

Meeting Date: 5th January 2021

Public/Private*: Public

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

CARLISLE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GROUP

Carlisle Community Resilience Group was established in March 2020 and to date continues to meet regularly (currently every other week), working with Partners to support resilience work, recovery and cascade key information top down and bottom up. The response from Partners and particularly the community across Carlisle continues to be amazing.

A wide range of community partners, organisations and groups remains jointly chaired by Cumbria County Council and Carlisle City Council. The group continues to operation on a task / action bases and ensuring effective communication between agencies (both top down and bottom up).

Subgroups below CaCRG. are working on key themed areas. These subgroups have been carefully structured on intelligence, data and consultation with stakeholders.

1. **Children and Families** (key updates include: A think family approach focused on early intervention, It's NOT OK Campaign, establishment of 4 Task Groups)
2. **Community Emergency Response Groups** (Key updates include: supporting community food provision, Children holiday activities, two winter resilience events, supporting partnership funding bids)
3. **Health and Wellbeing** [WHO Carlisle Health Forum] (Key updates include: Development of digital online collaborative space, Mental health directory, Healthy weight Task Group scoping, Shielding support, Action Plan development)
4. **Welfare and Hardship** (Key updates include: Development of SharePoint, refreshed TOR, development of partner priorities, support and promotion of Covid Business Grants).

DOMESTIC ABUSE CODE OF GUIDANCE DRAFT AMENDMENTS

The Domestic Abuse Bill is passing through the Parliamentary process and will introduce a new category of priority need which effectively removes the 'vulnerability' test for those

who are homeless as a result of being a victim of domestic abuse. Draft amendments to the Homelessness Code of Guidance have been made so that local authorities can begin to prepare for the change ahead of commencement of the legislation, which should include providing appropriate training to staff.

A Domestic Abuse Local Strategic Partnership Board is already established, which reports to Safer Cumbria, and will provide advice in performing certain specified functions including: to assess the need for support for all victims of domestic abuse and their children within safe accommodation and prepare and publish strategies based on the needs assessment; deciding what support services are required and commissioning these accordingly. The Homeless Prevention and Accommodation Services Manager has ensured the draft homelessness prevention priorities contained within the strategy for 2021 - 2026 are aligned with local and national Domestic Abuse strategies where relevant and is represented on the Local Partnership Board.

DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS

Loren Nicholson our new Disabled Adaptation Trusted Assessor and Amelia Morphet the Service Manager for DFGs from the Housing and Pollution Team, took part in an online presentation organised through Foundations, the governing body for Disabled Facilities Grants. They presented to over 350 online participants at the event in October, showcasing Carlisle City Council as an organisation with a leading DFG service. Since the presentation Officers have been assisting other Local Authorities who were interested to hear our story and the way the service has developed.

Since the Disabled Adaptation Trusted Assessor started fully in their role in July 2020, they have dealt with 36 cases, carrying out 23 in home assessments and making 18 referrals back to other organisations for additional assistance. We have turned around some referrals within days, by using the new post and the new independent living grants. We have also been linking with the third sector and health more proactively to provide information about the services on offer to assist the more vulnerable in our communities.

HEALTHY CITY TEAM - Active Spaces

Tribune Drive Play Area – following a successful community consultation in the summer a tendering process was conducted based on the preferences of residents and Kompan Scotland were selected as the successful supplier for new play equipment at Tribune Drive, Houghton. The new play equipment was installed in November, following which our drainage contractor, Waitings Ltd, have been on site installing a new network of land drains in and around the play area. New rubber ‘wet pour’ and wood chip safety surfacing has since been installed and the site is due to be opened for public use imminently.

Hammonds Pond Play Area – tenders for the supply and installation of new play equipment and safety surfacing for Hammonds Pond, Upperby are currently out for quotations. The tenders were guided by the extensive feedback received in a public consultation which was conducted in Autumn. Residents and park users requested that the new play equipment be robustly built, installed on surfacing which does not flood or

become muddy and accessible by children of all abilities. The tenders therefore include upgrades of the safety surfacing on site together with the inclusion of a number of items on which children of all abilities (including wheelchair users) can play together. It is hoped that site works will commence in spring.

Dale End Field Pump Track – consulting engineers working on behalf of the Council are finalising plans for a brand new ‘pump track’ to be constructed on Dale End Field, Harraby. Pump tracks are designed for users of BMX bikes, scooters and even skateboards to develop their skills and improve their fitness and social skills. An application for full planning permission will be submitted once plans are received and construction is planned for Spring/Summer 2021. Funding for the track was raised by members of the local community working with Council Officers.

Thriving Communities

The City Council is working in partnership with a variety of organisations to put together a collective bid to the £1.4 million pound Thriving Communities Fund. Maximum grants of up to £50,000 will be available from this fund, which is being delivered by Arts Council England, with £1.15 million via National Academy for Social Prescribing, from the Department of Health and Social Care and £250,000 from Arts Council England, funded by the National Lottery. The deadline for bids is 8th January 2021. If successful, this will allow us to extend existing good work around arts and culture for health and wellbeing. The funding is for activities that will increase social connectedness and help communities cope with the impact of the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic.

WHO Healthy Cities Annual Business & Technical Conference

We were very pleased that three Carlisle based studies were used as part of the year’s annual conference showcasing some of the innovative work being delivered through the Healthy City Forum. The three case studies are:

- Food Aid in times of pandemic [Food aid in times of pandemic UNK-Carlisle-001 \(1\)\(1\).pptx](#)
- WHO cares about culture, health & wellbeing? [WHO Cares about Carlisle Culture Dec2020.pptx](#)
- Learning through practice—to Talk. [WHO Space to Talk presentation.pptx](#)

Social Prescribing

We continue to work closely with our NHS Social Prescribing link workers and other partners to develop opportunities. This included developing an Expression of Interest submitted to the Green Social Prescribing Programme in late October. A strong partnership involving NHS; Public Health Cumbria; Cumbria Wildlife Trust; Community Centres and Greenwich Leisure Limited developed and agreed the EOI, which was signed-off by Executive Director of Operations, North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT. Although the bid was not chosen to be one of four pilots across England, the partnership that developed and the planning work undertaken is providing a valuable basis for pursuing subsequent funding opportunities, such as for the Thriving Communities Fund, which we are bidding to as part of an even wider local partnership.