

Full Council Meeting – 7 December 2021

Report of Councillor Chris Booth - Community

Website

SWT funded community grants are now available to view on the SWT website under “Community Grants Awarded” see link below:

<https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/community-and-living/community-grants-awarded>

This is the first time that we have been able to make SWT awarded grants visible to the public and also have a matching spreadsheet on the intranet available for colleagues to check before making new awards.

Voluntary and Community Sector Grants

Having now gone through Community Scrutiny and Executive, this item will now be discussed at Full Council, but I would again like to thank the efforts of staff and councillors on the working group, not to mention those from the groups we fund for giving such detailed accounts of the work they do to ensure our communities are better places. I have no hesitation in supporting the recommendations of the working group to bring resources back in house and increasing funding to four organisations.

One Team Updates

Wellington

Following on from events that took place in the summer Wellington One Team organised a further Wacky Wednesday at Wellington Park on 27 October continuing them of being “Nuts 4 Nature” from 11.00 – 12.45.

The event had been meticulously planned with a booking system put in place and Covid secure guidelines adhered to. We were able to continue to use funding which enabled us to put on the event free of charge. The aim of the event was to provide those families with young children with the opportunity to enjoy activities in the Outdoors in a Covid secure environment. Food was provided, again free of charge.

Many agencies contributed to the planning and execution of the day. Many thanks SWAT, Police, a large contingent from Churches Together, Street Pastors, Parent and Family Support Advisors, Waterloo Road preschool, Live West, Public Health, SASP, Growing Minds, Library Services, Reminiscence Learning and St Johns Ambulance service.

In total over 150 people registered at the event along with 25 helpers. The families were able to enjoy food and refreshments, Sports Activities, Messy Play, Numerous craft activities, Mini Golf, Splat the Rat and access to a Police Car.

Many thanks to everyone involved in making this event so successful.

Halcon

Halcon One Team – Multi agency case management continues to meet weekly via Microsoft teams. Violent crime and ‘gang’ behaviour continues to be a big concern for

communities and agencies. I am part of a multi-agency group that are meeting regularly to share information and develop strategies to respond to these issues.

Next week I am meeting the PPC office to discuss a project to address vulnerability and exploitation in communities. Halcon will be a pilot and so I see this as a great opportunity to influence strategic development in this area.

Halcon Skateboarding group

I ran a very well received pilot session for young skaters with the Campus Skate park team from Bristol. From this I have developed a project with a local skate instructor and local talented skaters to develop a 'club' that meets regularly, gets instruction and ultimately progress on the Hamilton Skate park. I am also supporting the re-surfacing of the lower part of the Hamilton skate park so that club sessions can be held there for beginner and developing skaters

Young Mums dance group

In collaboration with the Prism project and All Saints church we are putting on a series of sessions for young mums to get involved in movement and dance and bring their young children if they want to.

Hestercombe House

Further development has taken place with Hestercombe to build practical skills for gardening, creative arts projects and health and wellbeing visits to the gardens for pensioner groups and volunteers.

Building thriving communities (Barclays bank/Link Centre)

The Taunton East development trust have been awarded a grant funding project to support vulnerable people in our community with grant funding to help them with council tax arrears, utility bills and other essential items. I have agreed to manage the applications through my work with the one team partners to ensure the most vulnerable people are able to apply. In the last few weeks I have obtained awards of over £11,000 to 15 families. The overall fund is targeted at the Taunton Deane area and amounts to £100,000 in total.

Section 106 Grant fund Application- YMCA

I have recently supported the YMCA in applying for funding to develop a music and recording studio at the Lisieux way site. The YMCA manager Clare has been able to submit a really strong bid, demonstrating community support and great collaboration for what would be a fantastic community asset that is not replicated anywhere else in Taunton.

Health and Wellbeing Board

Across Somerset there is a vast programme of improvement work, collaboration, and integration underway. There are a huge number of highly committed people who have and continue to work tirelessly. This is despite the system managing extremely high, unprecedented levels of pressure which have resulted from: the COVID-19 pandemic, the vaccination and booster programmes, high levels of demand and backlog (e.g.

40/72 people waiting for surgery responding to a survey by Healthwatch Somerset said they'd waited over 40 weeks for their surgery and many had experience poor communication in the interim), workforce and staffing shortages, instability across a number of sectors and the impact of wider political, environmental and financial conditions.

There is some interesting news that social indicators that points towards problems like domestic abuse and ASB seem to have shown little changed across Somerset, in even have reduced since the beginning of the pandemic - potentially linked to 'pulling together' as a society or perhaps a lack of reporting during the lockdowns. Where there have been increases, they've actually been greater outside of poorer areas.

There has been a greater emphasis on the importance of mental health, particularly around young people, and therefore there is a drive to increase those in the mental health service which is being led by the Somerset CCG and partners, such as schools. There are also major organisational changes in progress including the bringing together of our Councils, the merger of our Hospital Foundation Trusts and the establishment of the Integrated Care System. For these reasons it is important that we maintain our ambition for better, more personalised care and acknowledge that we are managing in exceptional circumstances and forging ahead with our improvement plans.

The focus on our populations' health and wellbeing, both from a preventative and reactive perspective, and the bringing together of key partners is fundamental and continues to be enabled by mechanisms like the Better Care Fund (BCF). This encourages public bodies to work together, to collaborate, to manage resources, to share expertise and integrate services where this is in the public interest. It also helps us look beyond the demands of today and take a more preventative approach, reducing demand and poor health in the future.

Here are for important points worth reminding members:

- Each month in Somerset, the Intermediate Care Teams support over 50% of people to safely return home from intermediate care. This is only possible thanks to the dedication, commitment, expertise, and collaborative working by these teams.
- The 4 District Councils have the statutory duty to manage the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). In doing so they ensure that home adaptations are made available to people who qualify and enable them to remain living in their own homes. They also ensure that existing housing stock (across all sectors) is of a standard which promotes health and wellbeing and enables independent living for those with a range of physical and mental health conditions
- Significant differences can occur between the health experienced by some social groups when compared with others, these differences are inherently unfair. Such inequalities can be found between many types of community or social groups such as geographical areas, socio-economic status, ethnicity age, gender, and disability. This is true for both morbidity and mortality; the aim of the BCF is to narrow the gap in health and social inequalities, ensuring that the health and wellbeing of the worst off in society is improved at a faster rate than those who are the most advantaged.