

Councillor Maggie Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Communities
Report to Council, 25 February 2025
Communities Team Update

Manager: Carla Claydon

Officers: Angie Greneski (AG), Kerry Vinton (KV), Fleur Brookes (FB), Sue Hayden (SH), Andrew Schmiedecke, (AS) 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 linking in with all the youth serve providers across the district to collaborate, share best practise and set the direction for the next twelve months.

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 second time on the 29th January to set objectives for the direction of the Action Groups for the current and coming year.

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

Funding is now live. Organisations can bid for between £500-5000 in funding for projects that support the action group objectives. The funding closes on the 10th March 2025.

Ukraine and refugee/asylum seekers update

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Ukrainian update Lead Officer SH

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 updated on Ukraine Permission Extension (UPE) scheme payments
- Thank you' payments
- Ukraine Permission Extension (UPE) scheme (visa they can apply for when their HFU visa ends)

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 have recently entered into a Community Supermarket initiative with external providers.

Voluntary sector providers grants – Lead Officer AS

The new funding cycle has now closed, and the grants have been awarded and are pending ratification at Cabinet. Letters have been sent to all those who have been unsuccessful. The new commissioning & grant funding approach provided a structured framework, consistency, and transparency, and will support UDC with meeting its objectives as outlined in the Corporate Plan.

The Health and Wellbeing Grants went live on Monday 3rd January and will close on the 10th March.

The small one-off project grants are also available for small projects such as pilot schemes and new one-off projects.

Community safety – Lead Officer AG

The Community Safety Partnership – Lead Officer AG

The new SOS space was launched in Takeley on the Third Wednesday of the month, 9-1pm, 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 Community 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.

A new Domestic Abuse Policy has been drafted and will be going through the governance process soon.