

ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 9
11 JANUARY 2017	Public Report

Report of the Corporate Director of People and Communities		
Contact Officer	Ian Phillips – Senior Policy Manager	Tel. 863849
	Hayley Thornhill – Senior Policy Manager	Tel. 863887

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an update on the progress of the People and Communities Strategy, which was published in April 2016.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee are asked to review and scrutinise the progress of the individual building blocks contained within the People and Communities Strategy.

3. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND RELEVANT CABINET PORTFOLIO

- 3.1 The People and Communities strategy links across all services within the People and Communities Directorate – particularly Keeping our Communities Safe, Cohesive and Healthy.
- 3.2 Which Cabinet portfolio does it fall within: Cllr Irene Walsh Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The People and Communities' Strategy (attached at appendix 1) sets out the framework of how the council will transform the way in which services are delivered and the role that community and other partner organisations will have in meeting the needs of residents. The Strategy is the overarching framework for all other relevant policies within the People and Communities Directorate.
- 4.2 The strategy is underpinned by ten individual building blocks covering broad thematic areas which set out the ways in which the council will build greater community capacity and resilience, ensure that Peterborough has strong and cohesive communities, develop young people, support families most in need and improve the health and social care of older residents.
- 4.3 Each building block has a theme lead to develop and deliver the strategic direction set out within the strategy. An update on progress made over the last six months is included at Appendix 2.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 There are no key issues to report, however there has been significant progress in developing the work within the building blocks. Much of the work contained within the strategy focuses on developing new methods of engaging and supporting our communities so that they have the skills, knowledge and confidence to tackle issues within the own local community.

- 5.2 The council has commissioned City College Peterborough to lead and develop our Community Serve programme, focussing initially in Westwood and Ravensthorpe, the Ortons with a particular emphasis on Orton Malborne and the Operation Can-Do area (Central ward, Millfield and New England). The priorities that the programme is concentrating on are:
- Isolation
 - Carers
 - Life Limitations
 - Communities
- 5.3 The initiatives planned to support the introduction of Community Serve will be based on need and co-designed by local residents. However, the initial framework that will be common across all three pilot areas will be:
- A physical hub
 - Local volunteering
 - A local time credits scheme
 - A Super-Kitchen, offering community social dining
 - Delivery of skills and employment programmes
 - Classes to support health and well-Being
 - Preventative and support work
 - Redevelopment of open spaces
 - Information, advice and guidance
 - Setting up Community Serve points
- 5.4 Following three successfully piloted community dining events at Brook Street that attracted an average of 50 people at each event, Gladstone Community Centre, within the Can Do area, was due to host its first community dining event, Community Meet and Eat, on December 14th. Public health supported this event and offered health MOTs for those residents that attended.
- 5.5 A Community Meat and Eat was also planned in the Ortons on December 15th; this was a collaborative event with the Big Local and Cross Keys Homes. Wraparound services supporting this event included topics covering health and skills.
- 5.7 The College has now recruited two area co-ordinators to support the introduction of the programme and both will be permanently based within the Community Hubs. This initiative is an exciting opportunity that is being supported by many key partners and local community groups across the city.
- 5.8 Progress has also been strong in other delivery areas. For example, the Community Cohesion team have successfully led the settlement of our first group of Syrian Refugees, and held a number of events to engage community and faith leaders. This helps to develop extensive community networks across the city, establish rapport and breakdown any emerging tensions or issues that may be developing.
- 5.9 Brexit is a concern for many of our European migrant residents in the city, as there is significant uncertainty on the implications for them. Whilst there was a small initial increase in hate crimes and incidents immediately following the referendum result, these quickly reduced and returned to previous levels. Nevertheless, there is potential for tensions to develop further as the UK negotiates a new relationship with the EU which may cause strong opinions amongst communities locally and nationally. The Community Cohesion team will continue to work with the police and local communities to monitor any impact and take necessary steps to reduce tensions and provide reassurance.
- 5.10 The Connecting Families programme continues to deliver strong results and forms a key part of the early intervention and prevention support that the council provides to families with often complex needs. At the end of November, the programme had engaged over 850 families and is

on track to meet the target for 2016/17.

- 5.11 Ensuring that the programme has the right pathways and assessments in place provides families with the support that they need. Many of the families on the programme now receive lighter touch support through the Helping Hands volunteer programme. This ensures that families do not fall backwards and that the intensive support previously delivered is sustained.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Reducing demand on council and other public sector services underpins the People and Communities strategy. The approach taken across the building blocks shows how the council is delivering new and adapted services so that the council continues to deliver support to the people who need it most.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Not applicable

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 To continue developing and delivering the programmes of work identified throughout the Building Blocks.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 9.1 None

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Appendix 1: People and Communities Strategy
Appendix 2: Update on Building Blocks

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