

## **CABINET STATEMENT**

### **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL POLICY – COUNCILLOR CRAIG**

#### **HealthWorks**

- All Healthworks services have re-started since July and participation numbers are steadily increasing as public confidence returns. The service is currently delivering four community-based face to face Steady & Strong Classes (with reduced capacity) and a low-level circuit session for people with chronic long term health conditions. We are also piloting a virtual Steady & Strong class for those who are not confident to join a face to face session.
- Ten Health walks are running from various locations across the Borough on a weekly basis.
- The team have recently undertaken long covid training (funded by the CCG) in anticipation of patients with the condition being referred to the Healthworks Referral Service for support and advice.

#### **SportWorks**

- Park Sport was successfully delivered over the summer period and recorded 2,692 visits over the 5 weeks of activity. This contributed to high uptake in our SportWorks programmes with nearly 10,000 attendances recorded during August and September.
- The SportWorks team have been successful in securing £10k from Sport England for a This Girl Can project, developing networks and supporting inactive females to engage with physical activity programmes.
- We have initiated the We Are Undefeatable project, which will look to support those with long term health conditions into physical activity and improved health and wellbeing. During the consultation phase we have had 412 respondents which will help to shape the project going forwards and provide insight led physical activity opportunities.

#### **Country Parks**

- Both Itchen Valley and Lakeside Country Parks were awarded Green Flag status. This award demonstrates that Eastleigh Country Parks are among the best in the country offering high quality green spaces and services to our community.
- The Country Parks' team were awarded funding from BHH area committee and Kings Community Church to continue and expand our Walk and Talk programme to include new areas of the borough previously not reached by our programmes. The scheme aims to support isolated adults in meeting new people and exploring their local green spaces.

## **Arts and Culture**

- The second quarter of 2021 has seen month on month growth with participation figures of 12,887. Ticketed attendance figures for the period are 7,321 showing confidence and resilience of audiences.
- Work has started on research and consultation for a new Culture Strategy for the Borough with an update report being presented at P&P in the new year.
- The main priority of the service is to focus on driving income and delivering a new and inclusive programme of professional shows and outreach work across the borough. Delivering the service priorities of Artistic Excellence, Commerciality and social impact/health and wellbeing

## **Housing and Homelessness**

- Housing Allocations continue to be busy with nominations to a number of new build developments including the delivery of disabled person units. There have been delays on some new build developments due to quality issues, labour, site management changes etc. We continue to work closely with relevant Housing Associations and any customers affected by these delays.
- We have seen an increase in street homelessness particularly in Eastleigh Town Centre. We continue to work closely with Two Saints who are operating a daily drop in service and outreach three times week. We are meeting weekly with relevant partners to ensure there are appropriate pathways out of homelessness for those who are rough sleeping.

## **Disables Facilities Grants and Housing Enforcement**

- Received 58 housing enforcement cases, this is a 21% increase on pre-pandemic levels but broadly similar to same period last year (2020/21)
- Approved 46 & Completed 35 DFG cases, which is 21% increase on same period last year but a slight reduction in pre-pandemic levels (most likely due to vacancy in team during this period).
- Empty Property Strategy is currently being reviewed & updated and will be coming forward for approval in the new year.

## **Covid**

- We continue to keep updated with information passed down from central Government to make sure that we can react quickly to keep our Borough as safe as possible.
- Staff are returning to the office and we are doing all we can to make sure their working environment is a safe one to work in.

## **Afghan Refugees**

- We were very pleased to have been able to welcome well over 100 refugees to our Borough.
- Our staff have drafted a welcome pack for these families which is so good it is now used throughout the UK for all arrivals.
- We are very pleased that we have helped some families find more permanent accommodation so they can settle properly.
- The children have received some education in our schools which has been a great experience not only for them but the children and teachers in those schools.
- The families have been able to experience some wonderful events such as celebrating their Birthdays with cake and a wonderful Halloween afternoon with face painting, colouring and biscuit decorating which was enjoyed by all.
- To see the joy on all the faces is a testament to our staff and the partners that we are working with.