



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

20 July 2020

Councillor Community Fund

Since 1 April 2020, a total of £29,205 has been spent by councillors on supporting the delivery of positive outcomes in their wards. £14,900 of the total has funded organisations that are directly supporting those most vulnerable in our communities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Partnership Support

The organisations awarded a Partnership Grant for 2020/21 include:

Northamptonshire Rape Crisis, a charity providing counselling and support for survivors of sexual abuse and their non-offending family, £10,600.

Northampton Street Pastors, providing teams of fully trained volunteers to support the town's community in keeping safe, £6,600.

Growing Together, a community-based charity working in deprived estates in the East of the borough, £7,000.

Spencer Contact, a local community group that works to relieve those in poverty and hardship in and around Northampton by supplying free second-hand furniture, £6,000.

Warts and All Theatre, a performing arts group that inspire and encourage artists, audiences and members of the community to engage in theatre, £6,000.

The Lowdown, a charity offering a broad range of support services to children and young adults, £7,080.

The Good Loaf, an artisan bakery providing training and employment opportunities for vulnerable females, including offenders, £5,000.

MHA Live at Home, a charity improving the quality of life for older people by providing care, accommodation and support services, £5,000.

Northampton Community Sheds, a not for profit organisation working locally to shape and improve the physical and mental health of older people whilst learning new skills and teaching some of their own, £6,500.

Singing for Breathing, a singing group for people with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and other respiratory conditions such as asthma, providing physical, mental and social benefits, £4,720.

Tools for self-reliance, a charity providing work experience and voluntary opportunities for adults with disabilities, health issues or other disadvantages, £5,500.

Silhouette Youth, a community-based youth work organisation that is using performing arts to engage young people and increase confidence, aspirations and social skills in deprived areas of Northampton, £10,000.

Bellinge Community House run structured and supported youth group sessions for vulnerable 8 to 11 year olds, £10,000.

Re:Store, a charity run by the Central Vineyard Church and supported by local people, to serve those in need within the town, £5,000.

Emmanuel Group of Churches provides a range of social outreach projects including the Weston Favell food bank, £5,000.

Northampton Community Resilience Hub

Total requests for support through the Northampton Community Resilience Hub totals 1,023.

We have seen a decline in the number of referrals over the last couple of weeks, but we are completing call backs with all referrals to identify those requiring ongoing support.

Breakdown of the figures include:

62% food (collection, parcels, shopping), 25% prescriptions, 7% loneliness, 1% support to get online and 5% other.

Recovery planning continues with partners and a plan has been developed, focussing on mental health and exploring a place-based pilot with VIN and health partners, the areas being looked at will include those that have been identified with the highest unmet need.

We are working with more than 100 organisations - important to continue these relationships and provide support to these groups at neighbourhood level post COVID19 – looking to do this through the community development team and working with partners, ACRE, VIN and NCF.

Forums

22 June 2020 - A facebook event page was established to share information regarding the history of windrush. This included links to other events, interviews from local people related to the windrush, short films, poetry/spoken word and music.

Launched a campaign for LGBTQ stories as part of a town centre installation project in partnership with Grosvenor centre in the lead up to Pride.

Virtual Pride took place on 18 July – included videos of performers, artists, and topical speakers which created a virtual festival celebrating Pride.

11 July 2020 – Virtual event held to commemorate Srebrenica.

Working with the Chairs of the Friends Groups and the Park Management Committees – collating videos to promote their parks and recruit volunteers as part of a Virtual Love Parks Week (July 12 – 21).

Events

No outdoor events were held throughout June in line with the Governments lockdown restrictions. On the 4th July, government relaxed some restrictions, but this did not include general outdoor events.

However, we did celebrate Armed Forces Day through a virtual programme of activities including speeches and presentations from the following individuals, businesses and groups:

- Cllr Brian W Sargeant, Mayor of the Borough of Northampton
- Lord Lieutenant James Saunders Watson
- High Sheriff Paul Parsons
- Northampton County Council Chairman Cllr Stephen Legg
- Northampton Borough Council Leader Cllr Jonathan Nunn
- Lieutenant Colonel Jane Chappell Chairman Northamptonshire Reserve Forces and Cadet Association
- Northampton Sea Cadets – a look into Sea Cadet life
- Goodwill Solutions
- Wilson Brown Solicitors
- Gallery – Remembering Northampton’s Armed Forces Day Parade 2019
- Gallery - 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment – “The Poachers”

Culture & Heritage

Abington Park Museum remains closed due to Covid-19. We are reviewing safe working practices and procedures for opening the museum in line with government and museum sector guidance. Abington Park Museum will open once we have conducted a thorough review and ensured visiting Abington Park Museum is safe for visitors and staff alike.

Museum Expansion Project

Wildgoose contractors have returned to site and are finishing off last elements of build work and are completing snagging items. A site meeting was held to review all outstanding items and agree a closeout programme.

A revised installation programme for the exhibition galleries has been developed and mobilisation work is underway off site. Once all contractors are off site a deep clean of the building will be carried out and installation will begin. Installation will need to follow social distancing guidelines and remain Covid Safe. It is anticipated the museum will open late 2020/early 2021

Customer Services

Have managed to deliver an interrupted service whilst balancing Covid19. We are continuing to support the Community Cell by completing Welfare checks.

We are planning for the increased impact and vulnerabilities due to a potential increase in unemployment and debt.

Our training and Quality team have recently attended ‘Supporting Vulnerable Service Users’ training provided by Government Events. This has helped our team to identify the core considerations needed whilst providing a service to an increasingly vulnerable population. Training outcomes included;

- Understand what vulnerability is and how it affects individuals
- Discover different approaches to help recognise potentially vulnerable customers
- Identify the specific needs customers have when dealing with organisations
- Gain practical knowledge on how to adapt service levels to effectively meet these needs

The attendees found the course beneficial and are designing and planning training sessions for our frontline advisors.

Managers are attending 'How a crisis influences behaviours; training hosted by East Midlands Councils This will help managers supporting their staff through change, enabling them to remain motivated and engaged. It focuses on helping people rebuild their resilience and remain optimistic. The session will equip managers with an awareness of how behaviour can change during difficult times so they can better support their staff.

Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour

The multi-agency case management meetings for Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Crime, Cuckooing and Youth Violence – all re-established and taking place via the zoom platform.

There are currently 22 active cases being managed by the Anti-Social Behaviour Case Managers.

10 x neighbour disputes (13 CPW's (Community Protection Warning's) and 1 CPN (Community Protection Notice) issued)

6 x street drinkers/beggars (2 CPW and 2 CPN's issued)

2 x female perpetrator targeting vulnerable individuals for money/place to stay etc (1 CPW and 1 CPN issued)

1 x youth nuisance (1 Acceptable Behaviour Contract issued)

3 x perpetrators causing harassment, verbal abuse, threatening behaviour (2 CPN's issued)

Furthermore:

4 x gang related/ASB injunctions have been submitted to deal with gang violence on the Eastern part of the Town.

7 x CPW's issued and 1 ASB injunction and 1 Cuckooing injunction being progressed to tackle issues on the North East part of the Town.

Newsletter developed with youth providers – promoting youth services that are available for young people in the Town, circulated widely amongst frontline officers across the partnership.

Gates for Jeyes Jetty, following the approval of the PSPO and Planning gained, to be installed imminently.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety