

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<i>South Bucks Community and Wellbeing Plan</i>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<i>Councillor Patrick Hogan – Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities</i>
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<i>Martin Holt – Head of Healthy Communities</i>
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<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	<i>All</i>

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Members of the positive work undertaken through the Council's Community and Wellbeing Plan during 2018/19.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Members note the report and recognise the positive work undertaken through the South Bucks Community and Wellbeing Plan during 2018/19.

## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

The South Bucks' Community and Wellbeing Plan annual review details how the Council in partnership with a range of agencies (Thames Valley Police, CCG, Housing Associations, Bucks County Council, CAB, Bucks Sports Partnership and local voluntary groups) has supported communities during 2018/19. This asset based approach to community development strengthens community organisations and supports their development and growth to deliver improved services to local residents.

The projects captured in the annual review are important as they provide good evidence as to how the work undertaken by the Healthy Communities Department strengthens local community infrastructure. This work directly supports the Council achieve its key strategic objectives in relation to improving health and wellbeing, enabling a vibrant local economy, protecting the local environment and reducing crime and disorder.

## 3 Content of Report

In May 2017 Cabinet formally adopted South Bucks District Council's first Community and Wellbeing Plan. (Appendix 2) The Plan is important as it provides a co-ordinated approach as to how the Council in partnership with a range of organisations supports local community groups improve local services and facilities. The Plan is broken down into the six key aims detailed below.

- To facilitate community participation, engagement and action, through established and new community networks, to develop sustainable communities
- To support services that improve opportunities for older people to live fuller, safer, more active and ultimately more fulfilling life styles and become more integrated into local communities
- To improve the health and well-being of the population and reducing health inequalities
- To provide an environment for young people to enjoy, stay safe, be healthy, active, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being

- To help stimulate and support a vibrant local economy whilst protecting the environment
- To encourage collective working to promote and support the rich and diverse wealth of cultural heritage in South Bucks
  
- Housing Standards team provided grants for adaptations to 49 homes in 2018 – 19 and also gave further 5 grants and loans for essential home repair works to support residents to live independently within their own home.,.

#### 4 Key Outcomes

A diverse and exciting range of projects have been delivered in the second year of the Community and Wellbeing Plan impacting positively across the South Bucks communities. Appendix 1 outlines these projects with some key highlights listed below:

- Supported 25 voluntary organisations to raise funds and strengthen their sustainability by joining the Council's community lottery scheme.
- Works closely with Community Impact Bucks to support the voluntary and community sector hosting and promoting their community sector surgeries, advertising their other training events and working with them at strategic level.
- Established the Friends and Neighbours Scheme (Fans) that supports care home residents participate in activities in the community including swimming, Boccia, Table Tennis and day trips.
- The Community Safety team have held a number of crime reduction events across the District including spring crime / shed break –in events at garden centres and summer and winter burglary crime reduction stands within supermarkets
- Supported and promoted the 'Be Your Own Boss' scheme supporting residents from South Bucks to set up and successfully their own business
- South Bucks CAB programme has supported 2,253 clients and dealt with 2,715 enquiries. The service prevented 127 people/families from homelessness, secured £195,986 in benefits and wrote of £108,544 of debit for clients.
- World War One special small grant scheme had a positive impact across the District by helped support local communities deliver projects that recognised the enormous contribution of the Armed Forces locally.
- In partnership with Heart of Bucks awarded grants totalling £18,093 to 16 community organisations to improve a range of local services across South Bucks.
- Older people's service guides available across South Bucks (Beeches and Wexham, Beaconsfield & Iver) helping support residents access local services
- Delivered Dementia Friendly Golf activities at the South Buckinghamshire Golf Course in partnership with the Alzheimer's society.
  
- Supported 92 households through the Affordable Warmth Network, installing 116 energy saving measures.
- Hosted Chairman's Community Awards event to celebrate the contribution of outstanding individuals and groups that contributed outstandingly to support their local community..
- 186,458 customer visits to Evreham and Beacon leisure centres
- Delivered twenty organised walks through the 'Simply Walks' scheme attracting 6,695 annual visits
- Supported 120 households who were subject to the statutory homelessness prevention duty or homelessness relief duty. The Council continued to provide funding to South Bucks

CAB and Padstones to deliver homelessness advice and prevention to South Bucks residents.

- Progressed the development of a new 12 unit temporary accommodation scheme to provide good quality emergency housing as an alternative to nightly booked bed and breakfast accommodation.
- Delivered the 'Bucks Girls Can' sports festival at the Evreham Centre, attracting 100 girls to participate in a variety of activities linking them with local clubs to participate on an ongoing basis.
- GLL's' district wide Community Engagement Plan attracted over 3,000 participant visits in a range of outreach activities including walking football, ballet fit, gentler exercise, stretch and flex, basketball, yoga and Pilates
- GLL Healthwise exercise referral programme helped 41 new starters recovery from a range of health conditions including cardio, stroke and cancer rehabilitation

## **5 Consultation**

The Community and Wellbeing Plan was developed following extensive consultation with a range of partners including:

- South Bucks Parish and Town Councils
- Members of the South Bucks Cohesion and Inequalities Forum.
- Community and voluntary sector groups including local youth groups, business, resident, and community associations.

## **6 Corporate Implications**

### **6.1 Financial**

There are no financial implications in developing the plan. Any emerging projects will be met from within the existing leisure and community budgets and match funding from partners.

### **6.1 Environmental**

The Communities Team supports various community projects either through advice, signposting or direct funding. Some of these projects will have an environmental impact such as gardening projects, shrub and litter clearance, nature parks and woodlands.

### **6.2 Equalities**

The Community and Wellbeing Plan will support a diverse range of community groups including vulnerable elderly residents, young people and BME groups.

## **7 Links to Council Objectives**

Work towards safer and healthier local communities:

- Improve Community Safety

- Work with our key partners to help safeguard children and vulnerable adults and prevent them becoming victims of crime.
- Work with partners to reduce crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour.

#### Promote Healthier Communities

- Address the needs of elderly and those who are vulnerable.
- Work with communities affected by the closure of services to deliver them in alternative ways.

#### Promote Local Communities

- Support the voluntary sector and promote volunteering.
- Engage with Parish and Town Councils and local neighbourhoods.
- Work with the local MP, voluntary and community groups through the Cohesion and Inequalities Forum.
- Work to support the economy through enabling development of more affordable homes and the introduction of an economic plan.

## **8 Next Steps**

**8.1** Following the success of the Community and Wellbeing Plan it is proposed the key outcomes captured in Appendix 2 are promoted on the Council's social media outlets and website.