

Community Matters Policy Development Advisory Group
31 OCTOBER 2022

Present: Councillors: Liz Kitchen (Chairman), Andrew Baldwin, Billy Greening, Colin Minto, Claire Vickers and Belinda Walters

Apologies: Councillors: Sam Raby
Absent: Councillors: Chris Brown

Also Present:

4 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Sam Raby.

5 **NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the previous meeting, held on 19 July 2022, were noted and agreed.

6 **HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

The meeting received an overview and update on the activity on the Health & Wellbeing Service from the Head of Housing & Community Services and the Health & Wellbeing Manager.

The Service encompasses a wide range of delivery, including support in tackling pre-diabetes, weight issues, alcohol and smoking cessation, ensuring continuing health through wellbeing checks, eating and activity advice, and support to older and more vulnerable people in establishing safe, mobile and independent lifestyles.

A key presence for the service is the Health & Wellbeing Centre, until recently located in Black Horse Way but now being delivered from Parkside while more permanent accommodation in Swan Walk is confirmed. Having a town centre presence has raised the Service profile significantly, with current levels of engagements having tripled since the pre-Covid period.

Case studies were outlined to illustrate the work of Wellbeing Advisors, the Exercise to Music programme, and Falls Prevention (a countywide initiative of the Falls Prevention service is currently being considered to go live from April 2023). These contribute significantly to tackling weight and pre-diabetes risks, and also the safety and wellbeing of the District's residents.

Initiatives to address issues arising from the cost of living were announced to Council on 19 October and approved. These included providing for two new advisors under a partnership agreement with Citizens Advice, and funding for

the LIFT (Low Income Family Tracker). Progress will be reported to the next PDAG.

The presentation was welcomed by the group, and the value and benefit of the service was recognised and fully supported.

7 **FORWARD PLAN EXTRACT FOR THE COMMUNITY MATTERS PORTFOLIO**

The Forward Plan was noted.

The meeting closed at 6.06 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm

CHAIRMAN