

## Community Area Status Report

Autumn 2020 / Spring 2021

### Chippenham 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 manage their own recovery from the incident.

The Chippenham community area has seen an incredible response to the COVID19 pandemic with volunteers leading the response and strategic partners working collaboratively to support our communities. Covering the parishes of Biddestone, Castle Coombe, Chippenham, Chippenham Without, Christian Malford, Grittleton, Hullavington, Kington Langley, Kington St Michael, Langley Burrell, Nettleton, North Wraxall, Seagry, Stanton St Quintin, Sutton Benger and Yatton Keynell.

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

There are multiple sources of data that provide an excellent overview of the current situation within our community and the or our community that can be accessed to help inform collective next steps:

- 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 (Tidworth)
- Local Youth Network Needs Assessment
- Consultation with Town and Parish Council meeting - (7<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020)
- Discussions with other key groups including:
  - I. Police
  - II. Health & Wellbeing Forum
  - III. Local Area Coordinator
  - IV. Town & Parish Councils
  - V. Chippenham Chamber of Commerce
  - VI. Parish Forum
  - VII. Older peoples and Carers Champions
  - VIII. Local Youth Network
  - IX. Rise Trust Youth Workers
  - X. Citizen Advice Wiltshire
  - XI. Chippenham Multi-Agency Forum

## Understanding the impact

### COVID Support Groups

Many of the COVID pop up support groups formed at the start of the pandemic have either dispended or gone dormant. However, these connections within these community have now been made and residents feel confident they can be kick started again should the situation worsen into the winter 2020/21.

Local groups such as Link Scheme are still offering trips to collect shopping and prescriptions alongside driving individuals to appointments, however, the number of people using LINK for this has significantly dropped.

Trinity Church is setting up a debt support service with funding from Area Board, Chippenham Borough Lands and Wiltshire Community Foundation.

Food Banks have received additional funding that they expect to run out in about by end November - as they have stewarded its usage to expenditure of roughly £100/week on food, plus a small amount of mileage and cleaning. People requiring additional support are being asking people to contact Wiltshire Citizens Advice. Food Banks are taking referrals from other agencies such as Greensquare Housing, Unity House, Rise Trust.

One food bank state: weekly usage has dropped slightly from 80+ to 70 households each week. They are conducting a customer questionnaire over the next 2 weeks which should give them firmer ideas going forwards.

They already get feedback that suggests what we offer intercepts people who might otherwise need to ask for emergency parcels from Chippenham Foodbank more frequently - thus avoiding any of the stigma that is entailed. Though numbers are down, they are seeing new family from which members have lost their employment.

The surplus element of the content provides a boost to morale - treats for children, luxury items not otherwise experienced.

Current feedback from students re-entering lockdown elsewhere might point to the benefit from our use of grant funding from the council for fresh produce - greens and fruit - alongside a few staples each week.

#### Information and Advice:

Chippenham Borough Lands has developed a new community website with up to date and relevant information regarding community group activities and provision:

<https://onechippenham.org.uk/category/covid-19/>

Community support groups were contacted at start of lockdown 3 in January 2021 – all state they were in a good position to continue to support those in need in their villages/community areas, as they have been all year. Many now have lists of the vulnerable in their areas and actively call them to check on their wellbeing.

#### **Community**

Currently in the Chippenham community attention has turned back to issues pre-covid;

- Future Chippenham – HIF road and housing plan
- Saddlers Mead Multi Story Car Park & Business Development
- Bath Road Car Park
- Climate change/ environmental focus
- Community Eco Hub Project

With the addition of concerns of the new cycle routes being placed across Chippenham with little consultation attracting a lot of negative attention.

#### **Community Safety**

Though Police are being asked to increase high street presence to enforce COVID rules, Chippenham police have stated they have seen little problem with adherence. However, we have seen an increase of day street drinking which is being challenged and a plan is in place to deal with this. Area Board & Town Council has funded CCTV to capture and help address anti-social behaviour in the town. Work needs to be progressed on Community Massaging and developing intel from the community to help solve crimes. With the loss of the Chippenham Street Pastors it will be monitored to see the impact on support toward the nighttime economy.

Chippenham Police current focus is on drug supply in the town and neighbouring towns. Graffiti is a growing concern, partners to work on renewing the graffiti wall.

Rural crime is an important issue as there are 15 villages covered by Chippenham Area Board. Main issues include Animal theft, and having a county boundary to the west, cross boarder communication. There is a new rural crime team, and Chippenham area has a dedicated officer, linked to the new rural crime partnership and recently in partnership with The Wiltshire Bobby Van trust and the Angling Trust launched Police Drones operate in this area signs.

Animal theft; A trial is currently being undertaken in Dorset with regards to sheep collars that detect sudden movement and will alert farmer if they are out of the field, when we have more information than this will be shared. Wiltshire like many other Counties can be hit hard by livestock theft, Chippenham had repeat victims last year (probably linked with the good road access), we will continue to develop in this area. Chippenham Police now have two additional dog chip scanners.

We have been assured that the Rural crime Team are linked into all bordering forces and on a daily basis share information and do joint operations where possible.

#### Chippenham Area of Concerns:

- JCP, mostly revolves around the MUGA, foul language and smoking of substances occasional issue with Alcohol. This does sometimes occur in the Tennis club/Bowls club where the teenagers antagonize the people trying to play sport. Wardens have been verbally and very nearly physically abused in recent weeks at locking up time when the youths are reluctant to leave. Closing time is at dusk (Currently wardens start closing around 830pm) Youths
  - Monkton Park, few issues with youngsters reported however many incidents of drug use in and around the toilet block and rough sleepers using/vandalizing the toilets. Adults
  - Little Battens and Pewsham Play parks. Late night activity by youths smoking and drinking, smashing bottles in MUGAS, Pewsham Teen Shelter see's incidents of drug use. Youths
  - Pewsham Play Park: groups of dog walkers who sometimes be passive aggressive to youths who are paying football or generally enjoying the open space. Adults
  - St Andrews Church yard, drug use (needles), alcohol consumption a common occurrence Adults
  - New park (open space behind emery gate car park, drug use (needles) alcohol consumption a common occurrence Adults
  - Old Cemetery/unity house drug use (needles) alcohol consumption a common occurrence Adults and Youths.
  - Town Centre, alcohol consumption, vagrancy issues. Adults
  - Car parks (emery gate and new Monkton park multi storey), general asb, (boy racers) drinking, litter, alcohol. Adults and youths.
- Saddlers Mead new multi-story was causing issues, now reducing due to increased use.

#### **Older People & Vulnerable**

As the Health & Wellbeing forum is hosted by an older group of people it is one of the meetings that has not met since before the pandemic, however, the email group list, of over 55, is used to share information locally, this has slowed down now.

At the moment it looks as if the only way the H&W forum could continue is by holding virtual meetings. Although there are advantages in this, and partners are missing the meetings, the group who manage the meetings are themselves older and not most confident with technology.

Area Board have funded Anybodycancook to deliver cooking classes with a free slow cooker for older people, we are looking at ways of providing this now.

Celebrating Age is being launch in Chippenham, aiming to support older isolated people with music, online concerts, mini concerts outside their houses, and workshops.

Slowly local coffee mornings, day clubs and luncheon clubs are starting to re-open. However, the older client base for these are not yet all comfortable to attend.

VCS attention turns to Christmas with groups offering home cooked Christmas meals, food parcels and gift boxes delivered to older, vulnerable or low-income homes. The main supermarkets are supporting these endeavours donating food or vouchers.

Concerns of older people's ability to access provision/ information online via computers. Especial as organisations turn to delivering online.

Area Board, Chippenham Borough Lands and Morrisons are working in partnership to support the social groups (Bookclubs, knit and natter, coffee mornings etc) to re-open in the community. From funding hall hire, PPE, and refreshments.

### **Young People & Children**

Early Years Inclusion Service are looking for children with developmental delays.

Childrens Centres re-started outreach visits to families, all courses have now been made virtual, play rooms available via booking. Rise Trust are running bi-monthly support sessions for child care settings.

Support and Safeguarding teams now visiting all thresholds at home again.

School effectiveness, EWO, Social, & SEND identify children in need should a class have to isolate due to a positive case.

Play Therapy are running face to face session, also have take home activity packs for families.

Weekly reports from Rise Trust indicate the usual teenage problems affecting local young people such as; home relationships, alcohol, smoking, etc. The young people engaging in this service has appreciated the ongoing support and relationships they have with their youth work team.

The three secondary schools and college in the area have been working hard to establish a new normal in educational bubbles. Young people's challenging behaviour has seen an increase, this has been put down to being out of education settings for so long, and a return to a different learning environment.

Local youth groups and activity providers have been continuing delivery over summer into autumn, where space allows inside. Many still providing a hybrid of inside and online provision. They continue to keep up to date with legislation to understand what they are allowed to do, but find much of it confusing and look to Wiltshire Council for clarity.

The LYN will be running a youth survey in Autumn 2021 to assess the needs for young people. This will be run through all the partners of the LYN, Schools and College.

### **High Street Business**

Many businesses operating with skeleton staff working from home since the start of the pandemic. High street businesses that can have moved to offering home delivery to help survive and have moved to collection pick up from shop with reduction of 25% occupancy in store due to social distancing rules. Utilising flexible furlough into the new scheme helps retain staff. Some businesses have experienced a drop in market value of their goods one example was the price of wool £120 - £10 due to closure of international market.

However, others reported their customer base building back over summer and some businesses are hiring more staff. An example of this is local tech companies seeing boost in business to help businesses work from home using new tech.

Hard for businesses in constant survival mode – trying to work out how guidelines and policies will change working practices – dealing with uncertainty. Some business sectors still struggling more than others i.e.: hospitality. Currently most businesses making sure there is enough cash to make it through winter.

Charity sector working more month by month – initial funding was quick and needed, but little since

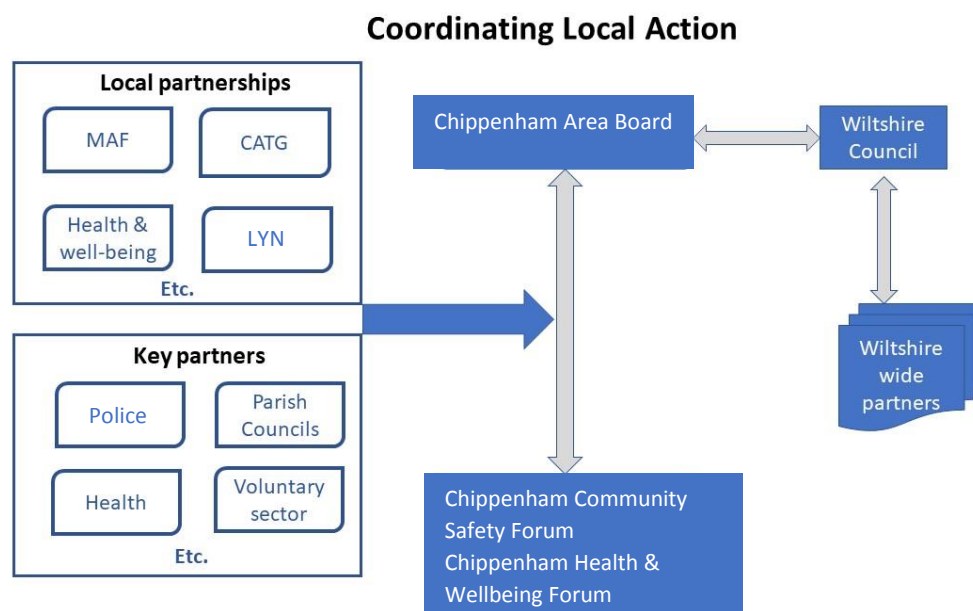
## Employment

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 Chippenham 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.



**Chippenham 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

Chippenham 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 Chippenham Area Board for acceptance at its February 2021 meeting and subsequently to agree its action plan at the May 2021 meeting following the local elections.

## Next steps

- This report will be considered for acceptance by Chippenham Area Board at its meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021
- An Area Board work plan will be presented to the Area Board at its meeting in September 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
Climate change & renewable energies	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Waste & recycling	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Anti-social behaviour & crime	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Accessible, positive activities for all ages	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Mental health and wellbeing	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Wildlife & biodiversity	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Community venues and open spaces	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Highway infrastructure and maintenance	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Cycling and walking	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Public Transport	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Physical activity and healthy lifestyles	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Appropriate housing (social and affordable)	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Access to health related services & activities	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Fly tipping	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Social isolation and loneliness	CAJSNA 2020 Community survey results
Young People mental health	Local Youth Network
Rural Isolation and Loneliness	Health & Wellbeing Forum