

## **COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE: MINUTES**

**Date:** Thursday 3rd September 2020

**Time:** 10:00am – 12:15pm

**Venue:** Virtual Meeting

**Present:** Councillors: S Criswell (Chairman), L Nieto (Vice-Chairwoman), B Ashwood, H Batchelor, A Costello, J French, L Every, J Scutt, M Smith and A Taylor.

### **298. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Meschini (substituted by Councillor Scutt).

Councillor French declared a non-statutory disclosable interest in agenda item 8 (Communities Capital Fund – Endorsement of Recommendations (September 2020)) as the Fenland Community Champion (recommendation (ii): Fenland District Council).

### **299. a) MINUTES – 6TH AUGUST 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th August 2020 were approved as a correct record and it was agreed that they would be signed by the Chairman when the Council returned to its offices.

### **b) COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES ACTION LOG**

Referring to Minute 292, the Service Director of Communities and Partnerships informed Members that final details were still being arranged with regard to the level of support to be provided to residents who were forced to self-isolate when returning from a holiday or trip, although he assured Members that anyone self-isolating, regardless of the reason, would be able to obtain support from the Council and partner authorities.

The Committee agreed to note the Minutes Action Log.

### **300. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No petitions or public questions were received.

### **301. CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH CORONER SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT**

The Committee received an annual report on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Coroner Service Annual Report, which provided an update on the service's work over the previous year while also setting out future plans, issues and considerations for the

following year. The Assistant Director of Regulatory Services emphasised that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Coronial Jurisdiction experienced a higher than average rate of complex cases, due to the number of specialist hospitals and prisons in the area. Highlighting the effectiveness of the new case management system in streamlining the referral process, he informed Members that it had been rolled out in Peterborough City Hospital and Hinchingsbrooke Hospital since the report had been published.

The Assistant Director observed that Covid-19 had temporarily halted the progress of inquests and as a result caused an increase to the backlog of cases, despite adapting to use technology whenever possible. Overcoming the backlog, including 113 cases that were over one year old, was identified as a priority for the forthcoming year. The recruitment of two Area Coroners would provide additional robustness and consistency in order to achieve this while also allowing for succession planning. Regular training and development sessions ensured that staff, both junior and senior, were able to keep up to date with changes and best practice, while a skills matrix was being developed to identify the service's strengths and weaknesses. Additional accommodation had been secured during the early stages of the pandemic, enabling the service to begin reopening in a safe and timely manner.

It was noted that although the number of open and closed cases detailed in the table in section 2.6.1 of the report were correct, the accompanying balance figures had been miscalculated. While a general increase in the number of cases could be observed over the previous ten years, there had been a reduction in the number of simpler cases, largely due to National Medical Examiner Scheme that had been introduced, which allowed for cases that had previously been referred directly to the coroner service to be assessed independently in hospitals first. An updated version of the table containing the correct figures is attached as **Appendix 1** to these minutes.

The Assistant Director drew Members' attention to section 2.8.2 of the report, which sought the Committee's support in asking the Transformation Team to both investigate the costs and practicalities of the Council investing in its own mortuary facilities, and identify and evaluate technological enhancements that would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the service. The current use of mortuary facilities at Addenbrookes Hospital and Peterborough City Hospital incurred a significant financial expenditure, while a reduction in the extensive quantity of paperwork through increased use of technology would prove beneficial.

While discussing the annual report, Members:

- Welcomed the efforts being made to reduce the backlog and overspend, which had been a cause of concern at previous meetings.
- Queried whether it would be possible to identify root causes of unnecessary referrals to the service and establish a target or working plan to reduce their number, in order to keep post-mortem levels to 30% of deaths or below, which was an expected aim of the Senior Coroner. The Assistant Director clarified that 30% was a general national benchmark that did not take into account complex cases, of which there were a greater number in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area, arguing that a slightly higher percentage was a more appropriate target for the area. The Chief Coroner had been carrying out a review that included an assessment of whether additional criteria should be applied to the benchmark, although the review was temporarily paused. Such guidance from the Chief Coroner was updated regularly

and defined the changing remit and scope of coronal services. The Senior Coroner worked extensively with hospitals to clarify such changes, which served to improve referral rates. It was observed that while the service should be as efficient as possible, it also needed to ensure that it provided the best service possible to bereaved families.

- Expressed support for the proactive approach of the service in looking to incorporate technology into its processes whenever possible and investigate the feasibility of developing its own mortuary facility, and requested a further report once the Transformation Team had considered both issues. The Assistant Director acknowledged the importance of Members' participation and guidance in the process, and agreed to present a report on the options for the service as they were developed.
- Clarified that the service was funded exclusively by the Council, with no access to external funding. The Assistant Director noted that while other regulatory functions, such as Trading Standards, had a level of discretion over which cases it worked on, the Coroner Service was judicial in nature and had a statutory duty to investigate referred cases. When there were matters that required investigation, there was little freedom regarding the costs incurred, although it was noted that attempts were being made to reduce costs by increasing efficiency and it was suggested that a Council-owned mortuary facility, if it were to be developed, would assist greatly in these efforts.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note the work of the Coroner Service;
- b) Ask the Transformation Team to explore by means of a business case the viability of the Council investing in its own dedicated mortuary, pathology and Inquest facility; and
- c) Ask the Transformation Team to identify and evaluate technological enhancements that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Coroner Service.

## **302. CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

The Chairman reminded the Committee that officers had been asked to bring a report on the Covid-19 response to date for those services for which the Committee was responsible. Due to the rapidly changing situation and the need to provide the committee and the public with the most up to date information possible, the Chairman reported that he had accepted this as a late report.

The Service Director of Communities and Partnerships highlighted the three main areas for which the Committee had responsibility through its oversight of the Countywide Coordination Hub: the shielding programme, the test and trace programme, and the local support arrangements. Emphasising that the Council continued to support residents who were concerned about the national shielding programme being paused, he observed that there was a move towards a more localised approach in any future restrictions, which aligned with the Think Communities approach. He also assured

Members that preparations had been made for any eventual further lockdown and continued to be developed as the situation progressed.

Although the NHS Test and Trace programme was managed nationally, local authorities had become involved in areas with higher infection rates, as had been the case in Peterborough, where a local enhanced test and trace pilot was being carried out. Welcoming the fact that only 28 referrals had been made at the time of the report being written, the Service Director noted that the NHS had failed to make contact to all 28 cases, with a subsequent 89% success rate demonstrating the importance and effectiveness of the localised effort. He drew attention to the three issues that had been identified to the government for consideration as a result of the pilot: local management of the entire end-to-end test and trace programme; greater control in and involvement with local testing arrangements; and greater influence over local laboratory testing capacity.

Among the local support arrangements detailed in section 2.4.2 of the report, financial support was highlighted, given that many people were receiving no income when required to self-isolate, such as employees on zero-hour contracts. Appropriate measures were being refined to ensure that such people received the necessary support through the test and trace grant. Work was also being carried out to encourage employers to support those who were required to self-isolate, especially in sectors where the work could not be carried out at home, such as manufacturing or farming.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Praised the work of officers in restricting the spread of Covid-19 and specifically in helping to reduce the number of cases in Peterborough. The Service Director observed that the situation in Peterborough continued to fluctuate
- Expressed concern that a minority of businesses were not complying with the government's guidelines regarding registering people who entered the premises, and queried whether there were further opportunities for engagement with businesses through organisations such as local Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). The Service Director acknowledged the concerns and emphasised the Council's multiple roles in encouraging, monitoring and enforcing compliance. The Trading Standards service played a fundamental role in the educational process for businesses, while he agreed that BIDs and business chambers also held a central role in raising awareness amongst employers. He informed Members that successful asymptomatic testing pilots of whole workforces had been carried out in the area, while particular attention was being directed towards agency workers commuting from Peterborough to other areas of the County. Noting that the responsibility of regulation and compliance mainly sat with district and city councils, he paid tribute to how they were fulfilling such duties, suggesting that in most cases the provision of advice was enough to ensure compliance. It was clarified that enforcement was, however, carried out when necessary. **Action required**
- Sought clarification on the first proposal put forward to the government, which called for local authorities to have access to the necessary data to ensure that they could contact everyone they needed to in order to successfully implement test and trace procedures, including what data this included and whether it complied with the General Data Protection Regulation. The Service Director observed that while some people had resisted communication due to its perceived intrusion, in many cases the failure was due to issues such as incorrect phone numbers being used, and that

triangulating such information with data already held locally, such as tax or benefits data, helped to resolve many such situations. He informed Members that there was a comprehensive data sharing agreement across the Local Resilience Forum for purposes of health protection in a pandemic scenario, which ensured that data was shared in an appropriate and regulated manner. The Council's data protection officer actively ensured full compliance on this issue.

- Acknowledged the important role of local Members in connecting the Council with residents and providing signposting on a wide range of evolving issues. The Service Director encouraged this relationship to continue with regard information on shielding, test and trace, and local support arrangements. He recalled that the Local Government Association had published guidance on the proactive role of Members during the pandemic and undertook to circulate the document to all Members.

**Action required**

- Considered the implications of reopening the Council's offices and public buildings, including making them safe for staff and members of the public. The Service Director assured Members that rigorous safety measures were being applied for staff working in Council properties, although he noted that such numbers remained low. Senior staff in any area of the Council that indicated a desire for staff to return was required to complete a comprehensive business case, which was reviewed by the Joint Management Team and assessed on an individual basis, before a full risk assessment needed to be signed off by both the Health and Safety team, as well as Public Health. He recognised that returning to work in the office was an issue of wellbeing for some members of staff, due to issues such as isolation or complications due to working at home. The Chairman echoed such concerns and welcomed the government's encouragement to return to the office environment in accordance with the evolving situation, although he emphasised the need for a case by case analysis in order to ensure that this was achieved safely.
- Queried whether the Committee would receive an update on the plans that were being developed for the five objectives set out in section 2.2.5 of the report. The Service Director acknowledged the request and suggested that an update could be included in the Committee's subsequent iteration of the Council's response to Covid-19. He observed that the guidance that had been sent by the government was still in draft format and was seeking input, although he also informed Members that the Council was using the draft guidance to develop its own framework for local mobilisation. **Action required**
- Suggested that the government would only be inclined to allow a greater level of local control over the test and trace programme if the situation was to worsen and the number of cases increased significantly. The Service Director acknowledged that it was difficult to anticipate how the situation was likely to evolve, although he informed Members that general support nationally was for local control, giving an example of frustrations with national schemes, such as inappropriate food provision for certain communities (e.g. halal or vegetarian produce), which had been resolved on a local level.
- Clarified that the work on developing local support packages was not a duplication of the work being carried out on Think Communities. Indeed it was established that the Think Communities team was firmly embedded in the Hub's work and development of the local support package, which allowed the Think Communities principles to run throughout the programme.

- Observed that while some people in the community wore masks and adhered to social distancing measures, others were less strict in their compliance. It was noted that the Council had been a proactive and strong advocate for compliance and was about to launch a further awareness campaign. While most of the enforcement measures rested with the police constabulary, which also showed a national inclination towards education instead of enforcement, the Council shared a responsibility with other local partners to prevent large-scale non-compliance. Safety Advisory Groups, involving officers relevant to an event, along with representatives from police, fire and health services, were formed to ensure any events were held safely, with the prevention of those where widespread non-compliance was evident.
- Sought clarification on the kind of support that was being provided to teachers in preparation for the reopening of schools, such as the provision of personal protective equipment. Highlighting the twice daily briefings that the Director of Education was providing to head teachers of nurseries, primary, secondary and special schools, along with a number of workshop and information sessions, the Service Director acknowledged that schools were an area of concern in the outbreak control plan, with regard to the children, parents, teachers, assistants, volunteers and other staff. He agreed to request a briefing note for the Committee from the Director of Education. **Action required**
- Expressed concern about the potential spread of Covid-19 following the return of students to universities, and sought clarification on how the outbreak control plan managed the relationship with such educational institutions, especially given the high number of students arriving from outside the country. The Service Director acknowledged the concerns and assured Members that detailed assessments and preparations were underway. He argued that the universities could not be expected to manage the whole process and consequences on their own, noting that the associated economic, social and health risks extended across the County. He informed Members that work was being carried out by the health protection board through its oversight of the outbreak control plan, and that the universities were cooperating well with the process. Significant numbers of students were expected to return in October and there would be extensive assessment from health and environment officers to ensure the safety of students and teachers, while there would be significant awareness campaigns throughout freshers' week. It was agreed to include an update on the situation in the subsequent iteration of the Council's response to Covid-19. **Action required**
- Raised concerns about a forthcoming planned scooter racing event in the town of March, which despite having an alcohol and live music license refused by Fenland District Council, was anticipated to include 500 participants. The Service Director emphasised that it was important not to prohibit every kind of event, although he undertook to discuss the matter with the Assistant Director of Community Safety. **Action required**

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note the overall progress made to date in responding to the impact of the Coronavirus;

- b) Note, comment on and endorse the approach set out in section 2.2 of the report relating to future shielding arrangements;
- c) Note, comment on and endorse the approach set out in section 2.3 of the report relating to the Test and Trace programme; and
- d) Note, comment on and endorse the approach set out in section 2.4 of the report relating to local support arrangements for people needing to self-isolate.

### **303. REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

The Committee received a report of the Service Director for Communities and Partnerships, which provided an overview of strategic activity that was largely not related to Covid-19. The Service Director paid tribute to the achievements of the directorate, which included a new libraries vision, a revitalised skills service, a sharper focus and response on domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime, and an increased focus on social mobility and homelessness, although he singled out Think Communities as its greatest achievement.

He drew attention to initial set of eight priorities for Think Communities and their primary outcomes that were detailed in section 2.2.3 of the report, as well as the issue of boundaries and geographies, as detailed in section 2.2.4. A list of the parishes that comprised the 28 geographies was included in Appendix 2 of the report, although the Service Director noted that this did not include Cambridge City due to the fact that it did not have parishes, although work was being carried out with Cambridge City Council to identify similar footprints that could be replicated across the city. The final list of service delivery areas would be presented at the Cambridgeshire Local Councils Conference, which was to be held as a virtual event on 23rd October 2020. Members were encouraged to attend and it was noted that there would be no limit to the number of attendees, unlike previous years which had been over-subscribed.

Members were informed that the Improving Social Mobility working group had met on 3rd September and had developed an extensive list of actions, although it was suggested that the list would be refined so that it could achieve genuine, effective improvements. A detailed report would on the work would be presented to the Committee towards the end of 2020.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note and comment on the progress made to date in relation to the various workstreams described in this report;
- b) Endorse the expansion of the Food Poverty outcome for the Think Communities unified approach to include Fuel Poverty; and
- c) Comment on the proposed service delivery areas for the Think Communities unified approach, and to delegate the development and approval of the final working set to the Service Director for Communities and Partnerships, in consultation with the Chairman of the Communities and Partnership Committee.

### **304. VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR – INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT AGREEMENT**

The Committee received a report which outlined the planned re-commissioning and procurement of voluntary and community sector Infrastructure support services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Currently delivered by Support Cambridge in Cambridgeshire, and Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services in Peterborough, the current contract was extended by the Committee in order to ensure that the tender specifications and priorities were appropriate to the evolving situation. It was highlighted that the joint commissioning of the service across two lots was a process that aligned strongly with Think Communities and allowed two separate sources of funding to be incorporated in to one process.

Members were informed that there had been extensive engagement with stakeholders and a wide variety of potential providers throughout the development of the intended outcomes and service specification, and attention was drawn to the four draft outcomes in section 2.6 of the report. A Committee workshop on 29th September 2020 would allow Members to give their opinion on the final specification before the tender process commenced. Following the preparation and finalisation of the tender process, the tender documents were expected to be live between 5th January 2021 and 5th February 2021, with a subsequent period of evaluation concluding with a recommendation for final approval to award being made at the end of April 2021. It was proposed that a further report be presented to the Committee at the subsequent meeting, which would be held on 3rd June 2021, in order to provide feedback from the procurement process, although it was emphasised that this would not be approve the contract, as the final approval was part of the procurement process and did not involve the Committee.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Observed that not all parish and town councils were members of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC) or Cambridgeshire Action with Communities in Rural England (Cambridgeshire ACRE), which were two of the organisations that would work alongside the new service. The Think Communities Manager noted that both organisations had been working with local councils during the pandemic, regardless of whether they were members, and reassured Members that local councils would not be excluded from any training or development. It was also acknowledged that CAPALC was in a process of organisational transformation which would potentially lead to an increase in membership of town and parish councils.
- Clarified that the proposed report for 3rd June 2021 would provide feedback on the concluded tender process, in order to provide learning for future tenders, as well as to develop the relationship with the successful providers.
- Queried whether any Committee members would be able to participate in the actual tender process in any way, given concerns over the how the tender process would be carried out and concluded. Members were informed that procurement followed a rigorous process that was strictly and robustly regulated and any involvement required a certain level of technical skill and expertise. It was noted that direct Member involvement had been taken out of regulations due to the risk of legal challenge to the scoring and evaluation process. The Commissioner undertook to

establish whether Members could participate in some form of advisory role. **Action required**

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Agree the commencement of the tender process for Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Services across Cambridgeshire; and
- b) Agree to receive a further report in May 2021 following the procurement process but prior to the contract being awarded.

### **305. COMMUNITIES CAPITAL FUND – ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS (SEPTEMBER 2020)**

The Committee received a report which detailed six applications to the Communities Capital Fund that had been recommended for funding by the Member Panel. The Head of Communities and Partnerships Integration presented the selected applications and observed that, if approved, they would represent the final group of applications due to the £5m fund having been fully allocated. 63 applications had been received for a total of over £9m funding. Members' attention was drawn to the full list of funded projects in section 2.9 of the report, as well as some of the common reasons for applications being rejected, which were listed in section 2.11. The Head of Communities and Partnerships Integration proposed an update report in early 2021, to inform Members of how the projects had progressed since being awarded funding by the Committee. **Action required**

While discussing the applications laid out in the report, Members:

- Observed that the applications had previously been assessed and considered by a cross-party Member panel.
- Welcomed the proposal for an update report in early 2021.
- Supported the idea of a similar fund being made available in 2021.

It was resolved to:

Approve the following applications for funding:

- (i) Great Shelford Parish Council - £109,000 for a playscape project;
- (ii) Fenland District Council - £240,000 for the Wisbech park pavilion;
- (iii) Kimbolton Parish Council - £23,591 for a new humpbacked crossing;
- (iv) Godmanchester Town Council - £190,000 for the community plant nursery;
- (v) Godmanchester Sports Football Association Trust - £220,000 for improvements to the club house and access road; and
- (vi) Burwell Parish Council - £131,125 for refurbishment of the Gardiner Memorial Hall.

### 306. COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS ORAL UPDATES

The Committee noted brief oral updates provided by the following Community Champions:

- Councillor Costello (Huntingdonshire), who noted that she would provide the Improving Social Mobility working group with feedback following a Speak Out Council meeting that she was attending, which was due to consider communication opportunities for members. She also informed Members that Essentials by Sue intended to extend the items available during winter, to include cold weather clothing. A written update was provided and attached as **Appendix 2** to the minutes.
- Councillor Every (East Cambridgeshire), who noted Covid-19 had changed the nature of Community Champions' work and had led to a realignment of many of the bodies involved in dealing with it, with many stakeholders increasingly working together, and the Think Communities approach driving the changes. She also praised the working relationship between the County Council and the district councils throughout the pandemic. A written update was provided and attached as **Appendix 3** to the minutes.
- Councillor French (Fenland), who informed the Committee that an appeal for funding for laptops had received a welcome contribution from a local businessman that had allowed for the purchase of eight laptops.
- Councillor Meschini (Cambridge), who submitted a written update in her absence, which is attached as **Appendix 4** to the minutes.

### 307. COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN

The Service Director of Communities and Partnerships informed Members that the 'CUSPE – Tackling Climate Change Through Community-based Networks and Resources' report, which was due to be presented at the Committee meeting on 12th November 2020, had been deferred to 21st January 2021.

Acknowledging this change, the Committee noted its Agenda Plan.

**Updated Table for Table 1 in 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Coroner Service Annual Report'**

See paragraph 3 of Minute 301 above for information.

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Closed Cases	347	372	375	353	307	359	468	476	443	482
Open Cases	334	363	333	341	328	391	461	603	449	545
Balance	13	9	42	12	-21	-32	7	-127	-6	-63

**Community Champion of Community Activity update**

<b>Community Champion:</b>	Adela Costello
<b>Place:</b>	Huntingdonshire
<b>Date:</b>	3rd September 2020

<b>UPDATE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is very little to update since last month, however, September should see the emergence of existing and new projects.</li> </ul>
<b>NEW CONTACTS, PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whilst the Ramsey Covid- 19 Hub is still in operation, the general need is not so great but they are still supporting residents where necessary.</li> <li>• Ramsey Community Hub was successful in the application for a grant from the Community Capital Fund and I am supporting Ramsey Neighbourhood Trust in the delivery of this. It was extremely well received by residents. Unfortunately applications from the Great Fen Project, Upwood Cricket Club and St. Neots were unsuccessful.</li> <li>• I am attending a Zoom meeting next week with the Speak Out Council, part of Voiceability, who recently undertook a survey on communication opportunities for their members. It will be interesting to hear opinions as this was an item on the plans for the working party looking at Improving Social Mobility.</li> <li>• Keeping in contact with officers from CCC and HDC who have worked on my projects.</li> <li>• Forwarding as much information as possible to local social media websites, HDC councillors and officers plus the parishes including the need for foster carers, contacts for Domestic Abuse sufferers in fact all the latest news regarding what is happening in our area.</li> <li>• Next week I will be attending another virtual meeting of the working party in St. Neots, named D.A.D which stands for Dementia, Autism and Disability Working Group. The objectives are to promote St. Neots to be a Dementia, Autism and Disability Friendly community. The group will be looking at the responses from the questionnaire circulated amongst the residents in the town and considering an action plan. This will also enable me to consider options for other towns in my district.</li> <li>• I am working with colleagues to extend the items available through ‘Essentials by Sue’. I am concerned that this winter, many young people, children, mothers with babes will be finding it difficult to obtain warm clothing. I have made contact with the W.I. and asked if they could knit/crochet what I call ‘Winter Warmers’, scarves, hats, gloves and blankets which will be advertised to be available with our health care products.</li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint working between Officers and Members of HDC and CCC plus local parishes and organisations during this difficult time.</li> <li>• Ensuring that members of the public have access to all necessary and vital information.</li> </ul>

**Community Champion of Community Activity update**

<b>Community Champion:</b>	Lis Every
<b>Place:</b>	East Cambridgeshire
<b>Date:</b>	3rd September 2020

**NEW CONTACTS, PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES (during Coronavirus period)**

- Supporting the re-visited initiative for a Skatepark in the District working on new Steering Group;
- Cross Community Champion work being investigated resulting from the Autism and Dementia Friendly Town initiative in St Neots in order to share good practice and increase the number of towns taking this up across the County. Working with Cllrs Adela Charlton and Simone Taylor.
- Request to help plan the expansion of a local mental health community trust.
- Review of the Community Safety Partnership has resulted in a planned restructure and development programme for Parish Councils on the work of the Community Safety Partnership and resulting in a more appropriate Delivery Plan and community fund allocation. Managed moved for the Partnership to work within the Community team.
- Following the research phase of ECDC's Post Covid-19 cross party working group, recommendations for initial projects identified.
- Increased requests from organisations who are trying to put bids together for funding, resulting in a structure now planned to deal with this working across ECDC and the Volunteers Centre.
- Part of Wendy Lansdowne's local Parish forum now moving into its post-Covid-19 phase;
- Planned strategies for continued networking and signposting activities linking local neighbourhood volunteering groups, the Ely community covid-19 mutual aid group, the City of Ely Council and the ECDC Community hub.
- Agreed to work with Talking FreEly to further establish and grow their work on mental health awareness

**UPDATES**

**All work on-going but on hold.**

- Monitoring local provision for Adult Skills in East Cambs. Now a member of the Combined Authority on their Skills Committee. Working with the organisations dealing with NEETs in East Cambs to upskill young people who need Maths and English qualifications. Concerns about quality of provision and duplication.
- Introduction of Youth Advisory Board which will work alongside the East Cambs Youth Strategy scheduled for April
- Training for Youth Ambassadors for the Eyes and Ears project. – transforming lives now in place.
- Working with Soham on funding for projects.
- Strategic plan for Littleport on social prescribing now in place
- Launch of the collaboration between CCC and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Chamber of Commerce visiting networking opportunities to recruit business mentors for the pilot for a Local offer plan for our care leavers in Cambridge City.
- Part of the multi-agency Mental Health Task Group for children in care researching the level of support provided by local universities.
- Working on widening Eyes and Ears project to include local schools
- Identifying business mentors for post-16 students and post-18 students leaving care.

- Discussions with VCAEC to extend Volunteers Centre and the car share scheme and attract volunteers outside Ely. Completely revamping provision and marketing strategy. Funding being sought.
- Continuing to work with City College, Peterborough to grow numbers on their Health and Social Care courses in East Cambridgeshire. Contributed to their external auditing process.

#### **COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICE**

- Initial research has been undertaken to identify the organisations in existence, what they currently offer; how these services could overlap and determining a network strategy;
- Working with parish and district councillors to create capacity and information base supporting their work in their Parishes/Wards as required;
- Building network of community providers and champions across the District.
- Improve communication with County, District and Parish Councillors, particularly embracing social media.

## Community Champion of Community Activity Update

<b>Community Champion:</b>	Elisa Meschini
<b>Place:</b>	Cambridge City
<b>Date:</b>	3rd September 2020

### **NEW CONTACTS, PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES**

- Cllr Anna Smith, Executive Councillor for Communities, Cambridge City Council
- Cllr Nicky Massey, Transport Liaison, Cambridge City Council
- Sarah Steed, Committee Manager, Cambridge City Council

### **UPDATE**

- Area Committees in the City are going ahead again in September on a virtual platform (Teams).
- Cambridge City has begun a review of New Ways Of Working, focusing on the different ways in which the Council might work in future to deliver their priorities, and the links between these and some of the key service reviews and COVID recovery work currently underway. While these are being described as 'New ways of working', many are things the City Council already champions or is doing successfully. The review will focus more attention on those ways of working in order to drive better outcomes for our communities and to reshape the council over the medium to long term in order to deliver them. In particular, an overarching review of Neighbourhood Working has begun mapping out the different kinds of place-based working the City and its partners currently engage in. As the County is one such key partner, I will work closely with them on neighbourhood community development, working collaboratively with communities to develop local capacity, engaging with residents and community organisations and providing infrastructure and support to support them to become more independent and resilient, and building a detailed understanding of local need.

### **COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICE**

- Much has been and is being learned from community hubs and mutual aid work which is informing our ways to help communities band together and provide support to each other as the pandemic progresses. As the project above progresses, a framework for community good practice will become possible to embed.