

Meeting Date: 27th April 2021

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel Vice Chair's Report –
Councillor Christine Finlayson**

Homeless Strategy Special Meeting – 28th January 2021

The Homeless Prevention and Accommodation Services has taken a comprehensive review of Homelessness.

There are many factors addressed in regard to homeless.

Firstly, an updated Strategy will help to prevent homelessness, rather than deal with homeless after it has occurred.

Part of the development of the Strategy reinforced the needs of care leavers, armed forces personnel, those at risk of multiple exclusions and domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Bill comes before Parliament in April 2021.

There are not many rough sleepers in the District but the Pandemic highlighted a different group of people at risk; those living with friends or family due to not having their own accommodation. The Covid 19 restrictions meant they had to find alternative accommodation of their own effectively making them homeless. This became a new awareness for the Homeless Team when people came to them for help.

The Government's Instruction to "Get Everyone In" during the cold weather of the first national lockdown was achievable because the Homelessness Team operated and implemented their Winter-Readiness Plan, which requires all rough sleepers to be accommodated during winter.

The Council has suitable accommodation for most needs. Even if a person has a pet they will be suitably accommodated whenever possible, if not arrangements are made to ensure their pet stays safe and well, whilst the person themselves are accommodated and looked after.

There was also a national freeze on evictions, the Council employed a Private Rented Sector Officer working with landlords in relation to evictions. The Team provided ongoing tenancy support and skills as well as providing rent safeguards in case of rent arrears. I'm sure it is worth mentioning the Team were able to draw down external funding that helped with the work. Well Done.

The Officers worked with Churches Together and other organisations providing support when individuals were ready, with the help of the Council, to move on to their own accommodation. This partnership support has included extra help with a furniture pack, and tenancy support. Churches Together then help people integrate into their community and supported them until they get settled.

There are many other elements included in the updated Strategy.

Full details of the discussions are to be found within the Minute Book.

Cllr Christine Finlayson
Vice Chair

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Panel Meeting – 25th February 2021

Community Centre Update

On considering the Report it was established that regular financial support from the City Council had continued during the Pandemic to all community centres. 7 No further request for financial assistance was required as Central Government offered various support packages to community centres.

It was confirmed that the City Council did liaise with Carlisle and District Federation of Community Organisations (Federation) to support community centres. The importance of good working relationships between the City Council and the Federation places the community centres in a good position to apply/access funding for all Centres.

The Health and Wellbeing benefits provided by community centres is invaluable. We are, I'm sure, very grateful for the diversity of programmes available to the communities in which they serve.

I would like to give a special thanks to those who work tirelessly in serving their communities in all they do that brings so much pleasure and enjoyment to many. Thank You.

A year of responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic

There have been many agencies involved in the response to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Funding submissions were made to the Lottery Fund which unfortunately were unsuccessful as the focus had changed from recovery work to funding projects. In light of this the Council were able to apply for other streams of funding.

Cumbria Community Resilience Forum met bi-weekly throughout this first year, operating as an information base that had been fed into. The Resilience Forum became a good

source of information in order to facilitate real help and resources to the community, which had worked extremely well. So successful was the working together, that the Officers had been recognised by an award from the High Sheriff of Cumbria. They were also commended for their work throughout the year.

Finance came in various forms of support from Central Government to individuals, businesses and the Council.

The Panel asked that their thanks be conveyed to all the organisations involved in the response to the Pandemic.

Quarter 3 Performance Report.

The Report made mention of how local authorities were seen to be a reliable source of information, particularly in times of emergency such as the pandemic. It was also mentioned that the Council's use of social media was regarded as outstanding and a very useful resource for residents and businesses

Waste recycling and ongoing delivery of services had been exceptional considering the restrictions under which the staff were operating.

Food Hub

There was a new Food City Co-ordinator appointed for a two-year period to ensure continuity of food supply.

Members of the Panel expressed their thanks to staff across the organisations for all their hard work during the Pandemic.

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Cllr Christine Finlayson
Vice Chair

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First of all I would like to thank Cllr Finlayson for the excellent job she has done during my absence.

Healthy City Plans

We were given a detailed account on the healthy city by one of our Senior Officers which was very well presented and the graphs that were included were easy to follow.

We spoke about the 6ps := Planet, Place, People, Participation, Prosperity and Peace of this programme for Carlisle Healthy City Strategy and response to Covid, we believe St Cuthbert's planning policies need to link in with this work.

There are a lot of partners including Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Public Health to name two who are working together to achieve the 6ps.

We were assured that the resources are in place to deliver this, we wish them every success.

Greenwich Leisure

We received a comprehensive report from Tom Rice (GLL) outlining the future plans of GLL, he told us that they were successful in obtaining grants from various sources and don't envisage having to get the Council to help them with more monies.

They told us about the opening plan for their centres, two of these have now been started on March 8th - Trinity Leisure Centre and Harraby Sports Campus were open for School use only.

March 28th Harraby Sports Campus, Sheepmount Athletics Stadium were open for outdoor sports only, there was also some outdoor sessions at Old Newman School. Coming for the future on April 12th Carlisle Pools for swimming and the Old Newman School for Gym and junior club activities.

May 17th the majority of activities will be available like Indoor Group Exercise, and organised indoor sports for Adults.

June 21st Social bookings for Adults, including Sands Events

Initially there will be a limited service from Portacabins for Refreshments. There are 92 events that are confirmed between September and December 2021.

Carlisle Plan

I am not going to write anything about the Carlisle Plan as Members have returned it to the Executive to be adjusted and returned to Scrutiny at a later date.

Local Environmental Crime

A brilliant Report was submitted by the Officers outlining the work that has been done and the plans for the future including keeping the streets and local areas clear of litter, dog fouling, fly tipping and to deal with local issues working with partners on Anti-Social Behaviour.

They want to have clean and attractive streets across the region where people can enjoy where they live or work also for people visiting. Building a strong sense of community and having pride in where they live and making it a clean and safe place to be for everyone to enjoy.

Our Officers can patrol the area in state of the art Electric Vehicles one of which is fitted with cameras so if a crime is being witnessed it can be recorded on camera and hopefully the Courts will give the appropriate punishment. They have been successful in getting some prosecutions and they also have some pending cases.

The job they do is very difficult and sometimes they could be subjected to lots of abuse which is totally unacceptable and as a result I am told they now were body cams.

On behalf of the HWSP Members and myself I would like to thank all the Officers and Staff for their hard work and dedication throughout this past year as we have been in unprecedented times they deserve all the praise we can give them.

Full details of the discussions are to be found within the Minute Book

Cllr Jack Paton
Chair