

## **Full Council, 8 October 2024**

### **Councillor Maggie Sutton: Portfolio Holder for Communities Report**

## **Communities Team Update – September 2024**

Manager: Carla Claydon

Officers: Angie Greneski (AG), Kerry Vinton (KV), Fleur Brookes (FB), Sue Hayden (SH), John Starr (JS), Dave Toombs (DT)

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### **Youth projects**

Work continues to support sustainable youth projects.

The funding for voluntary groups across the locality – Thaxted, Great Sampford, Ashdon, Swards End, Hatfield Heath, Carver Barracks /Debden – has been agreed and we will link in with ECC's full time youth worker for Uttlesford for delivery.

### **School engagement**

Saffron Walden County High School have requested a visit to UDC to meet with Councillors and officers to learn how the Council operates and ask questions.

### **Equality Steering Group – Lead Officer KV**

UDC had its inaugural EDI Meeting Group on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024. This group is made up of 15 members of staff from across the Council and will meet bi-monthly to look at policies, procedures and EDI practises in UDC, making recommendations and agreeing actions.

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### **Ukrainian update Lead Officer DT**

We continue to work with resettlement lead Jody Nason to establish a defined process and governance framework that will enable Ukrainians to access the support and financial support they may need.

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### **UKSPF funding – Lead Officer SH**

The UKSPF supports the UK governments commitment to levelling up all parts of the UK by providing funding for projects which restore a sense of pride and community. The Community and Economic Development Team are working closely on projects that include play areas, community sports and buildings.

### **Voluntary sector providers grants – Lead Officer SH**

The new commissioning grant funding process that will apply to funding requests made to UDC from voluntary and charitable organisations was approved at Cabinet on the 5<sup>th</sup> September. It provides a structured framework, consistency, and transparency, and will assist UDC with meeting its objectives as outlined in the Corporate Plan.

The grant, for revenue expenditure only, cannot be used towards capital projects such as refurbishment of buildings. Organisations that have received funding in the past includes Citizens Advice, Uttlesford Community Travel, Volunteer Uttlesford and Home-Start Essex.

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### **Community Safety Partnership– Lead Officer AG**

Following the success of the SOS space in Saffron Walden, we are going to be implementing a new Hub Space in Thaxted in November. This space allows residents to conduct face to face meetings with a variety of agencies for support with mental health, housing needs, substance dependence and cost of living. It is anticipated that there will be significant demand for this service, and members will be asked to support the promotion of this.

UDC's new CCTV Policy was agreed by Cabinet on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024. This policy provides a consistent approach to how we will manage our CCTV and requests for installation and footage across the Council.

The Community Safety Hub continues to be well attended, with upwards of 15 partner agencies attending. Members are asked to consider where the hub can support any issues they may have in their wards.

### **PFCC Funding**

The CSP endorsed two projects bids for the PFCC's Community Development Fund.

The CSP is continuing its application for Safer Streets funding for projects to reduce crime and ASB in UDC.

### **Safeguarding update – Lead Officer FB**

The new Safeguarding Policy, Procedure and staff booklet was approved by Cabinet on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Recent themes emerging from safeguarding concerns raised include neglect and mental health issues. There continues to be a steady number of cases have been submitted via our internal system, with several resulting in social care referrals. We continue to support tenants alongside the housing team.

MACE 1 and 2: no concerns with regards to MACE 1 have been shared. There will be further outreach work to the hotels in the district, with our police colleagues, to raise awareness of CSE/CE and this will be organised in the coming months depending on workloads.

### **Licensing**

We are in the process of providing bleed kits for our Public Houses in Saffron Walden and Stansted, and funding has been secured via the CSP.

Monthly Pub watch is attended by Fleur, along with licensing colleagues, and this has benefitted links with our licensed premises within the district and strengthened reporting of concerns.

### **Domestic Abuse**

We obtained DA Navigator funding from Essex, circa £22,000. This will provide our commissioned domestic abuse provider, Next Chapter, with a funded post for Uttlesford for 2024/25. In addition, a monthly steering group has been set up to review policies and procedures and share good practice and discuss how we can capture the voice of the victim once support has been put in place by housing and support agencies.