

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) - 6 November 2018

COUNCILLOR	PORTFOLIO	DATE
Patricia Hardy	Communities and Housing	October 2018

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Area Co-ordination

As part of this year's Scrambler bike initiative a road traffic accident re-enactment took place on Monday 24th September at Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) training centre on Storrington Avenue. Five schools from south Sefton attended along with students from Hugh Baird. The students will now be asked to produce short videos about what they have learnt. A presentation will take place at Police headquarters on the 11th February.

Christmas 2018

All areas that have previously benefited with support from the Community Transition Fund to deliver Christmas Activities have been contacted. In line with Cabinet Members request we have offered all locations a planted living tree, and sites are being identified.

A meeting has been held with Parks regarding the replacement of the "dead" living trees across the Borough, and the ordering of living trees for new locations. We are waiting for prices and timescales for the new and replacements trees.

Bonfire Planning 2018:

This year's 1st planning meeting took place on Friday 7 September. Confirmed firework displays are as follows:

Waterloo:	Victoria Park	Saturday 3 November 2018	5pm - 10pm
Maghull:	Old Hall Playing Fields	Sunday 4 November	Time to be confirmed
Netherton:	Netherton Activity Centre	Monday 5 November	6pm - 8.15pm

The next planning meeting will be held on Monday 15th October.

Welfare Reform

Summer Food project

The Summer Food Project ran across the school summer holidays. Meals were given to families from Children's Centres, voluntary groups and 1 school across the Borough. 3605 meals were served which fed 2178 children and 1427 adults. Sefton CVS coordinated a support project to provide packed lunches from Voluntary Community and Faith groups and gave out 745 lunches. Other activities were provided to enhance the offer of support to families during the holiday period. These included:

- Universal garden club
- Universal stay and play session
- Debt advice
- Trip out to community garden launch party
- Benefit advice
- Baby health club
- Tumbling tots
- Family cooking sessions
- Soft play sessions
- Messy Play

Feedback included:

“The feedback from our families was that they did not know what they would have done without the contribution of food from Sefton. They all said it that the summer holidays are an expensive time - plus they must think about buying uniforms at the end of the summer - and it is extremely difficult for them to provide for their children. They were all very grateful and thankful to receive the food” - Bedford Road.

“Parents enjoyed the meals provided and it had a variety of healthy options and was of good quality. They felt it was an important scheme that took place during a difficult time of year when choices become more difficult during the summer holidays around food and bill payments” - Litherland Moss Children’s Centre.

Food bank update

1st April 2018 – 31st August 2018	South Sefton	Southport
Total Vouchers received	2311	873
Adults Fed	3052	1211
Children Fed	1955	827
Total Fed	5007	2038
Crisis Type	Low income 1014 vouchers presented 2242 people fed	Low income 393 vouchers presented 888 people fed
Family Type	Single 1231 vouchers presented 53.27%	Single 415 vouchers presented 47.54%
Age group	No Data available	25 – 64 years 1046 people fed

Provision of Winter Clothing

The Attendance and Education Welfare team facilitate a uniform bank across the borough. A discussion has taken place with the team about the possibility of extending this project to include winter clothing, especially coats. The project already has some winter clothing, but would like more. They are going to run a donation promotion to increase their supplies.

The Area Coordinators have also discovered that Netherton Park Community Centre hold a clothes bank every Monday between 10.00 - 12.00 in partnership with C.L.O.U.D.S (Changing Lives On Ur Doorstep). Donations of clothing are taken and the community are welcome to come along and take what they need. If certain items of clothing are required (i.e. winter jackets) a request can be put out via their newsletters and Facebook page asking for donations of those items.

Domestic Abuse

Following the success of the joint Sefton and Knowsley Escape the Control domestic abuse campaign, a joint conference will be held on 28 November 2018 to further explore the idea of coercive control.

The conference will be aimed at frontline practitioners delivering services in Knowsley and Sefton, and will highlight coercive control, how it can manifest, the effects on victim survivors and children, and some of the challenges in dealing with clients and families where coercive control is a factor.

The event will be promoted through Sefton Council’s intranet and various partner networks.

Hate Crime

Hate crime awareness sessions will be delivered in November, February and March. Dates are also being set for sessions for New Directions staff and Sefton Carers.

Equality and Diversity

Following discussions at the Corporate Equalities Group (CEG), A pilot session of Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) training will be delivered in November. It is planned that departments will send through any EIA's to the CEG in future so that they can be reviewed and agreed before being implemented.

Ability Plus will be involved in a project that is being delivered by the Clinical Commissioning Group looking at personal wheelchair budgets.

Community Transition fund

As of September 2018, a total of £755,092 has been approved for projects, leaving a balance of £270,101 uncommitted.

YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM (YOT)

Sefton's Youth Offending Team Performance. Key National Performance Indicators, headlines

Police National Computer (PNC) Youth Justice Published data has been used to report on all YOT key Performance Indicators. The latest data has been obtained.

Re-offending- defined as the percentage of those young people who have re-offended from an identified cohort or group of first offenders. The group is made up of those who offend over a three month period and hence the numbers are small. This shows a Sefton rate of 44.9%; basically 4:10 young people re-offend, this is higher when comparing with YOTs known as family (geographically similar) 42.7% and England 41.9%; but lower than Merseyside 48.0%.

Sefton's Performance has shown quarter to previous (0.4%) with July 14 to June 15. good taking account of the longer account of the numbers that the re-offending rate. Table 1 in group of first offenders was reduced by 37 young people and the number of first offenders then re-offending has reduced by 16. The increase is a result of being more effective in decreasing the numbers of first time offenders through prevention and out of court interventions.

Sefton Re-offending Rate



a slight increase in this last comparing July 15 to June 16 However, Performance is still term trends and also when taking make up the small increase in the appendix show that the total group of first offenders was reduced by 37 young people and the number of first offenders then re-offending has reduced by 16. The increase is a result of being more effective in decreasing the numbers of first time offenders through prevention and out of court interventions.

Reoffending frequency - defined as the number of re-offences divided by the number of first offenders identified in the group. Data uses an average across previous three month quarter because of the small numbers. This shows a small reduction of 0.2 for the quarter July 15 to June 16 compared to July 14 to June. The current rate is lower than other Merseyside YOTs. Amongst the family of YOTs Sefton has the second lowest rate.

Reoffences per reoffender- defined as the number of re-offences divided by the number of first offenders who do re-offend. There is a 16.3% decrease in the latest quarter. In terms of numbers this relates to a reduction of 81 offences and a reduction of 16 first offenders who have gone on the re-offend.

First Time Entrants - relates to those young people who receive a criminal record for the first time, calculated as a rate per 100,000 of the 10-17-year-old population. Figures show a 6% increase. Comparing January 17 to December 17 with January 16 and December 16, the rate increases from 231 to 245 rate per 100,000. This increase for Sefton is unusual given past trends and performance but when looking at the actual number of young people, this is only an increase of 3.

Sefton's Performance continues to be good, lower than the North West and Merseyside and England but is higher than the YOT family and is around in the middle of comparable youth offending teams.

Custody Rate - the number of young people receiving a custodial sentence expressed as a rate per 1,000 of 10 - 17 population.

Comparing other YOTs who are assessed as similar, Sefton is second in achieving the lowest custody rate; also achieving the lowest rate of custody amongst other Merseyside YOTs.

Sefton YOT is maintaining performance despite some small changes in an increased re-offending rate and numbers of first time entrant for this latest quarter.

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.

BBC Radio 4 have contacted Sefton having liaised with the programme author and have expressed an interest in interviewing some of the participants of the programme to document turning points in people's lives as part of 'The Untold' series.

The second pilot commenced in September and is reported to be going well. One of the parents from the first group is volunteering her support for the second group.

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 cardboard boxes. 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 impact 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

World Mental Health Day

To mark World Mental Health Day and National Libraries Week, The Champion newspaper reported on the Human Library; an arts, well-being and togetherness project, which started at Bootle Library. Having secured a second round of funding from the Arts Council, we are now able to expand the programme to Crosby library. The Human library works on the premise that everyone has "gifts of the heart, the head and the hand" to offer their community, and so together with librarians, artists and local-residents, Our Human Library is producing creative activities, artist-led workshops, skills sharing sessions and events - where everyone is welcome and everything is free.

The first event at Crosby Library was called 'Pool Our Resources'. Running across three days (17th, 18th and 20th October) it was a celebration of collective knowledge, highlighting and sharing the hidden skills in our local communities, and the positive effect of skill-sharing on health and wellbeing.

E-Comics

Libraries have launched a new e-lending service Comics Plus. Library users will be able to sign up, via the library website, to the APP. Once enrolled users will be able to download 1000s of Digital Comics anytime, anywhere. The new service will complement the library e-lending service, provided by Borrow Box and RB Digital.

National Libraries Week activities

To celebrate National Libraries Week Sefton's libraries have planned a series of story-telling sessions for local nursery and school children. The sessions will take place at Bootle, Crosby, Netherton and Formby libraries. The storytellers will focus on tradition tales and fun rhymes, so all children and their parents can join in.

Libraries will also be launching Bootle Press, a strand of our Arts Council funded Human Library programme. Artist Sumuyya Khader will work with participants to explore the possibilities of Risograph printing: a fast, simple and beautiful form of printmaking. The sessions will take place at Bootle library on Fridays, 12 - 2.00pm.

HOUSING

Liverpool City Region

I represent the Council on the Sub-Regional Housing and Spatial Planning Board (feeds into the LCR Combined Authority Strategic Agenda). I have recently been appointed as the Deputy Portfolio Holder and I have recently held discussions with colleagues in the LCR and Combined Authority (CA) about setting future priorities.

The role of the CA is having a growing significance, in particular when the Govt allocate resources to the CA for the whole of the LCR. Examples of this include additional funding of £7.7m, for the development of a 'Housing First' homelessness service proposal, and a further £2m for a Homelessness Trailblazer initiative. Service proposals are still being finalised, and the CA have been appointing staff who will oversee the development and implementation of these proposals, in collaboration with the LCR Councils.

There will then need to be agreement by the Board 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 in Sefton. I have recently met the lead officer from the CA for these initiatives.

Government Consultation

The Government have issued a Green Paper and consultation on **A New Deal for Social Housing**. The paper proposes fundamental reform to ensure social homes provide an essential, safe, well managed service for all those who need it, and seeks to address how we can re-balance the relationship between residents, communities and landlords to ensure issues are resolved swiftly and residents' voices are heard. There is a powerful case to be made for strengthening the regulatory framework so that it not only focuses on the governance and financial viability of housing associations, but also on how residents are treated and the level of services they should expect. The Government are also publishing a call for evidence which seeks information on how the regulatory framework is operating.

I will be looking to respond to this consultation, which will provide an opportunity to voice concerns about the social housing sector and about how the relationship between the Council and social landlords might be improved. Among the issues we would want to address as part of our response to the consultation are set out below. Issues to include:

- Ensuring social housing standards comply with the same standards required of private landlords as a minimum. Decent Homes standards should also take account of external areas of properties and fixtures such as fencing and gates, which can be a security concern for tenants as well as affecting the perception of the quality of social housing.
- Future Role of the Council in regulation (but this will be different issues for different authorities; HRA vs non-HRA). Particular concern over RP stock disposals.
- Tenant involvement and Complaints; Potential Role of Councillors as dispute mediators.
- Consumer standards; commenting on the obligations of RPs to neighbourhoods and not just tenants.
- Future Performance standards and use of satisfaction/league tables relating to an RP which may influence their access to affordable homes funding, and avoiding this penalising those who operate in more difficult/deprived areas.

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

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.

The HE has an 'Accelerated Construction Programme', under which they will look to provide tailored solutions and funding to help bring sites forward for development. We have recently been notified of HEs funding announcements and offer of funding for one of the sites which the Housing Development Company will develop. The submission we made for the former Peoples site on Hawthorne Road is still being considered by HE under this programme. Further clarification is required on any conditions that come with the funding offered, before we can confirm acceptance.

HE recently announced the availability of further funding under the new Land Assembly and Small Sites Programmes. I will be looking at whether there are other development sites or schemes we may want to pursue under these.

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 2017.

The Holding Company has now been legally incorporated and the Sale Co is going through the process now, so work to legally establish the company structure should be completed by October 2018.

We have recently appointed a new Commercial Director (Christian Rogers), 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. Our Communications team report that the Housing Licensing information pages on the Councils web-site was accessed 10,982 times since we launched the awareness campaign. The MySefton article on Licensing is now the most read piece on the website this year, having been viewed 3,704 times - in one day alone it was seen 409 times.

Following an initial 6 month 'amnesty period', which ended on 1st September, 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 9th of October, we had received 1387 full applications and 519 partially completed applications, which takes the total application figures up to 1906, over 50% of the numbers of premises that we anticipate require a licence. We estimate that there are approximately 3,200 properties that will require a license in total. We have issued 197 full licences and officers have carried out 200 compliance visits to date.

From September onwards we will be looking to identify landlords who have not applied for a license and begin to take enforcement actions on those landlords/owners who have not applied for the appropriate licence.

This can take the form of either Prosecution or Civil Penalty fines. To assist this process we will create a "Report an unlicensed property" link on the Sefton website, to enable tenants or neighbours to alert the Council to a property that does not have a licence. We will continue to issue licences and carry out compliance visits on licensed properties.

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.

High Rise Fire Safety

I have previously reported on the work undertaken since the Grenfell fire disaster. OVH have had dialogue with the Councils Building Control team and agreed the detail of the work they will undertake to reinstate their 2 high rise blocks. OVH have since begun undertaking 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 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.

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

Housing Stock Modelling study, 2018

Sefton commissioned BRE to undertake a stock condition modelling exercise on the existing housing stock to produce an integrated database and corresponding report, which help provide the Council with detailed information on the likely condition of the residential stock. This modelling research also provides a monitoring baseline for the Selective and Additional (HMO) licensing schemes for effective future evaluation.

Key findings;

- 12.4% of all private sector properties in the Borough have Category 1 hazards (the most serious conditions), which is slightly better than the national rate of 13.7%.
- 14.3% of properties within the Privately Rented Sector (PRS) have Category 1 HHSRS hazards. (This figure will be monitored over time to assess the impact the Licensing schemes are having).
- The highest concentrations of all Category 1 hazards for all housing stock are found in Dukes and Cambridge wards (Southport), Church ward (Waterloo) and Derby and Litherland wards (Bootle).
- The highest concentrations of Category 1 hazards for Privately Rented housing stock can be found in Dukes, Norwood and Cambridge wards (Southport), Church ward (Waterloo) and Linacre, Derby and Litherland wards (Bootle).
- The average energy efficiency SAP rating for all private sector dwellings in Sefton is 59, which is slightly below the England (60) and North West (61) figures respectively.
- The highest concentrations of fuel poverty (Low Income High Costs definition) in the private sector are found in the wards of Derby, Norwood and Linacre, for excess cold the highest concentrations are in Kew, Duke's and Derby.
- An estimated 4.4% (4,750) of private sector dwellings and around 4.7% (910) of private rented dwellings in Sefton are estimated to have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating *below* band E. Under the Energy Act 2011, new rules mean that from 2018 landlords must ensure that their properties meet a minimum Band E energy efficiency standard.

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 has gone forward for formal public consultation.

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 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.

From September, the Housing Options service has been integrated into the new multi-disciplinary Localities services.

The Government have issued a National Rough Sleeper Strategy. I will look to review this and assess whether it presents opportunities to enhance service arrangements locally.

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.

Despite the fact that applicants were not awarded Band A rehousing status OVH recently reported that they only have 5 tenants remaining in the block who require rehousing.

We still await confirmation of OVHs plans for the future of this block.

Extra Care Housing

At its 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.