

<b>COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR ALLERDALE</b>
<b>Meeting date: 5 January 2021</b>
<b>From: Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services</b>

## **AREA MANAGER UPDATE**

### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**1.1 This report replaces the following reports that are usually presented to local committee:**

- **Area Planning**
- **Investment in Children and Young People**
- **Investment in our Communities**

**1.2 The purpose of this report is to bring Members up to date with the activity across Allerdale and any recent developments.**

**1.3 Area planning activity continues in the form of key projects. The resources of the team have however been utilised in the ongoing response to Covid-19 and the recovery activity; much of this by its very nature is reactive.**

### **2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

**2.1 The Allerdale Local Committee has both executive and non-executive duties as set out in the County Council's constitution.**

**2.2 Allerdale local committee is committed to the following priorities:**

- **Supporting people to access training, apprenticeships and employment**
- **Encouraging people to live well**
- **Supporting our communities to thrive**
- **Supporting and influencing the recovery from Covid-19 both as individuals, in the role of community leaders and as a committee.**

**2.3 The work of the local committee contributes to the achievement of the Council Plan 2018-2022 vision which is to be**

- **A Council that works with residents, businesses and communities and other organisations to deliver the best services possible within the available resources.**

**2.4 The outcomes of this vision are:**

- **People in Cumbria are healthy and safe**
- **Places in Cumbria are well-connected and thriving**
- **The economy in Cumbria is growing and benefits everyone**

**2.5 There are no negative equality implications arising out of the recommendations of this report.**

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**3.1 Members note the contents of the report.**

**3.2 Members agree that an amount of £20,000 is allocated from the 11-19 Universal Provision Fund for Cumbria Youth Alliance.**

**3.3 Members agree to de-commit £15,000 previously allocated to funding apprenticeships from the 0-19 Fund, due to funding for the identified posts being available elsewhere.**

**3.4 Members agree to an amount of up to £15,000 is allocated from the 0-19 Fund to purchase IT equipment for school age children where Covid-19 is continuing to impact on their ability to fully engage in learning if they need to self-isolate.**

### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

#### **BUDGETS**

**4.1** Budgets were allocated to Allerdale Local Committee at full Council on 13 February 2020. Appendix 1 shows commitments and expenditure against those budgets as at 31 December 2020.

**4.2** This report sets out the details of grant applications received that exceed £5,000 for approval by local committee.

**4.3** There is one request for approval from the 11-19 Universal Provision fund. and one request from the 0-19 fund as set out below.

**4.4** There is a request to commit money to the purchase of laptops for children of school age who are at risk of missing out on education when self-isolating without appropriate IT. At the time of writing this report, it was uncertain if this would be required and to what extent. The Area Manager will update Members at the meeting.

## **Project 1 – £20,000**

### **11-19 Universal Provision fund**

4.5 Cumbria Youth Alliance (CYA) are applying as a partnership for funding towards the continuation of the Friday Night Youth Projects across Allerdale. CYA will be the lead on funding bids, undertake quality checks, provide staff training and support and undertake reports to funders which allows the small groups within the partnership to focus on direct youth work with the young people and to cut down on the administrative burden placed on the smaller groups. Along with the Universal Youth sessions, monitored and audited targeted youth work will also be carried out on Friday Nights across the partnership and will contribute to the following priorities:

- Emotional resilience - Young People will be supported and provided with training to improve their emotional resilience through delivery of a range of peer led and adult led workshops aimed at giving young people the skills and confidence to be able to cope better with problems and issues as they arise
- Safeguarding - Young People will increase their knowledge about safeguarding issues and not put themselves in risk taking situations either on-line or in person - this will reduce the number of young people currently at risk from Child Sexual; Exploitation and being targeted by County Lines
- Confidence and communication - Young people will have access to a range of informal educational programmes to encourage them to raise their aspirations , stay engaged in education and make a successful transition from the world of school to the world of work- this will reduce the number of young people in Allerdale who end up not in education, employment or training
- Social action - Young People will learn more about social action through undertaking projects that work in the wider community - addressing intergenerational concerns and raising the profile of the contribution that young people can make to their community.

4.6 The Friday Night Projects currently funded in Allerdale are:

- NADT delivering in Silloth
- Wigton Youth Station
- Aspatria Dreamscheme
- King's Church, Cockermouth
- Settlement, Maryport
- South Workington Youth Partnership, Moorclose
- Youth Café, Moorclose
- Soundwave, Workington

4.7 The total cost of the projects in Allerdale is £54,000. Funding is sourced from a variety of funders and the group is applying for £20,000 from the 11-19 Universal Provision fund.

- 4.8 This application meets the following grant giving key themes for children and young people:
- Youth employment
  - Improving accessibility to opportunity
  - Mental Wellbeing

### **COVID WINTER GRANTS**

- 4.9 An announcement was made by the Government on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020, regarding a package of COVID winter support that includes the COVID Winter Grants Scheme targeting children and families and vulnerable adults.
- 4.10 Under the scheme administered through the DWP, upper tier local authorities are being funded to establish programmes to deliver support between the beginning of December 2020 and 31 March 2021. The programmes are to cover:
- At least 80% on food and household energy/utilities, and up to 20% on other essential items including hygiene products, boiler repairs and white goods;
  - At least 80% of the grant to be spent on households where at least one person is aged below 19 by 31 March 2021, and up to 20% for vulnerable adults (eligibility to be determined by the local authority);
  - There are no further eligibility criteria or mean-testing requirements, and local authorities have flexibility on what proportion of support goes to food or energy/utilities.
- 4.11 Cumbria County Council has been allocated £1,496,417.79.
- 4.12 The Leader, Deputy Leader and relevant cabinet Members were briefed about the scheme and provided comments on the approach below:
- Address Free School Meals (FSMs) over the Christmas period;
  - Ensure support is flexible enough to include families that need support, not just recipients of FSM;
  - Ensure the delivery mechanism gets the money spent and reaches those who need it;
  - Utilise existing community infrastructure especially around food – but not to duplicate support where it is already available;
  - Work with DWP on targeting people entering universal credit, and CAB and utilities companies to look at options for utilities payments.
- 4.13 It has been agreed that £197k will be allocated to establish a scheme that allows for the award of grants by Area Managers of up to £5,000 in relation to their geographical area and in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the relevant local committee. The funding will be allocated to the Community Services budget, and apportionments for each area will be based on their population. This will provide the Council with an approach to allocate funding to community groups/third sector organisations who are working with those most in need due to Covid-19 and meet the criteria,

objectives and principles of the funding. Any proposal to award a grant in excess of £5,000, or to award more than £5,000 to one organisation will require the approval of the Executive Director - Corporate, Customer and Community Services.

- 4.14 Grant recipients will be expected to have spent the grant within timescales required by the COVID Winter Grants scheme. The Area Manager is also working with partners through the Allerdale Community Resilience Group to identify schemes that will ensure that those most in need will benefit.

The table below sets out the allocations by area:

Area	Population	Population Split	Allocation area £
Allerdale	97,800	19.56%	38,525
Barrow	67,000	13.40%	26,393
Carlisle	108,700	21.74%	42,819
Copeland	68,200	13.64%	26,865
Eden	53,300	10.66%	20,996
South Lakeland	105,100	21.02%	41,401
<b>Cumbria</b>	<b>500,100</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>197,000</b>

## AREA PLANNING

### WORKINGTON

- 4.15 **Town Deal Fund** - The outcome of the submission is awaited.
- 4.16 **Workington Hall Steering Group** has been established by Allerdale Borough Council to provide strategic direction and community engagement for all policy and activity in relation to Workington Hall and its parklands. The local CCC Member has been invited onto the group but due to a vacancy, Councillor Barry has joined the group. He will be supported by the Area Manager.

### WIGTON

- 4.17 **Borderlands** – A consultant has now been recruited to undertake work to support five of the Place projects across Cumbria and a visit to Wigton has been completed with members of the Community Services Team. The consultants are compiling a list of key stakeholders to engage with in January and this work is being supported by the Community Development Officer.

### ASPATRIA

- 4.18 Work has progressed on this project and the Capital Programmes Team are working with stakeholders to identify requirements in a Family Centre. This will inform the feasibility study.

## **FLIMBY**

- 4.19 In October 2020, Cumbria County Council submitted a business case for £1million (plus £0.5million risk) to the Environment Agency to deliver design and build of flood defence works at Flimby. Works are planned to better protect 50 properties in the community. Engagement with key community representatives, the local flood action group and local landowners has taken place over October and November 2020 with business case funding agreed in early December 2020. The Council will now publish a tender to procure a contractor to complete design and investigation works leading to construction. The public will be communicated with early in 2021 as the project moves forward.

## **ACTIVITIES WITHIN ALLERDALE AND THE ISSUES FACING PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE**

### **ASPATRIA**

- 4.20 **Library Service** – the library re-opened for one day per week from 9 December 2020, every Wednesday from 9.30 – 12.00, 1.00 – 5.00.

### **COCKERMOUTH**

- 4.21 **Library Service** – the Community Services Manager has worked with Cockermouth Town Council to facilitate the re-opening of the library for six half days per week from 4 December 2020, on restricted hours, Monday-Saturday, 10.00 - 1.00 except Wednesday which is 2.00 – 5.00.

### **KESWICK**

- 4.22 **Library** – the library in Keswick has continued to open on restricted hours (9.30 - 12.00 and 1.00 - 5.00 on Monday and Wednesday) since 23 November 2020. The average daily footfall at this branch is an average of four customers per day.

### **MARYPORT**

- 4.23 Talk and Tidy event was held in December local organisations & elected members attended and engaged with the community. The aim is for all agencies to be visible in the community, tackle loneliness, improve signposting and reporting, develop a cleaner, greener Allerdale and build relationships that have been impacted by Covid-19.
- 4.24 Community Alcohol Project (CAP) - A Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) has been set up to tackle underage drinking. A co-ordinator has now been appointed and young people are being referred into the project to start both virtually and in fixed spaces in the new year.

- 4.25 **Library** – the library in Maryport has continued to stay open on restricted hours (9.30-5 on Monday and Thursday) since 22 October 2020. The average daily footfall figures are 10 customers per day.

### **SILLOTH**

- 4.26 **Library** - It has not been possible to re-open the library at Silloth due to repairs that are needed to the building. Library staff are working with the building owners to resolve this.
- 4.27 Allerdale Borough Council have commenced engagement activity in Silloth starting with partner stakeholders with regard to the future use of the Solway Discovery Centre. The County Council, as tenants within the building, have responded. The local Member was involved.

### **WIGTON**

- 4.28 **Library** – the library in Wigton has continued to open on restricted hours (9.30 – 1.00 and 2.00 – 5.00 on Tuesday and Friday) since 23 October 2020. The average daily footfall at this branch is 22 customers per day.
- 4.29 The registration service in Wigton has not yet reverted to customer facing transactions.

### **WORKINGTON**

- 4.30 **St Michaels** – As part of the community connection project, Halloween packs were provided to the pupils of St Michael's school to enable them to make posters and display on their house windows. Small prizes were issued to the pupils afterwards for their efforts. Card has been provided for the pupils to make Christmas cards for the 15 residents of Richmond Park Residential Care Home and these will be delivered for the residents. Prizes were awarded from Castle & Coasts Housing for the best cards.
- 4.31 Community Payback teams have been engaged to assist with the clear up of an area along Bolton St and are available for other similar schemes.
- 4.32 It has been confirmed that a community placement from the diploma and degree course in policing is available in the new year. This will provide a further resource by way of a community attachment from each 10 week programme. One full day from each cohort each week for approximately 26 weeks. 1 or 2 will be deployed to work in St Michael's ward and they will do a project working alongside the community.
- 4.33 **Moorclose** – The Youth Offending Team are working with partners to offer young people work experience and feedback on this so far has been positive.
- 4.34 A Talk and Tidy event was held in October which was really well attended by local organisations and the community. The aim is for all agencies to be

visual in the community, tackle loneliness, improve signposting to services and reporting, develop a cleaner, greener Allerdale and build relationships that have been impacted by Covid-19.

- 4.35 **Library Service - Workington Library** is now open Monday to Friday on reduced hours to allow midday cleaning, 9.00 -1.00 and 2.00 - 5.00. Café West initially opened for a take away service on 21 October, but ceased this during the second lockdown. They have since re-opened from 2 December and started to offer a sit-in service from that date. Footfall in Workington Library is averaging 50 customers per day.
- 4.36 The work to refurbish the new Children's area in Workington Library has progressed with furniture and fittings installed. A date for opening this facility has not yet been set as further works are required.
- 4.37 During December, a full refurbishment of the lift took place which in the current environment, caused less disruption.
- 4.38 Loose Ends, a group to support those with a visual impairment will relaunch their support group from Workington Library later this month. The library staff have worked well with this group to facilitate this safely.
- 4.39 The Community Learning and Skills Team have restarted face to face classes in Workington Library in addition online provision.
- 4.40 **Library Service - Moorclose Library** It has not been possible to re-open the library at Moorclose due to repairs that are needed to the building. Customers who would ordinarily use Moorclose Library are using the Main Library in Workington.
- 4.41 **Library Service – Seaton Library** has re-opened for one day per week from 8 December 2020, every Tuesday from 9.30 – 12.00, 1.00 – 5.00. The Breastfeeding and Peer Support group (BAPs) are planning to restart their face to face sessions.

#### **ALLERDALE WIDE**

- 4.42 **Care Homes** have been provided with tablets from Workington (Integrated Care Communities) ICC to enable better interaction between the residents / staff and GP surgeries and health teams. These have also been utilised by residents to keep in touch with family.
- 4.43 **Flu and Covid-19 vaccinations** – There has been close working with the GPs to ensure that flu vaccination sessions are delivered in community settings as well as in GP surgeries to alleviate the need to travel. These have proved popular with local residents. Members of some of the community resilience groups have assisted at the events with helping to ensure social distancing and signposting. Planning is underway now for similar sessions for the Covid-19 vaccinations.

4.44 **Suicide Safer Communities** - As part of this work, some self-harm first aid kits are starting to be delivered to schools and other venues to assist with relevant information and signposting for pupils, teachers and parents.

4.45 The **Allerdale Local Focus Hub** now has a Child Centred Policing team which is a concept to look at how the police and partners deal with children with the aims to deliver more positive outcomes for them. The programme intends to support the most at-risk / vulnerable children in Cumbria. The team ensures that the children are identified as early as possible.

The main priorities are:

- Recognise all children as children.
- Adopt a trauma informed approach.
- Look to deliver engagement and relationships.
- Specific priority for children in care and leaving care.

4.46 Any child under 18 that are listed as vulnerable can be referred to the team. They also have thematic areas of responsibility including a Missing Exploited Trafficked Co-ordinator (METCO) and a Youth Offending Service (YOS) portfolio to provide oversight and consistency both internally and across the partnership. They will collaborate with a range of partnerships including Youth Justice, Children's Safeguarding, Community Safety and Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE). Child Centred Policing Teams have an emphasis on preventing the unnecessary criminalisation of children.

4.47 Through the Hub, partners have access to the CEASE project that Remedi will be delivering. CEASE stands for creating empowerment and self-efficacy. The programme was developed to make people aware of potential trigger points of domestic abuse. They will also show people where they can go for information / support, help build confidence so that they can get out of an abusive relationship and to help run their lives in a more proactive way. Referrals can be made from any agency and people can also self-refer.

4.48 **Young People's Resources** – the service has continued to gift books and resources into community settings from Booktrust and the Reading Agency. The early years team are launching a Christmas gifting initiative collaboratively with the Community Development officers using these resources. The Community Services Manager has also worked with The Councils Children's Rights Officer and has received the feedback below:

- The books you provided from the book trust were a massive hit with our foster carers. Thank you!
- What beautiful books and a lovely surprise
- They loved reading the books and have become a night time favourite
- We absolutely love the books
- Thank you for the wonderful books
- The books are lovely, thank you.
- What a lovely surprise.

4.49 **Winter Reading Challenge (WRC) in Libraries** – The WRC for 2020 is similar to the Summer Reading Challenge in digital format. This is a county wide initiative and runs between 1 December 2020 through to 15 January

2021. Like the Summer Scheme, this encourages children to maintain their reading levels over the Christmas period.

- 4.50 The Library Service across Allerdale is working with the Fire and Rescue Service to promote fire safety messages using library social media outlets, complemented by window space in library building to display posters.
- 4.51 **Food Support Groups.** Through the community response to Covid, additional groups have set up providing food support to those in need. These groups are looking to continue after response and the DEFRA funding has helped with this. The Community Development Officers have provided support and advice to these groups with a view to them becoming sustainable in the longer term. The new groups are based in Aspatria, Flimby, Maryport, Silloth and Wigton and complement the provision that was available prior to March 2020.
- 4.52 The Community Development Officers co-ordinated a Christmas Food Provision project which included care leavers, families, vulnerable adults who are elderly, disabled and also the homeless. This project was funded by Cumbria Community Foundation, DEFRA and Allerdale Local Committee and the Allerdale food support groups have worked collectively to draw down this funding. 440 referrals were received for the family sized Christmas food parcels and these were from schools, social workers, food support groups and Family Action following engagement with the Community Development Officers. Care leavers were provided with vouchers and those who were on their own on Christmas day also received a meal for one. Homeless people who were in temporary accommodation received a Christmas lunch along with a treat bag and the elderly and vulnerable in the Workington area received a meal for one from Workington Rotary Club who received funding for this from Cumbria Community Foundation.
- 4.53 The Community Development Team worked with Morrisons bulk purchase team and Pioneer to procure the food for the family Christmas food parcels. Workington Rotary Clubs, Rotary Club of Cockermouth, Workington Community Emergency Response Group and Workington Inner Wheel recruited volunteers to assist with the packing and delivery of the Christmas food parcels.

## **CONSULTATIONS AND ENGAGEMENTS**

### **A595/Greyhound Inn/Torpenhow Junction, Bothel - Public Consultation**

- 4.54 A two week public consultation is due to start on 13 January until 27 January 2021. The consultation is to gather views on the further design for the proposed improvement to the Greyhound Inn/Torpenhow Junction on the A595 at Bothel. The public consultation will be publicised to stakeholders and the public with opportunities to feedback online or by post.

- 4.55 The proposed improvement to the Greyhound Inn/Torpenhow Junction is part of a wider scheme to improve 5kms of the A595 from Cock Bridge to Bothel (A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement) which has been consulted upon previously. The proposed improvements Greyhound Inn/Torpenhow Junction received a positive response from the public and has such its delivery has been brought forward in advance of the wider scheme (the delivery funding for which is still to be agreed).
- 4.56 Further public consultation on the wider scheme will be undertaken in Spring 2021.

### **Covid-19 Recovery Strategy Consultation**

- 4.57 There are many negative impacts that mean our residents and communities will need to be supported through job losses, loneliness, delays in treatment for physical health conditions, and an increase in mental health conditions.
- 4.58 Many of these issues are already being addressed on a day-to-day basis, and Cumbria's Strategic Recovery Coordination Group has been developing a long-term recovery strategy. This strategy will be based on Cumbria's existing Public Health Strategy which has 5 themes: People, Participation, Prosperity, Place and Planet. A public consultation on this recovery strategy across Cumbria will start in January.

## **5.0 OPTIONS**

- 5.1 In respect of recommendations 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4, members have the option to:
- Agree the recommendations
  - Not agree the recommendations
  - Defer the decisions and request additional information.

## **6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 . Discretionary budgets are reporting £234,191 actual and committed expenditure against a budget of £402,319 leaving unallocated resource of £168,128.
- 6.2 .Non Discretionary budgets are reporting £183,427 actual and committed spend against a budget of £183,427 leaving no unallocated resource
- 6.3 If the recommendations in section three of this report are approved the discretionary budget unallocated resource will decrease by £20,000 from £168,128 to 148,128.

## 7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 It is a function of Local Committees under Part 2 D, 5.1.2 (d) of the Constitution, to approve applications for grants from the Local Committee's budgets for amounts exceeding £ 5,000 in line with the policy and to (e) Review and evaluate grants awarded from the Local Committee's budget. Members can therefore approve the recommendations should they choose to do so.

SD 18 12 20

## 8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 This report sets out progress against some ongoing projects but also the activities that have taken place in collaboration with the district, town and parish councils and the third sector in its widest sense. The team have worked continually with all partners, particularly to ensure that the most vulnerable in our communities received the much needed help.

**Dawn Roberts**

**Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services**

*December*

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**Please ensure that every part of this section where there is an asterisk\* is completed in accordance with the instructions before sending the report to Democratic Services, following which please delete this sentence.**

## APPENDICES

### **Appendix 1 – Budget Statement 20/21**

Electoral Division(s): All

Executive Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny? If so, give details below.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken? 

		N/A*
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken? 

		N/A*
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***N.B. If an executive decision is made, then a decision cannot be implemented until the expiry of the eighth working day after the date of the meeting – unless the decision is urgent and exempt from call-in and necessary approvals have been obtained.***

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**  
***[including Local Committees]***

***No previous relevant decisions.***

**CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

***Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.***

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

***No background papers***

**REPORT AUTHOR**

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