



Westbury Area Board

End of Year Report

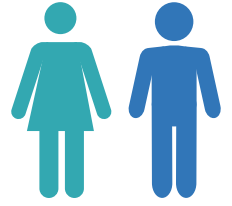
May 2021 - March 2023

Westbury Area Board

Westbury Community Area is made up of the town of Westbury along with the villages of Dilton Marsh, Bratton, Edington, Heywood and Hawkeridge.

The Area Board is a local committee with certain powers for Wiltshire Council for these areas, bringing local decision making into the heart of the community area. The Area Board is made up of 4 unitary councillors. The Councillors are the voting members of the board, and all those who engage in the board's work are equal members, able to influence decisions, shape and deliver on local priorities.

The community has a diverse population and has a wide range of resources. It sits on the edge of Salisbury Plain and includes a significant landmark in the Westbury White Horse which attracts visitors. It has vibrant and active community, several sporting hubs and clubs, and a range of voluntary and community sector support organisations and a collaborative town and parish councils.



**Total
Population
20,387**

Area Board Investment

The Area Board invests in local community projects and initiatives that meet local priorities and deliver exceptional outcomes for residents. The Area Board aims to work in partnership to achieve maximum value for its investment. They take a long term view to invest in prevention and early intervention, focusing on tackling inequalities and improving social mobility.

Total Area Board Investment

£47,148	£25,784	£14,800
Community	Youth	Older and Vulnerable Adults
Total Community Contribution		
£136,887	£131,369	£45,681

The total amount invested in projects through additional community contribution, from fundraising, grants, services in kind or volunteering

Local Priorities

The Westbury Area Board reviewed available local data and evidence and integrated this with local knowledge and community conversation to agree the following local priority themes. The Area Board has undertaken a series of more specific local actions to positively address them, including the key achievements below:

Youth engagement



Westbury Area Board has continued to support several projects which are providing positive activities for young people. This includes funding 4 Youth to provide two nights a week of detached youth work within the community, supporting the local youth club and a local pop-up youth café.

Several other youth organisations have been supported with grant funding including Westbury Youth Football Club, Leigh Park Community Centre's Youth Project, Westbury Town Council's Soapbox Derby event and others.

Reducing our Carbon Footprint and protecting our environment

Westbury Area Board has continued to work improve access on footpaths, byways and other rights of way, and has begun work with an experienced volunteer group leader who has done exceptional work in Warminster to bring similar efforts to the community area.

It has also funded further improvements to the areas surrounding the Bitham Brook, and worked with Parish and Town Councils on the Pollinator Corridor Project to improve Biodiversity.



Improving the health and wellbeing of our community

The health and Wellbeing Group has delivered 3 tranches of a digital inclusion project, enabling older people to take advantage of modern technology and stay connected.

It also recently delivered a Health and Wellbeing Day event in conjunction with Westbury Town Council's Sunday Brunch Event, which helped local Health and Wellbeing organisations promote their services to the public. The Area Board has also supported various groups through grant funding including Crosspoint for counselling and Westbury Area Network to support their foodbank operation and the Independent Living Centre.



Combatting Child Poverty

The Area Board has worked with community groups such as 4 Youth to provide counselling and support to young people who are not currently engaged with positive activities or local services. It has also been working with Wiltshire College and University Centre to bring adult learning sessions to Westbury Community Project with pilot sessions happening in the winter and hopes to bring regular sessions back to the centre in September.

The board has also worked with Matravers school, and is aiming to continue to do so to try to support the provision of breakfast clubs and homework clubs.



Community-led projects



The Westbury Community Area Board has developed a strong, well established and highly functioning network of local partners, organisations and residents in the community. The Board recognises the talents, expertise and knowledge of the local community and empowers and facilitates community led action to co-deliver local services.

A shining example of the type of support and change that area boards can drive forward through community-led action is the development of the Digital Literacy Project. This group set itself a target of increasing digital literacy of older and vulnerable adults within the community area. The project provides free digital inclusion classes to groups of older people, as well as sourcing free devices so that participants can take a laptop home and keep using those skills for social interaction, online shopping, banking etc. The project has so far been through 3 tranches with groups of learners completing 6 sessions learning basic key online skills. Planning for the 4th tranche is beginning with the aim of sessions beginning in Autumn 2023.

A key mission of Wiltshire Council's Business Plan is to help Wiltshire be a place where 'We live well together', and it aims to help support communities to be more resilient in the face of challenging times and setbacks.

Engagements

The Westbury Area Board works alongside other organisations to make things happen in the local community. These groups include parish councils, voluntary and community groups, youth organisations, sports clubs and local charities.

The Area Board wouldn't be able to achieve what they do without these partners working on the ground with them. The Area Board hosts regular business meetings, engagement activities, events, surveys and working groups to stimulate and support local community action.

**Area Board
Business meetings**

11



Attendances

214

**Area Board
working groups**

12



Attendances

182

**Engagements/
events/ activities**

69



Attendances

1128

**Area Board
surveys**

3



Responses

155

Agreeing and delivering priorities for 2023/24

By agreeing and delivering to local priorities, the Area Board is able to proactively address issues by focusing its resources and working in partnership with local organisations, volunteers and residents. To effectively select local priorities it is important that there is a regular review of the evidence available and the views of the residents are sought. To aid Councillors to agree their priorities, the list below provides some of new sources of data and evidence:

- **JSNA Wiltshire Intelligence**: The 2022 Wiltshire JSNA presents data on the current and future health and wellbeing needs of people in Wiltshire
- **Census 2021 results**: results from the 2021 census are being released in a phased manner, which started in June 2022
- **VCSE research - Wessex Community Action**: state of the Wiltshire voluntary and community sector 2022
- **Annual report - Wiltshire Citizens Advice**: Wiltshire Citizens Advice annual report 2022

As well as being evidence led, priorities should be selected where the Area Board believes it can realistically make a positive impact upon them. To aid the delivery of the chosen priorities, the Engagement and Partnerships team will support the Area Board councillors through the development of the Area Board local action plan.

Based on the work undertaken in 2022/23 and the new evidence available, some of the key priorities that the Board may wish to consider are as follows:

- **Youth engagement, employment and positive activity opportunities**
- **Addressing climate change**
- **Reducing isolation and loneliness**
- **Supporting low income individuals and families**

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 Engagement and Partnerships team will support the Area Board councillors in undertaking this work.