

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR CARLISLE

Meeting date: 12 September 2022

From: Assistant Director – Customer and Community Services

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 *This report gives highlights of the work of the Carlisle Community Development Team and the Public Health Manager (Carlisle) from March 2022 – August 2022. It provides an overview of partnership work of the team with case studies showcasing the team’s work. It also provides a summary of community grant activity processed by the team during the same period.*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 *The items covered by this report support the council to achieve the outcomes stated in the Council Plan 2018 - 2023:*

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

2.2 *Improved locality working is one of the ways the council is delivering on its priorities. The county council vision, included in the Council Plan 2018 -2023, sets out that it will be ‘A Council that works with residents, businesses, communities and other organisations to deliver the best services possible within the available resources.’ The approach and work of the Local Committee directly contributes to this vision.*

2.3 *The development, operation and monitoring of the Council Plan requires a focus on the Council’s performance against the identified outcomes, increasingly understood through localities. Carlisle Area Plan 2019 -2023 sets out four targeted priorities for the area, which are:*

- *Health and Wellbeing*
- *Children and Young People*
- *Economy and Infrastructure*
- *Thriving Communities.*

2.4 *Locally devolved funding is available for Carlisle Local Committee to allocate within the area to support positive outcomes, targeted and mainstream, designed to improve outcomes for the communities of Carlisle. This funding can be targeted to initiate new activity or to enhance/complement existing provision according to locally determined need.*

2.5 *Local Committee is mindful of equality issues and duly considers that its actions and decisions do not result in inequality of service provision or exclusion from participation. The work of Local Committee directly supports the Council's wider equalities agenda.*

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 *Members are asked to note the contents of this report*

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The report highlights some of the work of Carlisle Community Development and Public Health Manager (Carlisle) from April – August 2022 and provides an overview of the range of ways the team has supported communities in Carlisle from a Community Development perspective.

4.2 'Community Development' can be described as, '*community members coming together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems*', and 'Community Engagement' can be described as, '*the process by which organisations and individuals build ongoing, permanent relationships for the purpose of applying a collective vision for the benefit of a community*'. Both are involved in helping Cumbria County Council with its strategic aims and play a large part in the Community Development Team's work. Central to the role of the Community Development team is to facilitate and make the most of partnership working opportunities.

4.3 The Community Development team work closely with other organisations to provide support and signpost to opportunities for community groups and community group development. This support can be wide ranging and prove vital for community groups to become self-sustainable and look to reach their full potential. It can include linking them with other Council departments such as Children's Services, guidance on accessing funding, exploring different and innovative ways of delivering services, signposting and facilitating partnership working.

5.0 PRIORITY 1 – DEVELOPING OUR ECONOMY & INFRASTRUCTURE

5.1 **Community Consultation** - The Community Development team have considerable experience of conducting public engagement and regularly support colleagues from other departments such as Capital Programmes team, Flood Development Management team, and the Highways Team. Over the past six months the Community Development team have worked with colleagues from Capital Programmes team on a couple of key projects including Hadrian's Wall and West Coast corridor consultation in April, and

more recently '*The Reimagining the Market Square / Greenmarket*' consultation with the Carlisle City Council. This was the first phase of consultation held over two weeks from Monday 11th July. This phase of consultation precedes the development of concept design options and sought to draw out the views of the public, residents, visitors and businesses on how they currently used the area, and what their issues, concerns and aspirations for it might be. A summary of the main consultation events are as follows:

- 31 May – 21 June 2022 Youth engagement project with Carlisle Youth Zone
- 11th and 18th July - Business engagement drop-in 18:00-19:00
- 11 – 25 July 2022 Consultation period in Market Square and Tourist Information Centre including a staffed drop-in 3 times a week.

Publicity and marketing of the consultation included a flyer advertising the events which was hand delivered and emailed to businesses located inside the pedestrianised area and the area immediately surrounding it. Social media posts were issued and there was a press release advertising the consultation event; leaflets and a consultation board were placed in the Tourist Information Centre, and stakeholders were separately emailed with background information and consultation dates.

The consultation response was overwhelmingly positive, with considerable evidence that the area was much loved and used, but that its shortcomings and need for reinvention were very much evident. Around 600 people visited us at the stand in the Market Square. Results of the consultation will inform the development of concept options which will be consulted on in September 2022, with development of a preferred option, detailed design and tender for construction following that. The preferred scheme will be programmed for construction in spring 2023. See **Appendix 1** – for copies of display & engagement boards used.

5.2 Carlisle Social Enterprise City - The place application for Carlisle has been paused in the absence of a social enterprise leading on the project and whilst the wider group considers the effects LGR will have on the current place status for Cumbria. One of the projects falling out of this work, is the development of a needs analysis for Carlisle. This specific project will continue to be pursued and Cumbria Community Foundation have been highlighted as the organisation to undertake this work, following the community needs reports produced for [Cumbria](#), [West Cumbria](#) and [Furness](#). The report will provide an analysis of the social needs and community issues in Carlisle, highlight some of the work already being undertaken to address disadvantage and identify opportunities for social impact investors to target their efforts and help communities to thrive.

Whilst the place application has been paused, an opportunity to develop a Social Enterprise Zone locally has been discussed. The Public Health Locality Manager joined a meeting with the Cumbria Social Enterprise Manager, representatives from Social Enterprise UK and others across Cumbria to explore the possibility that this opportunity would come with investment from DCMS if we are successful.

The [Youth Enterprise project at Carlisle Tribe](#) has now started, this is a project funded by Carlisle Local Committee.

6.0 PRIORITY 2 – IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING

6.1 **Mental & Social Wellbeing** – the third Carlisle Suicide Safer Community Action Group came together at Carlisle United to consider community activity that can take place to prevent suicide. The mural commissioned by Every Life Matters and funded by Carlisle Local Committee is now completed and can be viewed at Harraby Community Centre. World Suicide Prevention Day is 10 September and Carlisle will be lit up in purple to mark the day and a gathering will take place at Carlisle Cathedral for anyone affected by suicide. The theme of the day is ‘creating hope through action’.

[Places to Talk](#) has been formally launched. The project is helping to bring people together to talk about their experiences of living through the Covid-19 pandemic and to share their hopes for the future. A Places to Talk session can be held anywhere and there is a small amount of funding available to help with the costs of holding a session.

Andy’s Man Club have been keen to set up a group locally, due to their connections with other local football clubs, the team have put the organisers in touch with Carlisle United Community Sports Trust and a relationship has been formed, as soon as the group have three facilitators, they will be meeting every Monday at Carlisle United. Until then, people can access virtually. Andy’s Man Club is a talking group for men to come together in a safe environment to talk about issues and problems they have faced or are currently facing. This provision will complement the Men’s provision already supported and provided through Offload Cumbria and We Can at iCan Health and Fitness.

6.2 **Healthy Weight** – since the last Community Development Team Report for Local Committee in March 2022, a whole system strategy session took place at Cumbria LEP Penrith, members of the Department of Health and Social Care were in attendance with a range of staff across the whole system.

In addition, the Tier 2 service for children and families has gone live, this is known locally as the Healthy Habits for Life Programme and will be delivered by our 5-19 Public Health team. Tier 3 services are now also being delivered by North Cumbria Integrated Care Trust at Harraby Community Centre.

The Physical Activity Referral Partnership with People First went live in April. The pilot is a six-month project with the aim to support sedentary or inactive people with a health condition to participate in physical activity that is suitable for them. An evaluation is due to be completed in October. There are currently eight community-based organisations that can be referred into including GLL, iCan Health and Fitness, Carlisle Community Cycle Hub, Chatsworth Tennis Club, Botcherby Community Centre, Currock Community Centre, Active Cumbria Wellness Walks, and Hiking Household. Referrals are made by Social Prescribers and HAWCs.

ParkPlay at Heysham Park, as funded by Carlisle Local Committee has now found a Play Leader, it was important for us to find someone from the immediate local community. Checks are underway and this ParkPlay should be launched soon. The concept is similar to Parkrun, but instead of running,

there are two hours of free community play for everyone, every Saturday morning delivered by a Playleader and ParkPlay volunteers. ParkPlay provides a safe, welcoming and inclusive way for people to connect and have fun.

The 4-week Healthy Eating on a Budget Project with Organise, Act, Change has been completed. This was a COMF funded project which supported families facing food insecurity, all participants taking home a slow cooker to make low-cost healthy meals. Discussions are happening with the wider Public Health team about rolling out a similar project across the County. A case study can be seen in **Appendix 2**.

The 12-week Cookery & Activity Project with Carlisle Youth Zone, as funded through COMF has now completed a case study will be provided in a future report.

The 6-week MOG and Wheels of Wellness project with iCan Health and Fitness has also concluded, a case study will be provided in a future report.

The Healthy Start Vouchers and Vitamins scheme has been set up across Carlisle with the help of Carlisle Matters, this is being delivered in all Community Centres and the Lookout. Residents are encouraged to apply for free vitamins and help with the cost of food and milk via a prepaid card worth up to £8.50 per week. Uptake currently stands at 74%.

We will be soon re-launching the Breastfeeding Friendly Initiative, encouraging venues and other businesses to become breastfeeding friendly and where possible provide safe welcoming facilities. Early sign up's include Carlisle Library, The Lanes, Tullie House, and the Tribe. Within this project, we aim to work with the existing breastfeeding support group at Morton Manor, run by Family Action to develop peer support across Carlisle and district.

- 6.3 **Age Friendly Community** – following on from the presentation made at Carlisle Local Committee in May a second focus group has been held, this time with Kathy's Lunch Club at Longtown. The group provided a wide range of feedback on the eight domains of age friendly and were able to contribute ideas for the Longtown Place Plan. Exploratory talks about intergenerational working have started with Age UK Carlisle & Eden and Family Action following discussion at the May Local Committee.

7.0. **PRIORITY 3 - IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

- 7.1. **Carlisle Holiday Activity Partnership (CHAP) and Holiday Activity Food Programme (HAF)** – Over the easter holiday period, providers had to provide at least four hours of activity per day, four days a week and a healthy meal.

In Carlisle 18 providers worked with a total of 854 children for 1880 sessions providing each child with a healthy meal and activities.

769 of these were Primary school age, 90 of which were identified as SEND or with other vulnerabilities, they attended for a total of 1558 sessions.

85 Secondary school age children were engaged of which 20 were identified as SEND or having other vulnerabilities, they attended for a total of 222 sessions.

In Carlisle the initial target for Easter was to provide food and activity to 544 children. Carlisle overperformed on the target reaching an additional 310 children. The total spend in Carlisle came to £46,410.69.

HAF & CHAP is running again throughout the summer holidays. The next Community Development report will give a full breakdown of children engaging as well as an update on other summer holiday initiatives such as Summer Splash.

8.0. PRIORITY 4 – DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

- 8.1. **Carlisle Communities Network** – The second meeting of the network took place at Holme Eden Church at Warwick on Eden on the 15th June, building on from the launch event at Tullie House in February. The next event is planned in early October at Currock Community Centre. The team are represented on the steering group that plans and co-ordinates the events and helps to facilitate the breakout sessions at the events.

The cost-of-living crisis will be central to the agenda at the next meeting.

There will be capacity for 50 attendee's and registration is administered through Eventbrite by CVS. **Appendix 3** gives details of the last network meeting and the themes discussed.

- 8.2. **Work in Electoral Divisions** - The team continue to support locality working across all 18 electoral divisions with focus on the needs of the most marginalised communities as per the Carlisle Area Plan. Some examples of the teams' work over the past few months include:

Botcherby - Working with the local member, local children and residents. Street artist Beardy Synergy were commissioned to work with children and residents to design and deliver a transformative piece of street art on the Melbourne Park changing room. A case study of this project is in **Appendix 4**.

Belle Vue - The team co-ordinate the Belle Vue Communities meeting which is now taking place every couple of months. The Community Development Officer for the area and the wider team are also giving lots of support to the Lookout Community Hub in Raffles on Shadygrove Road. Some recent events the team and member have helped support are:

- Jubilee event Saturday 4th June,
- Summer Harvest 14th July.
- Summer fayre 13th August

The Hub puts on regular wellbeing and social activities accessible to residents such as Warhammer club, Knit & natter, Recovery College – providing support for mental health and wellbeing inc., Mens Offload support group, Sundays Dancercise and children's dance, children's breakfast and brunch clubs. The Community Development Officer is also supporting the group in the process of setting up a community fridge and will continue to support with other activities happening over Christmas, Easter, including other fun days.

Longtown – The Borderlands Place Programme has made £3 million available to the community of Longtown to develop economic regeneration projects to support Longtown to be a wonderful place to live and do well in. Working in partnership with Carlisle City Council, the Community Development team are part of the Steering Group and have been supporting the community of Longtown in this process. Consultants from Prosocial Place have held 5 engagement sessions with the community, the team have supported the events facilitating themed engagement work with residents. The outcome of this engagement will be the development of a Town Team and Place Plan set by the local community with a focussed town investment plan. The team (with the wider steering group) are involved in helping residents to establish the ‘Town Team’, looking at various models to support this. A stakeholder summit is planned in September, again the team will be involved in this. As part of the process residents are keen to see quick initiatives get off the ground, funding has been identified from Community Grants to enable this.

- 8.3. **Support for Diverse Ethnic Communities** – The COMF Funded project with M-Unit, Carlisle Refugee Group and Carlisle Youth Zone (CYZ) has been completed. This project was for M-Unit to employ a trainee youth and community worker who would come from a diverse background and who would have lived experience of being from a diverse or mixed heritage community. This worker provided a link between CYZ and the black and brown community in Carlisle (particularly through the resettlement programme) and was also part of a youth work team at the youth zone who would support them to grow and develop as a youth and community worker. This position has become a permanent post at CYZ. See **Appendix 5**.
- 8.4. **Food Security** – As well as distributing the grants outlined below under ‘cost of living’, the Food Security Group have undertaken a mini census across the food groups to understand better the needs and use between the different groups. The group hope to strengthen understanding within the community and with referrers about the difference between affordable food groups and pantries which people can use week in week out to help lower their weekly food bills and emergency food groups such as the Foodbank, this distinction is important so that people can be signposted to the most appropriate support. The group have also undertaken a pilot with the Supporting Families team in one of the food pantries, in the first week 12 people were supported with general advice, benefits advice and wider signposting including support to claim Universal Credit and Child Benefit.

9.0. GRANTS & FUNDING

- 9.1 **Community Grants** - the Community Development Assistants have processed over £186,700 in grants since the beginning of the new financial year. The grants processed range from £150 to £9,000 and all are allocated to groups or organisations working to benefit local communities. Many of these grants have enabled groups to secure match funding or have provided the last bit of funding needed to complete a project. As a result, Carlisle Local Committee grants have contributed to bringing in an additional £252,474 (minimum) into the district for local projects. Which is a return on investment benefitting Carlisle communities of 131% compared to last year at 124%.

Funding period Apr 22 – Aug 22		
Name of Funding Pot	Total Grant Applications	Total Amount paid or committed
0-19	£82,288	£69,983
Area Planning	£55,970	£41,349
Holiday Activity	£19,540	£19,540
Events	£26,758	£21,391
Community Grants	£62,310	£34,436

Due to the nature of grant administration and the ongoing work required, the team continue to support a wide range of applications from last financial year to ensure that projects are completed. Last year the team supported more than 150 grants through the following funding streams:

- £250,000 Environment Fund
- £400,000 Contain Outbreak Management Fund (3 separate awards)
- £100,000 Household Support Fund
- £253,577 Community Grants.

9.2 **Cost of Living Crisis** - Cumbria County Council Cabinet have channelled £2M to the current cost of living crisis. Within this, there is a commitment to distribute up to £0.5M to community support, which includes grants to community organisations supporting people who are dealing with the cost-of-living crisis, and support for the Foodbanks, Pantries and hubs. Carlisle has a food related proportion of this equating to approximately £43.5K, the priority for this additional funding was to support purchase of food, the funding has been allocated as follows:

- The Lookout - £2,000 towards their food pantry which is based at Shadygrove Road
- Botcherby Community Centre - £2,500 towards their pop-up pantry to support the residents in Botcherby
- Cornerstones (St James Church) - £3,000 towards their food bank and pop up pantry to support the residents in the Denton Holme area
- St Barnabas and St Luke's churches (formally known as TP4C) - £3,000 towards their foodbank to support the residents west of the city.
- Elim Community Church - Oasis Pantry - £5,000 towards their food pantry to support the residents mainly in the centre of Carlisle
- Mealbank 108 - £2,000 – Free community Meals
- Brampton Area Action Group - £4,000 towards their food bank and community larder which supports the residents in Brampton and the rural surrounding area.
- Carlisle Foodbank - £9,600 towards the main foodbank in Carlisle
- Carlisle Community Help - £10,000 towards their affordable food hub.

- 9.3 **Community Celebration Events** – The Community Development team have been collating information back from the Community Celebration Events grants awarded in May this year, to support local communities to organise small scale events as a way of saying thank you during the Covid pandemic, or to celebrate events such as the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and Hadrian’s Wall 1900 anniversary.

A total of £21,391 grants were awarded to local 35 organisations for their celebration projects, including 13 community organisations, 14 community centres and village halls, and 8 Parish Councils across Carlisle.

Projects included Jubilee celebrations such as afternoon tea’s, children’s parties, commemorative benches and tree planting, Jubilee Big Lunches and family fun days, beacon lighting for Hadrian’s Wall 1900 Anniversary, and events such as Carlisle Unity Festival and Carlisle One World Centre ‘city of sanctuary’ event to help support asylum seekers and refugees and welcome them to the city. 16 urban events and 19 rural events took place, which is estimated to have benefitted 13,001 people. There was some great media coverage and social media posts about the fantastic events organised by local communities across Carlisle and District. Please see **Appendix 6** for the PowerPoint presentation which showcases some of the photographs from these fabulous events.

10. **RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. There are no financial implications for the Local Committee arising from this report.

11. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1. Recommendation 3.1 is for members to note the contents of this report. There are, therefore, no direct legal implications.

12. **CONCLUSION**

- 12.1. This report provides a detailed overview of Community Development activity and shows the value of strong community leadership. Members are asked to note the report but questions to officers are welcomed.

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August 2022

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Carlisle Market Square Stage 1
- Appendix 2 – Healthy Eating on a Budget
- Appendix 3 - Community Groups Network presentation
- Appendix 4 – Botcherby Street Artwork
- Appendix 5 – M-Unit Case Study
- Appendix 6 – Celebration Grants

Electoral Divisions: Carlisle Wide

Executive Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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"/>	N/A
Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny? If so, give details below.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

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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