

South Lakeland District Council
Council
18 December 2018
Executive Report – Mid Year 2018/19

Portfolio: Health and Wellbeing Portfolio
Report from: Cllr Philip Dixon

Portfolio Responsibilities

To work with other tiers of government, community groups and other relevant partners to enhance the health and wellbeing of residents.

Alleviate the harmful effects of poverty in the district, looking at issues to address those who are disadvantaged.

Working with key partners with regards to welfare reforms.

Nominated representative on the Health and Wellbeing Board as appropriate.

To drive our Localism agenda.

Policies, Plans and Strategies

- Community Strategy
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Public Health
- Community Safety Strategy

Key Areas:

- Localism
- Devolution
- Public Health
- Community Development
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy
- Voluntary Sector in relation to Health and Wellbeing Sector
- Health and Safety

Devolution

The Council continuously monitors any updates regarding devolution deals closely to prepare for any changes or mitigations that may be required from the County Councils outcome. SLDC are continuing to progress key relationships with other authorities in health, housing and economic growth.

Public Health

Key areas to highlight in relation to public health include that the smoking prevalence for South Lakeland has dropped below 10% (9.4%) according to Public Health England Statistics.

96% of food businesses in the district have Food Safety rating of 5 or 4 meaning they have a good standard of food hygiene. According to Which Consumer Insight, for 2016/17 South Lakeland was in the top 5% for good food hygiene levels at catering establishments, overall ranked at 18 out of 389. The statistics for 2017/18 have not yet been released.

The Council is continuing to encourage food establishments within the district as well as neighbouring authorities to take part in a new Healthier Menus and Breastfeeding friendly schemes. At present 80 businesses and public buildings have signed up to the Breastfeeding Friendly Award. Taking part in the award is a way that communities and businesses can show that they welcome and support breastfeeding. There are high numbers of sign ups in Kendal and Ulverston

Officers have been supporting the development of the Cumbria Public Health Strategy. This strategy is based around the determinants of health, which recognises the built and natural environment, the type of employment people are involved in and the activities we take part in are some of the main factors influencing health. The Public Health Strategy will be taken to Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and Council in the New Year.

The Council has created a Health Advocate group to look ways of supporting better physical and mental health of employees across the organisation. This group has been working towards and successfully achieved the Bronze Better Health at Work Award.

Walk Leader training is currently being offered to increase social walking to members and officers. Members can use the training to offer their own walk leader training in their local community and officers to run lunchtime walks with colleagues or in their local area. The training covers:

- The benefits of walking, how to overcome barriers and motivate others to walk
- What is a Health Walk and the Role of the Walk Leader
- How to plan, organise and lead a walk safely
- Route Planning and Risk Assessments

Community Development and Localism

The Building Financial Resilience Partnership is continuing to work with external organisations to offer financial support opportunities across the District. The aim of the partnership is to ensure communities are not excluded from an acceptable standard of living.

The partnership has been organised into 7 task groups:

1. Increase partner collaboration and publicise support available

2. Build local wealth
3. Increase access to skills and education
4. Reduce fuel poverty
5. Food waste and re-distribution
6. Increase sign up to Environment Agency Flood warning service
7. Investigate Poverty Truth Commission taking place in Morecambe

Following a recent meeting partners have expressed a strong continuation of the group as the meeting are developing into a creative collaborative networking session where new initiatives and links are being taken forward.

To date the group has been successful in meeting some of the key outcomes from the Building Financial Resilience Action Plan. A fuel poverty and money advice scheme (LEAP) has now been launched to provide free energy saving household improvements and advice on switching and budgeting to households within South Lakeland experiencing fuel poverty.

The Morecambe Bay Poverty Truth commission attended a partner meeting and the group is now linked in with their work. South Lakes News are also including articles in each issue to give practical advice/signposting to raise awareness of helpful schemes and promote the work of partners.

The Council is providing 'Assisted digital support' to assist customers in making and maintaining claims for Universal Credit and referring customers having difficulty with payments to the 'Personal Budgeting Support' course provided by Citizens Advice Bureau. Ongoing improvements are being made to the Councils webpage links to the Building Financial Resilience page. A social media campaign to get information out to those in need is currently in the planning stages. The Councils Revenue and Benefits department are managing alternative payments arrangements of housing benefit, or Universal Credit (not rent) to pay direct to landlords in certain circumstances.

The number of organisations using the Multi Agency Referral Systems (MARS) has increased from 60 to 90 (correct in September). Age UK have used the partner meetings to promote this system and have also committed to promoting the system within small charities. The Kendal Integrated Care Communities (ICC) have also been made aware of the resources available through MARs to aid with 'social prescribing'.

The Council will continue to assist communities by building relationships with parish councils to promote the benefits and opportunities of localism.

Crime and Reduction Disorder

The South Cumbria Community Safety Partnership (CSP) identified four key priorities for 2018/19. These would include a focus on improving and increasing awareness on Mental Health, Domestic Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation and Alcohol and Violent Crime.

The South Cumbria CSP group meeting has maintained excellent attendance from all agencies who have responded to its thematic agendas focusing on the priorities.

To date the CSP has linked with Morecambe Bay Clinical Commissioning Group around mental health pathways from prison and provided 10 Get Safe Online cybercrime workshops attracting just under 200 participants. The CSP has also funded CADAS to work with Springfield (Domestic abuse support in South Lakeland) to work with victims and perpetrators to tackle their substance abuse.

The Applied Theatre in Cumbria project is launching year 2 with a 'Meet the Creative Team' event in January 2019. The event will allow participating schools and stakeholders to contribute to the performance and script. The theme around the building critical thinking and decision making skills for 14 year olds based around scenarios of drugs and County Lines.

Health and Safety

The Corporate Health and Safety Advisor is working closely with Human Resources to coordinate behavioural safety and behavioural framework aims and objectives which we anticipate will lead to a culture responsibility. Health and Safety will also play a big part in any future training for our staff as part of the Customer Connect process and training of staff continues to embed the positive safety culture we are working toward in our vision.

Street Scene and Health and Safety continue with endeavouring to improve safety performance by implementing a fair and just culture. All future recycling boxes will be 44 litre rather than 55 litre, this will reduce staff fatigue and incrementally reduce the potential weight of boxes and help reduce potential MSD's.

SLDC's partnership with Craven DC continues with the implementation of a three year safety and health strategy. This has also led to sharing good practice and engagement with staff from both Councils.