



COMMITTEE TITLE: Housing, Health and Community Committee

DATE: 18th December 2023

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| REPORT TITLE: | Chair's update |
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REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update to Members in relation to the areas covered under the Terms of Reference of the Housing, Health and Community Committee.

HOUSING

Update on Homelessness

There have been 663 requests for Housing Advice since April 2023. On average there are 82 requests per month. Since June 2023 there has been a steady increase in the number of approaches being made on a monthly basis. As at the end of November there are currently 147 live cases.

While overall numbers in temporary accommodation remain low, there has been an increase in the requirement to provide temporary accommodation. As at the end of November there were 30 households in temporary accommodation.

Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) Update

Further to the Committee report presented to the 19th June, Health, Housing and Community Committee by Julian Higson, the Former Director of Housing in regard to the Local Authority Fund update.

We have now completed three property purchases in Pilgrims Hatch which were all partially funded from the Council's overall grant funding from DLUHC of £1,671.953 and we are in the process of purchasing a further property. In addition, we have allocated a further five properties already within the HRA to the LAHF. In accordance with the grant funding requirements these properties will be allocated to Afghan and Ukraine families for a period of five years, after which they will be available to applicants via the Housing or Transfer Registers.

Garage Site Review

The review of the garage sites is progressing well. Officers met with Knight Frank earlier this month to discuss the proposed options appraisal for the identified sites. The next step is to internally look at the options proposed before entering consultation and/or working group with members.

In addition to the above, we are currently putting together a list of works for the most desirable to let sites to improve these areas, repair the garages and then let them accordingly.

Parking Order

In circa 2018, the housing department introduced a parking order at Mayflower House, Gibraltar House and the Keys, Eagle Way after several complaints from residents that the car parks were being used by the offices at the bottom of the drive.

Residents were consulted with, and resident parking permits implemented. This scheme worked well and in 2021, we embarked on rolling this out to the remainder of the Council car parks by adding all of them to the parking order with a view to implement the measures in a structured manner.

Officers began consultations with residents, however, due to resource issues this project was never completed.

We have now seen an increase in complaints from residents about the use of resident car parks and officers are therefore restarting the project to introduce parking permits for residents to alleviate some of the issues.

Officers will be starting with Orchard Avenue with consultation letters being sent to all residents effected and relevant members.

Once this order is in place, we will work through the remainder of the Housing sites, We anticipate this project will take at least 2 years to fully implement.

HEALTH

Update from the Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Partnership (MSE ICP)

The MSE ICP published its integrated Care Strategy 2023-2033 in March 23. The delivery plan is being developed with the following priorities agreed in consultation with a community assembly to ensure that the voice of the residents/service users are heard. The aim of the Partnership is by working collaborative across the area to reduce population health inequalities. There are 5 key priorities that the partnership is focussing on.

1. Working together to address the wider determinants of health (this includes factors such as Health behaviours, Socio-economic factors together with built environment as well as clinical care.
2. Addressing health inequalities for people of all ages with a particular focus on the Core 20 plus 5
 - a. Top 20% of the population in the most deprived areas
 - b. Plus 5 clinical areas of focus
 - i. Maternity
 - ii. Severe Mental Health
 - iii. Chronic respiratory disease
 - iv. Early cancer diagnosis
 - v. Cholesterol management
3. Adult care – focusing on ageing well, mental health and suicide prevention, loneliness and isolation, Learning Difficulties and autism, alcohol and substance, and end of life and palliative care.
4. Babies Children and Young People – focusing on a good start in life, Children and Adolescent Mental Health support, Special Educational Needs and supporting the Healthy Schools agenda.

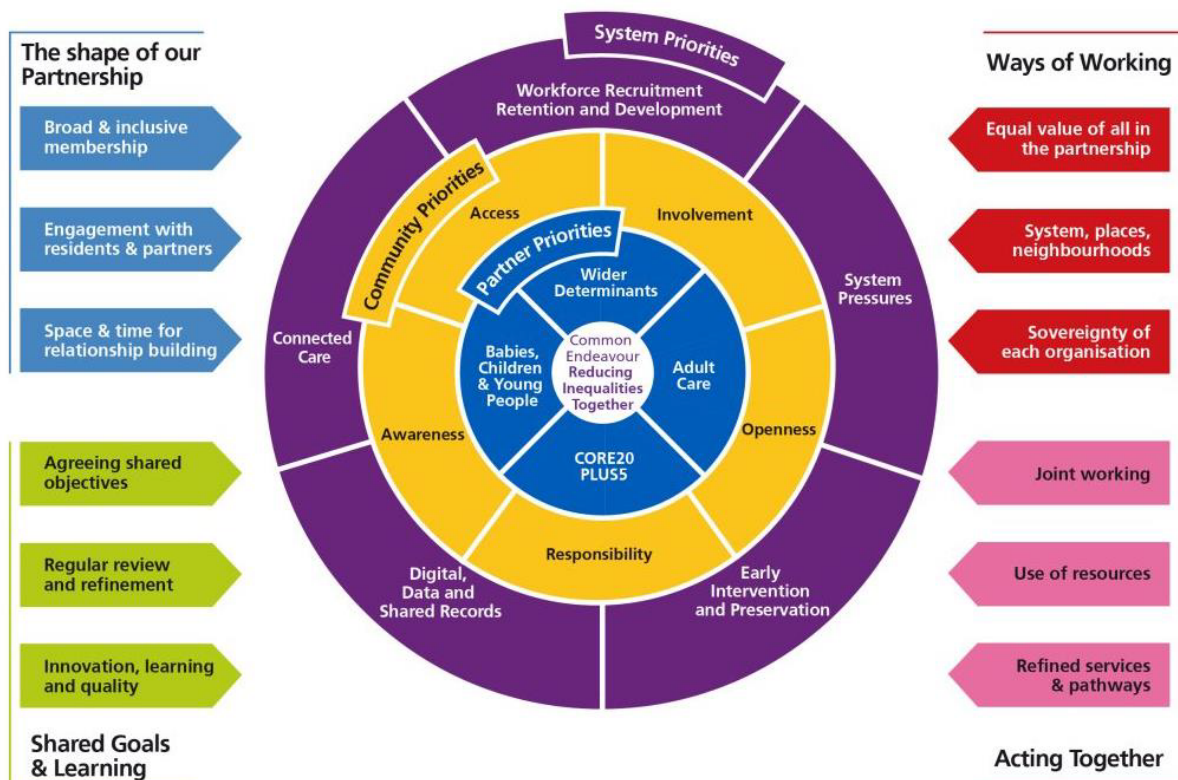
Work with the community also identified 5 priorities for how they would like to see services developed as the strategy is implemented:

- **Access:** good access to health and care systems, more personalised care closer to home
- **Openness** – clear honest conversations so that residents understand what to expect from services and how to access them in the right way.
- **Involvement** – maximising opportunities for them to engage in the development of services
- **Awareness** – helping residents and patients understand what services are available and how they can appropriately access them.
- **Responsibility** – with residents taking responsibility for their own health and wellbeing and participating in healthy behaviours and seeking help from the system when they need it.

There are also 5 areas of joint working across Mid and South Essex.

1. **System pressures** working together to manage health and care capacity and ensure care is available where it is needed
2. **Workforce recruitment, retention, and development** to ensure a skilled workforce across the area.
3. **Early intervention and prevention** to progress the population health and health inequalities agenda; smoking cessation and vaping policies to support a Smoke Free Essex by 2030; targeting cardiovascular (CVD) prevention and increasing cholesterol lowering therapies.
4. **Connected Care** with the focus on developing Integrated Neighbourhood Teams with primary and community service teams to deliver coordinated care in the community reducing duplication.
5. **Digital, data and shared records** with a focus on single electronic Patient Record

The diagram below sets out the ICP Plan on a page



Find Your Active Brentwood (formerly Active Brentwood)

In October Find Your Active Brentwood and Active Essex successfully delivered a 1-day funding clinic to sports clubs and organisations in Brentwood. Clubs were given the opportunity to ask questions around funding and then were signposted to available funding pots. The 40-minute slots were snapped up within 24 hours and the feedback was very positive and will look to put on another funding clinic in 2024.

Networking event date for your diary will be **Friday 1 March 2024** location to be confirmed.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

The public consultation has now closed, and officers are awaiting results from the County Council meeting on 8th December. The rural Essex County LCWIP has started, and they are looking to have proposed routes by Summer 2024.

COMMUNITY

Cost of Living

The Cost-of-Living webpage is regularly updated and to signpost and provide guidance to residents that may need additional support. The list of warm hubs has been updated for this year.

[Cost of living | Brentwood Council](#)

Community Connect Trailer Dates

The Community Connect Trailer will be at the following locations on dates set out below. The trailer is normally there between the hours of 10am – 1.00pm.

- Thursday 1 February – St Peters Church, Hutton
- Friday 8 March - Brentwood High Street
- Wednesday 20 March - Ingatestone High Street
- Wednesday 10 April – Brentwood High Street
- Tuesday 23 April – Kelvedon Hatch (Nisa Shop)
- Wednesday 8 May – Doddinghurst (outside shops)
- Thursday 16 May – Brentwood High Street
- Tuesday 28 May – Shenfield High Street

Brentwood Centre & Hartwood Pavilion

Christmas opening times at the Brentwood Centre

- Saturday 23rd Dec – Normal (No Event at present).
- Sunday 24th Dec – 8am – 2pm
- Monday 25th Dec – CLOSED
- Tuesday 26th Dec – CLOSED
- Wednesday 27th Dec – 8am – 8pm
- Thursday 28th Dec – 8am – 8pm
- Friday 29th Dec – 8am – 8pm
- Saturday 30th Dec – 8am – 6pm (Pantomime Event in Hall)

- Sunday 31st Dec – 8am – 2pm
- Monday 1st Jan – CLOSED
- Tuesday 2nd Jan – Normal operating times
- Wednesday 3rd Jan – Normal operating times

Hartswood Pavilion

- Saturday 23rd December 7am – 7pm
- Sunday 24 December 7am – 2pm
- Monday 25 December – CLOSED
- Tuesday 26 December – CLOSED
- Wednesday 27 December 7am – 6pm
- Thursday 28 December 7am – 6pm
- Friday 29 December 7am – 6pm
- Saturday 30 December 7am – 7pm
- Sunday 31 December 7am – 2pm
- Monday 1 January – CLOSED

Event programme at the Brentwood Centre

December

- 19th – Jack Whitehall
- 20th – Bingo Loco
- 21st – Hutton & Shenfield Choral Society
- 22nd – The Big Sing
- 30th – Cinderella

January

- 7th - Antiques Fair
- 13th – Toy Fair
- 19th – Queen
- 20th – Mega Inflatables
- 27th & 28th – Ballroom Dancing

February

- 10th – Boxing
- 17th & 18th – Boccia
- 19th & 20th – Mega Inflatables

Leisure procurement strategy

Two workshop Sessions have been held with the Leisure Strategy Working Group to identify the key priorities for the joint leisure procurement for an operator for the Brentwood Centre and Hartswood Pavilion in King George's Playing Fields, together with two sites in Rochford District Council. The sessions looked at the following areas to be considered as part of the new leisure contract:

- strategic objectives
- scope of services
- contract length,
- Investment options
- Maintenance and utility risks
- Variant bids
- Procurement procedure
- Evaluation framework
- Profit Share

There will be a separate report going to the additional Housing Health and Community Committee on 15 January 2024 to ask for formal approval of the Procurement Strategy for the new Leisure Contract at this meeting.

Good Company

The Council has collaborated with partners to deliver a successful pilot of a creative dementia and carer programme at Brentwood Theatre. The 8-week programme offered activity and care at a weekly, creative group at Brentwood Theatre, where participants were immersed in an array of stimulating arts activities by renowned organisations, from reminiscence theatre to dance, film and orchestral music, creating work inspired by lived experience, exploring wellbeing, identities and relationships between family carers and those they care for. The impact of participating in the programme will be evaluated by the University of Essex.

Graduates from Good Company will be able to participate in weekly shorter sessions at the Theatre from January, whilst an 8-week programme for a new cohort will begin in February. The fundraising continues!

Dunton Hills Garden Village - arts commission

In partnership with Essex Cultural Diversity Project, the Council has commissioned an artist to work with local schools to examine the different environments and biodiversity at Dunton Hills Garden Village. The artist will be exploring the theme of habitat and home for a range of wildlife and work with school children to design some wooden totem habitats to eventually be placed in situ at the site.

Digital Inclusion Hubs

The Council is working closely with Essex County Council and community organisations to develop 4 digital inclusion hubs across the Borough. The hubs will utilise donated laptops from Brentwood Prep School and engage Duke of Edinburgh Students to train as Digital Champions to support residents to get online. The Maple Hall digital hub opens on 12 December with a special Christmas event for local children where they Santa GPT will dial in and they can ask him questions. Other hubs are at Brentwood Theatre, Daily Bread Cafe and Ingatestone Library. Funding was secured through the County Members' Local Community Fund.

UKSPF - Grant Programme launching

Expressions of Interest for arts and sports grant programme to allocate UKSPF opened on 11 December. Prospective applicants have until 8 January to submit an expressions of interest form for large capital and revenue grants for projects starting 1st April. All details will be on the Council's funding page on the website.