

Community Area Status Report

Spring 2021

Malmesbury Community Area

Background and context

The overarching aim of the Wiltshire Council recovery plan is to enable Wiltshire agencies and partners to support local residents, communities and businesses and staff from responding organisations to manage their own recovery from the incident.

The Malmesbury community area has seen an incredible response to the COVID-19 pandemic with volunteers leading the response and strategic partners working collaboratively to support our communities. Covering the parishes of Ashton Keynes, Brinkworth, Brokenborough, Charlton, Crudwell, Dauntsey, Easton Grey, Great Somerford, Hankerton, Lea and Cleverton, Leigh, Little Somerford, Luckington and Alderton, Malmesbury, Minety, Norton and Foxley, Oaksey, Sherston, Sopworth and St Paul Malmesbury Without.

As we now look ahead, this document provides a summary of information that can be utilised to help inform local community recovery plans. It brings together the differing data and information sources from across the community area that will help us to understand the local impact of COVID-19. It also highlights communities that may have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic and any gaps in our current knowledge that may be suitable for further intelligence gathering.

Over time this document will be regularly updated in response to changes, new information and actions undertaken. Whilst the impact of COVID-19 is considerable, it is recognised that many of the issues identified in this report were existing ones.

Whilst it is natural to focus on the issues where improvement is required, it is important to recognise and build on the positives that have arisen during the pandemic. These include the closer working between organisations, increased community cohesion, new volunteers and the wider use of the internet / social media.

This document considers the actions, projects and plans that are emerging from across our volunteers, community groups and partners. This subsequently provides an overview of the gaps in our local knowledge and some potential next steps for further collaborative working.

Community data and information

Local data is being collected from a range of sources to provide an overview of the current situation within our community. This is being combined with the outcomes of discussions on the impact of COVID-19 to inform the key issues emerging and where resources should be focussed:

- JSNA local data sets – (collected in winter 2019)
- JSNA 2020 – Demography and overarching indicators
- [Children and young people mental health needs Assessment](#)
- [Gypsy, traveller and boater populations health needs assessment Wiltshire](#)

- [Office for National Statistics](#)
- COVID19 support group survey – (June 2020)
- Wiltshire CAJSNA 2020 Community Survey Results
- Local Youth Network Needs Assessment
- Consultation with Town and Parish Council meeting - (22nd Sept 2020)
- Discussions with other key groups including:
 - I. Wiltshire Police
 - II. Health & Wellbeing Forum
 - III. Health & Wellbeing Champion
 - IV. Town & Parish Councils
 - V. Malmesbury Town Team
 - VI. Local Youth Network
 - VII. Rise Trust Youth Workers
 - VIII. Citizen Advice Wiltshire
 - IX. Malmesbury Multi-Agency Forum
 - X. Malmesbury GP Locality

Additional conversations will need to be undertaken with partner groups and organisations especially when further investigation into issues is required. Any subsequent new information or alterations can be made to this report.

Understanding the impact

COVID Support Groups

Malmesbury Town Council and HEALS have been coordinating the volunteer efforts during the peak of the pandemic and are well positioned to re-launch this service should the community require the support.

Every village in the area set up their own volunteer network which offered various services reflecting the needs in their parishes. The main items covered were prescription and food collection to those shielding and befriending to those who missed the usual social groups they attended. One remote village established a small foodbank for its residents to supplement the regular local foodbanks in Malmesbury and Cricklade. Our Health and Wellbeing Champion took calls and emails from volunteers offering to help and forwarded to the local coordinators and likewise forwarded the requirements of those seeking help.

Community

Currently in the Malmesbury community attention has turned back to issues pre-COVID19 as well as a renewed focus on encouraging people to 'Explore Malmesbury';

- The launch of 'Explore Malmesbury' by Malmesbury Town Team and its trails and online offer
- Anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse especially at key hotspots in the town
- Activities for young people
- Mental health for all as lockdown restrictions ease.

All parishes are encouraged to have Emergency Plans which should be reviewed and updated to offer better information on coping with this type of emergency.

Community Safety

Malmesbury has a community safety forum now which emerged following community safety concerns escalating over summer 2020.

Issues identified at the most recent meeting (May 2021) have been:

- A rise in anti-social behaviour in the town as lockdown restrictions ease, particularly at specific locations such as Daniels Well, Cloister Gardens, Jubilee Gardens, Baskerville and around the Riverside community centre.
- Finding an indoor venue for youth workers and Wiltshire Police to engage with young people.
- Identifying a police hot desk space in the centre of the town (they already have a presence at Riverside community centre).
- Concern over heavy vehicles in Malmesbury town centre – causing damage to buildings and police enforcement of the weight limit restriction.
- Speeding concerns: Auto Speed Watch intelligence suggested there were repeat offenders at certain times at identified locations such as Burnivale Road, new and existing 20 mph zones enforcement was also discussed.
- Progress with CCTV in the town.

The group are due to meet again on a two-month basis, with the next meeting to be scheduled before the summer holidays.

Older People and Vulnerable People – update from our Health and Wellbeing Champion, Ellen Blacker

As COVID-19 is starting to recede and so many of our population have been vaccinated, many older and vulnerable people are now feeling a little easier about going out and there is an appetite to get back to some form of normality. After such a long winter, there is almost a “devil may care” attitude and a determination to enjoy every minute from now on. Having said this, for many their priorities have changed and so I envisage different groups emerging, for example specific craft activity groups as well as general get togethers.

The Area Board is working to support groups to find methods to overcome concerns by those who normally participate and to help get social groups open again. Malmesbury Area Board has funded starter kits for village social groups with refreshments, cups, and face masks available to community groups for free.

The lack of home visits by professionals was grudgingly accepted and I am hearing that there has been a lot of catching up taking place. There is a general feeling that the pandemic is blamed for everything that doesn't “work well”.

Regular social activities are being reopened and planning is underway for the usual round of summer celebrations. Everyone is aware that events may have to be cancelled depending on national and local guidance.

Young People and Children

The Rise Trust produce weekly reports of their interactions with young people during their detached youth work sessions in the town funded by the Area Board. The Rise Trust are funded until August and will be applying for a youth grant to continue their youth work in the locality for the whole of this financial year, 2021/22. There is an ongoing issue with young people requesting inside provision in Malmesbury.

Concerns have been raised regarding the fallout from COVID-19 and the impacts this will have on young people, e.g. there has been a rise in reports of eating disorders and mental health issues more widely. The Area Board has worked successfully with Malmesbury School in conducting a youth survey pre-pandemic and it would be beneficial to build on this relationship with further engagement.

High Street Business

There will be a need to support High Street Business as lockdown restrictions ease.

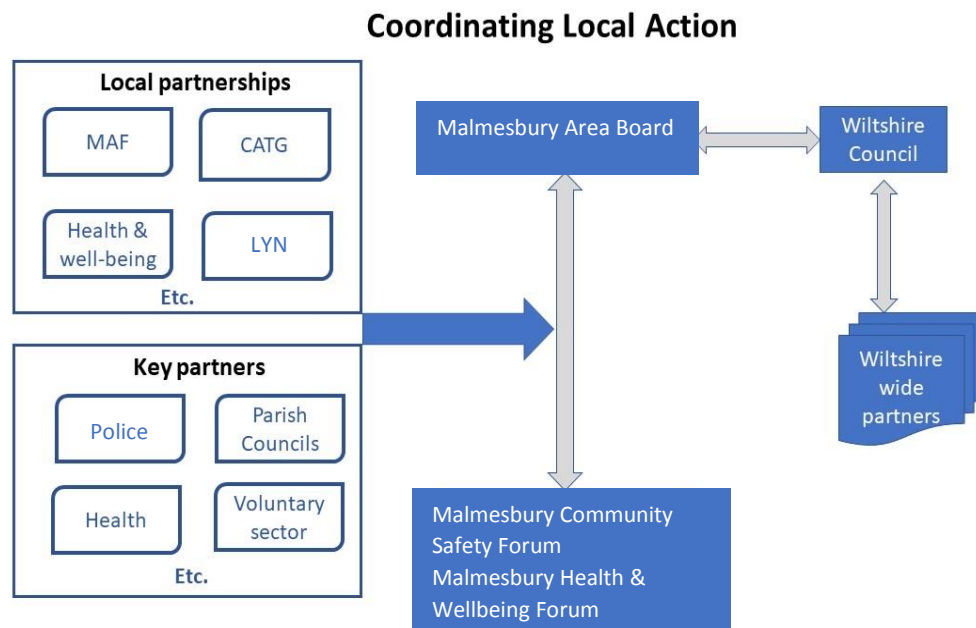
Employment (county-wide update)

Across Wiltshire the percentage of young people aged 18-24 now claiming work-related benefits, either Job Seekers' Allowance or Universal Credit, ranges from 9-12% in the constituencies of Chippenham and South West Wiltshire to 3-6% in Devizes. This is an increase from 3-6% in Chippenham, Salisbury and South West Wiltshire and from 0-3% in Devizes and North Wiltshire. Similarly, the 11 number of Jobseekers' Allowance or Universal Credit claimants nationally between the ages of 18-24 has doubled since March.

<https://www.citizensadvicewiltshire.org.uk/campaigning-for-change?start=1>

How local actions will be supported

The local response within the Malmesbury Community Area is one of co-production recognising that to rebuild our communities, it is important that we work together, sharing information and resources where appropriate.



Malmesbury Area Board covers the whole community area and is responsible for the production and management of this document. It links local delivery to Wiltshire Council, police, health and other partners. It is an accountable body with influence and powers. It has its own funding to help support local initiatives. The Area Board will produce its own work plan to show how what actions will be taken to help address the issues raised by the community and captured in this report.

Themes: The recovery work within Wiltshire is organised around 4 key themes and these are also reflected within this report and the discussions taking place locally. They are:

- I. Economy and employment
- II. Health, well-being and adult care
- III. Community resilience
- IV. Young people, education and children

Malmesbury Area Board will receive regular updates around its own work plan of actions that will support and contribute to the local priorities. This report will be presented to the Malmesbury Area Board for acceptance at its June 2021 meeting along with an action plan to agree the priorities moving forwards following the local elections.

Next steps

- This report will be considered for acceptance by Malmesbury Area Board at its meeting on the 8th June 2021 following the local elections.
- An Area Board work plan will be presented to the following Area Board meeting.
- The CEM will engage with partners and stakeholders so that they understand the report and can consider how they will play their part in responding.
- Updates will be a standard item at future area board meetings.

List of emerging issues as identified by the community and supporting data

Issue	Supporting evidence
Waste and recycling	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Accessible, positive activities for all ages	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Climate change and renewable energies	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Public transport	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Wildlife and biodiversity	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Highway infrastructure and maintenance	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Anti-social behaviour and crime	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Cycling and walking	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Mental health and wellbeing	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Fly tipping	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Physical activity and healthy lifestyles	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Access to health-related services and activities	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Appropriate housing (social and affordable)	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Community venues and open spaces	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Highway safety	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results