

Full Council, 17 December 2024

Councillor Maggie Sutton: Portfolio Holder for Communities

Communities Team Update – November 2024

Manager: Carla Claydon

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

Youth projects

Work continues to support sustainable youth projects across the district.

The funding for voluntary groups across the locality – Thaxted, Great Sampford, Ashdon, Swards End, Hatfield Heath, Carver Barracks /Debden – has been agreed.

We are planning to link in with ECC's full time youth worker for Uttlesford.

School engagement

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

Health and wellbeing Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) met for the first time on the 21st October 2024 and was well received, with Jan Eke acting as Chair.

The HWB is a statutory committee of Uttlesford District Council (UDC) established in accordance with section 194 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

It will be subject to any amendment or replacement of regulation or guidance, and where applicable, to any legislation relevant to the functions, powers and duties of Health and Wellbeing Boards.

The purpose of the Board is to improve the health and wellbeing of the residents of Uttlesford and address health inequalities by:

- Providing a strategic lead for UDC's local health and care provision and improving the commissioning and delivery of services across local government, the NHS and its partners.
- Promote co-production with organisations and the voluntary sector to deliver the best value for money services to residents of UDC.
- Support the integrated delivery of health, social care and other services within the HWBB's health-related responsibilities/outcomes (for example, housing, planning, leisure, community activity, etc.).
- Provide a key relationship with the Integrated Care Board (ICB), the West Essex and Hertfordshire Integrated Care System (ICS) and the West Essex

Health Care Partnership including sharing priorities, progress and assurance where agreed.

- Maintain a key forum for public and joint accountability of NHS, public health, social care for adults and children and other commissioned

A further HWB update meeting was held on the 25th of November, where the action groups updated on progress and the Terms of Reference have been agreed.

Ukraine and refugee/asylum seekers update

–

Ukrainian update Lead Officer (vacant)

Projects are going well.

- Some difficulties with encouraging exercise classes & this may be due to the lack of suitable space.
- Difficulty with finding volunteering opportunities – TouchPoint provided details of organisations that have been helpful in the past.
- We are still receiving ad hoc requests for funding for families moving into accommodation
- ECC updated on Permission to Travel Letters – they expire in Feb and can be used until this date. We may see an influx in arrivals before the expiry. Note that letters issued before Feb 2022 give 3-year permission to remain, letters after this date only give a year.

New Community Grants

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. They are currently exploring Community Supermarket ideas with external providers.

Voluntary sector providers grants – Lead Officer SH

The new funding cycle went live on the 18th November and letters have been sent to all lead agencies, and will close before Christmas. This new commissioning & grant funding approach will apply to funding requests made to UDC from voluntary and charitable organisations. If implemented, the process will provide a structured framework, consistency, and transparency, and will assist UDC with meeting its objectives as outlined in the Corporate Plan.

The grant is for revenue expenditure only and 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.

Community safety – Lead Officer AG

The Community Safety Partnership – Lead Officer AG

The new SOS space was launched in Takeley on the last Thursday of the month, 10-2pm, at The Community Hub, Old School House, Takeley. This space enables 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.

March saw the Uttlesford CSP develop a delivery plan of projects to meet the priorities set out from the strategic assessment and in line with the PFCCs priorities.

- Reducing drug driven violence.
- Further investment in crime prevention.
- Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse.
- Reducing violence against women and girls.
- Improving support for victims of crime.
- Protecting rural and isolated areas.
- Preventing dog theft.

We are in the process of drafting our 3-year CSP strategy and this will reflect the priorities outlined by Roger Hirst, PFCC.

The Community Safety Hub is still 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.

Safeguarding update – Lead Officer FB

Safeguarding training attendance KPI data has been submitted to the relevant department and is being monitored by SMT.

The Section 11 Audit for Essex Children's Safeguarding Board was submitted within the allocated timeframe. The responses were collated by ECSB and shared September with other districts to discuss the outcomes.

Recent themes emerging from safeguarding concerns raised include dementia and mental health issues. We continue to support tenants alongside the housing team.

Domestic Abuse

We obtained DA Navigator funding from Essex, circa £22,000, which 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 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.