suggests that licensing is already having a positive impact in improving property standards and management.

An Overview & Scrutiny working group has met to consider and approve setting up a performance framework, so we can try to evaluate the effect of our schemes in future.

High Rise Fire Safety

I have previously reported on the work undertaken since the Grenfell fire disaster. More recently OVH have been in dialogue with the Council's Building Control team to agree the detail of the work they will undertake to reinstate their 2 high rise blocks. OVH have since begun undertaking preparation works in advance of implementing reinstatement works.

Housing and Planning Act - Private rented sector enforcement

I have recently considered and approved a policy on the introduction of Civil Penalties, which will allow us to fine landlords as an alternative to pursuing prosecutions through the legal system. I hope this will begin to be implemented in the coming months.

The national Database of Rogue landlords and Banning Orders has been introduced from April. I intend to review the Council's own housing enforcement policies in the coming months.

In the meantime officers in the Housing Standards team take enforcement actions and occasional prosecutions.

Housing Development

Developer Bellway Homes have made progress with the Klondyke Phase 2&3 site, which is the final phase of new development from the former HMRI programme. Bellway Homes began construction of new housing in August 2017. The first homes have been completed and new families began to move in since January.

Homeless Services and Housing Options Service

The Council has a legal duty to adopt a Homelessness Strategy. During the course of 2018, we will be working toward adopting a new strategy by September 2018.

The Homeless Reduction Act (HRA) came into force from April 2018. The Act introduces a new statutory duty to provide homeless prevention services to all people who are threatened with homelessness irrespective of whether they are in priority or not. The Act will offer more protection for people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, at an earlier stage, to a greater number of people than we were previously obliged to assist.

We will need to monitor and assess the impact of the new measures on the demand for Council services.

Leasehold house sales

I have previously reported on the work O&S Committee considered and the response I submitted to the Government consultation on behalf of Sefton Council.

The Government's response to this consultation was published on the 21st December 2017. The full published response can be accessed here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/670204/Tackling_Unfair_Practices_-_gov_response.pdf

A further report on the Governments consultation response and proposals was brought to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting in March.

I have also been working with officers to agree information which has now been placed on the Council's website offering guidance on leasehold sales to help raise the awareness of the issues of leasehold house sales. This is available;

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/housing/tackling-unfair-practices-in-the-leasehold-market.aspx>

Irlam House and OVH

OVH approached the Council concerning decisions their Board had taken about the future of Irlam House. OVH are looking to demolish or sell this high rise block of flats. They were seeking our agreement to award tenants high priority rehousing status (Band A) on the basis of their proposals qualifying as a regeneration scheme. Their request to award PPP Band A status has been refused. At this point in time it is difficult to assess whether there is a clear regeneration proposal and outcome that will be pursued. Nor does there appear to have been any significant consideration of other factors such as the results of any tenant consultation, social/community impacts of the options, impacts on rehousing capacity or other applicants on the housing register.

The PPP allocations policy and the Regeneration criteria state;

5.4.3.1 This will include residents being displaced as a result of their home being included in a Regeneration Area for clearance or redevelopment by the Scheme Council or by a Scheme Landlord in partnership with the Scheme Council. Only those schemes approved by the Scheme Council will be included in this Sub-Band.

As the future regeneration plan for Irlam House is unclear, nor been agreed by the relevant Scheme Council (Sefton), the above criteria has not been met.

Extra Care Housing

At it's meeting in March, Cabinet considered a report about the future provision of extra care housing for older residents. Together with Councillor Cummins, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, I will seek to oversee the work required on the Council's approach to Extra Care Housing. Extra Care Housing has been identified as a model which helps people to live independently at home for longer, thereby either delaying or preventing the need for long-term residential care and helps people to remain well, therefore avoiding Hospital admissions.

This also links to work I am overseeing with Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Skills, concerning the future of the Coffee House Bridge site in Bootle. SAFE Regeneration have been developing proposals for the future development of this site, which may include a proposal to develop a new-build extra care scheme.