



Meeting Date: 3rd January 2023

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Elizabeth Mallinson**

SAFER STREETS / LOCAL FOCUS HUB / COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

Members will be aware that the Council has appointed a team of three Safer Streets Officers. The staff are now fully trained and provide a visible presence in our City Centre as part of our **VAWG**** initiative, working in partnership with the Police and the volunteers from the Welfare Hub. Training with Cumbria Police has included inputs on conflict management, County Lines and Child Exploitation along with an input from the city Licensing Team. Initially expected to work Saturday evening through to Sunday morning, the Safer Streets Officers are being deployed to work other evenings for example when we expect footfall in the city centre to increase, perhaps related to an important televised football match or in the run up to Christmas.

****Note: VAWG – Violence Against Women And Girls – project funded by the Home Office, via a PCC grant.**

Local Focus Hub Manager continuing to work with Police and other partners in response to the Festive Period on the expected heavy footfall nights. Looking at providing taxi marshals, ensuring the Safer Street Officers are working at the right times to support vulnerable people, linking in with NWAS (North West Ambulance Service), British Transport Police and Police Street Triage Officers

Carlisle City Council already work in partnership with Police and other partners to deal with street begging however this project would offer further support but also different options to deal with illegal street begging.

Officers attended a workshop on 15th December to discuss the strategic priorities of a new Cumberland Community Safety Partnership. This workshop brought together Officers and members from Local Authorities, Safer Cumbria, PCC, Public Health, Cumbria Fire & Rescue, Housing, Probation, Public Health, Cumbria Constabulary, Recovery Steps and other NHS organisations.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Wellbeing Walks continue to be very well attended with 30 people attending the morning walk and 20 people attending the afternoon walk. The walks are supported by a group of trained volunteers.

FOOD CARLISLE

Food Carlisle recently hosted their Food Summit, bringing together partners from across the food system with the new Cumberland Councillors, to garner further support for future food related work. Some useful feedback was collected and there are a variety of topics to consider whilst planning the food partnership's work going forward. Donations were also collected for our Partner Carlisle Foodbank.

Following a year of food related events tying in with the Hadrian's Wall 1900th anniversary celebrations, the Food at the Frontier Producers Trail is now available, with 21 local sustainable food producers and businesses on board. The Partnership is looking to expand this work next year, in collaboration with the Hadrian's Wall Partnership.

Officers have also been working to improve representation on the partnership and are working with students at James Rennie School to develop more community growing projects around the City which young people can get involved with.

ARMED FORCES COVENANT – CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL GOLD AWARD

On Tuesday 6th December Carlisle City Council officially received its Gold Standard Award for its 'outstanding' support for the Armed Forces Community. It is the only District Council in Cumbria to achieve the **Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award**. Representing the highest badge of honour, Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Gold Awards are awarded to those that employ and support those who serve, veterans and their families.

To win an award, organisations must have supportive HR policies in place for veterans, Reserves, and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers, as well as spouses and partners of those serving in the Armed Forces.

Organisations must also advocate the benefits of supporting those within the Armed Forces community by encouraging others to sign the Armed Forces Covenant and engage in the Employer Recognition Scheme.

Forces Link

On Monday, 28th November at the Civic Centre, Forces Link organised training to give an insight into what it's like to have served in the military, transition to civilian life and what support is available should someone need it. It was aimed at roles who may deal with the Armed Forces community in their job role or through volunteer work.

New legal powers to support armed forces families and veterans

Councils, NHS Trusts and other local bodies across the UK providing services to the Armed Forces community are now required to adhere to a new legal duty which puts legal responsibility on services to embody the Armed Forces Covenant. The Covenant is a promise to treat members of the armed forces community fairly.

The duty means that authorities must now consider how their decision-making impacts upon members of the Armed Forces community. The services covered include healthcare, housing and education. The Covenant 'Duty of Due Regard' was included in the Armed Forces Bill of 2021, enshrining it in law. In addition to personnel and veterans living in England, the duty will also apply to those in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

WHO – ANNUAL BUSINESS AND TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

The WHO Business and Technical Conference brought learning from across the WHO European Region and beyond, attracting politicians, key decision-makers and technical experts. The 2022 Conference demonstrated pioneering work regionally and globally and the One Health Agenda. Carlisle had three abstracts accepted as part of a competitive process with over 120 submissions and only 50 invited to present. The projects were:

- Pollinators at the Heart of the City
- Thriving Communities
- Place Standard in Practice

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Much of our activity is focussed on having a smooth transition into Cumberland Council. We are driving a Knowledge Base project which will collate information on all services we provide across all legacy Councils. This platform will be accessible to all Advisors across the County so we can provide our customers a uniformed service. This platform is built on the same technology that allowed Carlisle City Council to have such a positive response to the covid pandemic and is a good example of Carlisle influencing service delivery on Day 1 and beyond. We are also integral in the telephony, face-to-face and email Day 1 design.

We will continue to be a positive influence on the LGR project to ensure our customers are the main consideration during service design.