



Community Wellbeing

Thematic Progress Update

14th February 2023

A Plan for West Devon



Lead Member Introduction

This update report sets out the progress the Council has made in achieving the key actions set out in the thematic delivery plan and I'm pleased that significant progress has been made across this theme area.



Cllr Tony Leech

Lead Member for enhancing community wellbeing

The Cost of Living crisis has required the Council to divert resources away from longer term objectives to focus upon supporting our communities to deal with the more immediate need by delivering Central Government grants and benefits locally. We are now able to re-focus on those long term projects to understand how we can best support our communities to continue to help themselves.

The work on delivering the outcomes set out in our playing pitch strategy demonstrates what a positive benefit the Council can bring to local communities through supporting existing sporting activity and the grants given out to youth services how we can enhance the benefits that they provide to our young people.

Over the coming pages, we set out more in-depth update for each action along with the wider benefits to our communities.

Tony Leech

Cllr Tony Leech

Lead Member for Community Wellbeing

7 Activities on Track and within budget	0 Activities requiring additional intervention or have uncertainties that require managing	0 Activities off track with no current clear plan to resolve	0 Not yet due to start
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Action CW1.1 – Co-ordinating partners to deliver a targeted rural poverty pilot

Key Highlights

The Pilot Project had been overtaken by the cost-of-living response that has focussed the Councils resources on providing immediate measures to deal with households effected by the cost of living across all of West Devon. We have now employed a Public Health Officer, using external grant funding to focus on this project over the next 12 months. The success of our work will be difficult to measure in the short term but will inform the Councils approach to wider community engagement. The data we have gathered so far suggests that young people are particularly effected by poverty in the area, for example this creates barriers to good health and education. We need to bare in mind that this is a pilot project with the aim of understanding communities better and identifying the best way of supporting communities to deal with issues of rural poverty.

Key Risks / Issues

Dealing with rural poverty by identifying and reducing health inequalities requires a long term approach, supporting existing community assets and working with partners to identify need and provide resources to fill that need.

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

- We will engage with the members of the community, with a focus on young people, to understand better the effects of rural poverty and what barriers that presents to young people. We can then work with partners to support the existing community infrastructure to deal more effectively with the identified need

What difference will this make?

- **This may have the short-term effect of providing additional resources in the area for people to use. We have seen this in action with the cost-of-living support grants the Council has administered. In the longer term it will build co-operation and understanding between the Council and the Community. This will put the community at the heart of what we do.**

Overall Rating

GREEN – on track

Action CW1.2 – Launch a short-term grant scheme for the voluntary sector to implement projects supporting Health and Wellbeing

Key Highlights and benefits

The Council is now receiving the impact reports from grants that were awarded funding in March 2022. We will develop a summary of these when all received.

We have also now awarded funding through our Cost of Living Winter Wellbeing scheme which has seen us award funds to 18 schemes across the Borough responding to the Cost of Living. This includes providing warm spaces, hot meal clubs and similar schemes.

Key Risks / Issues

- Short term grant offerings do not allow community groups to plan for the longer term – we continue to signpost to CVS for support around future sustainability.

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

- Include summary of community schemes supported for Health and Wellbeing within the Annual Report of the Council.
- Monitor impact of the 18 additional schemes supported through Cost of Living response

What difference will this make?

- Providing grant funding for community schemes means that some new schemes have been able to get projects off the ground to support some of our most vulnerable residents.

Overall Rating

GREEN – ON TRACK



Action CW1.3 – Delivery of projects to enable residents to continue to live safely within their homes

Key Highlights

We have continued to deliver housing adaptations such as disabled facilities grants to ensure that people are safe and able to live longer in their own homes.

Key Risks / Issues

We have recently agreed changes to our policy to enable more work to be carried out more quickly by reducing the administrative burden of means testing on some disabled facilities grants. This will enable us to process grants more quickly and therefore be able to provide our customers with the adaptations they need faster.

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

- We will continue to make best use of our Better Care Funding

What difference will this make?

Keeping people safe and able to live in their own homes for longer is of clear benefit to our communities but also benefits health services by reducing demand on them. Disabled adaptations may also facilitate transfer of care of hospital patients back to their own homes.

Overall Rating GREEN – ON TRACK

Action CW1.4 – Development of a new playing pitch strategy

Key Highlights

The new playing Pitch strategy was completed in 2022. We are now delivering the action plan to work with the National Governing Bodies of Sport

Key Risks / Issues

The key component of the delivery plan is the action plans . They are specific to areas . Some notable projects are;

- Tavistock AFC,
- Tavistock Athletics Club,
- Tavistock Cricket Club,
- Tavistock Cricket Club
- Tavistock Rugby Club
- Tavistock Tennis Club
- Tavistock Golf Club
- Tavistock Hockley Club.
- Replacement skate park
- Bannawell Street play area

Okehampton – Oke Town Council and OCRA are undertaking a local consultation for a sports plan for Okehampton that will allocate funding (approx. 200k) to those projects

- Continue to develop and deliver the projects identified in the Plan

What difference will this make?

Overall Rating GREEN – ON TRACK



Action CW1.5 – Provision of high-quality and accessible leisure services

Key Highlights

The Council will receive Fusions review of the 2022 service in the Borough in Feb and this will be reported in the March Overview and Scrutiny meeting.

Key Risks / Issues

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

What difference will this make?

Overall Rating GREEN – ON TRACK

Action CW1.6 – Support delivery of mental health support and outreach for young people

Key Highlights

We provided grant support for Tavistock Youth Cafe and for Room 13 in Okehampton. Furthermore we've commissioned some support for schools within the area where mental health professionals deliver assemblies.

Key Risks / Issues

They delivered;

Positive outcomes:

- Relief from boredom, preventing Anti-Social Behaviour
- Socializing with others
- Access to youth workers and more opportunities to get involved with future Youth Café activities
- Food for young people
- Keeping vulnerable young people in site
- Offering a safe space for young people who feel intimidated by others

Looking ahead to the next 6 months

What difference will this make?

Overall Rating GREEN – ON TRACK

Action CW1.7 – Work with Devon County Council to develop a joined up approach to mental health and wellbeing

Key Highlights

This work area has required Officers to investigate what's already in place with partner organisations and what role WDBC can play in this. We will then review our internal processes for referral of customers where support may be required.

Key Risks / Issues

The Mental Health provision in Devon has been evolving since our strategy was agreed with the formation of the Integrated Care System (ICS). The NHS Devon Partnership now have a directory of services in place that describes what help is available; <https://www.dpt.nhs.uk/our-services> We are also supporting work with children's mental health in the primary schools.

Looking ahead to the next 6 months



We will review our approach to mental health referrals and ensure that they are linked into the current model of service provision.

What difference will this make?

Staff and Members will have a better understanding of mental health support available and how to access it on behalf of our customers.

Overall Rating GREEN – ON TRACK

This update will be considered by the West Devon Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 14 February 2023 .

You can view the meeting by visiting our  **YouTube** channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDZEXV47SxBpXUDR6qbhtiA>

You can find out more about A Plan for West Devon by visiting

www.westdevon.gov.uk/plan-for-west-devon

