

Date: 1 April 2021

Title: Report on Community Board Approach to Health and Wellbeing 2020-21

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Report Sponsor: Cllr Gareth Williams

Purpose of Report: Information and discussion

Related [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) Priority: Keep people healthier for longer and reduce the impact of long term conditions

Recommendations:

Board members are asked to

- **Note and comment on the report**

1. Background to Community Boards

The 16 community boards are a brand-new way of bringing the council, partners, groups, organisations and local people together to look at local issues and find ways of improving them together.

Community Boards aim to:

- influence how decisions are made and how services are delivered
- represent the voice of local people
- capture thoughts, ideas and suggestions
- bring together key community partners and residents
- identify local needs and work to produce creative solutions

The boards use local data, intelligence and the views of people and partners in the community to identify key areas of focus and priorities for the board. These priorities help determine where the boards take action and allocate funding to improve the local area. The premise for community boards is all about taking action. The aim is for each board to have a number of action groups reporting into it which explore the local priorities, set up local projects and find creative ways to meet local changes.

Community Boards are only 8 months into operation and significant planning time was lost due to the pandemic. However, lots of partners, community groups and residents are already involved showing commitment and support to embrace the opportunities for local working. Despite getting off to a slower start than intended, Boards have still been able to allocate

significant funding to projects linked to corporate and local need, and have demonstrated the ability to respond swiftly to emergency situations, for example; the Cllr Crisis Fund and response to the Buckingham floods.

This report looks in more detail at how community boards have used the public health profiles, allocated £500k public health fund contributions through each board before going on to discuss plans and next steps for the community board approach to health and wellbeing in 2021/22.

2. Health Profiles

Health and wellbeing profiles were produced by the Council's Public Health team in early 2020-21 for all Community Boards. These profiles included information on the key health and wellbeing indicators for each area and made recommendations to the board on areas they might wish to consider based on this data (an example of the recommendations can be found below). The profiles were presented by public health colleagues at Community Board meetings in July 2020. Community Board chairs, vice chairs and coordinators have fed back that they had found the profiles invaluable to start the discussions on priority setting.

Recommendations based on this public health profile

1. Reducing **smoking, childhood obesity** and **physical inactivity** are key areas for your community as they are major causes of preventable ill health and death. The Council's Live Well Stay Well service can support your community to stop smoking, lose weight and get active. Anyone can self-refer themselves to this service.
2. Aylesbury has the **2nd highest number of live births** and a **higher proportion of low birth weight babies**. This community is also one of the most ethnically diverse in Buckinghamshire. What happens in pregnancy and early childhood impacts on physical and mental health all the way to adulthood, so programmes to support expectant and new mothers, particularly BAME mothers would be beneficial for this community.
3. **Loneliness for people 65 years and older** and **residents seeking support** are key areas for your community. Programmes to build community cohesion should be explored.
4. Aylesbury has **high rates for emergency admissions to hospital overall, for both adults and children**. It also has a **slightly lower rate of uptake of NHS Health Checks** compared with the County average. Improved health seeking behaviour and clarity on where the most appropriate services are could help this area to ensure people take up preventative services that prevent long term conditions and hospital admissions.
5. This community has been impacted by **COVID-19**. People with long term conditions like **diabetes and heart disease** appear to be at higher risk of poorer outcomes following infection with coronavirus, and this community has relatively higher levels of these conditions. Aylesbury has a **lower rate of uptake of NHS Health Checks** which is a programme that addresses the risk factors of heart disease and kidney disease. Promoting the NHS Health check is strongly encouraged. Other programmes to support community members at risk of COVID-19 should also be considered.
6. As part of the local COVID-19 recovery plan, initiatives to improve mental health and wellbeing are important to consider, particularly as this community **ranks amongst the highest for adults with depression** in the County. Poor mental health has been shown to be exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, its impacts on the economy and the restrictions due to lockdown. Initiatives that support resilience, employment and community cohesion are worth considering as part of the recovery.

The profiles were used to inform discussions about the characteristics of local areas. From these discussions, each Board considered priority areas of focus to tackle health and wellbeing issues in its local area. Of the 16 Community Boards, 11 have either specified health and wellbeing as a priority generally or selected issues, for example mental health, as a priority area of focus. Seven Community Boards have now established a Health and Wellbeing Working Group. For the remaining five Community Board areas, health and wellbeing has been identified as a theme running through wider priorities such as older or younger people. As a result of issues raised through the health and wellbeing profiles and in response to the need for Covid-19 recovery planning, a number of Boards are particularly focusing on tackling social isolation.

Table 1 below provides information on how Community Boards have responded to the health and wellbeing profiles and how their approaches map to the current Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy themes.

Table 1: Community Board Responses to Health and Wellbeing

Board	Health and Wellbeing Priority	Health and Wellbeing Working group	JHWB Strategy Theme
Amersham	Health and wellbeing of young people	Health and wellbeing of young people	Start Well
Aylesbury	Health and wellbeing	Health & Wellbeing	All
Beeches		Supporting older and vulnerable people; Young people	Start Well Age Well
Denham, Gerrard's Cross & Chalfont's	Wellbeing – mental and physical	Covid reset, recovery and wellbeing	All
Haddenham & Waddesdon	Health and Wellbeing	Social isolation and protecting the vulnerable	All
High Wycombe	Mental health and community	Mental health, older people and homelessness	All
Missenden's	Health and Wellbeing	Health and Wellbeing	All
Wing & Ivinghoe	Health and wellbeing for all	Health and wellbeing	All
Winslow and Villages	Health and wellbeing	Health and wellbeing	All

Beaconsfield & Chepping Wye have prioritised 'all age physical and mental health and wellbeing', including a focus on loneliness and social isolation, climate change and the promotion of outdoor activity across all working groups. Other Boards prioritising Health and Wellbeing as a theme across all working groups include Buckingham and Villages, Chesham and Villages, North West Chilterns, South West Chilterns and Wexham and Iver.

The profiles are available to all members of the Community Boards, Councillors, residents, Town and Parish Councils and to communities to support evidenced based working. They are

included on each Community Board's webpage as well as centrally on the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing pages:

<http://www.healthandwellbeingbucks.org/local-profiles>.

Health profiles have been used by Community Board Co-ordinators to open conversations with local groups to explore issues further. Coordinators and the Community Engagement and Development team are also using the profiles to explore projects tackling social isolation and identifying other potential projects which Community Boards could develop to meet the health and wellbeing outcomes that they would like to see for their local areas.

3. **Public Health Funding**

In 2020-21, Community Boards were allocated £500k public health funding to support delivery of better health and wellbeing outcomes in local areas. From the £500k, each board was given a baseline with an additional top up based on LSOA deprivation data.

Given the impact of Covid-19 and ahead of the Boards launching in July, a Councillor Crisis Fund was set up early in the financial year to enable Councillors to support local community groups in responding to the needs of vulnerable residents. A contribution of £250k from the £500k public health funding was allocated to this Fund.

The Councillor Crisis Fund provided grants of up to £2,000 for support which directly met the needs of vulnerable residents affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, in accordance with the Government's public health position.

4. **Overview of Health & Wellbeing Funding Stream**

Community Boards have allocated approximately 75% of the £500,000 in the Health & Wellbeing Funding stream. It has been an unprecedented year, with most of the allocations taking place through crisis funding mechanisms. Community Board Coordinators have also proactively signposted community groups and individuals to the [Helping Hand programme](#) which has had an impact on HWB allocations.

Community Boards completed their 3rd round of meetings in February and March 2021. The Boards will continue to allocate funds until the first round of meetings following the elections in May 2021. Any underspend of the Health and Wellbeing Fund will be ring fenced and form part of the general fund for community boards for 2021/22 where boards will continue to evidence how funding bids meet the public health fund criteria and priorities and needs of each community board area.

Examples of Health and Wellbeing Schemes by each Community Board:

Board	Focus of Spend
Amersham	Funding towards Voices & Choices, supporting volunteers to provide information and advice to older people, people with disabilities or long term physical or mental health conditions (such as dementia). Voices & Choices help people to remain

	<p>in their homes with the help and support of community services and other agencies.</p>
Aylesbury	<p>Funding towards additional crisis support during lockdown - Aylesbury Vale & Milton Keynes Sexual Assault & Abuse Support Service (SAASS) are a local charity whose primary aim is to provide support, information, advice and guidance to victims and survivors, empowering and enabling them to work with the trauma and suffering caused to them and their loved ones by sexual assault and abuse, including non-recent and childhood sexual abuse.</p> <p>Funding towards a specialist LGBT+ Café club - providing a safe space for the LGBT+ community of Aylesbury and the surrounding area to meet on a regular basis in a closed environment in the Café area (Closed group) on a weekly basis</p>
Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye	<p>Community Garden to be used by the local community to sit and relax and enjoy the garden and to plant and care for the garden. The Community Garden will benefit those who are socially isolated and lonely, those who do not have an outdoor space to garden, the disabled and school groups, gardening/older groups. The Community Garden will be an added benefit for good mental and physical wellbeing.</p> <p>Dementia friendly community project to raise awareness. The funding was for leafletting and advertising events.</p>
Beeches	<p>Pen-pal project - An inter-generational project to help children learn and communicate more with the elderly members of the community and at the same time, help to combat loneliness and isolation</p> <p>Bucks Business First - Start up business courses for 12 individuals who have been impacted by the pandemic.</p> <p>Leisure Activities and Youth Restart, allowing the playground and youth club to reopen to encourage physical activity.</p>
Buckingham & Villages	<p>Activity packs for young carers to promote physical activity.</p> <p>Bucks Business First – business start-up training as above.</p> <p>Aylesbury Vale & Milton Keynes Sexual Assault & Abuse Support Service (SAASS) as above.</p>

Chesham & Villages	Companionship project, addressing social isolation in older residents.
Denham, Gerrard's Cross and Chalfont	Men in Sheds - providing an opportunity to support and improve mental health amongst men
Haddenham & Waddesdon	<p>Collecting donations of toys and meals to distribute to families identified as being in need.</p> <p>Providing Christmas Stockings and Food parcels to those identified as in need.</p> <p>Support to young carers who have been referred to the service in Calvert Green and Twyford. This service compliments that provided by BC Children's Services.</p> <p>Chearsley Playground Refurbishment – match funding towards new equipment to meet health and safety standards and encourage physical activity.</p> <p>Aylesbury Vale & Milton Keynes Sexual Assault & Abuse Support Service (SAASS) as above.</p>
High Wycombe	<p>6-month suicide prevention awareness campaign with the Samaritans.</p> <p>Khepera - Culturally appropriate Hot Meals - meal support to vulnerable members of the African Caribbean community over Christmas.</p> <p>Bucks Business First – start up business courses as above.</p> <p>270 Leap boredom buster activity packs for young people.</p> <p>Conservation Activities Wellbeing Project - to deliver conservation activity sessions for people of all ages and abilities and to support them to access experience, learn about and improve their local environment.</p>
Missenden's	<p>Community activities to reduce social isolation.</p> <p>Funding towards retaining a youth worker in the local youth café.</p>
North West Chilterns	<p>Mentoring for young people.</p> <p>Bucks Business First – be your own boss scheme as above.</p>
South West Chilterns	All Abilities, All Communities Garden – with an aim to enhance the experience of the walled gardens to all visitors, and improve facilities for outreach programme - creating an

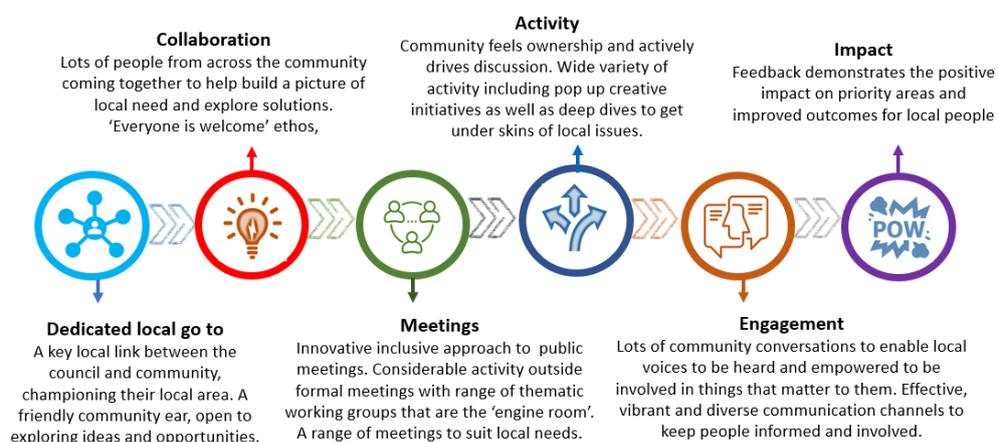
	all abilities, all communities garden to provide tranquil space for anyone with physical or mental disabilities.
Wexham & The Ivers	Active travel scheme - A scheme to add bicycle rack to both recreation grounds in the Ivers.
Wing & Ivinghoe	Funding towards new play area equipment in Mentmore and new aerial runway in Aston Abbotts Aylesbury Vale & Milton Keynes Sexual Assault & Abuse Support Service (SAASS) as above.
Winslow & Villages	Crisis funding to support young carers who have been referred to the service in Winslow and Villages. Funding towards new play equipment in Oving and Great Horwood. Aylesbury Vale & Milton Keynes Sexual Assault & Abuse Support Service (SAASS) as above.

5. Plans for 2021/2022

Community Boards are still in their infancy and have made a good start in establishing themselves in what has been a challenging and unprecedented year. It is important to highlight that the Localism Service staff providing support to community boards have also had continued involvement in providing the Covid-19 emergency response, and it has therefore been critical that stretched resources have been deployed to priority areas.

Improvement plans for the community boards are now in place. As part of the process for 're-starting' after the election, the Localism Service is carrying out a review during April to identify opportunities to refine the approach next year, with an emphasis on refreshing guidance on funding and governance arrangements. The development and implementation plan responds directly to the key areas identified in the 'Buckinghamshire journey to good' outlined in the infographic below.

What good looks like – Journey to Good:



The priorities for the implementation plan include:

1. End of year reflection sessions with key partners
2. Updated guidance on funding, governance and terms of reference for the Board
3. Refresh of Community Board profiles (Health and Wellbeing and Community Safety)
4. Planning for 'restart' and inductions sessions
5. Engagement with partners and services to develop a 'menu of ideas' for community boards – including health and wellbeing initiatives linked to the Health and Wellbeing profiles.
6. Engagement and Action plans for each board.

6. Communities and Localism Select Committee Inquiry:

The recommendations set out in the [select committee report](#) on the effectiveness of community organisation grants during the pandemic centre around building a community development strengths-based approach. It is widely recognised across the strategic partnerships that the community board model plays an important role in helping communities supporting themselves and will be key to achieving the priorities set out in the Health and Wellbeing Board's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The Boards will be able to know where there may be concerns and look at local solutions or explore removing any barriers that hinder communities supporting one another. This is a longer-term place shaping community development approach. As the community board model matures, and opportunities from across the council and key partners are understood, the ambitions for a strength-based approach will be possible. Part of this will include working with Public Health and the Community Engagement and Development team on upskilling Community Board Coordinators on strength-based approaches to community development with a focus on using this approach to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for residents.

7. Community Board Engagement activity (Consultation and Engagement)

As Buckinghamshire comes out of the national lockdown, community boards will be able to go 'out and about' and engage with their community more, as originally planned, and will start to canvass the community on their priority areas for community boards.

As part of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy first year action plan, Health and Wellbeing Board members committed to supporting three community workshops (based on North, Central and South areas) to take place in summer 2021. This will provide an opportunity for Boards to consider how they can support the Start Well, Live Well and Age Well priorities set out by the board.

Summer Workshop Events:

Initial scoping conversations have taken place to start planning for remote workshop events to take place in July.

A project team is to be established incorporating representation from HWB members and the Localism team to plan the events. An initial outline for comment can be found below:

Date: 3 x events in July

Purpose of events:

- For community boards, partners and residents to gain greater awareness on local health and wellbeing issues (and share soft intelligence and insight)
- Opportunity to build consensus around priorities for community boards and how they might be tackled
- Networking - Develop relationships and energise communities towards shared goals and connect like-minded people.

Suggested Programme

Introduction to Session: Welcome and Q&A Panel consisting of Cabinet Member (HWB Board Chair), key local partners, Community Board chairs,

The event would then take the form of a selection of innovative and interactive workshop sessions which attendees choose to attend:

Including:

- Public health and wellbeing profile sessions
- VCSE sessions (meet local groups)
- Buckinghamshire Council service area sessions to showcase 'menu of ideas'
- Integrated Care Partnership led sessions (focus on health inequalities)

Recommendation: The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the broad outline, make suggestions for the workshop events and allocate a representative to sit on the project group.

8. Next steps and review

- Health and Wellbeing profiles to be updated (April – June)
- Community Board annual reports (April/May)
- The Community Engagement and Development team are working with Community Board coordinators to take forward the Health and Wellbeing Board's priority work on Social Isolation. In the next phase (April - September), a toolkit will be developed for community boards to support them in developing local solutions to tackle social isolation in their communities, building on the COVID experience.
- The Localism Service will be working with services across the council and partners to compile suggested menu of ideas for community boards in 2021/22 (April – June 2022)
- New governance and funding guidance and community board handbook to be published as part of the induction programme following the elections in May.
- Workshop events will take place in mid-July.

- The intention is that each community board area will then be able to identify a 'health and wellbeing' area of focus for their community board action plan.
- Community Board funded schemes will continue to be aligned to the Health and Wellbeing Being Strategy priorities. Start Well, Live Well, Age Well and boards will be able to include reference to this as part of criteria on funding bids so that they are able to report back on this in the community board annual reports.

Background papers

None.