Warminster Community Area Board

July 2022

Annual Review of Local Priorities

1. **Purpose of the Report**

   I. To report on progress made in addressing the Area Board priorities selected for 2021/22
   II. To consider any new evidence or information that will help inform the Area Board in selecting its priorities for 2022/23
   III. To highlight potential priorities for the Area Board to consider for 2022/23
   IV. To inform the Area Board of the broad mechanism for delivering these priorities including (where appropriate): leads, working groups and allocating funding.

2. **Introduction**

   This report has been written by the Community Engagement Manager in consultation with the Area Board Chair. It is provided to help celebrate the success so far and support the Area Board Councillors in setting their priorities for the coming year.

   In early 2021, the Community Engagement Manager combined data from the Community Area "Joint Strategic Needs Assessment" (JSNA) with other sources of data and additional local intelligence. This was used to produce a Community Area status report that highlighted where further local improvements may be required. In May 2021, this report was shared with local Area Boards to help inform which priorities it should focus its energy and resources upon.

   Given the challenging financial environment, both nationally and locally, Area Boards are encouraged to continue to develop this evidence led approach to its work, so that they can have the greatest impact on the lives of our communities. This includes:
   ✓ Selecting priorities and directing resources to where there is the greatest need and where the Area Board can make a tangible contribution;
   ✓ Being clear on what the Area Board is trying to achieve and the mechanism for doing so; and
   ✓ Regularly reviewing and communicating progress against the chosen priorities.

3. **Progress on 2021/22 Area Board priorities**

   The Area Board working with its partners and the wider community has focussed its attention over the past year on the priority areas below. Appendix A summarises the progress that has been made so far.

a. Digital inclusion
b. Tackling social isolation and loneliness
c. Supporting Local Businesses
d. Improving outcomes for young people and positive activities
e. Housing and employment

4. **The context for agreeing new Area Board priorities.**

The selection of Area Board priorities should be undertaken using both the evidence available to us, as well as the context within which we are operating. Both are continually changing, and the following is provided to help inform the Area Board's decision.

i. The Joint Strategic Needs Analysis was collated 2 years ago in 2020 and although it used the latest information available at the time, some it is now out of date. This is partly due the significant impact COVID-19 has had on issues such as debt, the economy and mental health as well as the release of more up to date data that was not previously available. This includes
   - [Wiltshire Citizens Advice Annual Report](#)
   - [Wiltshire Intelligence Bringing Evidence Together (JSNA Update)](#)

ii. The 2021/22 Area Board priorities were selected whilst in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. The demands of this public health crisis demonstrated the importance of partnership working with some services struggling to cope and many of our community groups and organisations unable to operate. The focus of our time and resources has been upon coming together and supporting the vulnerable within our communities. As we now emerge from the pandemic, the focus is shifting away from this reactive response and onto the rebuilding of our communities. In particular, the evidence suggests that
   - Use of services such as the foodbank has increased
   - Use of mental health services has increased, particularly among young people
   - In some areas, attainment levels at schools have been impacted
   - Fewer groups enabling people to have social interactions now exist
   - Patterns of the occurrence of domestic incidents has changed

iii. The last 2 years has seen a change in the way that people communicate, especially with the shift to more permanent home and remote working. This has allowed a new approach that includes the ability to be more inclusive and a reduction in the need to travel. The Area Board is encouraged to embrace these opportunities but also mitigate against any local impact upon our communities including considering those that do not have connectivity or the facility to engage in a remote way.

iv.   Wiltshire Council has released its new business plan, outlining its strategy for 2022-2032. It focusses upon the 4 themes of "Empowering People", "a Resilient Society", "a Thriving Economy" and "a Sustainable Environment". In addition, Wiltshire Council on the 1st February 2022, approved both the Wiltshire Climate Strategy and Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan. The Area Board should be aware of these plans and seek to help deliver them at a local level.

5.   Agreeing and delivering priorities for 2022/23

The Community Engagement Manager has provided a list of possible priorities for consideration. These can be found in Appendix B. The Area Board should carefully consider how many priorities it can work on at any one time and ensure that they are meaningful for their local area. As a guide, it is recommended that where an Area Board has 4 or less councillors, no more than 4 priorities are selected at any one time. Larger boards can select up to 5 if they believe that they have the capacity to deliver on them. Area Boards can at any time select, review or amend their priorities in order that they remain relevant and linked to current needs.

As well as being evidence led, priorities should be selected where the Area Board believes that it can realistically make a positive impact upon them. To aid the delivery of the chosen priorities, the Community Engagement Manager will support the Area Board councillors including in the creation and management of an action plan. This plan will include clearly defined, manageable and measurable outcomes so the intended outcome is fully understood and will, in turn, facilitate the annual review of delivery on local priorities.

The key mechanism for delivery is to support the local community to use their own experiences, abilities and passions so that they are empowered to shape and deliver positive change. To achieve this the Area Board may wish to consider allocating funding where money is required to help deliver the required aims. The Area Board may also look to set up a local working group to lead on the delivery of a priority, especially where no suitable group already exists.

It is recommended that, for each priority selected, an Area Board councillor takes responsibility for overseeing its delivery and reporting back to the Area Board on progress. The Community Engagement Manager will support the Area Board councillors in undertaking this work.

6.   Area Board Lead Councillor Role Description

Area Boards are invited to appoint lead Councillor(s) representatives for each of the priority themes that they have selected. The following guiding principles are in place for Councillors who take a role as an Area Board lead for a priority theme:

- To be the main Area Board point of contact for local officers, councillors and residents within their respective lead area;
- To attend (and usually take the role as chair) relevant working groups of the Area Board;
- To work collaboratively and cooperatively with relevant local partners, community groups, volunteers and outside bodies;
- To provide regular updates back to the Area Board in relation to their lead area, including providing feedback on the success or limitations of previously funded Area Board grants;
- To diligently and democratically consider any funding applications, ensuring due process is undertaken; and
- To in consultation with the local Councillor, monitor feedback for those grant applications that relate to the local priority the lead Councillor has responsibility for, ensuring that relevant feedback on progress and outcomes is provided to the Area Board.

7. **Recommendations**

I. The Area Board is asked to acknowledge the progress update from the 2021/22 local priorities work.
II. The Area Board is asked to consider this report along with its appendices and decide upon the priorities it wishes to focus on in the coming year.
III. The Area Board is asked to appoint a councillor lead for each of the selected priorities.
IV. The Area Board is asked to appoint any required working groups in relation to each priority. Note; any existing externally operated groups may already be in place and should be acknowledged and noted.

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APPENDIX A - Summary of progress made against priorities for 2021/22

Digital Inclusion

Support provided to schools to provide IT facilities to families in need

Grant funding provided to Warminster Schools to provide IT devices to families who are digitally isolated

Support provided to Wiltshire Digital Drive

Area Board grant funding was awarded to Wiltshire Digital Drive, a Community Interest Company which provides devices such as laptops, tablets and desktop computers to families and organisations in need.

Increase in opening hours of Warminster Library

As we have emerged from the pandemic, the opening hours of Warminster Library have been generally increasing back to pre-pandemic levels. The Library has computers available for public use and staff are able to provide support to those that need it.

Tech Club at Warminster School

Support for and signposting tech club at Warminster School – part of the community engagement programme at the school, the students provide one to one support to people – mostly older and/or vulnerable people in becoming able to operate online.

Tackling social isolation and loneliness

Support for Warminster Community Area Health and Wellbeing Forum

Financial support provided for Warminster Health and Wellbeing Forum to host meetings and event. Support provided by CEM to provide regular meetings. The group brings together organisations and individuals who work with older and vulnerable people to create a network, working together to initiate and support projects that improve health and wellbeing within our community.

The relationship between Warminster Health and Wellbeing Forum and the area board has been slightly changed this year. The forum has taken on the role of considering and making recommendations to the area board on Health and Wellbeing Grant applications, while remaining outside of the formal Area Board sub-group structure. This has removed the need for a separate Health and Wellbeing Management Group which previously created some duplication of effort when co-existing with the forum.

Warminster Health and Wellbeing Day

Specific grant funding also awarded to the forum's "Health and Wellbeing Day" in Warminster – a free annual event (albeit delayed by covid) which brings together organisations to promote the activities and services which are available to Older and Vulnerable people within the community.

Support for activities at Warminster Action Group

Warminster Action Group now operate out of a unit in Chinns Court in the centre of Warminster, and while they continue to provide support with shopping and prescriptions to some older/vulnerable people, have focused efforts on befriending and companionship projects which provide social interactions for many who would otherwise be socially isolated. Financial support provided by the area board as well as other support has enabled this work to continue.

Support for Warminster Covid-19 Community Response Group

Regular meetings held with group who came together during lockdown periods to support the community. Name of the group will change as the focus is no longer covid response, but groups such as Warminster Action Group, Warminster Library, Kingdown School, Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Council Officers outside of the Area Board structure and others still see a role for the group within the community.

Support for Warminster Garrison Community Health and Wellbeing Fair

Support provided to Warminster Garrison Community Day to encourage local groups and organisations to get involved in the day.

The event will provide another chance for groups and organisations to promote their services and activities to the community including opportunities which will create social interactions therefore reducing isolation.

Celebrating Age Wiltshire Programme

Area Board funding provided for the Celebrating Age Wiltshire Programme. The programme provided and continues to provide multiple opportunities for older people to engage with and attend professional standard musical performances and targets isolated people in settings such as care homes and the rural settings in our villages.

Celebrating Age Wiltshire Jubilee Event

Additional Area Board Health and Wellbeing funding awarded specifically for the Celebrating Age Wiltshire Jubilee event, providing more opportunities for isolated people to enjoy musical performances over the Queen's jubilee period

Support for Sutton Veny Church Community Facilities

Area Board grant funding awarded to create a community space in Sutton Veny with the aim to provide a community space for events and groups during the week when the local village hall is used exclusively by the school.

Support for Allotment Associations

Area Board funding awarded to Tynings and Knook, Heytesbury and Imber Allotment Associations, providing those allotment owners with improved facilities at their allotments.

Supporting Local Business

Continuing support for Warminster Regeneration Group

The Area Board supports the work of Warminster regeneration group.

Support for Warminster Garrison Community Day

The community day at Warminster Garrison, in addition to the Health and Wellbeing Fair, will provide the opportunity for local businesses to promote themselves and their services

Wellbeing for Young People and Positive Activities

Re-establishing Warminster Local Youth Network

The Local Youth Network has been re-established with regular meetings taking place. Initial meetings has suggested a number of possible projects to follow up on including but not limited to: Initiating "Detached" Street-Based Youth Work to engage with young people who are not involved with existing clubs/activities/services, working with Youth Intervention Team at Wiltshire Police on courses such as drug awareness etc, Improving Communication between the network and young people through social media etc.

Rural Youth Outreach Project

In partnership with Community First, and Area Boards in Southern Wiltshire, Stonehenge, Pewsey and Tidworth, the area board has created the Rural Youth Outreach Project which has engaged with people in villages from around our community areas.

Having completed the first phase of the project, it now moves on to the second delivery phase, including a Pop-Up youth event in Codford with a view to holding further events and other engagement activities moving forwards.

In-School Mental Health Services Support

Funding was provided to Kingdown School in to increase the counselling service provided in school following a report that demand, and as a result, waiting lists had significantly increased following periods of lockdown.

Shell European Eco Marathon

The Area Board funded Kingdown School to participate in the Shell Eco Marathon – a high profile engineering event for young people who design and build an electronic vehicle and "race" to see which vehicle can travel the furthest.

Warminster Youth Club

The Area Board supported the Warminster Youth club, both financially and in terms of helping to find a more suitable and affordable premises. The Youth Club continues to run and is well attended by young people in the area.

Army Welfare Service Activities

The Army Welfare Service delivers youth activities for young people throughout the community. While the activities are targeted at young people in military families, young people from anywhere are allowed to get involved. The Area Board has funded many of these activities including a film club and arts and craft sessions.

Teen Scene Radio

Teen Scene Radio provides tutoring to young people in skills related to radio broadcasting including presentation and technical skills. The Area Board supported Warminster Community Radio Station to begin delivery of this valuable project.

Heytesbury and Sutton Veny Cricket Club All Weather Project

Warminster Area Board has always supported local sports clubs, particularly those with strong youth provision. Heytesbury and Sutton Veny were awarded funding towards their all-weather pitch. This would be particularly useful to their new girls' section.

Warminster and District Swimming Club

The Swimming Club were supported by the area board with funding to upgrade their equipment. The club has a significant junior and youth section.

Employment and Housing

Supporting Warminster Regeneration Group

The Area Board continues to support Warminster Regeneration Group when meetings occur

Liaison with Housing Associations

Meetings with representatives from Selwood Housing continue to discuss potential projects in areas of social housing including Street Games, Digital Inclusion and others

Business Support

Communications open with local businesses around available business support including previous COVID-19 support funds and potential future funding streams

Support for Warminster Garrison Community Day

The community day at Warminster Garrison, in addition to the Health and Wellbeing Fair, will provide the opportunity for local businesses to promote themselves and their services

APPENDIX B – Suggested priorities for 2022/23

The table below shows a list of some possible priorities for the Area Board to consider for the coming year. This includes priorities from previous years

Potential Priority	Key objectives	Additional comments
Combatting Social Isolation and Loneliness	To reduce isolation among older and vulnerable people in our community, reducing and/or delaying the need for adult social care	Existing priority
Digital Inclusion	To eradicate unwanted digital isolation withing the Warminster Community Area	Existing priority – could potentially be "rolled into" social isolation priority above to free up a space in priority list.
Youth Engagement	Improving the health and wellbeing of young people with a particular focus on mental health. Providing positive activities for young people	Existing priority
Employment and Housing	Addressing local housing and employment issues	Existing priority – difficult to influence as an Area Board. Consider replacing as a priority with something which the Area Board can have a more direct impact upon.
Local Environmental Action	To support and initiate projects which improve the local environment, including air quality, improving wildlife and biodiversity in our rural areas as well as in our town and villages	Not an existing Warminster Area Board priority, but high priority for Wiltshire Council – if adopted as priority focus could be on local action.
Supporting Local Business	Supporting the local economy	Existing Priority – more work to be done on this, but possibly consider replacing as a priority in 2022/23
Military Family Engagement	Focus on engagements/events which bring military and non-military families together.	Not an existing priority but Military families make up a large part of the Warminster Community and with a new regiment moving in during the pandemic which was a difficult time to integrate, perhaps a focus on this would be wprthwhile
Improving Connectivity through Footpaths and Rights of Way	Connectivity between Warminster Town and the Villages via the network of footpaths and	Not a current local priority but there is local enthusiasm for this and if use is increased this can address other issues such as health and wellbeing, social

	other rights of way.	isolation and environmental issues.
Supporting Local Volunteer Groups	To ensure that groups who ensure our communities are resilient are supported in their work	Not a 2021/22 priority but identified via Wiltshire Council Business Plan
Health Promotion	To improve health of the whole population within our community	Not a 2021/22 priority but identified via Wiltshire Council Business Plan
Empowering People/Informed Residents	Ensure communities are well informed about local issues, services, events and activities and how to access them	Not a 2021/22 priority but identified via Wiltshire Council Business Plan
Reducing anti-social Behaviour	Engaging with groups who report anti-social behaviour as well as groups who are involved in ASB	Not a 2021/22 priority but identified during 2020 JSNA residents survey.