

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

DATE: 9 DECEMBER 2016



LEAD OFFICER: CARYS WALKER
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND COMMITTEE OFFICER
(WAVERLEY)

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD DATA AND PRIORITY
COMMUNITIES

DIVISION: ALL DIVISIONS IN WAVERLEY

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

At last December's committee, the Community Partnership and Committee Officer prepared a comprehensive report based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) that was published in 2015. As a result of that report, the committee confirmed its commitment to those communities which were identified as being in need of targeted support.

This report provides an update on work being carried out in these areas with a particular focus on partnership working supported by the Community Partnership and Committee Officer.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked to agree:

- (i) To maintain its support for multi-agency activity in its identified priority neighbourhoods.
- (ii) To note the continuing activity in the priority neighbourhoods previously identified by the committee.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The report provides a summary of continuing activity in the priority neighbourhoods previously identified by the committee.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The local committee receives regular reports on recently published data which reflects the demographic profile of the borough and may have implications for the delivery of services by the county council and its partners locally. The committee has responded to evidence which identified communities in Waverley where residents consistently face multiple challenges. It has supported a number of priority neighbourhoods where multi-agency interventions have sought to increase residents' confidence and involvement, improve opportunities and quality of life and build resilience to forestall future problems. Projects in these communities have been sustained over a number

of years through the long-term commitment of Waverley Borough Council, Housing Associations, schools, Surrey Police, the health sector, town councils and voluntary and faith organisations.

- 1.2 The local committee has continued to support these communities through the allocation of grants and the alignment of activities which fall within its responsibilities with their specific needs, e.g. preventative and community youth work and highways localism.
- 1.3 Successive reports to the committee have outlined shifts in the policy framework in which preventative, community-based work of this kind is located. The Surrey Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy contains five overarching priorities which are of direct relevance to the focus of this report:
 - Improving children's health and wellbeing
 - Developing a preventative approach
 - Promoting emotional wellbeing and mental health
 - Improving older adults' health and wellbeing
 - Safeguarding the population

<http://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/about-us/health-and-wellbeing-strategy/>

The Communities, Health and Social Inclusion Group, (CHSI) hold thrice-yearly meetings. They are attended by front-line officers and locally based organisations with a relevant interest, to maintain an overview of activities, intelligence and emerging concerns. (See 2.2)

- 1.4 The principle that preventative activities should be targeted towards those families and communities where the need is greatest has become effectively embedded in countywide initiatives such as the Family Support programme, the network of children's centres and those services for young people over which local committees have oversight. The committee will be aware that, in relation to Adult Social Care, the Family, Friends and Communities programme (for which Mrs N Barton is the Waverley champion) seeks to strengthen the capacity of the voluntary sector locally to help vulnerable adults maintain their independence and quality of life.
- 1.5 The local committee has kept the evidence provided by relevant data under review and, most recently in December 2015, has agreed to maintain the following list of priority communities:
 - Sandy Hill (Farnham)
 - Ockford Ridge/Aaron's Hill (Godalming)
 - The Chantry (Farnham)
 - Farncombe/Binscombe (Godalming)
 - Wrecclesham/Weydon Lane estates (Farnham)
 - Cranleigh East

This gives members the opportunity to promote the needs of these communities, to bear them in mind when allocating the funding at their disposal and to consider in the round, the impact of external developments on these neighbourhoods.

2. ANALYSIS:

2.1 In this analysis, there will be an overview of groups and organisations that are actively focussed on the priority areas agreed by the committee. This represents work that has been undertaken since the April 2016.

2.2 The Communities, Health and Social Inclusion Group (CHSI)

The Communities, Health and Social Inclusion Group (CHSI) is attended by front-line officers and agencies who meet to share best practice and maintain an overview of activities, intelligence and emerging concerns. The group meets three times a year and is supported by the Community Partnerships and Committee Officer.

With the Waverley Health & Well- Being board currently on-hold; pending review and the upcoming reorganisation of the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) under their Sustainability and Transformation Plan, it is felt that the CHSI is now especially important. It is seen as a vehicle to ensure the effective promotion of public health messages and well being issues across the borough through the appropriate agencies.

Topics that the CHSI propose to turn their attention to in the next 12 months are:

Health (Promoting ways that residents can keep themselves fit and well.)

- Health profile for Waverley (enclosed as Annex 3)
- Alcohol awareness

Social Inclusion (Issues that affect residents engaging with community life)

- People living on their own
- Neighbourliness
- Older people
- English as a second language (ESOL)
- Digital Inclusion
- Mobility

2.3 Sandy Hill Inclusion Partnership (SHIP) Sandy Hill, Farnham

Sandy Hill faces one of the greatest challenges especially in measures relating to income, education/skills and health. As a measure to minimise some of these challenges, the Sandy Hill Inclusion Partnership was founded in May this year. This partnership is made up of representatives from local authorities, police, local schools, faith groups and health agencies and meets on a quarterly basis to address issues directly facing residents of Sandy Hill. The group is currently supported by the Community Partnerships and Committee Officer.

Despite being recently established, the group has enjoyed some early successes:

- A survey distributed to 525 households in the area to ask residents about their current service engagement and what they would like to see in their area.
- An award of £92,000 was granted to access training for front line practitioners and advisers in skills that will assist them in their engagement activities. The training focuses on mental health and well-being issues offering courses such as 'mindfulness' and 'youth at risk'

Next on SHIP's agenda is to consider forming a constitution and to determine a terms of reference. This will allow the group to move towards self reliance and be able to bid for a variety of funding opportunities.

Sandy Hill's detached youth work project will be re-launched in January 2017

2.4 The Chantry's forum (Farnham)

This group meets at regular intervals to discuss any issues around the estate. The group's purpose is to encourage engagement with the relevant authorities and agencies as well as empowering residents in bringing about positive change in their local areas. The group is coordinated by the Borough Council's Community Development Officer and attended by Surrey Council's Community Partnership and Committee Officer.

The group held a community clean up day in May that was very well supported. A group of 35 residents got together and tidied up areas around the estate and their local church. This was a family friendly event: Children enjoyed the bouncy castle that was hired for them for the day whilst their parents pitched in and everyone enjoyed the barbecued fare that was on offer.

A similar event was held in October with more planned in the future.

2.5 Wrecclesham (Farnham)

Provision has been made to launch a new youth group in 2017

2.6 Farncombe (Godalming)

An Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) was conducted by local police and attended by District and County Officers on 18th August. The EVA was arranged as a result of concerns that young people were congregating around St John's Church and the adjacent day centre and that this was causing some distress to residents. Education and youth services were also involved to help identify young people in need of additional support services.

Both Surrey County Council and Waverley Borough Council have awarded funding totalling £50,000 to the day centre so that they may renovate their kitchen. This will allow them to improve their catering services to their users, who are among the most vulnerable in the community.

Youth services currently run a youth group in Farncombe on a Friday evening.

2.7 Ockford Ridge (Godalming)

A multi-agency approach has been taken to help alleviate anti-social behaviour that was reported in the area. A 'task-and finish' group was established by the borough community safety team to coordinate the actions of appropriate agencies to deliver a programme of both empowerment and enforcement activities. Reports of anti-social behaviour have markedly decreased since the group took action and this area is now being monitored as part of the Joint Action Group (JAG) update.

2.8 Cranleigh

Provision has been made to open three more youth projects planned in 2017 to complement the existing open access group on Wednesday evenings

2.9 Next steps

Over the course of the next six months the Community Partnerships and Committee Officer will seek to establish contact local community groups in order to identify areas of work on which we can collaborate for the benefit of the respective communities.

At the time of writing, meetings have been scheduled with the following organisations to take place before the end of December.

- Farncombe Forum
- Ockford Ridge and Aarons' Hill Community Initiatives Group
- Loseley Childrens' Centre (Binscombe)

Members of the local committee are invited to put forward any local organisation or agency that they feel would benefit from working with the Community Partnership Team. Nominations can be sent to your officer on at the details contained in section 10 of this report. Alternatively, groups are most welcome to contact the officer directly.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The committee is invited to continue to bear relevant demographic data in mind when making decisions across the whole range of its responsibilities and to renew its commitment to the priority neighbourhoods identified.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 The projects described in the report are strongly committed to ongoing engagement with residents. A wide spectrum of partner organisations is involved in the Waverley Communities, Health and Social Inclusion Group.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications for the committee at this stage. However, county councillors may wish to contribute to projects from their local allocations during the year. More widely, the committee will be aware of its contribution to preventative work with young people and to the promotion of community safety in Waverley.
- 5.2 The principle of preventative work is that early intervention and increased self-reliance will reduce the impact of costly acute referrals to services in the future.
- 5.3 The Community Partnership and Committee officer is happy to assist any group in locating and bidding for, funding for their respective projects.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 The approach described in this report is intended to promote equalities and recognise and respond to diversity of background and experience.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 This activity is firmly rooted in the principles which underlie the current localism agenda, having sought to increase residents' influence, develop a flexibility of response and seek to integrate services on a neighbourhood basis.
- 7.2 The report focuses on those neighbourhoods which the committee has prioritised.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	Set out below.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	Set out below.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	Set out below.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	Set out below.

8.1 Crime and Disorder implications

The promotion of safer, more resilient communities and the reduction in antisocial behaviour are objectives which are closely associated with the projects referred to in this report and links are maintained with the Safer Waverley Partnership.

8.2 Sustainability implications

The committee's aim in supporting its priority neighbourhoods is to promote the development of sustainable and self-reliant communities. The provision of services where possible very locally (as for example at The Bungalow, Sandy Hill and through children's centres) reduces the need to travel and makes best use of limited resources.

8.3 Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

The implications relate to the preventative focus of the work undertaken, seeking to address the needs of vulnerable families locally and cohesively.

8.4 Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

The implications relate to the preventative focus of the work undertaken, seeking to address the needs of vulnerable families and individuals locally and cohesively.

8.5 Public Health implications

There are significant public health implications, relating principally to the contrast in life-expectancy within the borough and recognition that poor health may be determined by social and environmental factors.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

9.1 The Committee is invited:

- I. To maintain its support for multi-agency activity in its identified priority neighbourhoods.
- II. To note the implications of IMD 2015 and bear these in mind when making funding decisions and monitoring services across the range of its responsibilities.

9.2 The data presented offers evidence of continuing need in the priority communities and indicates some changes in the profile of Waverley which the Committee may wish to respond to and consider in its activities more generally.

9.3 The Committee's activity on this topic falls within its powers set out in the County Council's Constitution under Part 3 - Responsibility for Functions and Scheme of Delegation: Section 1 – 7.3 (iv- vii) relating to local concerns and priorities and to partnership working.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 The Community Partnerships Team will take forward any actions agreed by the Committee.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Community Partnerships Team Leader (West): Surrey County Council
Corporate Policy Manager: Waverley Borough Council
Community Development Worker: Waverley Borough Council
Community Partnerships Officer: Waverley Borough Council
Health and Well being Officer

Annexes:

Tables containing the data referred to in the text are annexed to the report.
Annex 3 – Public Health England, Health Profile for Waverley district, 2016

Sources/background papers:

Referenced in text.
