

## **Environment, Health & Wellbeing Cabinet Advisory Committee**

### **Health & Wellbeing Portfolio Update – Cabinet Member Cllr. Angela Harrison**

#### **Introduction**

This report provides the Cabinet Advisory Committee with an update from the Health & Wellbeing Portfolio.

#### **COVID Community Support**

There are a range of support services that are currently operating to support the health & wellbeing of the wider community in relation to COVID19 specifically in the form.

- Self-isolation support programme is still available, and we have seen an uplift in requests since the emergence of the Omicron variant. Citizens Advice Swale acting as the central referral hub for all residents in need of support. Some ongoing discussions regarding the change in requirements for PCR tests but have advised that a PCR test will still be required for those wishing to access this grant scheme.
- Household Support Fund (Winter Grants) launched before Christmas and we are seeing significant demand for this service. Support provided for households struggling with any food, fuel and/or housing costs and covers quite a broad spectrum of qualifying elements. Demand for this has been very high and we have been able to set up an account with an online voucher provider to streamline the service and make the delivery of vouchers to residents much quicker. This service also means residents can arrange online food shopping to be delivered which can help support those self-isolating. Officers from the Housing team are leading delivery of this with support from Community Development with almost 70 households currently in receipt of support.
- We are supporting the local effort for increasing take-up of the vaccination and booster programme.

#### **Breaking Barriers Innovation**

Born from a series of projects with local government and the NHS, BBI were formed to help support the transition of UK public services into place-based planning, making full use of all community assets with service users and front-line practitioners are at the heart of the design process. BBI believe that place offers the solution to some of the biggest public service challenges we face, including sustaining good quality health, wellbeing, and prosperity. BBI was established to develop practical approaches that are evidence-led and strongly supported by coalitions of system leaders, the workforce, and the communities they all serve.

BBI have developed the *Playbook Programme* with a select number of local and national partners including Health Education England. The Playbook Programme

uses an evidence-based approach to develop shared action plans for local authorities, NHS, Third Sector, and industry partners to take forward. The full details of the Playbook Programme are contained in the presentation appended to this report.

Project team have carried out research and completed interviews with officers and representatives from many partner organisations. This engagement will continue with national stakeholders, local employers, and the education & skills sector representatives. It is intended to have the evaluation of programme impacts and outcomes agreed by all future funding partners ahead of phase 2 which is scheduled for March 2022. To date, the findings from the interviews completed identified:

1. Gap between local planning, health, and schools.
2. Good partnership work with NHS, VCS, and schools during the pandemic, but fears this will not continue.
3. Opportunity for radical new approaches to primary care delivery – aligns with HEE & NHSE ambitions.
4. Challenge of recruitment and retention in education sector as well as health and care.
5. Alignment between skills pipeline, current and future needs around employment.
6. VCS organisations treated as anchors by default.
7. Robust community engagement model needed that tackles issue of distrust between users and system.

## **Xantura**

Part of the Xantura pilot rollout from Kent County Council which utilises predictive analysis to identify low-income families in need of additional support, this also cuts across housing portfolio. This will enable us to target support more effectively to these households and start to implement a range of pro-active preventative workstreams and projects. Funding from KCC provides support for process as well as staffing resources to analyse data and target families identified to provide support.

Policy in Practice project ongoing although slower than anticipated due to resources. Will be a main element of work for new officers joining team over next couple of months. Analysis to fully understand difference and overlaps of two systems will be carried out in coming months.

## **COMF Funding - Digital Inclusion**

This project to deliver digital inclusion support and improvements on the Isle of Sheppey and is funded by two grant allocations received by SBC: £19,904 from KCC's Helping Hands fund plus £35,000 Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) grant. The project has three main focus areas:

1. Practical digital skills support delivered by the Pyramid Project CIC.
2. Bespoke digital support delivered by voluntary and community sector groups.
3. Infrastructural support to vital services across Sheppey.

The funding has been distributed across organisations delivering support for scheme as follows:

- £19,904 allocated to Pyramid Project CIC.
- £4,000 allocated to Sheppey Matters' *Mobile Matters* project.
- £4,995 allocated to Children & Families Ltd.'s digital afterschool project.
- £5,000 allocated to Sheppey Support Bus's digital connectivity set-up costs.
- £21,000 allocated to Sheppey Digital Cafes project run with oversight by Sheppey Matters.

Grant agreements are in place for all allocations; the total spend and number of residents supported by each strand will be collected and reported at the end of each month until end of March.

### **Health & Wellbeing Action Plan**

Document currently under review with a report being produced for Cabinet in March. Report will identify progress against action plan to date and identify projects being planned and implemented over the coming operational year that directly support delivery of plan.

### **Active Lives Framework**

Presented to Cabinet in December and authority to share draft for 8-week consultation received. Consultation delayed slightly to align commencement with post-Christmas return and latest Omicron related Covid-19 spike in cases. As a result, final version will be delayed from March 2022 and will be scheduled for new operational year once dates published.

### **Health Sector Meetings**

Majority of meetings across this sector have been cancelled recently with the surge in Covid-19 cases as a result of the Omicron variant identified as the reason.

Whole systems approach to obesity – led by KCC, meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November to progress information gathering with following up on 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November to share vision. No further meetings planned at present.

Housing group meeting to discuss housing and health across Kent.

Social Prescribing implementation group meeting setting out the pilot study for social prescribing which began in December. First trial to go ahead from 21<sup>st</sup> February.

### **General Team Overview**

- *Community, Health & Wellbeing Grant Scheme* - funding allocation of £20,000 made live in November 2021. To date, 8 applications have been received with a total request of £6,134. All applications apart from one have been received from sports clubs to date. Will need a concerted effort to encourage applications for the remaining funds before the end of the financial year.
- Turnover of staff has led to some delays in projects. One post has been successfully recruited to with interviews scheduled for remaining vacant post for 19<sup>th</sup> Jan and expecting a successful outcome. Team expected to be fully staffed by mid-March.
- Faversham Community Fridge – ongoing discussions with Macknade Foodhall but further work required to identify funding and partner research to develop project. Project on hold until new officer appointed.