

Slough Borough Council

Report To:	Slough Wellbeing Board
Date:	18 th January 2023
Subject:	Strong, Healthy & Attractive Neighbourhoods update
Chief Officer:	Richard West – Executive Director Place and Community
Contact Officer:	Liz Jones – Group Manager Localities and Neighbourhoods
Ward(s):	
Exempt:	No
Appendices:	None

1. Summary and Recommendations

- 1.1 This report sets out an update on the work to support the strong, healthy, and attractive neighbourhoods priority.

Recommendations:

Committee is recommended to note the contents of this update.

2. Report

Introduction

2.1 The Wellbeing Board priority to support Strong, Healthy and Attractive Neighbourhoods helps the Council to meet one of the corporate priorities to have an environment that helps residents live more independent, healthier, and safer lives.

The corporate plan recognises that disparities in the length of life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between Slough's most deprived areas and the national average are perhaps the most serious impacts of poverty for our residents. We will aim to reduce these inequalities while also improving healthy life expectancy rates for everyone in the town, enabling our residents to live healthy lives and reach their full potential. Our approach will be to support residents to be as independent as possible whilst still ensuring we will be provider of services for the most vulnerable.

Background

Strong, Healthy and Attractive Neighbourhood

2.2 The Strong Healthy and Attractive Neighbourhood (SHAN) workstream is led by the council's Community Development Team who work with key neighbourhood stakeholders to deliver initial engagement, analyse the results, develop an action plan and address the local priorities to deliver this plan.

2.3 The latest round of SHAN engagement was launched in September 2022 for the following wards: Elliman, Wexham Lea, Central, Cippenham (both Cippenham Green and Cippenham Meadow) and Langley (Foxborough, Langley Kedermister and Langley St Mary's) and Upton. This round of engagement work is focussed on understanding and tackling social determinants of health inequality (e.g., low income, poor housing, social isolation etc.) to link with the pilot project between Primary Care Networks and Community Development (see below).

2.4 The public consultation survey closed on December 31 with nearly 800 responses. These are now being analysed and broken down by ward area. The Community Development Team will then compare these with results from other surveys and discuss with key stakeholders in the areas the priorities the surveys highlight and how these can be addressed.

2.5 The SHAN action plan for Haymill and Lynch Hill ward is due to launch in Q4 of 2022/23 and will be primarily supported by The Slough Hub alongside other local partners.

Primary Care Network health inequality reduction

2.6 The Community Development Team has continued with the pilot scheme working with Slough's Primary Care Networks (PCN) to tackle health inequalities in Slough. This pilot has two workstreams; the first is the Community Development Officers receiving patient referrals from Social Prescribers so bespoke, individual support and guidance can be offered, and the second is to share information about local support and networks with Social Prescribers.

2.7 Over 40 individual referrals have been made to the Community Development Officers. Officers have been able to signpost patients to further support for the following issues: housing (including sourcing furniture, information on the housing register etc.); heating and energy bills advice, meals and access to food; information about skills and training; debt and welfare advice; and social groups to reduce isolation and loneliness.

2.8 The work to share information and knowledge about community support with as many partners as possible has included the continued development of the free online directory of resources. This project is a collaboration between community development at Slough Borough Council, Slough CVS and NHS Frimley with support from Public Health Slough. The free resource is for residents, community groups, and health providers and brings information about local support across a range of subject areas to one place. This is now live at OneSlough – Slough Directory or Services (www.sloughhealth.org). Plans are now being made for a communication drive about this resource to take place during quarter 4 of 2022/23.

2.8 As part of the pilot the Community Development team has worked with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and Everyone Active (the Council's leisure centre service provider) to host "The Great Winter Get Together". This event (Friday, 27 January and Saturday, 28 January 2023) will be held at The Centre on Farnham Road (4-8pm Friday and 9am – 12noon Saturday). This is an opportunity for partners to come together to promote their services and support particularly around debt, welfare, health and wellbeing. Stalls will be set up at The Centre for families attending swim schools, gym members, sports clubs and any resident who wants to pop in to find out more about support in Slough.

2.9 Officers have also continued to provide support and advice to community groups, organisations, and charities to secure funding through grants and awards. To date this support has generated over £61,000 in external funding for community, voluntary and faith groups.

2.10 The pilot project between PCNs and Community Development to tackle health inequality will end in March 2023 and informal agreements have been reached to extend the project to 2023/24.

Slough's response to the cost-of-living crisis

2.11 #OneSlough has continued to work as a partnership between public sector organisations, community groups, the voluntary sector, businesses and the private sector to ensure residents are supported through the current cost-of-living crisis. Specifically this has resulted in the following projects:

Cost of Living resource pack

The first "Fighting the Cost-of-Living" resource pack was printed in September and is available on line (<https://www.slough.gov.uk/downloads/file/3094/cost-of-living-resource-pack>). This is being updated and will be available in February 2023. An example of how the pack is being used is that Slough Foodbank includes a hard copy with every food parcel they issue.

Slough Poverty Forum

The monthly on-line forum manages a contact mailing list with 100 partners and colleagues who are sent updates to projects and news about support available for residents. The Community Development Team has held weekly on-line drop-in sessions for colleagues and partners which have been regularly attended by Citizen's Advice East Berkshire, Healthwatch Slough, DWP and Wellbeing Friends. The Forum's membership is increasing as more groups want to become involved to share their work and hear about support available from others.

Slough Repair Café

Formed and led by Slough Anti-Litter Society as a result of discussions held initially in the Slough Poverty Forum, this event held on the last Saturday of every month in The Queensmere shopping centre. Volunteers repair household items, electrical goods, clothes, textiles and more to save residents money in not replacing items, but also reducing waste and increasing recycling/upcycling. The first event took place in November 2022 and over 15 items were repaired. The next Repair Café will be Saturday, January 28, 2023.

Slough Community Support Café

Formed as a result of discussions in the Slough Poverty Forum a local resident has set up a support café model providing a warm, safe space for residents to go to. Residents can get a hot meal, find a quiet space to relax and/or have conversations with others using the café. The first Community Support Café was held at St John's Church on Stoke Poges Lane and the second at St Andrew's Church on Merton Road. Now the model has been demonstrated to work it can be easily rolled out to other locations with different residents and groups taking the lead.

Warm Spaces Slough

This #OneSlough project co-ordinates organisations, businesses and groups who can offer their facilities as a warm spaces for residents. The scheme is sponsored by Scottish Southern Electric (SSE) who have donated £500 towards refreshments so that everyone who signs up can offer hot drinks free of charge. Organisations which sign up to the scheme will also receive a poster with the Warm Spaces logo and space to write their own days and times. Posters and refreshment packs are distributed through the Slough Community Support Cafes.

Meals from Marlow

The council's Community Development team has been working with Meals from Marlow distributing 300 meals every week to vulnerable residents via community groups. From January, meals will be able to be picked up from Langley College.

Warm Kits

Green Doctors South (a Groundworks initiative [Green Doctors South](#)) have to distributed 50 warm kits to vulnerable elderly residents in Slough this winter. Kits include thermal gloves, scarves, hats, blankets, hot water bottles and information leaflets. All those who received a kit will get a follow up call from a Green Doctor provider to talk more about ways to save energy and reduce the cost to heat their home.

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 Financial implications

3.1.1 The project is funded by existing budgets from Community Development and Community Safety amounting to £0.090m.

3.1.2 The costs of the two Community Development officers are currently 100% funded by the £0.090m grant via the Integrated Care Systems (Frimley) for 12 months up to March 2023. There is a risk that should the project continue beyond March 2023 there will be no available funding for these officers.

3.2 Legal implications

3.2.1 The partnership work described in the report assists the Local Authority in meeting its duty under s2 of the Care Act 2014 to prevent needs for care and assistance.

3.2.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board's terms of reference include "to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of health and/or social care services in the area to work in an integrated manner for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the area."

3.3 Risk management implications

Risk	Mitigation
Reduced staff capacity in SBC results in SHAN project stopping.	Securing funding from PCN and demonstrating how SHAN projects assist in reducing health inequality has meant that a core staff resource has been retained. The SHAN model has been revised so that at the beginning of each piece of work it is

	explicit that the implementation of the action plan must be led by a local group to reduce dependency on SBC teams to drive the implementation. Local stakeholders are encouraged and supported to take ownership of the SHAN work in their areas. This makes the work more sustainable as it is not reliant on SBC resource.
Community projects to help address issues linked to the cost-of-living crisis are un-coordinated leading to gaps in provision and duplications.	Co-ordination of work is undertaken by #OneSlough. The introduction of the Poverty Action Group, resource guide and weekly Community Development sessions ensures good co-ordination and clear identification of gaps.
Work of Community Development and Social Prescribers over-lap creating duplication and inefficiency.	Work is managed and co-ordinated jointly between SBC and Frimley ICS to ensure there is no duplication. Co-location of Community Development Officers in GP surgeries to work closer with Social Prescribers will reduce risk of duplication further.
PCN funding to continue the Health Inequality project does not continue meaning the project ends.	Performance management discussions have continued throughout year 1 of the pilot and PCN have agreed to continue funding this work for a further 12-months.

3.4 *Environmental implications*

3.4.1 The work to prioritise strong, healthy, attractive communities has a number of environmental implications. Engagement with residents often highlights environmental improvements that can be made and these workstreams have a more general impact of encouraging residents and businesses to be proud of their local areas and to use the facilities on offer in their community – parks, schools, businesses, and health provision – rather than travel to use facilities elsewhere. This will not only reduce car travel but encourage communities to care for their environment.

3.5 *Equality implications*

3.5.1 The range of resident engagement activity associated with all of these projects helps build a more informed understanding of communities in terms of protected characteristics. Anonymised equalities information about service users is shared among #OneSlough members to improve general understanding of the make-up of the vulnerable parts of our communities.

3.5.2 The pilot work between PCNs and Community Development is aimed to support residents who face a range of issues that result in them facing health inequalities. An Equality Impact Assessment based on the pilot scheme will be created as part of the planning to continue this work beyond 2022/23.

3.6 *Procurement implications*

3.6.1 There are no procurement implications from this report.

3.7 *Workforce implications* ***Discretionary]***

3.7.1 There are no workforce implications from this report.

3.8 *Property implications*

3.8.1 There are no property implications from this report.

4. Background Papers

None