

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills - 18 September 2018)

COUNCILLOR	PORTFOLIO	DATE
Patricia Hardy	Communities and Housing	August 2018

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Area Co-ordination

Prior to the new playground equipment being installed at Smithy Green playground Formby Parish and Ward Councillors asked Community Payback to paint the park railings.

As part of the Netherton action plan developed after the recent incidents works undertaken have included graffiti removal, installation of new lighting and weed spraying/removal in and around the Marian Square. Work is continuing to address the issues highlighted by Cabinet Member Communities and Housing and Ward Councillors and regular updates have been provided.

An event to celebrate the re-opening of the Aintree Youth and Community Centre took place on Saturday 25 August.

A feedback report has been prepared for Overview and Scrutiny Committee Regulation and Compliance which includes Resident, Member and Partner feedback about the three Constituency forums that took place in June and July 2018.

Throughout the School holidays a number of activities were delivered in our parks and green spaces. These have been well attended and supported via the Community Safety Partnership, Merseyside Police, Voluntary Community and Faith Sector and Active Sefton.

Welfare Reform

Summer Food project

The Summer Food Project ran across the school summer holidays. Meals were given to families from 8 Children's Centres, 6 voluntary organisations and 1 school across the Borough. 505 meals were served in the first week of the project and further information will be provided at the next meeting.

Food Bank

First quarter 2018	South Sefton	Southport
Total Vouchers received	456	159
Adults Fed	583	220
Children Fed	409	160
Total Fed	992	380
Crisis Type	Low income 218 vouchers presented 465 people fed	Low income 74 vouchers presented 203 people fed
Family Type	Single 253 vouchers presented 55.4%	Single 77 vouchers presented 48.43%
Age group	25 – 64 years 502 people fed	25 – 64 years 195 people fed

Domestic and Sexual Abuse

The joint Sefton and Knowsley domestic abuse campaign 'Escape the Control' was launched on 21 July 2018 and so far has included the following:

- Advertising on bus, taxi and fire engines across Knowsley and Sefton
- Mail outs and information supplied to a range of organisations including hospitals, GPs, One Stop Shops, hairdressers.

- New website www.escapethecontrol.co.uk developed which includes key facts about domestic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour along with support options.
- Regular social media updates via Council websites, Facebook and twitter pages.
- Local press coverage including Radio City Talk, BBC Radio Merseyside and Liverpool Echo. Full details can be found on the Escape the Control website.

For more information visit www.escapethecontrol.co.uk

Sefton is joining four other Liverpool City Region local authorities in submitting a bid to a new government fund to continue the Domestic Abuse Dispersed Housing programme started with DCLG (Department for Communities and Local Government) funding. If successful, we will continue to have an additional accommodation option for victims of domestic abuse, and provide a safe alternative to refuge. Successful bids will be announced in the autumn.

Sefton is working with local authorities across the City Region to consider a joint bid to the new Child Domestic Abuse Fund recently launched by the Home Office. The focus of this fund is to provide further support to children experiencing domestic abuse.

Hate Crime

Sefton's Hate Crime Strategy is being developed. The Corporate Equalities Group (CEG) have reviewed the strategy and provided their comments. The strategy will be taken to the consultation panel for their consideration. Once completed Sefton's strategy will feed into the Merseyside Hate Crime Strategy.

Equality and Diversity

Online consultation on the draft Equality and Diversity Policy has ended. The majority of responses were in favour of the draft policy. Further responses from partner agencies are being gathered and a report outlining the outcomes of the consultation will be provided at the next meeting.

SSCP Update

The SSCP has approved the purchase of 1000 Breath Testing kits in preparation for the festive season. The highly successful Get Away and Get Safe (GANGS) project has commenced in our community centres and will be accessing Schools in the new term and beyond. In response to community concerns regarding Anti-Social Behaviour in the Waterloo Area the SSCP approved the purchase and installation of a lighting column and CCTV camera. The SSCP purchased 200 drug wipes to support a highly successful campaign targeting those who drive whilst under the influence.

Syrian Resettlement Programme

Under the Syrian Resettlement programme Sefton currently have 11 households accommodating 54 individuals. Under a slightly different scheme, known as the Resettlement of Vulnerable Children, Sefton has 2 households with 4 individuals. Sefton currently have a 16% share of cases in the Liverpool City Region (LCR). In Sefton, we currently have no individuals over the age of 50. 79% of Sefton households are made up of either 5 or 6 individuals.

Most of our adults have achieved entry level 1 in English since their arrival which equates to between 50-52% in total. 84% of our individuals are attending some form of English as a Secondary Language. All children in the programme of compulsory age are attending school.

We currently have 8% of individuals in employment. 79% of individuals aged between 18-64 in Sefton's programme are receiving Jobseekers Allowance which indicates they are actively seeking work. 12% of 16-64 years in our programme are receiving Universal Credit and no individuals under 65 are receiving any form of health-related benefits and out of 12 households the benefit cap had been applied to 5.

48% of individuals in Sefton have reported improved health since arriving. 79% reported good/very good health. 5% reported having a long-term condition or disability which limited their daily activity.

48% of Sefton's cohort aged over 16 have undertaken voluntary work since arriving. 78% have been involved in groups, clubs and organisations within the last 6 months.

84% of Sefton's cohort agreed that their local area was a place where people from different backgrounds get on well.

YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM (YOT)

YOT - Performance

There is no change to YOT performance since the last report, performance against key measures remains good.

The key performance measures are:

- Reduce the number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system
- Reduce reoffending
- Reduce the use of custody

Youth Service and Targeted Youth Prevention

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) Pilot Programme

The 10 week ACES pilot programme has concluded with excellent feedback from the 8 parents who took part. They reported that they feel enabled and empowered to tackle issues that exist in their lives and improve their ability to parent, ensuring that their children don't have adverse childhood experiences themselves. Sefton has piloted this programme in partnership with Knowsley and Liverpool, the second programme is due to start in September.

UKYP Annual Conference

The two Members of Youth Parliament (MYP's) for Sefton attended the UK Youth Parliament's Annual Conference. The highlight of the weekend was the 'big debate' of which there were four key areas of discussion.

The MYP's for Sefton submitted 2 motions that were debated:

- Let's Tackle Homelessness
- Support Youth Services

Both motions were passed and made it to the manifesto. From this manifesto, MYP's will then vote on the issues they feel are most important for young people. The top 10 issues will then feature in the 'Make Your Mark' campaign, where Sefton's young people across the borough can vote for the top ranking issue.

Sefton Rocks

Youth groups across Sefton have decorated dozens of rocks with colourful designs and hidden them in parks and green spaces across borough. Children, young people and families have been encouraged to explore your local parks and green spaces and if they are lucky enough to find a painted rock with a #seftonrocks or a seftonyouth.co.uk link, they are requested to post a picture of it to Twitter and Instagram.

Lost Castles

Young people from Sefton Youth Voice took part in a series of workshops to create the parts ready for the Lost Castles build on Thursday 8th August. Sefton's project focused on a re-creation of Miller's Castle which stood in Bootle in the early 19th century and was displayed in North Park on 11th and 12th August. The young people worked alongside French artist Olivier Grossetête who creates amazing edifices using nothing more than cardboard boxes and lots of sticky tape.

At the end of the project the Castle was responsibly recycled, making it artwork that's also environmentally-friendly.

Youth Cabinet

Over the Summer holidays the Youth Cabinet are considering the issue of poverty including the causes, impact and affects it has on people. Following consultation with a High School in Sefton, the first session considered the cost of school uniforms. The cabinet compared the cost of the official uniforms from the recommended supplier and the unbranded uniforms from high street shops. The results revealed that the high street uniforms were considerably cheaper by up to 60%.

Youth Bus

The young people from the Peel Road area of Bootle have been taking part in a cooking programme where they have learned how to make basic meals from scratch. The timing of this programme coincides with the school holidays to provide the young people with a nutritious meal as they cannot access school meals. The young people really enjoyed the project and learned new skills as some of them have never had the opportunity to cook before.

SPACE Project

We have continued to support the music sessions at SPACE and young people have been rehearsing during the summer holidays ready to take part in a production of Beauty and the Beast on the Friday 17th August at SPACE Marsh Lane, Bootle.

Three young people from this project have gained places at Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA) to continue with their music, drama and the arts as full-time students.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Commemoration poetry competition launched

As part of Sefton's plans to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War I, the Library Service is running a poetry competition and has invited poets from across the borough to put pen to paper to commemorate the end of the war. The poems can deal with loss, celebration, the futility of war or remembrance. During World War I, three of the great war poets, Siegfried Sassoon, Robert Graves and Wilfred Owen spent time in Sefton, so it seemed a fitting way to mark the end of the centenary commemorations.

Poet Steph Pike will perform the winning entries at an event in Crosby library on National Poetry Day, 4th October. Steph's rendition of the winning poems will also be broadcast on remembrance Sunday via social media channels.

Marine Art Workshops

The Government has announced its ambition to create 6 more Marine Conservation Zones in the Irish Sea, adding to the 4 that have already been designated. To raise awareness, Sefton Libraries are offering a series of Marine Art Workshops this summer in conjunction with North West Wildlife Trusts. Sessions will be held at Bootle, Crosby and Formby Libraries. Adults and children can learn about creatures that can be found along the Sefton coast and in Liverpool Bay. Using recycled materials from local beaches, participants will be shown how to create artwork which will contribute to an installation. The process will be filmed, culminating in an Open day on Saturday 25th August.

Summer Reading Challenge Launch.

Storyteller John Kirk has recently visited Sefton, to launch this year's Summer Reading Challenge Mischief Makers. Over 300 children across Sefton enjoyed John's madcap story and heard the message 'to keep reading throughout the long summer holidays'.

All Sefton libraries will be running Mischief Makers, (which links with the 80th anniversary of the first publication of the Beano). Library staff have been visiting school assemblies throughout June to encourage children to take part. Last year over 3,000 children started the challenge; with over 2,500 finishing it by reading at least six books. For the last 3 years Sefton has had the highest number of completers, per size of population.

Women at War

Sefton Libraries have been involved in researching the women hailing from the local area who gave their lives in World War One and whose names appear on local war memorials.

These brave women were initially re-discovered whilst research was ongoing for the current 'Beyond the War Memorials', HLF-funded project. Following research through a variety of sources and a public appeal for information their stories and some photographs were uncovered. The Women at War display banners will be touring the borough as part of the commemorations for the 100th anniversary of the war's end in November 2018.

Bees coming to Bootle Library

Following the success of the bee hives at Formby Library, the Big Lottery funded project is to be extended, with a bee hive planned for Bootle Library. Bootle Library has an enclosed area of land at the side and rear of the library where a bee hive will be sited by partners Bee4Biodiversity. Once the hive is installed, the first colony of bees will arrive at the end of September and a range of activities and courses based around the bees is planned for the new year. Formby Library is the first public library in the country to host a bee hive and residents have enthusiastically volunteered to maintain it following training.

Library Litter Critters!

Sefton's Libraries have been supporting the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Sefton Coastal Partnership to develop a creative 'Litter Critter' display. The project will see families collect flotsam and jetsam from Sefton's beaches. The materials will then be transformed into 3D models of sea creatures for presentation in the community room at Crosby library. The transformation will be captured via slow motion photography to portray the importance of ecological responsibility within our local habitats.

THE ATKINSON

Lost Castles

Liverpool City Region wide project engaging with communities to create structure made of cardboard, brown tape and community spirit. Millers Castle stood in Bootle c1860, lovingly recreated by the people of Bootle; more than 200 helpers came to North Park to work with the artistic team and the result was breath taking, a 40ft castles with battlements, windows and decorative features. All six structures will be the centrepiece to celebrations for each community and its heritage. Family friendly activities take place on sat 11 August on North Park Bootle from 11am-4pm.

Vikings: Rediscover the Legend

Was a hugely successful exhibition for the venue and Sefton. Attracting 17005 visitors, 600 staff-led educational visits, 34 volunteers and achieved a total income of £6,046 with shop retail sales at £5103.

Sefton Open

An exhibition of art by people from across Sefton, opened on 28 July with over 300 people attending the opening event. The exhibition showcases 625 artworks by local artists and involves working with 17 art groups and societies from across Sefton.

Autumn Exhibition Launch

The autumn exhibition season launches on 20 September with profile three new exhibitions:

- The Art of Noise, curated with local groups and individuals and linking artworks with specific pieces of music
- Frank Hampson: The Man Who Drew Dan Dare
- Southport Double Take – historic photographs of Southport blended with modern images

Armistice Day

To mark the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day we will launch two linked exhibitions on 6 October, 'Sacrifice: Stories of Bravery & Resilience After Recent Conflicts' and 'Moss Side and the Great War Remembered', an Arts Council funded project created in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University and local volunteers

HOUSING

Liverpool City Region

The Government have provided additional funding of £27m, which has been offered to 3 Combined Authorities (CA): 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 £7.7m share of these resources offered to LCR CA. A service proposal is still being finalised, and the CA is currently appointing staff who will oversee the development and implementation of this proposal, in collaboration with the LCR Councils. I have recently met the lead officer from the CA for this initiative.

The LCR has also recently received Homelessness Trailblazer funding. 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.

Homes England (HE)- (formerly Homes and Community Agency)

The HE 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.

Private Rented Sector Licensing

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.

As at the 24th July, we had received 356 full applications and 353 partially completed applications, and have issued 66 full licences. We estimate that there are approximately 3,200 properties that will require a license in total.

From September onwards we will be looking to identify landlords who have not applied for a license and begin to take enforcement actions.

Housing and Planning Act - Private Rented Sector Enforcement

I have recently reviewed the Council's own housing enforcement policies, which has now been updated to take account of;

- the introduction of Selective and Additional (HMO) licensing
- the extension to Mandatory (HMO) Licensing from October 2018
- new legislative powers for local authorities introduced under the Housing and Planning Act 2016 which include
 1. Civil Penalties as an alternative to Prosecution
 2. Banning Orders
 3. Database of Rogue Landlords
 4. Extended use of Rent Repayment Orders for other Housing Act Offences - (no longer just for Mandatory HMO Licensing offences)
- the introduction of the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Regulations
- the introduction of the Redress Scheme for Letting Agents and Management work
- targeting our staff resources - prioritising which properties require inspection and providing more detailed advice to empower tenants to address issues with their landlord themselves.

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. They are also –preparing a planning application for 9 new homes for the small site on the corner of Hawthorne Rd and Harris Drive.

Homeless Services and Housing Options Service

The Council has a legal duty to adopt a Homelessness Strategy. I have recently considered the results of the Homelessness Review and approved a draft Homelessness strategy, which will go forward for formal public consultation.

We are beginning to see the impact of the new measures on the demand for Council services, such as a small increase in client presentations, more clients qualifying for active help, longer periods to assess cases and put in place Personal Housing Plans, and the 56-day duty to keep cases alive.

Unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments

The Council has encountered a particularly challenging time for handling illegal encampments on Council land, in a period of 3 weeks (June) there was 8 traveller encampments in Sefton of which 7 were on Council land; mainly in Netherton, Formby and Southport. In 2018, there have been a total of 11 instances of Unauthorised Encampments involving 90 caravans over 25 days (as at July). Merseyside Police have been helpful and remained in contact with us with regards the handling of traveller encampments.

This activity has been demanding on Council staff resources, as we have to carry out a welfare visit to any unauthorised encampment prior to undertaking legal eviction action, then organise and carry out any reinstatement works on our land.