



## Engagement and Partnerships report – Nov 2023

The Melksham Area Board in June 2023 reviewed available local data and evidence, and integrated this with local knowledge and community conversation to agree the following local priority themes:

- ❖ **To engage with young people to improve employment opportunities and provide positive activities**
- ❖ **To protect and enhance the environment**
- ❖ **To reduce isolation and loneliness**
- ❖ **To support low-income individuals and families**
- ❖ **To reduce anti-social behaviour**



Each priority theme has a series of more specific local actions that the Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager and Area Board Delivery Officer will work with the Melksham Area Board to deliver. Some of the actions that the Area Board Members and officers has led on or supported since the last meeting include:

### 1. **To improve opportunities for all children and young people**

- 4youth have been funded to carry out detached youth work both in Melksham and the surrounding community area. Part of this will be to ascertain what the young people would like going forward.
- A first attempt to bring together those who work alongside Melksham youth was postponed. This meeting was to find out if these groups felt there were any gaps or barriers in youth provision in the town and surrounding area.

### 2. **To create safe communities and improve transport**

An action was to run an event for highways matters to allow opportunities for the community to ask questions or raise issues of concern. This is taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

### 3. **To support older and vulnerable people**

- Community Support 2.0 has now been operating for about 4 months and the health and wellbeing group discussed its progress and how it could be developed moving forward.
- The Melksham Neighbourhood collaborative is running in Melksham and focussing on an identified cohort of people to prevent falls
- The health and wellbeing meeting for Melksham area took place in October and identified a need to run cookery classes for adults to learn to prepare nutritious and cheap meals. They will start in in Jan 24.
- An interactive map of warm spaces and community providers as well as a wealth of helpful information on helping with the cost of living is available on the Wiltshire Council web site. [Council tax, benefits and financial support - Wiltshire Council](#)

### 4. **To help shape our community area whilst preserving and maximising our heritage**

- Following the Sep Area Board meeting, a small group has met to discuss how to take forward adding Melksham to the heritage app and possible display boards. Wiltshire Council will pay for the addition of Melksham and once that has been completed, a larger meeting of interested stakeholders will take place to see how the app works as well as agreeing on the content and process for updating. At the same time, display cabinets and other more modern visual displays will be discussed with a view to purchasing them. Please let [Richard.rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk) know if you wish to be invited.