

CABINET STATEMENT

CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL POLICY – COUNCILLOR CRAIG

HealthWorks

HealthWorks have seen a steady increase in participation rates as public confidence improves post pandemic. The Activity Buddy Scheme was launched in June and forms part of our We Are Undefeatable Campaign which is targeting the extremely clinically vulnerable. To date 9 individuals with a mental or physical disability have been matched with a physical activity buddy. The team have coordinated the delivery of the summer Holiday, Food and Activity (HAF) programme which provided 365 individuals on a low income or in receipt of free school meals with an opportunity to enjoy fun, creative learning days and a free hot lunch at Itchen Valley Country Park. We are just finalising a Warm Spaces offer, working in partnership with a variety of community organisations and charities to create a directory of venues offering free tea and coffee, activities, and a warm location for Eastleigh residents over the winter months, to address the impact of the cost of living crisis. So far, 13 venues have signed up to the charter and more are expected over the coming months. Some of these venues are now welcoming residents.

SportWorks

The SportWorks Park Sport programme for young people aged 5 to 16 attracted a total throughput of 2,382 over a four-week period and provided discounts for those families in receipt of benefits. There was an increase in female participation and overall attendance from bookings compared to last year. This was despite a small price increase to £2.50 which helps to support the sustainability of the programme. Friday Night Football, which provides a positive activity across 3 areas of the Borough for young people aged 9-19, continues to grow with a throughput of 1,102 for Q2. This is a growth of 37% on the previous quarter. Throughput at PLE continues to increase and the paddling pool provided a popular free offer for families over the summer period. A total of 184,831 visits during Q2 was an increase of 17,627 on the previous quarter. The development of the Health and Wellbeing room has enabled partnerships with health agencies to be enhanced with a range of community programmes supporting residents.

Country Parks

In addition to 79,000 visitors to Itchen Valley, 43 events reached 2,000 participants delivering wellbeing programmes, many designed to reach low-income families or isolated adults. NHS Wellfest in June 2022 saw 933 members of NHS staff from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight converge at Itchen Valley Country Park over three days to celebrate wellness and inclusion. The festival gave attendees the chance to “rest, recharge and reconnect” after battling Coronavirus. Wellfest opened up the opportunity to try new activities, listen to speakers and enjoy music to help instil improvements in mental and physical wellbeing. High Hill field at Itchen Valley was chosen specifically by event organisers who appreciated the benefits of being in nature and acknowledged the work we do in the community- facilitating events which

allow visitors to improve their own health and wellbeing in the beauty of the country park and beyond. We hosted a volunteer fayre in September for local residents to explore opportunities with the Council and other local partners. We hosted 6 partners from across the Borough, including One Community, and local uniformed groups.

Arts and Culture

The Arts and Culture service has seen throughput of 84,387 across all areas of activity between April and September. This is a significantly high number of engagements, but theatre attendance is not yet in line with pre-covid figures, and this is being seen across the UK theatre sector. Programming mainstream and more commercial shows, activities and events are attracting a broader audience and making the work of the service more accessible. Activities of note include Unwrapped taking place in Eastleigh and Hedge End, Summer Social in Eastleigh and the Sustainability hub at The Point, attendees at all three events numbered 10,000. We were successful with our Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) application which brings with it national recognition for the work of The Point and funding in the region of £127k annually for 3 years.

Afghan and Ukrainian Evacuee Project

The Afghan Resettlement Project continues to support 150 individuals. An additional Community Development Worker was recruited in September to provide resilience and further develop the support package on offer.

The Ukrainian Support Project commenced in May and has delivered 25 weekly café sessions attended by 20 to 40 individuals. The Team have prevented 17 families from becoming homeless due to relationship breakdowns with hosts or hosting periods ending.