

**South Lakeland District Council**  
**Council**  
**Wednesday, 13 July 2022**  
**Health, Wellbeing and Poverty Alleviation Portfolio**  
**Holder Report**

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**Portfolio:** Cllr Suzie Pye

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To work with other tiers of government, community groups and other relevant partners to enhance the health and wellbeing of residents.

Alleviate the harmful effects of poverty in the District, looking at issues to address those who are disadvantaged, focusing on fairness and reducing disadvantage and inequalities.

Working with key partners concerning welfare reforms.

Nominated representative on the Health and Wellbeing Board as appropriate.

Promoting the relationship of the Council with its citizens; encouraging civic participation with the Council plan objectives around leisure, health and wellbeing; and developing greater community collaboration.

Leading on inequality, deprivation and population health.

Working with key partners concerning public health and community safety.

#### Polices, plans and strategies

- Community Strategy
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy
- Community Safety Plan

#### Key Areas

- Public Health
- Community Development
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy
- Voluntary Sector in relation to Public Health and Wellbeing Sector
- Health and Safety
- Poverty Alleviation
- Young People/ Projects
- Emerging Community Issues

## **Public Health**

The Council's Health and Environment Team continue to work albeit, in a reduced capacity, alongside colleagues from National agencies, Cumbria's Public Health Team, and other district councils, to provide support and assistance to the Education Infection Prevention and Control Team and the Care Home Infection Prevention and Control Team to manage cases of Covid 19. Collaborative work is also taking place to formulate Pandemic Preparedness Plans.

Routine regulatory activity, centred mainly around Food Hygiene and Health & Safety has now fully resumed. Officers are working in line with The Food Standards Agency Recovery Plan to address the backlog of inspections which have been brought about by the pandemic.

## **Health and Safety**

Officers from the Council have recently been involved with the successful prosecution of Health and Safety regulation breaches against Holker Estates and Newmac. The fines were £127 000 and £11 000 respectively. This has been in no small part due to the comprehensive and thorough investigation carried out by Officers.

## **Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and Young People/Projects**

Alec Proffitt (CSP coordinator, Barrow BC):

**SLDC Safeguarding Forum:** SLDC's Safeguarding Forum meets quarterly to challenge and review policies, procedures and performance of the authority's safeguarding responsibilities. The Forum has recently:

- Successfully completed a Child safeguarding audit (section 11 of the Children's Act)
- Begun systematically monitoring induction safeguarding training
- Promoted safeguarding training e-learning to all staff (now mandatory) and reviewing members training offer
- Completed a one day "Principles of Safeguarding" courses for relevant SLDC staff and 2 further full day sessions booked in for August 2022
- Completed conflict resolution training and trauma informed care training (7 Sept) for Town View Fields Hostel staff. All staff received safeguarding level 1 and e-learning training) and Level 3 safeguarding booked for 2 August. Bespoke site specific training personal safety training for Hostel staff due in July.

## **Poverty Alleviation and Financial Resilience**

In response to the cost of living crisis several initiatives and projects have come to fruition:

2 new poverty alleviation funds have been launched:

- The Fairer South Lakeland Community Fund is a £25,000 fund to support poverty alleviation and community and individual resilience. The Fund is open to Town and Parish councils, community and voluntary groups and local charities and can award up to £8000 for both established projects and new initiatives.
- The Emergency fund is for short term financial support for individuals / residents (up to £200 per individual/ household) to meet immediate and severe financial need.

£2000 is available for partner agencies to award where there is no prospect for alternative funding, and the recipient is in a crisis situation.

- South Lakeland Poverty Truth Commission: Cumbria CVS, funded by SLDC, have now successfully recruited a coordinator and facilitator to manage the commission and will immediately start on recruiting community commissioners to start the 2 year process. A Poverty Truth Commission is a response to poverty led by those directly affected by poverty. It will change perceptions of poverty by promoting meaningful conversation and relationships between people experiencing poverty and people who control resources and services which help alleviate poverty. It's about moving from denial that poverty exists to an informed response to poverty in our area. Community commissioners are people with lived experience of poverty. They will set the agenda and lines of enquiry for the PTC. Civic commissioners will then be recruited (local leaders in relevant organisations) and a series of conversations will be held. Public events will be held to raise awareness and showcase what has been improved as a result of the process.
- The Building Financial Resilience Partnership continues to have excellent attendance from local partners and is a forum for sharing information of grants/ support and local initiatives amongst partners.
- SLDC have published a comprehensive list of support (Sharepoint home page / Quicklinks/ "Financial support and advice for staff to signpost") covering Council Tax discounts, energy rebate, Discretionary Housing payments, Homeless support, Handy Person scheme, as well as links to other services in the area. We have also published a list of food banks and outlets in South Lakeland.

Finally every edition of South Lakeland News has an extensive listing of sources of support for those in financial difficulties or crisis.

## **Young People**

SLDC is a partner on the Children and Young People's Working Group (SLDC PH member). The group has recently approved funding for various projects which promote the health, wellbeing, and safety of children and young people in South Lakeland. Right-To-Work were awarded funding to provide outdoor placements for small groups of young people who were beginning to disengage with school or college life for whatever reason. Ulverston Town Council were awarded funds to purchase and install an outdoor gym in Ford Park, which will be used by many young residents. Cancer Care were funded to run peer support groups for 11-17 year olds who are either suffering from cancer themselves or who have suffered bereavement. These are just some projects that the CYPWG supports, and demonstrates how effective it is as a partnership group.

The SLDC Portfolio Holder (PH) is on the CCC Panel for the holiday and activity programme - bids from local organisations put on activities and lunches for vulnerable young people and children receiving Free School Meals. For more information please follow this link:

<https://cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/childrenandfamilies/cfis/holidayactivity/holidayactivities.asp>

SLDC Officers and Councillors are collaborating with the work coaches at Kendal Youth Hub which operates out of the South Lakes Foyer and is run by local DWP representatives. The team at Kendal Youth Hub help bridge the transition from leaving mainstream education to entering employment, apprenticeship, or further studies. They engage with 16-24 year olds, particularly those with barriers to work, to help build confidence and develop employability skills.

## Health and Wellbeing

Park Run is happening every Saturday morning at Rothay park in Ambleside and Park Play in conjunction with Active Cumbria will be starting free play sessions in SLDC's Lightburn Park in Ulverston and Sandylands in Kendal. This starts on 23/7/2022 in Ulverston.

The start date is yet to be confirmed for Kendal.

SLDC have made a contribution towards the cost of the Park Play leaders.

A more detailed report will be available when the numbers of children attending have been quantified.

## Tracking Information

| <b>Signed off by</b> | <b>Date sent</b> | <b>Date Signed off</b> |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Section 151 Officer  | N/A              | N/A                    |
| Monitoring Officer   | N/A              | N/A                    |
| CMT                  | 01/07/22         | 01/07/22               |

| <b>Circulated to</b>            | <b>Date sent</b> |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Lead Specialist                 | N/A              |
| Human Resources Lead Specialist | N/A              |
| Communications Team             | N/A              |
| Leader                          | N/A              |
| Committee Chairman              | N/A              |
| Portfolio Holder                | 01/07/22         |
| Ward Councillor(s)              | N/A              |
| Committee                       | N/A              |
| Executive (Cabinet)             | N/A              |
| Council                         | 13/07/22         |