

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 December 2022
Hertsmere Borough Council Civic Offices and Microsoft Teams

Attendees:	Councillor Caroline Clapper (Chair)	Property and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Councillor Pervez Choudhury	Community Safety and Performance Portfolio Holder, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Arran Elkeles	Chair, Citizens Advice
	Councillor Fiona Hill	Hertfordshire County Council
	Councillor Meenal Sachdev	Community, Leisure, Culture & Health Portfolio Holder, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Dr Kate Page	Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group
	CI Mark Bilsdon	Hertfordshire Constabulary
	Peter Evans	Aldenham Parish Council
	Richard Allan	InspireAll
	Sajida Bijle	Managing Director, Hertsmere Borough Council

In attendance:	James Jeffrey (Minutes)	Projects Manager, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Antonia Mori	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Councillor Paul Morris	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Matt Mardle	Hertfordshire County Council
	Emma Wright	Wenta
	Hilary Shade	Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Jyoti Bhojani	Policy Manager, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Sophie Linington	HomeStart Watford and Three Rivers
	Stephen Craker	Communities 1 st
	Peter Geraghty	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Valerie Kane	Community Safety Manager, Hertsmere Borough Council

Apologies for absence:		
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	Councillor Bright	Leader, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Ed Jordan	Wenta
	Councillor Lucy Selby	Hertsmere Borough Council

1.0	<u>Welcomes and apologies</u>
1.1	Cllr Clapper welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a special welcome to the guest speakers. The Chair explained how she would be conducting the meeting on Microsoft Teams and advised that the meeting would be webcast.
2.0	<u>Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</u>
2.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.
3.0	<u>Cost of Living</u>
3.1	<p>The Chair invited Matt Mardle, Project Manager at Hertfordshire County Council to present this item.</p> <p>Matt updated the meeting that Hertfordshire County Council have been working with the voluntary sector and district partners to ensure support is available for people who need it. Matt shared a grid showing available support and which they are making people aware of. Matt told the group that inflation is high and those who were just about managing (JAM) which was considered to be households with an income of £50,000 has increased to households with an income of £63,000.</p> <p>There is support available through Herts Help, Citizens Advice and the Money Advice Unit. Herts Help has had 999 unique users since 2019 from January-August 2022 there were 374. County have received NHS funding which has paid for a new Citizens Advice worker, 0.3 of a Money Advice Unit worker, one extra Herts Help worker and additional welfare support from Age UK. They have been offering pensioners support payments of which 1664 Hertsmere residents can claim £150, across Hertfordshire the uptake is 82%. There are 20 registered warm spaces in Hertsmere, currently paid two grants to Hertsmere spaces totalling £2,200. Support to Warm Spaces totals £3.2m from Adult Care Services and £2.9m from Children's Services.</p> <p>Festive grants were paid to community groups to support events over the Christmas period. £4600 supported 18 events, 1102 individuals, 907 pensioners and 120 families, across the County. The Building Life Chances Project is also providing support through Parent Cafes, Drop ins Healthy Start vitamins and youth activities.</p> <p>Carolyn Buller, CEO Hertsmere Citizens Advice, also provided an overview of how they continue to support those being affected by the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>Carolyn explained that CA have identified the following as areas of concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evictions - No energy supply - No food - Rising transport costs - Mental health issues

	<p>The local housing allowance in Hertsmere is currently £1020 which is well below rental costs. Citizens Advice have found that clients often struggle to pay the shortfall. Furthermore, those on energy meters struggle to top up, which results in no energy supply.</p> <p>There is a rising need for energy and food vouchers. There is some funding vouchers that have been provided through British Gas and a further £10,000 of food vouchers from Hertfordshire County Council to help support clients. There is an increase in households with a negative budget where income is less than their essential expenditure. 49% of clients that visit Citizens Advice have a negative budget. Citizens Advice have seen an increase in those clients who are in crisis.</p> <p>Despite some suggestions that there are no tools left to support residents, Hertsmere Citizens Advice are still able to offer support to residents. Data shows that a client is, on average, £2,500 better off as a result of Citizens Advice. Hertsmere Citizens Advice are currently seeing 165 clients each week. They also run outreach sessions at the foodbank and their energy advisers will visit to help support clients.</p> <p>The presentations are attached below:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>District - Cost of Living Presentation.ppt</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Presentation - Response to the Cost</p> </div> </div>
3.2	Cllr Clapper thanked Matt and Carolyn for their presentations and the floor was opened for questions and comments.
3.3	Jyoti Bhojani asked if Matt Mardle could share the cost of living dashboard with members of the LSP group. He agreed to share this and commented that it will become more user friendly as it develops.
4.0	Hertsmere’s Response to the Cost of Living Crisis
4.1	<p>The Chair invited Jyoti Bhojani, Hertsmere Borough Council to present this item.</p> <p>Hertsmere Borough Council is committed to supporting residents over the winter months and beyond. Hertsmere Borough Council are working with a wide range of partners to ensure that those most in need of support are able to access it.</p> <p>Hertsmere Borough Council have a dedicated page on their website, which signposts residents to the number of organisations who are able to provide advice and support. The Worrying about Money Leaflet, which was co-produced with Hertsmere’s Food Poverty Alliance and the Independent Food Aid Network was the first of its kind in Hertfordshire. It has been designed to help people easily identify and access local advice providers and ways to access existing entitlements and maximise income. The leaflet was sent to all households in the borough with this year’s council tax bills.</p> <p>The Summer meals project was open to everyone across the borough. From late July to early September this year, over 6,000 hot vegetarian meals were distributed across Hertsmere. The aim of the project was to ease the financial pressures on residents, ensuring that those who needed it, we able to access a</p>

	<p>nutritionally balanced hot meal. All foodbanks across the borough are reporting a rise in clients, and a drop in donations. They have continued to support the foodbanks with one off grants and shopping vouchers with funding from the Household Support Fund. Funding from the Household Support Fund has also meant that Borehamwood and Potters Bar foodbanks have been able to set up fuel banks to support vulnerable households with rising energy and utility costs.</p> <p>The Household Support Fund has recently been extended to March 2024, which will allow us to support our foodbanks and in turn some of our vulnerable residents.</p> <p>Hertsmere now have 26 warm spaces up and running across the borough. Hertsmere’s warm spaces are a partnership between the community and voluntary sector, faith groups, the libraries, Aldenham Parish Council and HCC. All warm spaces in Hertsmere are being asked to sign up to Hertfordshire County Council’s warm spaces directory, as this includes a countywide pledge, which sets out what those using the warm spaces can expect from providers. Hertfordshire County Council are also providing information around safeguarding, and food hygiene. Communities 1st have opened some of their community centres in the borough to be warm spaces. They also have a directory of warm spaces and HBC website has details of the Hertsmere offer. Funding has been made available via Herts Community Foundation, organisations who wish to open a warm space can apply for a grant of up to £2,000 for support.</p> <p>Promoting the Sustainable Warmth Funding/Green Homes. The fund will support energy-efficiency upgrades to residents who are most likely to be impacted by the high cost of rising bills. These improvements will help residents to use less energy and spend less on their energy bills.</p> <p>Finally, organisations from across the borough have received just over £5,000 in funding from Hertfordshire County Council’s Community Festive Grant to run a variety of Christmas events and lunches over the course of this month.</p>
4.2	<p>Cllr Clapper thanked Jyoti for her update and Hertsmere’s response to the cost of living crisis and opened the floor to questions.</p>
5.0	<p>Home-Start Watford, Three Rivers and Hertsmere Update</p>
5.1	<p>The Chair invited Sophie Linington, CEO at Home-Start Watford to present this item.</p> <p>Sophie Linington provided an overview of the service that Home-Start Watford provided across 2021-2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,232 family visits through our home visiting service • 107 families and 191 children supported • 60 volunteers, giving 5,580 hours • 152 hours of Family Groups • 40 hours of accessible, community-based activities • 252 counselling sessions <p>Sophie also provided an overview of Hertsmere’s offer for Q1 and Q2 of 2022.</p>

	<p>Q1 Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household Support Fund – successfully delivered to Hertsmere families • Change of venue for Family Group - from Allum Hall to Aberford Community Centre • Safe Summer - 22 hours of activities open to families across the 3 areas • 9 families receiving home visiting service • 5 families engaged in group play sessions • 3 supported by the Counselling Service <p>Q2 Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive Support Worker - recruitment • Volunteer Preparation Course – 12 new Home Visiting Volunteers ready • 15 families receiving home visiting service • 11 families engaged in group play sessions • 2 supported by the Counselling Service <p>70% of families have multiple or complex needs (3 or more of the top needs). They are building a strong relationship with Sebby’s corner, Warm Spaces and Citizen’s Advice.</p> <p>The presentation is attached below:</p>  <p>Hertsmere LSP - HSWTR 13.12.22.pdf</p>
5.2	Cllr Clapper thanked Sophie for her presentation and opened the floor for questions and comments.
5.3	Arran Elkeles asked Sophie how the families are put in touch with Home-Start, and if they are referred in or can they self-refer. Also, could she give an example of how the home visiting volunteers are able to help families to achieve an objective.
5.4	Sophie Linington commented that families can self-refer themselves however the majority of the referrals come through health visitors, family centres workers and social workers. An example would be a family where two children are within a year of each other and the mother is struggling with postpartum mental health issues. Mum is finding it difficult to get in to a routine with them both and getting out of the house. Home-Start workers would help support this mother with helping to get mum in to a routine and building her confidence of this. They would signpost to support groups that she could attend.
6.0	Community Strategy Update
6.1	<p>The Chair invited Jyoti Bhojani, Policy Manager at Hertsmere Borough Council to present this item.</p> <p>Jyoti Bhojani explained that the Community Strategy was due to come to the September LSP for approval, but this meeting was postponed. Due to the time that has now passed and the recent release of Census 2021 data, Officers now</p>

	feel that the draft as it stands will need updating. Jyoti proposed that the updated strategy would now be brought to a LSP meeting in Spring 2023 for approval.
7.0	<u>A.O.B</u> There was no further comments.
8.0	<u>Date of Future Meetings</u> Future meeting dates for 2023 will be circulated soon. All meetings start at 2pm and are held at the Civic Offices, Borehamwood. You can view the webcast of this meeting via Hertsmere Borough Council's website (www.hertsmere.gov.uk). Please scroll to the bottom where you will be able to access the full list of archived webcasts.