

# Communities Team Update – September 2025

## Cllr Maggie Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Communities

### Report to Full Council – 14 October 2025

Manager: Carla Claydon

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

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#### **Youth projects**

The second Youth Partnerships meeting is took place on the 29th of September 2025. This multi-agency meeting brings statutory and voluntary organisations together to explore where they can collaborate on youth provisions, identify local needs and gaps, and opportunities.

#### **School engagement**

We are working closely with secondary schools from across the district at the ASB Forum (youth) and John and Cllr Sutton are speaking to schools about better engagement and working more closely with together.

#### **Health and Wellbeing Board**

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The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is next meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October and it will review the progress of the nine projects it has funded against the set objectives.

The HWB has been engaging with staff this year, offering health checks, and looking to introduce wellbeing champions to support the workforce.

#### **Ukraine and Refugee/Asylum seekers update**

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##### **Ukrainian update Lead Officer (SH)**

Projects are going well. The group is meeting every month to review current projects and identify challenges in delivery.

We are in regular contact with the service providers and those eligible for the scheme and our overseas arrivals residents to ensure that we are supporting them.

#### **New Community Grants**

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The one-off grants have recently closed and we are reviewing the applications.

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

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

The CSP booklet was recently sent to over 9,000 properties across the district offering crime prevention, advice, safety advice and advice on scams. This booklet is also available on our website, in reception and in accessible formats upon request.

The new SOS meetings are going well when combined with the Community Supermarket. 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.

In September the CSP is attending Scrutiny to discharge its duties from the year.

The Cllr drop-ins were not utilised, and we are looking at alternative methods and venues to engage with Cllr's.

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

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

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

Fleur and Carla Claydon have been visiting all the team meetings across the Council to talk to teams about the safeguarding procedure and answer any questions.

### **Domestic Abuse**

We obtained DA Navigator funding from Essex, circa £22,000 which has been provided to the Housing Options Team for dedicated domestic abuse officer who will support homeless applicants.

The j9 training is continuing across the district. It is being delivered by Alfa Vesta and facilitated by the Police and Council. We recently saw Newport Pharmacy obtain accreditation, and they are the first Pharmacy to do this in Essex.

### **Anti-social behaviour – Lead Officer TD**

Tanveer has implemented the new ASB Forums (Youth and Adult) and he is working closely with John to set up the Youth Partnerships Group and the Youth Voice Group.

He has a busy caseload, having dealt with over 80 new cases since he started in April.