

CALNE Area Board

31st May 2022

Annual Review of Local Priorities

1. Purpose of the Report

- a) To report on progress made in addressing the Area Board priorities selected for 2021/22
- b) To consider any new evidence or information that will help inform the Area Board in selecting its priorities for 2022/23
- c) To highlight potential priorities for the Area Board to consider for 2022/23
- d) 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 but some of the key achievements include:

- a) **Young People – Health, Wellbeing and Positive Activities** – including:
Reconvening the Community Area Youth Forum, supporting the completion of Wiltshire Council's Youth Survey, developing local outreach and safe space youth provision and, with the Town Council, arranging a series of workshop/training sessions aimed at providing local groups and individuals opportunities to understand contextual safeguarding of young people.
- b) **Older and Vulnerable People and families - Health, wellbeing, and social isolation** – including: Continuing to support/develop the Older People Voices group and Health & Social Care Forum, organising an Area Board themed event 'Calne Big Get Together' linked to positive activities/combating social isolation and supporting the development of the Celebrating Age project.
- c) **The Environment** – including: Holding a Calne ECO Fair in 2021 promoting COP26, and celebrating ideas about living sustainably, reconvening the Air Quality Action group, supporting a project providing electric vehicle and bike recharging points in Calne and supporting projects planting forests locally and undertaking biodiversity assessments.

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

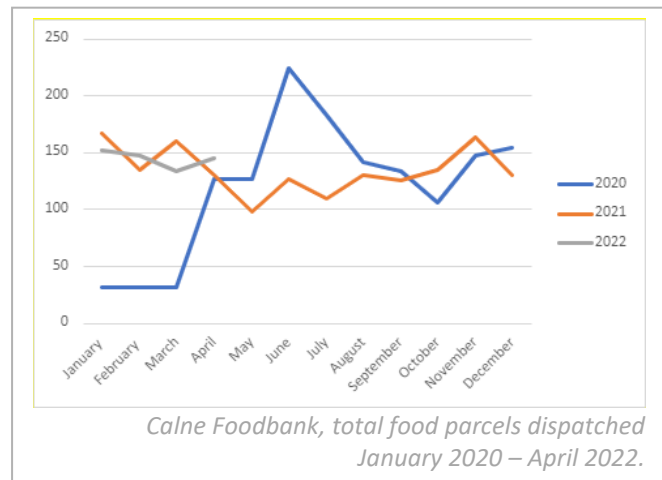
The selection of Area Board priorities should be undertaken using both the evidence available to us, as well as the context within which we are operating. Both are continually changing, and the following is provided to help inform the Area Board's decision.

- a) 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. For the Calne Community Area, this includes
 - [Wiltshire Citizens Advice Annual Report](#)
 - [Wiltshire Intelligence Bringing Evidence Together \(JSNA update\)](#)
 - Wiltshire Council Youth Survey 2021

It should also be noted that:

- The Wiltshire Climate Strategy and Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy have both now been adopted and Wiltshire Council have committed themselves to being carbon neutral by 2030. The challenge is to consider what local actions we can undertake.

- Inflation is very high with fuel costs doubling or more in price. This is hitting poorer families and the elderly / vulnerable the most.
- Calne Foodbank reports that the demand for food parcels in the community area rose dramatically during the pandemic and have not returned to previous levels.



- b) 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
- Some organisations are finding it difficult to find volunteers with some not returning due to anxiety over COVID-19
 - The demand upon our health services continues to be high and the impact of long Covid is not yet clear.
 - Many people, especially the older and more vulnerable have lost confidence and are reluctant to socialise again.
 - Anecdotal evidence from the Older Vulnerable People event - 'Calne's Big Get Together' held in May 2022, suggests the poor state of footpaths and pavements is a barrier to older people being more active and getting out and about.
 - A need for support to engage with digital IT and the Council virtually was also noted at the Big Get Together.
 - There has been an increase in poor mental health and depression resulting from the pandemic, especially amongst young people and noted in all settings by the Calne Area Youth Forum.
- c) 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 community.

- d) 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.
- e) Calne Community area has also seen some local changes that may influence the selection of priorities including the need for locally important resources to identify alternative venues and address sustainability.

5) Agreeing and delivering priorities for 2022/23

The Community Engagement Manager in consultation with the chairperson of the Area Board 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 sometimes Chair) relevant working groups of the Area Board;
- To work collaboratively and co-operatively 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
- In consultation with the local Councillor, to 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

- a) The Area Board is asked to acknowledge the progress update from the 2021/22 local priorities work.
- b) 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.
- c) The Area Board is asked to appoint a councillor lead for each of the selected priorities.
- d) 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.

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

Action 1.1 Reconvene the Community Area Youth Forum to confirm priority issues outlined in the Status Report and identify priority actions/activities that can be undertaken with and without the Area Board.

Supported by the CEM the Community Area Youth Forum has been reconvened. Partners engaged include: Calne Town Council, Kingsbury Green Academy, Rise Youth Trust, Open Blue for Calne Youth, Calne Wordfest, A Place for Us, Springfield Academy, St Mary's School, Launch to Learning. This group will update and make recommendations to the Board independently in future.

Action 1.2 Develop Local Youth provision, street based and café style in the town and assess provision in the villages.

The area board continues to collaborate with the Town Council to provide safe space and outreach youth provision, facilitated by the Rise Trust.

Funding: Collaboration match funded by Calne Town Council (AB contribution £7,640)

Ongoing

Action 1.3 Develop opportunities for local groups and organisations to understand their role in observing contextual safeguarding of young people in non-familial situations and having robust safeguarding policies and procedures communicated to all staff/volunteers.

Workshop/training sessions arranged collaboratively by Calne Area Board and Calne Town Council have been well subscribed by local groups and individuals.

Funding: Collaboration with Calne Town Council (AB contribution £1,200)

Action 1.4 Develop appropriate ways to engage and consult with local young people.

- Wiltshire Council Youth Survey – has been completed with a response from about 200 Calne Young People.
- Wiltshire Youth Council – the election of the local young people representatives has taken place awaiting clarification about how the Youth Council will engage with the area board.
- Office of the PCC have developed a Youth Commissioner programme.
- The Area Board/Town Council continues to develop Youth engagement via the Rise Trust
- The Youth Forum encourages other agencies and groups to feed in and include young people in their conversations.

Action 1.5 Happy News for Young People project, emerging from the Local Youth Forum

Youth Forum project for Calne Young people vulnerable to anxiety and mental health issues as a result of exposure to 24-hour media/social media, with a fixation upon bad/sensationalised news stories.

Phase 1. 'Happy Newspaper' distributed through schools, home school network, Outreach and Safe

Space youth provision, SEND youth groups, Mill Race Centre and copies available in the library. To promote positive news stories. The Forum aims to engage young people from all settings to develop this project.

Funding: Total project £990 (AB contribution £640)

Action 2.1 Audit of the activity clubs to establish which are planning to reopen.

Work has started pulling together an up-to-date list of activities for older and vulnerable adults and carers, under the Older People Voices group.

(Ongoing)

Action 2.2 Develop and promote activities to address the impacts of COVID-19 on physical activity, deconditioning and falls in older adults.

The CEM, OPC Champion, Calne & YK PCN and Wilts Community Team is progressing this action through a local falls management strategy.

(Ongoing)

Action 2.4 Support the ongoing development of the Celebrating Age project in the area.

CEM/OPC Champion continue to work with the Celebrating Age Organisers to identify relevant audiences and themes for the project this work is ongoing.

Funding: AB allocated £1,500.00 to the project (Wiltshire Music Centre).

Action 2.5 'Big Get Together' – Event aimed at older people and carers to introduce opportunities to engage in social and healthy activities and support available in the community area

Well received event held on 14th May 2022 engaging more than 150 people.

Funding: AB allocated £1,000

Action 3.1 Hold a Calne ECO Fair in October to promote COP26, celebrate ideas about living sustainably and to encourage conversations about issues raised by the community groups.

Well received event held on 6th Nov 2021 engaging more than 300 people.

Funding: AB allocated £442.90

Action 3.2 Air Quality Action Group – Reconvene group to review air quality action plan.

Supported by the CEM the Calne Air Quality Action Group has been reconvened. Partners engaged include: Calne Town Council, Sustainable Calne, Wiltshire Council Public Protection officers.

Action 3.3 Progress Air Quality action plan.

Community Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Church Street Car Park – to be facilitated by Calne Town Council

Funding: AB grant £3593.35 allocated

Action 3.4 Explore ways to promote and develop the Marden Valley sustainably, offering healthy, active opportunities for the community to engage in an exploration of the biodiversity of this locally important natural habitat.

Local projects supported as follows:

Marden Valley Nature study	AB grant £1K allocated on 07/09/2021
New Forest on Stanley Lane	AB grant £5K allocated on 07/09/2021
Hazeland Community Tree Planting	AB grant £5K allocated on 07/12/2021

Action 3.5 Encourage and promote active travel: Signage and promotion of a joined-up safer cycling/walking route.

The Environment working group has established a link with the s106 group to progress this action.

Action 3.6 Provide an E-Bike charging point in the town centre.

Town Council has agreed to facilitate this project.

Funding: Collaboration with Calne Town Council (AB contribution £3,500)

Action 3.7 Issue – Sustainability of the Sustrans Cycle Route

Developing the route as a serious cycling alternative to the A4 (including addressing longevity of leases) is being progressed through a local working group comprising relevant Parish Council leads and being reported through the Calne LHFIG (Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group).

Action 3.8 Issue – Encourage community tree planting / re-wilding schemes

This action was added in March 2022 and has not yet been progressed.

Action 3.9 Issue - Engaging the Local Community

This action was added in March 2022 and has not yet been progressed - It is hoped that a joint event can be arranged between the Environment Working group and the Youth Forum for the Autumn 2022.

Action 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 & 4.4: Actions still to be progressed

Action 5.1 Work with Town and Parish Councils to re-establish and develop the Calne Area Parish Forum.

Supported by the CEM and Town Council officers, the Community Area Parish Forum has been

reconvened. Bremhill, Calne, Calne Without, Cherhill, Compton Bassett & Hilmarton Parish Councils have become engaged in this process.

Action 5.2 Work with Calne Town Council, the Local Youth Forum and the Health and Social Care Forum to run Safeguarding training sessions for local groups and organisations to promote an understanding of issues about contextual safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults and to support the development of safeguarding policies.

Workshop/training sessions arranged collaboratively by Calne Area Board and Calne Town Council have been well subscribed by local groups and individuals.

Funding (as 1.3): Collaboration with Calne Town Council (AB contribution £1,200)

Action 5.3 Through the Section 106 working group, develop a network of safer routes for local people to move around the community area and beyond by foot, cycle and mobility transportation.

Ongoing

Action 5.4 Through CATG, work with Bremhill, Calne W/O, Calne and Cherhill Parish councils and Sustainable Calne to promote and develop the North Wiltshire Rivers Route - Sustrans National Cycle Route 4, Chippenham to Calne and Calne to Avebury.

Work is being progressed through a local working group comprising relevant Parish Council leads and being reported through the Calne LHFIG (Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group).

APPENDIX B – Suggested priorities for 2022/23

The following are some possible priorities for the Area Board to consider for the coming year

Potential Priority	Action	Additional comments
Young People – Mental Health and Wellbeing	Develop Local Youth provision outreach and safe space (continuation of Action 1.2)	Discuss continued collaborative approach with the Town Council and assess needs in villages.
Young People – Mental Health and Wellbeing	Review of existing local outreach and safe space arrangements.	Suggestion that a review is arranged with other Area's in the North of the County to compare approaches.
Young People - Mental Health and Wellbeing	'Happy News' project – phase 2. Continuation of Action 1.5 .	Youth Forum project for Calne Young people vulnerable to anxiety and mental health issues as a result of exposure to 24-hour media/social media, with a fixation upon bad/sensationalised news stories.

Older and Vulnerable People and families - Health, wellbeing, and social isolation	Continuation of Action 2.1: Audit of the activity clubs to establish which are planning to reopen or continue.	To be facilitated through the Calne Health and Social Care Forum (H&W group).
Older and Vulnerable People and families - Health, wellbeing, and social isolation	Continuation of Action 2.2: Develop and promote activities to address the impacts of COVID-19 on physical activity, deconditioning and falls in older adults.	To be facilitated through the Calne Health and Social Care Forum (H&W group) - Local Falls Management Strategy.
Older and Vulnerable People and families - Health, wellbeing, and social isolation	Continuation of previous Action 2.3 to support the development of Calne Men's Shed.	Specifically with regards to securing a future venue and sustainability.
The Environment	Continuation of Action 3.5 to Encourage and promote active travel: Signage and promotion of a joined-up safer cycling/walking route.	Through the Section 106 working group.
The Environment	Continuation of Action 3.8 to Encourage community tree planting / re-wilding schemes	
The Environment	Continuation of Action 3.9 Engaging the Local Community.	Environment Working group and Youth Forum to identify small task group to deliver a Young People Eco event in Nov 2022.
Economy (Personal) – Inequalities	Food Poverty – support the development of the Calne Food Bank	Specifically with regards to securing a future venue and sustainability.
Economy (Personal) – Inequalities	Fuel Poverty – promote initiatives e.g. Colar Together, Wiltshire Safe and Warm.	
Economy (Personal) – Inequalities	IT/digital poverty – work with Calne Library to develop digital literacy project/1-2-1 support.	