

Committee(s): Ordinary Council	Date: 20 January 2021
Subject: Chairs report for Community and Health Committee	Wards Affected: All
Committee Chair: Cllr Cliff Poppy	
Report of: Kim Anderson, Partnership, Leisure and Funding Manager	Public
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Community Support Network

Weekly meetings are continuing to take place with the Community Support Network. Requests for support increased in the run up to Christmas. There is still a need for telephone befriending services especially for the elderly. Lighthouse Furniture project has seen a continued rise in demand.

The Community Support email was monitored over the Christmas holiday period and there was a watching brief with the wider network on any rise in referrals with expectation that demand for support is likely to increase in the run up to Christmas.

The festive Can in the Van initiative on the 4 December to support the local foodbank, Daily Bread Café and Manna Meals, had enough donations to fill 56 red glass boxes. These were distributed over the Christmas period.

The CVS led donations for presents of treats for elderly residents that were alone had 175 parcels wrapped and delivered to the community hubs for distribution to vulnerable residents. And lastly the Daily Bread Café gave out 300 hampers with a turkey in the run up to Christmas.

Brentwood Leisure Trust and Brentwood Centre re-opening

As Members will be aware the Brentwood Centre was opened on the 5 December. As Brentwood is currently in Tier 4 the government restrictions state that leisure centres remain closed to the public. Staff are carrying on with ongoing training and other tasks that are easier to complete without the public on site. They will continue to support the mass vaccination set up at the site.

The Council is in the process of applying to the National Leisure Recovery Fund, and the deadline for submission is 15 January.

The International Hall is being used as a mass vaccination Centre with the first cohort of residents being vaccinated before Christmas and returning for their 2nd vaccination on 5 & 6 January. It is likely that the vaccinations days will increase in January as the supply of vaccines increases and with it .

Testing sites

Mobile Testing sites

The Brentwood Centre car park and Hutton Poplars Hall are currently being used as mobile testing sites for those that have symptoms. Other sites are being considered should further sites be required.

Lateral flow testing

The lateral flow testing site has been set up at the Nightingale Centre. This is by appointment only for asymptomatic residents.

Leisure Strategy – King George’s Playing Fields

Works are due to commence on the new development for King George’s Playing Fields with the construction of a new pavilion building, splash pad and outdoor adventure play. Regular updates will be provided to members through the construction. A dedicated webpage has been set up to provide regular updates for the public. <https://www.brentwood.gov.uk/index.php?cid=2934>

Play Area Strategy

The final designs for Hutton Recreation play area are in progress.

Works on the Junior Play area section at King George’s Play Area are due to start in January.

Let's Create Art Packs

The Council has distributed over 200 art packs to children and young people receiving the packs will be referred by local community hubs and children's services, and will be either a young carer, from a low-income or single-parent family, or have a long- term health condition. This has been supported through a grant of £1000 from the Royal Opera House Bridge which has been match funded by Countryside and Usborne books to create 200 free arts resource packs for children and young people to increase access to creative learning opportunities. The packs will be stuffed with fantastic arts and crafts materials for children to make their own decorations or cards for Christmas and older recipients will benefit from high quality art pencils, pens, sketch books and paints.