

13 December 2023

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF COALFIELD SUNDERLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY BOARD

Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023-2026

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report is to provide an update of progress against the Area Committee's Area Plan priorities, which will be the focus for the Coalfield Area Committee during 2023-2024.

2. Background

2.1 The Area Committees are part of the Council's Executive Function. The purpose of the Area Committees is to:

- Lead on the development, implementation, and effective delivery of an Area Plan, working closely with residents to ensure the plans include all main priorities for the Area, which enables residents to be resilient, The Area Plans are linked to the City Plan and other significant strategies for the city.
- Actively encourage local residents to become involved in shaping the Area Plan, ensuring delivery of activities to support matters which affect them.

2.2 The Article 10 Area Committee Area Plans for 2023 - 2026 were agreed by Area Committees in June 2023 and approved at Cabinet in July 2023.

2.3 It is now the responsibility of each Area Committee to deliver their agreed priorities to support the delivery of the Area Plan.

2.4 The Neighbourhood and Community Board supports the work of the Area Committee and specifically the delivery of the Area Plan. The Boards are chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Area Committee and are practical and action-orientated groups. The role of the Board is to respond to all priorities in the Area Committee Area Plan, as agreed by the Area Committee. They develop and implement plans for the delivery of each priority and make recommendations to the Area Committee based on information and research and working closely with partner agencies, particularly the VCS, to ensure effective delivery of the plan.

2.6 The Board is not a decision-making body, the work of the board is presented to each Area Committee via this Report of the Chair of the Neighbourhood and Community Board. The purpose of the report is to update on progress in relation to the delivery of the Area Plan in addition to making any recommendations of the Board to the Area Committee for final approval. Funding decisions to support delivery of the plan can be found at **Item 4 Area Budget Report**.

2.7 Additionally all Sunderland City Council Service leads, when producing Service Plans this year, provided a list of Area Priorities, where relevant, for each of the five geographical Areas of Sunderland and have agreed that regular updates for those priorities will be appended to this report, to the relevant Area Committee, to provide quarterly performance updates (Annex 2).

3. Area Committee Area Plan 2023-2026- Areas of Key Action and Progress

- 3.1 The last meeting of the Neighbourhood and Community Board, held in November, received applications from three groups of young people as part of the CAN DO project. Each group presented their request to the Board and were awarded £750 per organisation to deliver various activities.
- 3.2 November Board received a report to commence the process for the development of the 2024-2025 Highways Maintenance Programme and were updated on the 2023 – 2024 scheme progress.
- 3.3 November Board received feedback from Marion Dixon, Assistant Director of Regulatory Services and Craig Mordue, Assistant Director of Transport and Infrastructure on their service areas.
- 3.4 Vehicle Activated Signs and Motorcycle Disorder were also discussed. Further information can be found in **Annex 1** to this report and within **Item 4 Budget Report**.
- 3.5 Attached as **Annex 1** is the Coalfield Area Committee Delivery plan which highlights progress against the Area Committee plan. Good news stories and promotion of projects are shared at every opportunity.
- 3.6 Attached as **Annex 2** is an update on Sunderland City Council Service Plans - Area Priorities, specifically relevant to the area, including a quarterly update on progress for information purposes only.

4. Recommendations - Members are requested to:

- 4.1 Consider the progress and performance update with regard to Coalfield Area Committee Area Plan 2023- 2026.
- 4.2 Consider the progress update with regard to Sunderland City Council Service Plans - Area Priorities, for information purposes only.

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Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023 - 2026

Updated **December 2023**

The Area Plan commits the Area Committee to a number of priorities, which will be delivered within the Coalfield Sunderland area. This Delivery Plan provides an update on progress on the Area Committee's Area Plan and will be monitored by the Area Committee and actions will be addressed throughout the next three years via the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board.

Priority	Progress Update
Dynamic Smart City We will have	
A Can Do Project to develop skills of young people	Three groups of young people attended the Neighbourhood and Community Board on 14 November to present their proposals to Councillors. Kepier School, Houghton Boxing Club and Philadelphia Cricket Club were all successful in their applications for funding. A further round of funding will be open in January 2024 for consideration at the February N&C Board meeting.
Coalfield Communities Connected Project to develop digital skills of residents	The Coalfield Communities Connected IT project is delivered by Springboard in four locations, 'Community Hubs', each week. In all hubs, participants have access to laptops and PCs, and also get support in improving their knowledge on the use of their personal mobile phone and tablets (using venue's wifi). It has been identified that digital poverty is a factor for many residents so the project offers free data via the databank to be able to offer additional resources to clients to support their digital development. Hubs are reviewed regularly to ensure the best coverage for all sectors of the community. Members were provided with an update via the project performance report circulated in November 2023.
Support to residents to improve financial resilience via R U Ready	The RU Ready for UC project, funded by Coalfield Area Committee, and delivered in partnership by Springboard and ShARP continues to support residents to apply for and maintain their Universal Credit requirements including job search, journal upkeep and providing advice and guidance where relevant. Members were provided with an update in November 2023.
A VAS and Road Safety programme	The current VAS programme consists of 32 locations and 13 signs which are rotated on a quarterly basis. Members are provided with performance and data reports each quarter. The project ends in January 2024. The N&C Board discussed this at the

	November meeting and recommend continuation of the project. A proposal will be presented to Area Committee in December 2023. See Item 4, Budget Report
A Tree planting programme across the area	In addition to proposals put forward to plant trees on a number of the 13 sites included in the LinkTogether project, members have been asked to submit relevant locations within their ward for consideration for inclusion in a 'community orchard' programme.
Developed and delivered low carbon initiatives in the community	Discussions are underway with Durham Wildlife Trust and Wear Rivers Trust to develop an educational project with local schools. The 'Source to Sea' initiative highlights the 'journey' of a plastic bottle (or other discarded items) through local waterways to the sea and the coastline
Healthy Smart City We will have	
Provision of positive activities for young people during school holidays	The Coalfield Area Committee approved 12 project applications, totalling £55,932 at the June Area Committee to deliver a programme of holiday activities from July 2023 to May 2024. Over the summer and October school holidays, projects have provided a wide range of activities such as sports, swimming, crafts, cooking, environmental activities and day trips. All included a drink and snack. The Fun and Float sessions at Hetton Pool were a new addition to the holiday programme. During the summer holidays 137 children and young people from all four wards across the Coalfield accessed these free sessions at Hetton. Children from Shiney Row ward could also access Washington pool – 39 individuals with a Shiney Row postcode enjoyed the free sessions during July/August.
Youth clubs in each of the four wards	The two year Neighbourhood Fund project 'Youth Choices', delivered by Community Opportunities, provides two sessions of youth activity, per ward, per week. Current sessions are delivered at outdoor and indoor venues including Flatts Youth Centre (and field), Shiney Row CA (and Claremont Drive field), Houghton Racecourse CA (and Kirklea field) , Houghton Sports Centre (and MUGA). 415 individual young people accessed youth services/activities in the previous quarter. A total of 87 sessions were delivered and, during summer, sessions were delivered through HAF (Holiday Activity and Food) funding. All sessions provide our young people with a safe space to meet, where they can engage in discussions and talk about issues that are relevant to their lives or make sense of what is happening in the world. Common themes have been the war in Ukraine, refugees and asylum seekers, bullying, confidence building, relationships, health, and wellbeing, ASB and risk-taking behavior. Members were provided with an update via the project performance report circulated in November 2023.

A Coalfield Healthy and Active Teen (CHAT) programme	Delivered by Everyone Active, the project offers the opportunity for 11-15 year olds in the Coalfield area of the city to participate in a programme of junior gym and wellness sessions at Hetton and Houghton Sports Centres. The project will engage 12 young people per quarter, 48 different young people over a year. The young people will be given a gym induction of the safe use of the equipment and will be free to come and use the gym and swim facilities at certain allocated times throughout the week. Everyone Active will also put on a regular weekly bootcamp for 15-19 year olds.
Activities to reduce Social Isolation	The Links for Life programme will support increased social and wellness activity. The Neighbourhood and Community Board will discuss this priority in February 2024.
Social Prescribing Services	Links for Life is Sunderland's social prescribing programme. Further information is contained within the Links for Life update in Annex 2 .
Vibrant Smart City We will have	
The Coalfield Clean it, Green It project	The two year Clean it, Green it project, delivered by Springboard, continues to deliver activity across all four wards on sites and locations which are not currently on a maintenance schedule and need environmental improvement. One Councillor from each ward sits on the steering group, alongside SCC and Gentoo colleagues. The meetings discuss progress and propose locations for action by the team. Volunteers and residents are supported to carry out improvements within their own neighbourhood, and Springboard and Community Opportunities (in partnership) tackle larger scale works. The project complements mainstream cleansing schedules and works alongside Sunderland City Council Environmental Services and Gentoo. A Clean it, Green it facebook page is under development.
Heritage Activities and Community Events	The Stephenson Trail project is ongoing and a number of events and activities have taken place to highlight the heritage aspect of the trail. Local community events throughout the year are supported by Community Chest and Neighbourhood Fund.
Delivered the Houghton Feast community programme	The 2023 Houghton Feast was delivered successfully in October 2023. The opening ceremony, and parade saw hundreds of community groups, schools and residents engaged in activities and entertainment. The planning for 2023 will commence early in the new year.
Improvements to Herrington Colliery Welfare Ground facilities	Following allocation of Neighbourhood Fund and Neighbourhood Capital Improvement Programme, works are underway to improve the pavilion at Herrington Colliery Welfare Ground. The Class A football pitch has been improved and encroaching

	trees have been removed and pollarded. Repairs to the spectator rail has been completed and external fencing will be installed early in the new year to protect the site from unauthorised use.
Improvements to Houghton Rectory Park	Improvements at Rectory Park are ongoing. The railings around the park have been repainted and the large tree restricting access near the entrance to the Old Rectory has been removed. As part of the Area Committee funded project, new benches have now been installed and future works including creation of a reflection garden, a places to ride cycling area and planting ground covering plants are planned for Spring 2023.
Delivered the Stephenson Trail heritage programme	The Stephenson Trail programme has delivered a wide range of environmental and educational activity across the Coalfield, East and West areas. A comprehensive update was sent to members of all 3 Area Committees in August 2023. A 12 month programme of maintenance works is now being developed with community organisations in each of the 3 areas. Waymarkers have been installed along the route and information boards have been erected in three locations. A map/booklet has been designed and printed and is available in various venues and electronically.
Contributed to habitat and ecological improvements via Link Together	Development proposals for each of the 13 sites have now been prepared. Consultation on each site plan has been carried out and will be used to inform the final spec for each site. This development stage of the project has engaged residents and groups across the area. The delivery phase of the project is planned to commence in 2024. To gain more value for money it is proposed that the NF funding allocated to this project is held by Sunderland City Council's Low Carbon team, jointly managed with Durham Wildlife Trust.
Continued the Proactive Coalfield Anti-social behaviour project	The additional, proactive, ASB Officer for Coalfield is working alongside partners, businesses and residents to identify and target problematic areas in a planned way. A performance update with specific ward based information was provided to members in November 2023.
Held a Coalfield Pride Event at Houghton	The Coalfield Pride event was held on 19 August 2023 at The Rectory Field, Houghton le Spring. It was a successful family focused event, building on the inaugural event in 2022. In addition to headline music and drag acts, craft stalls, children's entertainment, food court, wrestling and dance displays were provided.
Developed environmental improvements at Copt Hill and Seven Sisters	Following approval of Neighbourhood Capital Improvement Programme funding, a number of site visits have take place at the Copt Hill/Seven Sisters site. Proposals for improvements include information boards and signage.

	<p>This will complement work to be carried out as part of the LinkTogether project. Durham Wildlife Trust will lead on this project and a detailed proposal will be sent to members for consultation prior to work commencing.</p>
Supported VCS organisations and Community Hubs	<p>A Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector Network meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month. The meetings are chaired by the Vice Chair of Area Committee and continue to be well attended, participative and informative and provide a mechanism for attendees to network with Council Officers, partners and community organisations. The PCRM has supported a number of groups with advice and support on funding, governance and project development.</p>
Improved Community Assets	<p>The November 2023 meeting of the Neighbourhood and Community Board discussed support for organisations delivering services in local community buildings. The Board agreed to align a sum of funding, initially £75,000, to this priority and carry out a call for projects which organisations could apply to for improvements to their building. The N&C Board recommend a maximum value of £7,500 per application. This will be reviewed at the February 2024 meeting. See Item 4 Budget Report</p>
Supported the celebration event at former Houghton Colliery site	<p>Work on the new retail development at Houghton is underway. The mining heritage artwork is complete and in storage until the site is at a stage to incorporate the installation. A celebration event and unveiling of the artwork will be planned in 2024.</p>
A Christmas Tree at Newbottle	<p>Further to approval of funding at the September Area Committee to deliver the 'Coalfield Christmas' project, arrangements were made to install infrastructure to accept delivery of a 30ft Christmas tree in November 2023. The tree lights were switched on at a community event on Friday 1 December. The local community, including St Matthews, provided entertainment and refreshments.</p>
A Music Event at Elemore Park	<p>The first live event took place at Elemore Park on Saturday 26 August 2023. The event included a number of acts such as Marty Longstaff (Lakes Poets), Houghton Brass, Dennis and James Thoroughgood. Fun entertainment and activities for all of the family were also provided. This successful event attracted approximately 500 residents.</p>

Item 2 Annex 2

Service Plans – Coalfield Area Priorities – for information only

1. ADULT SERVICES: Strategic Commissioning Team and Strategic Safeguarding Team

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Doric View	Development of Supported Living Accommodation for adults with social care, support and accommodation needs, in partnership with the Registered Social Landlord	TBC	TBC	Bernicia are to proceed with completing suitable drawings and a planning application. The necessary improvement works are expected to start in the next financial year.

2. CITY DEVELOPMENT: Economic Regeneration (City Development)

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
North East Community Forest 2023/24 planting	Tree and hedgerow planting at a series of individual sites as part of Low Carbon Framework. Options for sites in each area to be assessed and then discussed with Neighbourhood & Community Boards	9/23	3/24	Individual planting schemes developed in further detail, with some requiring further consultation before the overall programme is finalised. Seven sites currently have in-principle funding approval: Holmeside Phase 2 (East); Hetton Primary School (Coalfield); Rickleton Primary School (Washington); Roker Park (North), Silksworth Ski Slope and Pit Wheel (West); Doxford Park (East); Ryhope Junior School (East). An additional 3-4 sites are also being considered and are currently at the feasibility stage.
Low Carbon Framework and Action Plan	Range of city-wide low carbon programmes and projects across the seven strategic priority areas to include			Link Together Heritage Lottery bid for £915,000 has been submitted – if successful it will support greenspace uplift to 13 sites across the Coalfield.

	implementation within individual Area Committee areas			Sunderland City Council is working in partnership with energy suppliers Utilita and E.On on the current phase of Energy Company Obligation (ECO4), which requires energy suppliers to implement energy efficiency improvements in residents' homes. The scheme is aimed at lower income and/or vulnerable households and less energy efficient properties with the aims of tackling fuel poverty, reducing carbon emissions from the domestic sector and improving thermal comfort. The ECO4 scheme was launched in October and is available to residents in all areas of Sunderland (city-wide). Utilita will include a particular focus on engaging with residents in Southwick (North) and E.On with residents in Hendon (East) during Nov/Dec to raise awareness of the scheme and its benefits to residents. Eco-4 will run to 2026 across the city.
Houghton library improvements				Houghton Library closed on Saturday 3rd November – The decant of all internal furniture will take place in the weeks following ready for construction work to begin on site WC Monday 4th December 2023 Alternative provision in Houghton will be provided during this time including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click and collect service and a Pop up library service delivered from the Café unit at street level within the library building on Newbottle Street. • Extended Books at home provision

3. City Development: Regulatory Services

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
HALO (currently Safer Streets Funded)	1 x community engagement worker and office costs	08/22	08/23	Project continues to deliver agreed aims and objectives. the expansion into Easington Lane has been welcomed and community events at ELCAP are well attended.

	1 x partnership officer	01/23	01/24	funding for the community engagement worker has been secured until March 2025.
ASB Project (currently AC funded)	1 x ASB officer Proactive approach working in identified areas across the 4 wards in Coalfields	09/22	09/24	Neighbourhood Enforcement AC update submitted October 2023 via agreed reporting arrangements
Motor Cycle Task and Finish meeting				MC attends these meetings and has updated the board on new dedicated team and the ask for AC.
Elemore Festival	Community Folk music event	8/23	9/23	Event successfully held 26th August

4. CORPORATE SERVICES: Smart City Team

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Digital Inclusion	Delivery of a range of DI initiatives subject to interest/approval	4/23	4/26	Significant work ongoing, a newsletter is available and can be circulated if of interest and further information can be found in the City Resources section of our website: www.sunderlandoursmartcity.com <u>In addition, Digital Dashboards have been produced for every ward detailing the existing digital provision, challenges, and potential opportunities for consideration.</u> Attached at Appendix A.
Smart Cities	Opportunities for a range of digital and data solutions e.g. interactive play, smart bins etc	4/23		Significant work ongoing, further information can be found across our website and in the Innovation Challenges section: www.sunderlandoursmartcity.com

5. CORPORATE SERVICES; Property Services (Strategic)

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Houghton New Depot	Design and construction of a new Coalfields depot to replace the current provision at Market Place Industrial Estate	4/23	4/28	A preferred site at Rainton Bridge has been identified. A project brief has also been agreed and a revised funding application has been submitted for approval. Detailed design and further due diligence on the proposed site are progressing.
Hetton Park	Renewal / Re-surfacing of tarmac footpaths	4/23	3/24	The path through Hetton Park is being improved from the Hetton Centre end to the new tennis court by Building Services. The work is currently planned in for the new year with completion by March.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES:

Bereavement Services

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Cemetery Improvements	Prioritisation of improvement measures within area cemeteries according to an assessment of risk, need and local demand	June 22	Ongoing	As part of the ongoing cemetery improvement works led by the Cemetery Improvement Boards, work is advancing on the enforcement of cemetery regulations relating to unauthorised items and enclosures on lawn section graves. In the coming week, signage will be installed in relevant cemetery sections providing advanced notice of the removal of unauthorised items on lawn section graves, following written notice of the requirements to remove items sent to each grave owner concerned.

				<p>Following the initial removal works, operations will temporarily cease for the Christmas period and resume in January, continuing until complete.</p> <p>As part of the memorial safety programme in all cemeteries, safety audits have now been conducted and we are awaiting the findings from our consultants. Further updates will follow as the findings are available.</p> <p>Cemetery Improvement Board meetings will continue to convene on a bi-monthly basis and have been instrumental in developing the process for the regulatory implementation. As regulatory enforcement becomes part of business as usual, and the memorial safety testing programme is underway, cemetery specific action plans will be introduced to identify and deliver on improvement works specific to each cemetery dependant on local requirements and need.</p> <p>In addition to the regulatory enforcement and MST programme, the board are currently reviewing options to improve cemetery maintenance including the sowing of low cover and slow growing clover seed in older sections as an alternative to grass, as well as increased signage relating to issues around the control of dogs in cemeteries.</p>
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7. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: Local Services

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Glyphosate Trial	A trial project to help us understand the impact of alternative weed control options in different environments, with a view to the potential elimination of the	1 st April 2023	September 2023	The 2023 trial which commenced on the 1st of April which is due to conclude on the 30th of September 2023 is enabling Local Services to ensure we capture a full weed season. The process is allowing us to monitor the impact of using alternative methods to Glyphosate, understand how effective other weed control methods can be, the impact these treatments have on the effectiveness of maintenance,

	use of herbicides in weed killing.			<p>resource, costs, equipment/training requirements, environmental and visual impact, and importantly the views of our residents.</p> <p>To date detailed records on all aspects of the trial are being gathered and analysed. Aspects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application process • Environmental Impact • Cost • Effectiveness • Resident Feedback <p>We are continuing to engage with residents, our wider council colleagues, key city stakeholders and neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>We are also engaging with several other Authorities and organisations such as Cardiff Council, South Lanarkshire Council, Brighton Council the Amenity Forum and APSE.</p> <p>A final report will be produced and published following the conclusion of the trial.</p> <p>The further targeted trials which started in April have continued into November 2023. The detailed trial will provide clear evidence to review, enabling consideration of the available options, cost and resource implications for each method tested.</p> <p>The results of the trial will inform the appropriate next steps.</p>
Tree Surveying	A citywide tree inspection and mapping project.	May 2023	2027	<p>Tree inspections and mapping commenced in May 2023. Starting in the East area to date we have surveyed and digitally mapped over 5000 trees. The survey will move into the West area over the coming weeks. The survey will enable SCC to fully understand our tree stock, which will in turn increase our ability to manage the risk more effectively.</p>

				<p>The survey will also facilitate a much more proactive approach to tree planting and replacement, establish how much carbon as a city our trees can sequester, it will also inform us of the overall impact of Ash Dieback disease. The data base as it grows will provide a deeper case by case record of each tree and its inspection record which will improve member and customer journeys as the information held will provide more detailed information when responding to customer requests and complaints.</p>
E Technology Trials	Trialling alternative Electric equipment to replace petrol fuelled kit to reduce carbon emissions.	May 2023		<p>We continue to trial alternative kit not only to reduce carbon emissions but to reduce the hand arm vibration some kit exposes our workforce to. To date we have tested Electric hedge trimmers, chainsaws, strimmers and grass cutters. We are hoping in the coming weeks to explore hybrid chipper technology. We are also working with our fleet team to future proof our kit replacement programme factoring in the feedback we capture as part trials and are confident that over a period of time to further reduce our reliance upon petrol tools and equipment. Trials are continuing with appropriate tools being considered as part of our fleet replacement capital programme.</p>
Coalfields In Bloom	Improving green spaces in Coalfields.	April 2023	March 2024	<p>Shiney Row war memorial was given an overhaul and some new plants we're planted in the tubs to give more colour and a better display.</p> <p>Easington Lane war memorial was also treated to some new plants in the planters and the brick structured beds given a general tidy up.</p> <p>Hetton town centre planters refreshed with some new sustainable planting to compliment the hanging baskets. Bringing in the planters from the Broadway at Rectory Park to revamp them ahead of spring.</p> <p>Shiney Row planters are to be fully refreshed ahead of spring.</p> <p>Where any of the plants have perished in the other planters at Easington Lane, Hetton Town Centre we will replace.</p>

Rectory Park Improvements	Rectory Park Improvements.	April 2023	March 2024	<p>New planters implemented to close off the unofficial car park, these will be distributed into the park following the decision with property services about the space. All park benches have been replaced, except for a memorial bench.</p> <p>Looking at plans to improve the shrub beds in spring 2024. This will involve removing older beds and replanting with a more sustainable shrub which will provide a mixture of colours through the growing season. Also looking at planting spring bulbs and wildflower sections.</p>
Hetton Park	Renewal / Re-surfacing of tarmac footpaths	4/23	3/24	The path through Hetton Park is being improved from the Hetton Centre end to the new tennis court by Building Services. The work is currently planned in for the new year with completion by March. As per Building Services

8. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: Winter Maintenance

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Winter Smart Solutions	Trials of several infrared road surface sensors across the highway network.	Continue through the winter of 2023/2024	Testing of various options remains ongoing through the winter of 2023/2024	Following the recent trial of 10 smart sensors at a variety of key locations across the city, the detailed findings of the trial have enabled the Environmental Services Winter Maintenance Team, to further improve the planning for the essential replacement of the city's Vaisala weather station network and ensure that the positioning of the new equipment is optimised in response to the current and future development of new key routes and any road network changes across the city. With the new installations of modern Vaisala equipment occurring from May 2024, the road users of Sunderland can be assured the city will have some of the most advanced weather

				monitoring and forecasting equipment available, provided and supported by one of the market leaders in the industry.
Development of a salt barn in Houghton.	Construction of a new Coalfields depot to replace the current provision at Market Place Industrial Estate including a salt barn.	April 2023	April 2028	A preferred site at Rainton Bridge has been identified. A project brief has also been agreed a revised funding application has been approved. Detailed design and further due diligence on the proposed site is now progressing

9. HEALTH HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES: Area Arrangements

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Developing the community support offer, working closely with the voluntary sector to enable maximise positive outcomes from Social Prescribing	Supporting VCS to develop their capacity to deliver commissioned services within communities	April 2023	March 2025	UKSPF funds secured to support VCS in Sunderland to deliver 12 months of community support across the city. VCS providers will support the establishment of the Links for Life social prescribing programme in Sunderland, signing a delivery charter, ensuring a digital platform is developed and delivery is evaluated to inform future community support service delivery
VCS Alliance – growing capacity of voluntary and community sector	Continue to work in partnership with the voluntary sector Alliance to maximise resources into the sector via external funding and grow social value resources	April 2023	March 2025	The Council continue to support the VS Alliance in Sunderland, who are now an independent Charity as a member of their strategy board, alongside other VCS partners, Gentoo and the ICB,.
Delivery of Financial Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan	Supporting residents within areas to improve their resilience	April 2023	March 2025	<i>Continue to use household data and intelligence to identify issues and inform Support offer available within communities, working closely with partners including the voluntary sector. The</i>

				<p><i>UKSPF community support offer is supporting residents to become financially resilient and forms a core part of the wider Links for Life service offer.</i></p> <p>The team continues to talk to residents in communities about their experience and report on issues and themes from the conversations.</p> <p>The work is facilitated by excellent relationships already established with local VCS organisations.</p> <p>We are combining quantitative and qualitative data to provide context and a deeper understanding of the Lived experience of residents.</p> <p>We are currently refining a recording and reporting system to manage both statistical and anecdotal information so that if a service or partner organisation requires some contextual information we can find and provide it.</p>
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LINKS FOR LIFE SUNDERLAND

Links for Life is Sunderland’s approach to social prescribing; working with our partners to help people live the best life they can by linking them to community level services and support to make a lasting difference to their health and wellbeing.

Partners recognise that without growth of the service offer in the community we will not reduce health inequalities. Effort has gone into building support for voluntary and community groups who are delivering vital services within our communities.

WHAT IS SOCIAL PRESCRIBING?

Factors such as stress, unemployment, debt and loneliness can affect our health.¹ Also, one in five GP appointments are about issues wider than health, especially for people living in areas of high deprivation.²

Social Prescribing is about connecting people with activities and services that improve their physical and mental health, and wellbeing. It supports people to identify and discuss their own support needs, giving them time to focus on ‘what matters to them’ and taking a holistic approach to their health and wellbeing.

Supporting residents to improve their health and wellbeing through self-help and connections to community-based support services, often provided by our VCS services, is vital to support our residents with the range of social issues which drive up health inequalities in our city. Key benefits can include improved social connections, improvement in the management of health and health status, improvement in mental health and wellbeing and life enrichment.³

¹ [Social determinants of health \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int)

² NHS England » Social prescribing as a way of tackling health inequalities in all health settings

³ Bild, E and Pachana, N,A, Social prescribing: A narrative review on how community engagement can improve wellbeing in later life, Oct 2022.

LINKS FOR LIFE SUNDERLAND

To build on all the positive work that already happens in Sunderland, partners are working on developing a model, called Links for Life Sunderland, which will be launched in **April 2024**.

Links for Life Sunderland will bring together people within communities, supporting everyone to have healthy, happy lives, with no one left behind.

A video has been produced all about Links for Life Sunderland – see here [Links for Life Sunderland - https://youtu.be/h8EizBukS40](https://youtu.be/h8EizBukS40)

What are the aims:

- Residents and partners will be able to easily find information, including community-based services, to make better informed choices to help their health and wellbeing.
- People will recognise Links for Life Sunderland and will associate it with quality, accessibility and connectiveness.
- Residents will be able to get support through more community-based partners, including VCS, through improved promotion, collaboration and demonstration of their impact.
- Links for Life Sunderland will be developed on evidence-based practice and evaluation.
- Investment will be targeted and driven by local data, intelligence and knowledge from the system.

What are we doing:

- Creating the Links for Life Sunderland brand, informed by the views of residents and making sure it is recognised and visible across the city.
- Developing a 'digital community support platform', to make sure people can find the information and help they need.
- Mapping our community buildings and services to understand and help address gaps, making sure we focus our efforts on people and places that can't access services.
- Supporting the voluntary sector to grow the Links for Life offer within community settings. Including the provision of Community grant schemes to support voluntary sector organisations in developing Links for Life delivery centres within communities and ensure the difference their work makes to the lives of residents, is recognised and supported by all partners.
- Creating a charter that makes sure we have shared behaviours and values and everyone receives a good quality service that meets expectations
- Working alongside the community wealth building strategy / social value initiatives in the city to financially support our voluntary sector as well as support much needed improvements within our community facilities.

10. HEALTH HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES: Housing Strategy/ Housing Development

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Empty Properties	<p>This is not a specific project. The following wards show a high prevalence of empty properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hetton • Copt Hill <p>The service is generally responsive based on requests for service and the severity of empty property conditions. However, the Empty Homes Strategy identified the areas of the City where empty properties were most prevalent. Work to tackle empty properties is targeted in these areas.</p>	Progressing	<p>Initial presentation complete</p> <p>Future reports presented for Area Committee Information quarterly</p>	<p>A presentation on Empty Properties has been delivered to all Area Committees. This showed the data relating to area, Ward and across the City.</p> <p>An Empty Homes Report is being developed following the views and questions provided as part of the Area Committee discussions.</p> <p>This report will be presented to Area Committees quarterly</p>

New Council homes	<p>Housing Delivery and Investment Plan 2020-26 – approved to deliver 574 new Council owned homes for letting, broken down into three workstreams:</p> <p>Empty Homes - 210 Bungalows - 193 Supported – 171</p> <p>For Coalfield Empty Homes - 37 Bungalows - 36 Supported – 34</p>	Feb 2020	March 2026	<p>Empty Homes - 15 Bungalows - 5 Supported – 1</p> <p>Due to the current financial and economic position with increased inflationary pressures, increasing borrowing rates, increasing build costs and no growth in Homes England grant, properties linked to Housing Revenue Account (HRA) activities are suspended until the economic climate changes to enable the viability of the HRA in the future. Some non-HRA activity including supported accommodation which does not sit within the HRA will continue.</p>
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11. HEALTH HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES: Welfare Reform Service and Business Development

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion by	Area Committee quarterly update
Foodbank Support	<p>Council currently supporting range of foodbanks / food aid organisations in all area of the city – majority in East / West via fresh food and FareShare – will be refining offer / support during the year</p>	N/a	N/A	<p>Service is currently collating foodbank usage in each local area to understand gaps in provision and issues within communities. Service also supporting foodbanks to receive donations ahead of the Christmas period Information continues to be made available for residents to access via website and also voluntary sector and partners such as housing, health, etc.</p>

12. HEALTH HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES: Active Sunderland

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Parks Tennis Court Programme	Refurbish Tennis Courts in Hetton Park	5/23	7/23	Complete and operational from 25/8/23
Parks Tennis Court Programme	Develop Tennis activation programme	6/23	10/23	Complete - taking place
Swim Bike Run programme	Create new opportunities to participate in SBR and Go Tri – in HLCP	7/23	Ongoing	In progress
Swim Bike Run programme	Develop SBR Hubs from HLCP	7/23	Ongoing	In progress
Regular Physical Activity Opportunities	Work with HALO and to explore opportunities for partnership working	11/23	Ongoing	Ongoing
Regular Physical Activity Opportunities	Consultation and development of Bid for Playzone in Coalfield - location tbc	7/23	10/23	Place identified - Progressing with community consultation and engagement with stakeholders

13. HEALTH HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES: Public Health and Integrated Commissioning – Living Well

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Development of Social prescribing physical hubs	To deliver a Social Prescribing 'hub' to allow for localised presence of the offer	4/23	3/25	Progressing model development

14. TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN: Early Help Systems and Family Hubs

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Development of Family Hubs and Start for Life	<p>The aim of Family Hubs is to join up and enhance services, ensuring all parents and carers can access the support they need when they need it. To bring services together and make them more accessible, improve the connections between families, professionals, services, and providers, and put relationships at the heart of family support.</p> <p>Sunderland will have 5 Family Hubs across the city offering services from conception up until the age of 18 or 25 for young people with special educational needs.</p> <p>Early Help targeted family support teams are co-located within the family hubs. These teams provide targeted support to families</p>	2022	3/25	<p>Coalfield was launched in May 2023 offering a number of groups for early years, a stay and play, play space and sensory room.</p> <p>Co-Delivery with ante-natal services is well underway. Early years CAMH's worker sits within the hubs. A SALT (speech and language therapist) will be working from the hubs in the new year.</p> <p>The health room for booking in pregnancies has recently been completed and is now functional for these appointments.</p> <p>Registrar service sits at Coalfield on a weekly basis, so parents are able to register their baby's birth within the hub.</p> <p>All of the hubs also deliver at least one session a week within other community organisations across the city.</p> <p>There are 5 peer support health workers across the hubs, aligned to support the delivery of services around peri-natal mental health and infant feeding.</p> <p>Ante-natal and breast-feeding classes are offered across the hubs.</p> <p>Young people's groups are delivered weekly from all of the Family Hubs. The groups are based on a social prescribing model and aim to:-</p>

	<p>with children aged 0 to 19. The Early Help workers complete a robust assessment and plan , provide interventions and work alongside our partners to address the needs of children young people and their families.</p> <p>https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/article/27857/Start-for-Life</p>		<p>enable young people to become Resilient, Inspired, Self-Assured & Empowered. R.I.S.E is focused on improving mental health and well- being, improving the life chances of children and young people. Our mission is to enable and provide young people with the skills, techniques, and tools they need to achieve healthy self- esteem/ self-concept and maintain it, which is the primary factor in the maintenance of social, emotional, and mental well-being, staying happy, healthy, safe and well connected” There are separate RISE groups for primary school aged children and secondary school children.</p> <p>There are 12 Family Champions trained so far across the hubs and two parent carer panels made up of 9 and 10 members.</p> <p>TfC have led on the development of the Northeast Parent Carer Panel information sharing network –Plan for TfC as part of National Volunteer week to host the networking event next year.</p> <p>The Parenting Team have co-produced a new parenting Course with Sunderland University and delivery has started of these courses within the hubs and there are new digital parenting seminars being launched.</p>
<p>Digital Family Hub – My Best Life</p>	<p>The face to face offer Sunderland Family Hubs offer is mirrored as a virtual offer to our children, young people and families, with access to activities, services and resources.</p> <p>MBL is not the finished article. The platform is being co-produced with young people, parent/carers and</p>	<p>2023</p>	<p>Family Hub activities have been added to MBL.</p> <p>Co-production sessions have been carried out in November by the MBL team with;</p> <p>Young people Parent and Carer via Family Hub panels. Parent/Carer Forum Professionals from Family Hubs, Health, Early Help, SEND, council, public health etc.</p> <p>Communications around launch are currently in development with review of launching end of Nov 23.</p>

	<p>professionals across the city.</p> <p>MBL will also provide families with information around childcare, SEND local offer, support for older children and young people in addition to interactive resources that families can access at home</p>			<p>The platform will be updated and added to over the coming months.</p>
<p>Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme</p>	<p>Together for Children and Health, Housing and Communities have worked together to continue to extend HAF provision to the additional two holiday periods in 2023/2024 (Oct 23 and Feb 24) and extend the current HAF offer (Winter 23) to children in households on universal credit and struggling with the cost of living but not eligible for means tested free school meals.</p>	<p>2023</p>		<p>HAF has been delivered over October half term funded fully by Public Health and will also fund Feb 2024.</p>

Population

12072

Child Poverty

566

Unemployed

3.0%

Older People in
Poverty

17.9%

Older People
Living Alone

32.5%

Can not Speak
English

0.3%

IMD Ward Rank
(/25)

12

IMD Score

30.60

Income
Deprivation

19.3%

Ave. Download
Speed

83.40

% of prem unable to receive 30Mbit/s

1.0%

Digital Inclusion
Scoreboard

Copt Hill

Existing Digital Provision

Significantly influencing investment to install broadband provision in all areas, to ensure no one and nowhere is left behind i.e. Netomnia / You active in the Ward.

Working with Schools on digital careers, work placements and T-qualifications, and building links with VCS organisations, to provide wider support.

Encouraging organisations to share activities to a centralised hub to support social prescribing to raise awareness of support available

Newbottle, Gillas Lane, Eppleton and St Michaels RC are members of the National Computer Centre.

UKSPF bid approved to develop a Community Digital Health Hub at Philadelphia Cricket and Community Club, which will improve connectivity, provide access to digital devices and upskill the workforce and volunteers.

Challenges to Address

No or little community based provision providing a dedicated paid resources to manage resources that could provide access to public Wi-Fi, digital devices or 1-2-1 support.

People more at risk of digital exclusion are children and young people; older people, people without a job; people on low wages. Further consideration for Veterans, single parents and people with disabilities.

Local insights suggests that limited digital connectivity; low personal data allowances; lack of money and access to digital devices; along with low digital skills are common barriers to digital inclusion.

Copt Hill has the highest levels of children poverty in the Coalfields. Higher levels of older people living in poverty, people who are unemployed and living in income deprivation.

Listed in the top six wards registered on the Digital Exclusion Risk Index, across demography, connectivity and deprivation measures.

Listed in the top 10 wards registered as having limited broadband, via the Digital Exclusion Risk Index.

Potential Opportunities for Members

Develop a space for people to access face to face digital support at St Matthews at Newbottle.

Set up a Tech Mates / Buddies Volunteering Scheme.

Encourage sign up to the Digital Inclusion Network and operate data banks (like a food bank but instead provides free SIM cards).

Deliver marketing campaigns to tackle digital exclusion e.g. low cost broadband, being safe online, etc.

Set up a Digital Device Loan Scheme or Lending Libraries for digitally excluded households.

Promote digital skills and training to residents, volunteers and partners.

Raise awareness and encourage sign up to the National Computer Centre at Bernard Gilpin.

Co-design and deliver a project tailored to an 'at risk' group of people or within a physical location.

Population

12052

Child Poverty

537

Unemployed

3.0%

Older People in Poverty

21.2%

Older People Living Alone

36.6%

Can not Speak English

0.2%

IMD Ward Rank (/25)

8

IMD Score

36.70

Income Deprivation

21.5%

Ave. Download Speed

67.92

% of prem unable to receive 30Mbit/s

7.5%

Digital Inclusion Scoreboard

Hetton

Existing Digital Provision

USKPF bid approved to develop a Community Digital Health Hub at ELCAP improving connectivity inside and outside the building, access to devices and upskilling the workforce/volunteers.

Working with Schools on digital careers, work placements, and T-qualifications, and building links with VCS organisations to provide wider support.

Encouraging organisations to share activities to a centralised hub to support social prescribing to raise awareness of support.

Significantly influencing investment to install broadband provision in all areas, to ensure no one and no where is left behind i.e. Netomnia / You active in the Ward.

Easington Lane, Hetton Lyons Primary are members of the National Computer Centre

Nidderdale Centre and Moorsley Hut are expanding digital support.

Hetton New Dawn have carried out repairs and appointed a new Com Dev Worker in the last year, operate a Databank, and will shortly set up 1-2-1 support.

Together for Children at the Hetton Centre provide support in the Family Hub.

Flatts Youth Centre provide support to young people and have PCs at the centre.

ELCAP and Springboard offer Wi-Fi access, along with access to digital devices, 1-2-1 support, timetabled sessions or drop in sessions.

Supporting residents with assistive technologies to live at home longer.

Challenges to Address

Local insights suggests that limited digital connectivity; low personal data allowances; lack of money and access to digital devices, along with low digital skills are common barriers to digital inclusion.

People more at risk of digital exclusion are older people, unemployed, people with long term sick or disability and single parents.

Hetton has the highest levels of older people living in poverty and living alone in the Coalfields, which may contribute towards loneliness, and income deprivation, and higher levels of children living in poverty.

Listed in the top six wards registered on the Digital Exclusion Risk Index across income, demographics and connectivity measures..

Listed in the top 10 wards registered as having limited broadband, via the Digital Exclusion Risk Index.

Potential Opportunities for Members

Build on existing marketing campaigns to tackle digital exclusion e.g. low cost broadband, being safe online, etc.

Encourage sign up to the Digital Inclusion Network and operate data banks (like a food bank but instead provides free SIM cards)

Explore funding opportunities to introduce free friendly Wi-Fi into publicly accessible buildings, open spaces and parks. i.e. Elemore

Set up IT donation points and encourage people to gift their old devices which can be upcycled and reused

Co-design and deliver a project tailored to an 'at risk' group of people or within a physical location.

Raise awareness and encourage sign up to the National Computer Centre at Hetton Secondary School, Hetton Primary and East Rainton Schools.

Promote new technologies that can support independent living.

Population

13259

Child Poverty

371

Unemployed

2.6%

Older People in Poverty

18.2%

Older People Living Alone

33.7%

Can not Speak English

0.1%

IMD Ward Rank (/25)

16

IMD Score

26.30

Income Deprivation

15.2%

Ave. Download Speed

91.56

% of prem unable to receive 30Mbit/s

0.3%

Digital Inclusion Scoreboard

Houghton

Existing Digital Provision

Houghton Library offer Wi-Fi access, along with access to digital devices. Space4 host Springboard to deliver timetabled sessions to residents. The Old Rectory provide the above, and in addition operate a Data Bank.

USKPF bid approved to develop one Community Digital Health Hub at Space 4, improving connectivity, access to devices and upskilling the workforce / volunteers.

Working with Schools on digital careers, work placements and T-qualifications, and building links with VCS organisations to provide wider support.

Encouraging organisations to share activities to a centralised hub to support social prescribing to raise awareness of support available

Significantly influencing investment to install broadband provision in all areas, to ensure no one and nowhere is left behind i.e. Netomnia / You active in the Ward.

Dubmire and Burnside Primary are members of the National Computer Centre.

Supporting residents with assistive technologies to live at home longer.

Challenges to Address

Local insights suggests that limited digital connectivity; low personal data allowances; lack of money and access to digital devices; along with low digital skills are common barriers to digital inclusion.

People more at risk of digital exclusion are children and young people; people without a job; people on low wages. Further consideration for Veterans, single parents and people with disabilities.

Houghton has higher levels of older people living in poverty and older people living alone which may contribute towards loneliness, and income deprivation.

Listed in the top 10 wards registered as having limited broadband, via the Digital Exclusion Risk Index across income, demography and connectivity measures.

Parts of the ward (Fencehouses in particular) have little or no community based provision.

Potential Opportunities for Members

Deliver marketing campaigns to tackle digital exclusion e.g. low cost broadband, being safe online, etc.

Encourage sign up to the Digital Inclusion Network and operate data banks (like a food bank but instead provides free SIM cards).

Explore funding opportunities to introduce free friendly Wi-Fi into publicly accessible buildings, open spaces and parks. i.e. Rectory Park.

Set up IT donation points and encourage people to gift their old devices which can be upcycled and reused.

Co-design and deliver a project tailored to an 'at risk' group of people or within a physical location.

Raise awareness and encourage sign up to the National Computer Centre at Houghton Keping.

Promote new technologies that can support independent living.

Population

12291

Child Poverty

455

Unemployed

3.2%

Older People in Poverty

18.0%

Older People Living Alone

35.0%

Can not Speak English

0.3%

IMD Ward Rank (/25)

14

IMD Score

27.70

Income Deprivation

16.5%

Ave. Download Speed

106.19

% of prem unable to receive 30Mbit/s

2.8%

Digital Inclusion
Scoreboard

Shiney Row

Existing Digital Provision

ShARP offers Wi-Fi access, along with access to digital devices. Residents can access 1-2-1 support, timetabled sessions or drop in sessions

ShARP also supports Universal Credit clients digitally. St Johns support residents with digital skills. Community Opportunities support young people with their mobiles at Shiney Row CA Youth Club.

USKPF bid approved to develop a Community Digital Health Hub at ShARP which will improve connectivity, provide access to digital devices and upskill the workforce and volunteers.

Working with Schools on digital careers, work placements and T-qualifications, and building links with VCS organisations to provide wider support.

Encouraging orgs to share activities to centralised hub supporting social prescribing to raise awareness of support available

Significantly influencing investment to install broadband provision in all areas i.e. Netomnia / You active in the Ward.

New Penshaw Primary are members of the National Computing Centre.

Supporting residents with assistive technologies to live at home longer.

Challenges to Address

Local insights suggest that limited digital connectivity; low personal data allowances; lack of money; little access to digital devices; low level of digital skills are common barriers to digital inclusion in Shiney Row.

People more at risk of digital exclusion are children and young people; people without a job; people on low wages; older people and people with disabilities.

Listed in the top 10 wards registered as having limited broadband, via the Digital Exclusion Risk Index.

Shiney Row has higher levels of children and older people living in poverty, income deprivation and older people living alone which may contribute towards loneliness.

Shiney Row has the highest level of unemployment in the Area.

Residents/Groups report issues with access to broadband.

Reports of children not being able to access school sites, homework clubs etc.

Potential Opportunities for Members

Marketing campaigns to tackle digital exclusion e.g. low cost broadband, being safe online, etc.

Set up a Tech Mates / Buddies Volunteering Scheme

Encourage sign up to the Digital Inclusion Network and operate data banks (like a food bank but instead provides free SIM cards)

Explore funding opportunities to introduce free friendly Wi-Fi into publicly accessible buildings, open spaces and parks.

Spaces to access face to face digital support i.e. Penshaw CA, Shiney Row CA, St Johns and St Aidan's Community Centre.

Set up a Digital Device Loan Scheme or Lending Libraries

Set up IT donation points and encourage people to gift their old devices which can be upcycled and reused

Co-design and deliver a project tailored to an 'at risk' group of people or within a physical location.

Shiney Row, Our Lady's Queen of Peace and Barnwell Schools to join the National Computing Centre

Option to extend/expand the current NF funded project currently being delivered by ShARP and Springboard.