

Devizes Area Board

6 September 2021

Community Area Status Report for Devizes Community Area

1. Purpose of the Report

- I. To present to members a status report that summarises what the key issues are for the community area as a result of analysing local data and discussions with local stakeholders.
- II. To recommend that the Area Board endorses the report and commits itself to considering what part it can play in addressing the issues

2. Background

Every 3 to 4 years, Wiltshire Council's public health department working with key partners and organisations, undertakes a thorough analysis of the data available in order to provide a summary of the current and future needs of people in Wiltshire. This information which is called the "Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment" (JSNA) is broken down to and presented around Wiltshire's 20 community areas.

Previously, the information has been used to help local communities in their prioritisation and decision making. A key feature of this has been a series of events to bring representatives of the local communities together so that they can be presented with a summary of the information and through discussion agree upon what should be the top local priorities to address.

In late 2019 and early 2020, the latest JSNA process was undertaken and a series of events were organised to take place from March 2020 onwards. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these had to be cancelled.

Although, the JSNA data was released in early summer 2020 and can be viewed on the <https://www.wiltshireintelligence.org.uk/> two questions remained. Firstly, how can the impact of COVID-19 upon our communities be captured and reflected in the key issues and priorities within our local area. Issues such as mental health, debt, employment, young people and many others have been adversely affected by the pandemic. Secondly, how can we enable the community to engage with this process and to feed in their own data, knowledge and experiences.

At the same time, the Wiltshire Community Resilience Group had been set up to oversee one of the 4 recovery strands. They were seeking to establish a better understanding of the impact of COVID-19 and looked to the Area Boards to help gather local information and concerns.

As a result, it was agreed that each community area board would lead on the creation of a short "Community Area Status report" to capture and reflect what the

main messages are from the local data and the community discussions. A template was produced by the Community Engagement Team and agreed by both the resilience group and the Area Board Chairs.

3. Process

Whilst each community area is different, and each status report will reflect this, there are elements that all have in common. These are:

- I. A record of local data that has been obtained – This information has been mainly obtained from the JSA data but also includes other sources to reflect changes since the pandemic began.
- II. A record of those meetings with organisations and stakeholders where consultation has taken place.
- III. A record of the key issues that have emerged

The community engagement manager has led on this process and tried to be as inclusive and as comprehensive as possible including trying to capture specific concerns affecting BAME or minority groups. Despite this, it is recognised that this report is not an exhaustive summary of all the issues and everything that is happening. It is a work in progress and as new information is obtained and changes occur, the report can be updated in response. Individual or very local issues such as road junctions or a play area are not included in this report. There are alternative procedures in place to address these.

The overarching aim of this document is for Devizes Area Board and its partners to add to our understanding of where improvement is required and see how with our communities, businesses and organisations we can start to address them. The report will also be link this to the work of Wiltshire Council, its partners and agencies, so that collaboratively we can tackle issues including those arising from Covid-19

4. Next steps

The status report has been produced by the area board but is intended as a resource for all those within the community area. No single organisation can or should be expected to do everything and sustained improvement will only be through all of us working together with the community taking the lead.

If the status report is adopted, the proposed next steps are:

- I. The area board to consider the report and produce for itself a work plan outlining which of the priorities it will focus upon and what it is able to do to help address them. Each action will have assigned to it clear outcomes and outputs. This decision will be influenced by factors including urgency, opportunity and resources.

This work plan to be brought back to the next Area Board meeting for agreement. It will subsequently be a standing item at future area board

meetings utilising a traffic light system to offer a simple visual indicator to monitor progress.

- II. As many other groups and organisations as possible are to be encouraged to also consider the report and ask themselves where they can make a difference and what they can do to support local action.
- III. Where issues are common across multiple community areas, the area board team will collate these and look to see if it is better to address these collectively across multiple community areas. Where there seems to be a Wiltshire wide concern, a more strategic approach will be considered.

It is proposed that the Area Board will use its strategic influence and delegated powers to shape the delivery of local services and actions. It will also direct its delegated resources to facilitate and support community-led projects and local initiatives that specifically address the identified priority issues.

It is recognised that some issues will be easier to tackle than others and it is important to target areas where tangible outcomes and progress can be delivered. Successes should be celebrated and the contribution from volunteers recognised and valued

5. Recommendations

- (1) That the Area Board approves and adopts the Community Status report
- (2) That the Area Board produces a rolling action plan including up to 5 priority actions at any one time to demonstrate where it will contribute to addressing the identified issues.
- (3) That the Area Board will prioritise its resources including funding upon those issues identified in the status report.
- (4) That the Area Board requests the Community Engagement Manager to work with key partners, agencies and community groups to encourage them to consider where they are best placed to take actions around the priorities identified.
- (5) That regular updates are submitted to the Area Board on progress made in relation to its own action plan.
- (6) That the Area Board expresses its thanks to those who gave their time to help bring this report together