

**WILTSHIRE COUNCIL
SALISBURY AREA BOARD
14th SEPTEMBER 2017**

CHILD WELLBEING GROUP – UPDATE REPORT

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To update the area board on the work carried out by the Child Wellbeing Group so far.
- 1.2. To ask the area board to reaffirm its commitment to the work of this group.

2. Background

- 2.1. In January 2016, targeted invitations to a debate on child poverty were sent to members of the public, child care professionals, teachers, health visitors, public health consultants, young people and local charities supporting families living in poverty.
- 2.2. As evidence base, current statistics for child poverty in Salisbury were presented: circa 1,000 families. 13% of Salisbury's population live in areas of high deprivation: Bemerton Heath, the Friary, and Bishopdown. Updated statistics will be presented in November 2017 at a Child Poverty event. Nationally and locally, numbers of children living in poverty are rising.
- 2.3. The 90 people present asked the Area Board to setup a subgroup to focus on the following areas:
 - (a) Improve communication and coordination of information, advice and services
 - (b) Strengthen support for parents
 - (c) Strengthen support for children's mental and emotional health

3. Update

- 3.1 Councillor Mary Douglas has been leading on this work on behalf of the board, and with the Community Engagement Manager, drew together a group during the middle of 2016. See appendix 1 for the membership of the group.
- 3.2 After wide ranging discussion of the factors which make up child poverty, and methods of community engagement, the group decided in autumn 2017 to direct its first initial focus to the Friary and to the age band of 0-5 years. A summary of the activities, agencies and services working on the Friary for young families with 0-5 year olds is attached at appendix 2.

- 3.3 As a consequence of these discussions, the Wiltshire & Swindon Community Foundation has committed to secure £200k funding for a 5 year programme of work on the Friary to address some of the causes of child poverty. The aim is to improve the mental health of parents, and the resilience of families. £40k of funding is available each year, allocated by a panel of local people. The Community Foundation will also support a Community Development Worker to engage families with both the panel and with the activities which it funds. This work is planned to begin in the spring of 2018.
- 3.4 Both the Child Wellbeing Group and the Friary Inter Agency Group will follow the progress of this programme and offer their support throughout.
- 3.5 In addition, the Child Wellbeing Group is discussing with Spurgeons ways to enhance existing provision for the Friary with a view to engaging parents by using the Children's Centre Little Learners group as a gateway to identify families, that would benefit from any additional parenting programmes the child and wellbeing group may choose to provide.
- 3.6 Alongside this targeted work on the Friary, the group will now focus over the next 12 months on the first goal of improving communication and coordination of information, advice and services to families living in poverty. It is envisaged that the Group will then move to targeted work in other areas of Salisbury.

4. Recommendations

4.1 To note the update; and

4.2 To reaffirm support for the Child Wellbeing Group's work.

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Appendix 1

- Lead councillor from Salisbury Area Board
- City Councillor representative
- Childrens Centres
- Churches
- Carers Support Wiltshire
- HomeStart
- SW Mencap
- Health Visitors
- Midwives
- Salisbury Hospital
- Pre schools
- Schools
- Children's Chance
- Salisbury Rotary – Our Children Our Future Group
- Children & Families Voluntary Sector Forum
- Wessex Community Action
- Wiltshire Parents & Carers Association
- Learning Curve
- Sports Development Officers
- Youth Leaders
- Parenting Specialists
- Early Years Service Managers
- Salisbury Arts Centre
- Family Counselling Trust
- Health Schools reps

Information, Advice & Services on the Friary for Families with 0-5year olds

St Osmunds Pre School

This charity-run pre-school supports many families who live on the Friary.

As a charity, we continuously fundraise so we can support families in all areas such as; mental health and well being for many families arranging support linking with different outside agencies.

We also have made good links with Tesco's and deliver food boxes to our families as well as teaching some families how to cook the food provided. We also support the families by supplementing a cooked lunch which we fund as government funding does not include Early Years.

We encourage the parents to join us to gain qualifications if they are interested in childcare, and support them through GCSE's and getting back to work.

We have set up an oral health clinic, as such ensuring all the children now brush their teeth and adhere to a healthy eating programme... to mention a few things.

Spurgeon's led Childrens Centre (see attached separate report)

Friary Christian Fellowship – Assemblies of God

As I think you know we have very little interaction with families of young children. At the moment, most of our regular work on the estate is with teenagers. Occasionally we stage an event to which all are invited and where very young children and their parents might be present. We are planning a free BBQ for everyone on 23rd July and you would be very welcome to come along, or send a representative. Prior to this we will probably distribute a newsletter to every home which could include reference to the child wellbeing project if you would like to send me some text.

Anybody Can Cook – regular healthy eating / cooking workshops

At the Friary Community Centre

- Learning Curve – IT Courses (ECDL)
- Housing works consultations

- Assemblies of God – Youth Groups (10-13yrs and 13yrs+)
 - Salisbury City Council – After School Club, Lunch Club, Bingo, Scrapstore
 - Spurgeons Little Learners (0-5yrs group)
 - Adult Support Group
 - St Osmunds Pre-School – (0-5s activities)
 - Wiltshire Council Resident Engagement Manager - Community Craft sessions
 - Arts & Crafts with Heidi
 - Anybody Can Cook healthy eating and cooking workshops
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Wiltshire Council – Sports Development Team

- Doorstep sports club – free weekly multi sports sessions for 10 + years, delivered since 2013
 - Fit and Fed – free sessions in the Easter (1 day) and Summer holidays (2 days) combining food and sport for 5+ years and their families
 - Salisbury Rovers FC – free weekly football sessions
 - Streetz Cheer – have previously delivered a free 3-week pilot project on the estate for 8+ years, and hoping to deliver this again in Sept (dependant on funding)
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Early Years and Childcare Sector

Info on childcare costs from Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Council – Health Trainer

I've been doing monthly drop-ins at the Spurgeons Little Learners group on a Thursday morning. It's been quite successful as we've been able to deliver healthy eating, smoke cessation and signposting advice, e.g. Turning Point, via literature and brief interventions with mum's and dad's. We've also checked blood pressures which is a good way of engaging with the residents about healthy lifestyles. I've also attend cookery classes with the residents at which I did have one referral who I saw on a 1-1 basis over 6 sessions to help and support through behaviour changes. I also try to drop-in on coffee mornings etc. so that the residents there just get to know me and the type of support I could give them.

Wiltshire & Swindon Community Foundation

We are planning on taking a more place based approach in trying to address some of the causes of child poverty, and one of the areas we will be working in is The Friary. The 5-year programme will be led by local residents with the aim of improving the mental health of parents, and helping families to become stronger and more resilient.

There will be £40k of funding available each year and it will be a panel of local people who will decide on how that funding is allocated. We will provide the support of a Community Development Worker to engage families with both the panel and also the activities which it funds.

Children's Centre Services

(Services delivered in the Friary in the past 2 years via Spurgeons Children's Centres)

I have based this report upon the SOA area 059D, which contains 69 families with a 0-5 child:

Little Learner groups (accessible to all families with a 0-5 year old) which are run by experienced Early Year's Workers, provide learning opportunities for children and parents through positive play around the EYFS framework and Five to Thrive ethos. Within these sessions, Family Support Workers also regularly attend the sessions to support our more vulnerable families, helping our Early Year's Workers to identify any families that may need further support. We also have a focus each quarter on staying safe, health eating, careers advice and dental hygiene. Every quarter we work in partnership with other agencies and the following attend regularly:

1. Wiltshire Council Health Trainers
2. Oral Health
3. Dieticians

(PCSOs and local emergency services have also attended some sessions)

Through these sessions, there have been 1,222 contacts; this means many families have attended more than once. In total, 212 individuals have attended.

One to one Family Support Workers covering range of issues such as parenting/debt/mental health issues/housing etc. have supported 31 families over two years (i.e. families that have received support in the home and have a casefile and designated worker).

Parenting programmes (Incredible Years/Pram to Primary/Hey Health Eating) - we have supported 7 families.

One off Events - (This is based on events held in the Friary, attended by families that live in SOA 059D). These events are designed to target our most vulnerable areas to reach families we may not have seen before in order to register them with the Children's Centres, so that they have access to our services - 32 families have attended. These events are marketed as fun events such as 'Fun in the Sun' for example with learning to support families (e.g. healthy eating/educational/safety info). We often link with the Trussell Trust, to provide free food (especially in the summer holidays when low income families may not have access to free school meals).