

Key Decision Required:	No	In the Forward Plan:	No
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CABINET

21 MAY 2021

REPORT OF PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

A.6 UPDATE ON COMMUNITY PROJECTS

(Report prepared by Rebecca Morton, Leanne Thornton, John Fox and Anastasia Simpson)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an update and seek Cabinet endorsement for a number of community projects that contribute to the organisation's Community Leadership role.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 places Community Leadership at the forefront of everything the authority does through the delivery of high quality, affordable services and working positively with others.

To deliver this aspiration, a number of community projects have been formed under the following themes:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Education
- Community Safety
- Regeneration and Skills

Officers have been instrumental in the sourcing of, and application for external funding, for the delivery of a number of these projects. To date this has secured £4.3 million of funding for these initiatives.

This report provides an overview of the projects which have been identified in accordance with the role of the Council, as a Community Leader. The Council is not the statutory provider for Education, Health and Wellbeing. However, through influence, bringing stakeholders and partners together to share and improve practices, there are a number of areas where the Council can offer support to Education and Health providers and ultimately children, learners, patients and residents across the district.

The projects below will continue to form the subject of regular updates to the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and the Community Safety and Health and Wellbeing Board.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that:-

- a) **Cabinet endorses the projects listed within this report as those which will continue to be supported in 2021/2022 in alignment with the Corporate Plan priorities.**

- b) Cabinet tasks officers with the production of a Community Engagement Strategy to support the work of these projects and that this is presented to a future meeting of the Cabinet.
- c) The Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee continue to scrutinise this work programme.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 puts Community Leadership at the forefront of everything we do, and within that has a focus on education, health, community safety and regeneration, in addition to the following priorities:-

- Community Leadership through Partnerships
- A Growing and Inclusive Economy
- Delivering High Quality Services
- Building Sustainable Communities for the Future
- Strong Finance and Governance

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and Other Resources

The majority of the projects identified require partnership working (*including officer time*) to deliver.

Some projects are subject to external funding or partners' financial support (*see table below*).

<u>Project</u>	<u>External funding sourced (£s)</u>
Wellbeing Hub (young people)	245,000.00
Tendring Education Strategic Board (TESB)	
Teach First	
IntoUniversity	1,200,000.00
Marathon Kids	4,300.00
Tendring Health and Care Academy	
Stay at Home Grow Your Own	6,000.00
Community Safety & Health and Wellbeing Board	
Local Delivery Pilot	40,000.00 allocated so far (micro grants)
Essex Pedal Power	2,800,000.00
Housing and Mental Health Project	
XY Impact Project	30,000.00
Dot Come & Watch Over Me	
SOS Bus Project	
Crucial Crew	10,000.00
Junior Ambassadors Programme	16,000.00
TOTAL	4,351,300.00

Risk

Robust project management and good partnership working will mitigate the risk of failure to deliver against key milestones.

LEGAL

The Council has a statutory requirement to deliver against agreed priorities for its Community Safety work programme. (*The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on a number of responsible authorities to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder*).

It is recognised that the Council does not have a specific statutory obligation in relation to Education, Health and Wellbeing. However, through its Community Leadership role, it does engage with partners in supporting and influencing improvements in these areas.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder / Equality and Diversity / Health Inequalities / Area or Ward Affected / Consultation / Public Engagement.

The above will be considered as part of the formulation of individual projects.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION**BACKGROUND**

An overview of each of the projects is provided below:

Education

The ongoing work to support the Education agenda also supports both the Essex and Tendring Children & Young People's Strategy 2016 and Delivery Plan. Tendring's priorities include ensuring children are emotionally healthy, have positive futures and have access to good quality education, training and work opportunities.

Tendring Children & Young People Strategy 2017 – 2020 (*update in progress*) identifies our priorities for the children and young people of Tendring as follows:-

- **Start Well**
To support schools in improving and maintaining attainment levels, promoting school readiness, a positive experience and opportunities through school, to allow each child to achieve their full potential;
- **Stay Safe**
Children and young people feeling safe in their community;
- **Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing**
Enjoying good mental health and wellbeing;
- **Positive Futures**
Working together with partners to enable families to lift themselves out of poverty, enhance aspirations and provide opportunities for life long wellbeing.

A key priority has been to ensure that partnership working continues to be effective and that the Council continues to provide support, encouragement and commitment to working collaboratively with schools to improve school attainment levels and raise aspirations and opportunities for children and young people across the District.

Health

The Council has had a Health and Wellbeing Board since 2013 to bring key partners together around health and how to work more effectively as a system to deal with the wider determinants of health that have an impact on the health of residents.

In 2020, the Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board merged, due to the joint agenda they both were seeking to address, such as mental health which is a significant issue for residents. Merging the two Boards has increased partnership working and the resolution of issues in a more joined up approach.

Community Safety

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour prevention is not the sole responsibility of any one public service but of all agencies and communities. The success of dealing with the complex challenges faced in Tendring needed innovative solutions. Essex Police and Tendring District Council worked together to develop a Hub approach where partners could be co-located to share formal and informal information.

An analysis review of overall recorded crime, together with an evaluation of responses from public engagement, identifies the key priorities for the Tendring Community Safety Partnership 2020/21 the delivery plan has been extended until 2022. Key themes within this plan are:-

- **Tackling and enforcement of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) issues**
ASB affects families and communities and by addressing these activities through supporting victims, identifying hotspots and trends, we can help improve quality of life in the community. This can decrease the fear of crime and facilitate local problem solving to address issues;
- **To reduce harm to and safeguard vulnerable victims from**
Abuse, exploitation and crime;
- **Reducing violence and knife crime**
Identifying hotspot locations, and/or increases in crime trends, working with partners to raise awareness of knife crime across the district. With a specific emphasis on County Lines, violence with injury and drug/alcohol related violence;
- **Reduce youth offending and re-offending of adults and young people**
Reduce instances of residential (dwelling) burglary, most serious violence, personal robbery and drug offences.

Regeneration

Community projects undertaken by the team tend to have an economic focus, for example the emerging Creative & Cultural Strategy, which highlights the opportunities for job creation and business growth in this sector across the district.

Projects such as the Dig4Jaywick Community Garden and the Junior Ambassadors have demonstrated great success, attracting attention from University of Essex and Anglia Ruskin University, as well as forging strong partnerships with organisations such as Refugee Action and local BAME groups.

PROJECTS

The following sets out details of specific projects which are being undertaken.

EDUCATION PROJECTS

Rollout of Wellbeing Hub model, Gt Bentley Primary School. Funding: £245,000 – bid to Health Alliance Investment Fund.

Alongside officers of the Council, the Executive Head Teacher at Gt Bentley Primary School set up a pilot Wellbeing Hub in April 2017, operating as an after school facility. Children with mild to moderate mental health issues were organised in groups and supported around the themes of play, art, construction, and science, gaining a “*rucksack of skills*” to take them forward into secondary school and beyond. In addition to this, the Hub also offered information sessions for parents and carers covering topics such as sleep, nutrition and behaviour management.

Evaluation was completed in October 2017, and outcomes showed very positive early signs of improvements in the children.

The concept was presented to the Strategic Transformation Partnership Leaders Event in April 2018. The Council was successful in a bid to the Health Alliance Investment Fund to support the rollout of the Wellbeing Hub model in 21 primary schools across Tendring & Colchester.

Despite some delay due to the pandemic, the project is making progress with the rollout, which is due to commence from April 2021, and online training for all identified staff due to be involved with their school hub has been launched in March 2021.

Evaluation partners for the project rollout have been identified and baseline data on the whole school wellbeing in all 21 schools will be collected prior to commencement of the Hub (April 2021). Evaluation will take place over a two year period and include feedback from all parties.

Tendring Education Strategic Board (TESB).

The TESB was established in January 2020. Membership of the Board includes Head Teachers from each secondary school, a representation of primary school Head Teachers, Essex County Council, Tendring, Colchester Institute, IntoUniversity and other local education providers. Recognising the need to work collaboratively to achieve the following aims:-

- Raise educational outcomes for the children and young people of Tendring;
- Positively impact on the wider community of Tendring through improvement of education;
- Influence other programmes to specifically support Children and Young Persons (CYP) and their families;
- Connect with other organisations to target funding and initiatives towards Tendring e.g. lottery funding, commissioned contracts;
- Identify and deliver collective solutions which increase the consistency of best practice and offer for CYP in Tendring.

In order to meet the above, the Board have targeted their focus on 3 key areas. The priorities which have been agreed by the TESB for 2020/21 academic year are:-

- Recruitment of high-quality staff;
- Retention of high-quality staff;
- Improved pupil attendance and engagement of children, young people and their families.

There is also a sub-group working on the development of the Post-16 local offer, who report into the TESB, as well as a regional/national barriers sub-group looking at solutions to any potential barriers within the locality. Progress on the agreed priorities will be reported at the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee in May 2021.

Teach First.

Teach First is a national organisation that operates both as a training provider and recruitment agency. The authority has been working with schools and Teach First to encourage them to place teachers and work more closely with schools in the Tendring area.

Last year, Teach First placed 5 teachers in Tendring (*an increase of 2 trainees in 2019*). Despite Tendring not being defined as an Opportunity Area (*as set by the Department of Education*), Teach First remain committed to working in Tendring, the provision of high quality trainees and achieving the right match between trainee and school. Teach First are an active member of the Tendring Education Strategic Board.

Website: <https://www.teachfirst.org.uk/>

IntoUniversity. Funding: £1.2 million – joint investment between IntoUniversity and Anglia Ruskin University.

IntoUniversity and Anglia Ruskin University formed a partnership to launch a new learning centre in Clacton in 2017. The joint investment for the new centre will ensure that the project is sustainable for at least 5 years.

IntoUniversity is an education charity that provides learning centres where young people are inspired to achieve. There are currently 31 centres across England. IntoUniversity offers an “innovative, long-term programme” to young people (age seven to eighteen) from disadvantaged backgrounds to fulfil their potential.

The Clacton learning centre has three full time members of staff and two part time and has a particular focus on STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, IntoUniversity have continued the delivery of their core programmes online, raising young people’s chances of progressing to University or further education.

834 students worked with the Centre (*this academic year*).

1,735 students have worked with the Clacton centre since it opened three years ago as follows:-

- 336 Primary;

- 498 Secondary;
- 94 students seen for academic support;
- 50 students seen on the Buddy Programme;
- 301 students seen on the Primary Focus Programme;
- 456 students seen on the Secondary Focus Programme.

For further information: <https://intouniversity.org/>

Marathon Kids. Funding: £4,300 – via grant from the Sofranie Foundation.

For further information: <http://sofronie.org/>

The Executive Projects Officer and Public Health Improvement Officer worked jointly with the charity Kids Run Free to bring Marathon Kids to primary schools within the district. Kids Run Free had been successful in securing funding to launch and support 12 primary schools in the district over two years, with a view to getting children more active, improve their health & wellbeing, to challenge and inspire.

Marathon Kids challenges children to run or walk up to four marathons over an academic year by running laps of a course on either the school field or playground. The programme focuses on personal achievement rather than competition and is fully inclusive regardless of fitness or ability. Using the Marathon Kids 5 Pillars schools can set goals, track performance and reward effort.

To date the following schools have signed up for the programme:-

- St George's C of E Primary;
- Hazelmere Primary;
- Harwich Community Primary School and Nursery;
- St Osyth C of E Primary School;
- Highfields Primary School;
- Brightlingsea Primary School;
- St Clare's RC Primary;
- Bradfield Primary School;
- Hamford Primary Academy.

Three further schools are currently in discussion regarding sign up for the programme.

At the time of writing, evaluation within participating Tendring schools shows an **89.5%** participation rate amongst students and that the average distance run in total per child is 24.3km, with one child having completed a total of 4 marathons.

Positive feedback has been received from schools who are taking part.

For further information: <https://www.marathonkids.co.uk/>

Tendring Health & Care Academy.

Following a pilot in Colchester in the summer of 2020, the Tendring Health & Care Academy was created as part of the NHS North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group's (NEECG's) Tendring Workforce Regeneration Programme.

A series of targeted activities are offered to 14-18 year olds in collaboration with local schools. In addition, the existing close partnership working across North East Essex is being harnessed to develop an enhanced offer for adults aged 16+ living in Tendring, particularly those from more disadvantaged backgrounds.

Working with a number of local partners including the Suffolk and North Essex Integrated Care System (ICS) and the North East Essex Health & Wellbeing Alliance, the Academy is seeking to introduce Tendring residents to the wide range of training and employment options available within the health and care sector by:-

- Increasing awareness around opportunities;
- Actively encouraging recruitment;
- Promoting equality and inclusion;
- Enhancing the use of apprenticeships;
- Providing support on the different entry routes into health and care roles.

The Academy's initial 'You Can' programme, was launched in early 2021. The course comprises of 6 virtual sessions delivered over three weeks by Adult Community Learning (ACL) and is being offered free of charge. It is aimed at young people and adults living in the Tendring area only and is scheduled to run a further four times until July 2021.

The University of Essex will be assisting the Academy in evaluating the programme from a qualitative perspective, as well as looking at the wider social value this intervention will generate for Tendring in the longer term.

HEALTH PROJECTS

Stay At Home Grow Your Own.

A partnership project between TDC and Colchester Borough Council, the two authorities commissioned Abberton Rural Training (ART) to provide free grown your own fruit and vegetable packs to 200 Tendring residents.

TDC supported the scheme with a contribution of £6k from the Public Health Grant, paid by Essex County Council annually.

The project aims were to encourage healthy lifestyle behaviours during COVID-19, including healthy home cooking and staying active at home, and an enjoyable stay at home activity to support mental good health.

Packs were provided to those who were either shielding, receive Universal Credit or who had recently accessed a food bank.

ART sourced and delivered the materials, along with a training pack, supported by CVS Tendring, Hamblion Transport and Perrywoods Garden Centre.

In total 383 packs were delivered across North East Essex, and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Of the feedback received **84%** reported increased outdoor activity, a third ate more healthily, while **69%** experienced reduced stress and **55%** felt moments of happiness while taking part.

Positively, **95%** said they were likely to carry on growing their own, and **86%** were inspired to do more learning and take part in community projects.

ART has secured funding from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) for a legacy project as part of wider work across North East Essex in relation to COVID-19 recovery plans, with a focus on reintegration of care homes into the community. It will also see access to leadership training for individuals who are vulnerable, isolated or have mental health issues, and get them involved in community projects.

Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board.

The health aspects of the Board include developing the Active Essex “Shaping Our Future” strategy which seeks to address high levels of inactivity in our area. It highlights the importance of systematic and joined up working to support those suffering health inequalities to obtain the benefits of physical activity.

The Prevention and Enablement Model, a collaboration between Active Essex, Adult Social Care and Sport for Confidence, is a test and learn project funded for 12 months promoting physical activity for those supported by Adult Social Care to improve strength and balance – helping individuals to develop their overall health, which also supports service provision.

Local Delivery Pilot (LDP).

Sport England has extended the Local Delivery Pilot to 2025 to allow more time for effective learning. Discussions are ongoing with Sport England to look at an extension of funding to support this.

There have now been 47 applications for micro grants (*up to £2,500*) with the vast majority being approved both by the Local Implementation Group (*made up of local partners*) and then approved by Sport England, with just under £40k allocated. Projects supported include:

- Bodymove
An app to get people active through chair-based exercise;
- Feel Good Drumming in Walton
Where an initial grant was then extended for the class to go on to the beach to continue in a socially distanced manner.

More significant investments have included:

- Supporting Inclusion Ventures with a physical activity worker;
- Lads Need Dads being extended into Harwich;
- Funding CVS Tendring to help the groups they support incorporate a physical activity offer.

Another very significant investment from the LDP is the Essex Pedal Power initiative (see below).

Essex Pedal Power.

Working with wider partners and in particular Essex County Council, who lead on this, and The Active Wellbeing Society in Birmingham, a successful bid was made to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership for £2.8m funding.

This funding will be used for infrastructure upgrades between Jaywick Sands and Clacton to allow cycling along this route, but will also see the provision of bikes to residents in Jaywick Sands and West Clacton.

By providing a bike, residents will be enabled to carry out physical activity without the barrier of the cost of a bicycle – and further allow them to access work and education. The bikes will be provided free and are GPS tracked. Those who get bikes must use them weekly for a six month period, and if so will be offered longer access to the bikes. The first bikes are envisaged to be distributed in June 2021, along with lights, a helmet and lock.

This is supported through significant funding provision from the Local Delivery Pilot in respect of provision of the bikes, while an activity worker will help to deliver the scheme effectively on the ground.

A feasibility study is also being undertaken on the possibility of building a Pump Track, co-created with the community, in Jaywick Sands.

Housing and Mental Health Project.

Funded by the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group, this project sees staff from the Mental Health Trust work alongside Council officers undertaking routine work, such as housing or environmental protection visits. The Health Support works with those identified in these visits as having mental health issues, which may be exacerbating their housing need. This ensures a longer-term solution can be identified, rather than just solving the immediate housing or environment need.

Although Mental Health staff had to return to the Trust during the pandemic to support the extra demand, towards the end of 2020 this support was restarted and officers again have the ability to get support when a significant mental health issue is identified.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PROJECTS

The Essex Violence and Vulnerability (V&V) Unit.

The V&V Unit has identified Tendring as one of the areas where a multi-agency approach is needed to tackle violence and vulnerabilities within communities. This correlates with two of the Tendring Community Safety Priorities of reducing harm to and safeguarding vulnerable victims (*including children*), and reducing violence and knife crime.

It also aligns with three of the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan 2016-2021:

- Priority 4 - Reverse the Trend in Serious Violence;
- Priority 5 - Tackle Gangs and Organised Crime;
- Priority 6 - Protecting Children and Vulnerable People from Harm.

The V&V Strategic Executive Group agreed to focus on 11 wards within five areas of Essex (*two of which are in Tendring: Pier Ward and West Clacton & Jaywick Sands Ward*), as part

of the approach. It focuses on prevention of perpetrators offending, rather than victim prevention, alongside tackling crime hotspots.

Officers have been working with Essex Police to liaise with the V&V Unit, and agreed to approach UTURN4SUPPORT to devise a project meeting these shared objectives.

XY Impact Youth Project. Funding: £30,000 UTurn project.

The XY Impact Youth Project is a community-based mentoring and educational project designed to implement early intervention to prevent long-term Anti-Social Behaviour, social exclusion, and criminal offending.

Delivered by UTurn youth workers, it will provide one-to-one and group sessions with young people where they congregate. Youth workers will provide support, advice and information on county lines and knife-related violence, helping young people to redirect and reorder their own lives away from offending.

Young people will develop their self-esteem and confidence, have reduced barriers to education, and be prepared to deal with life by equipping them with social skills, self-awareness, and to increase their resilience. These skills will include relationships and trust, conflict resolution, and promote positive peer groups.

The objectives include:-

- To provide and encourage young people to participate in the use of existing services and support;
- Identifying young people with underlying risk and protective factors for becoming involved in county lines related crimes using a multi-agency approach;
- Changing attitudes and increasing young people's confidence and aspirations, reducing the likelihood of violence.

Dot Com and Watch Over Me Programmes. Funded by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner and V&V Unit.

The V&V Unit has commissioned the Dot Com Programme and Watch Over Me project, with the programme offered in Tendring to young people, in education or other settings such as community groups.

The Dot Com Digital Programme is a safeguarding resource for schools which educates children to prevent their becoming victims of crime. It is supported by the Home Office and cited as a tool for prevention of online harm in Department for Education (DFE) guidance.

Dot Com Digital is a cartoon friend to primary school children who empowers them to speak up about issues which frighten or worry them, while teenagers have the Watch Over Me soap opera series – which aligns with the curriculum requirements about relationships and sex education.

The Dot Com Digital resource has been developed by children and Essex Police with the support of the Metropolitan Police and The National Police Chief Council.

Watch Over Me is designed to stimulate discussion around sensitive issues and the risks young people face in life.

Community Safety and Health and Wellbeing Project – SOS Bus Project. Funding: All agencies support the project with officer attendance each week.

As the pandemic has developed, many across Tendring now face the possibility of hardship, which will affect their ability to remain in accommodation moving forward.

The SHELLS partnership is a collection of charities and organisations who are working together in Tendring to help support homeless people, or those at risk of homelessness, with health, wellbeing and accommodation support. The Open Road SOS Bus will enable the SHELLS partnership to provide an outreach service.

The SHELLS partnership includes:

- Open Road;
- Summit Services;
- Essex Partnership University Trust;
- CVS Tendring;
- Social Prescribing;
- Anglia Care Trust;
- Phoenix Futures.

Officers from TDC attend when required.

Crucial Crew. Funding: £10,000 by Community Safety Partnership.

Tendring's Crucial Crew for year six pupils is being delivered virtually this year within school classrooms due to COVID-19. The programme, Helping Hands, has been designed and produced by Loudmouth Education and Training.

This online pre-recorded lesson has been created specifically to help children to stay safe, using the NSPCC's PANTS rule. Each letter gives an important message for children to help them stay safe; as the central theme the team teaches the children about safe and unsafe secrets and body contact as well as recognising the feelings that may occur when you feel unsafe. The programme explores difficult topics such as abuse, knife crime and exploitation; in a safe and gentle way.

There has been positive feedback from schools about the session, in particular that it allowed the opening of discussions with children about difficult topics.

The programme has been delivered in 11 primary schools between lockdowns, and another 23 are planned before the end of July 2021 – reaching a total of 34 of the district's 43 primary schools.

REGENERATION PROJECTS

Tendring Junior Ambassadors Project.

First developed as a response to a rise in hate crime figures, particularly racial, during 2017/18, Junior Ambassadors encourages children to become more involved in their community, showing respect for themselves, others and their environment.

With an overall theme of cultural awareness, the year five and six pupils become community representatives delivering a message to friends and family about diversity and inclusion, showing an understanding of the differences between those from different backgrounds.

This year 16 schools are taking part – seven during Autumn term 2020 and nine during Summer term 2021 – with 500 pupils participating.

Activities include a Bollywood dance session, a Chinese calligraphy workshop, and a very emotive session from Refugee Action – Colchester including an account from a Syrian refugee.

An author and artist work with the children after sessions to capture their experiences, creating a booklet which is a resource for schools and to share with the wider community.

TDC is providing £16k funding, with a further £10k coming from the Essex Cultural Diversity Project to support workshops around Black History Month in October, engaging children with African storytelling and dance.

Feedback from schools is positive, both from staff and pupils. The project also supports the Arts, both for children's development and through the commissioning of the artists involved; whose livelihood has been challenged by the pandemic.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None