



# Whitehaven & Coastal Community Panel Update

**Meeting Date – 4 September 2024**

**Lead Officer - Paul Musgrave**

## **1.0 Purpose / Summary**

1.1 The report updates this Community Panel on recent activity by Cumberland Council within this Community Panel area.

1.2 The work of the Community Panel contributes to the achievement of the Council Plan 2023 - 2027 vision:

- Cumberland Council takes a fresh approach to the delivery of inclusive services that are shaped by our residents and communities.
- By enabling positive outcomes for health and wellbeing, prosperity and the environment we will fulfil the potential of our people and our area.

1.3 The Council Plan aims to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents through the following priorities:

- Addressing inequalities
- Local economies that work for local people
- Environmental resilience and the climate emergency
- Delivering excellent public services

1.4 This Community Panel has also identified the following priorities for this panel area which are:

- A local environment where individuals, households and communities can live well and thrive.
- Better health and wellbeing for all
- Addressing inequalities through improved access to services and opportunities
- A local economy that is thriving and benefits everyone

## **2.0 Recommendation**

2.1 Members note the contents of the report.

### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 This report sets out the activity that has taken place within this Community Panel area in the last quarter that has been led or supported by Cumberland Council. Where appropriate, it also makes reference to consultations that are Cumberland wide or specific to this area.
- 3.2 This Community Panel covers the wards of Bransty, Egremont North, Hillcrest & Hensingham, Howgate, Kells & Sandwith and Mirehouse

### **Achieving the Priorities**

#### **Pride on the Harbourside and the Colours Inclusion Hub and café**

- 3.3 On the 1 August 2024, Proud and Diverse Cumbria held a grand opening event for the Colours Inclusion Hub and cafe located on King Street, Whitehaven. The event was attended by local dignitaries, local residents and supporters. The building has been renovated to a high standard with support from a number of funders and has been designed to offer a comfortable, welcoming and inclusive space for all to enjoy.
- 3.4 This was the start of a three day celebration, with a free community concert taking place on Friday 2 August 2024. Celebrations included Pride by the Harbourside and a colourful parade on Saturday 3 August 2024.

#### **Copeland Local Focus Hub, Community Engagement event**

- 3.5 An event was held by Copeland Local Focus Hub on 5 July 2024 in St Nicholas Gardens to give members of the public an opportunity to engage with a range of agencies and raise any concerns they had about living in the local area. Information and advice was available from a number of different organisations.

#### **10p Swims in Cumberland**

- 3.6 All schoolchildren aged up to 16 years from the Cumberland area will be able to access 10p swims in a choice of five indoor pools over the school summer holidays.
- 3.7 The discounted scheme will start from Monday 22 July 2024 and has been put in place by Cumberland Council, with the support of GLL and Wigton Baths Trust. The Council scheme will offer discounted swimming opportunities throughout the week, including weekends at some of the venues. It will be available at the following leisure site in the Community Panel area at allocated times during the school summer holidays:
- 3.8 Copeland Pool and Fitness Centre, Whitehaven
- 1pm - 1.50pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
  - 1pm - 1.50pm Saturday
  - 10am - 10.50am Sunday.

## **Other Activity**

### **Beck Bottom Community Garden**

- 3.9 With funding from Whitehaven and Coastal Community Panel, Beck Bottom Community Garden Group have purchased and instated a friendship bench and an information board in the gardens. The information board has been designed with a range of information about the history of Beck Bottom.
- 3.10 Members of the group have researched with support from local residents. The board also offers a timeline history about the development of the gardens and the work of the group.
- 3.11 In July, the group were awarded a Green Flag 'Community Winner' award for the third consecutive year, in recognition of achieving the international standard for parks and gardens.

### **Whitehaven Tidy Town Committee ship unveiling in Coates Lane**

- 3.12 Whitehaven Tidy Town Committee held and unveiling ceremony in the Coates Lane area of Whitehaven on 11 July 2024, to celebrate the work which has been undertaken to improve the area. With support from Cumberland Council's Open Spaces team, the area has seen trees cut back, paving cleaned, weeds removed and flower beds reinstated. The centrepiece ship planter was designed and fabricated by apprentices from Fourth Engineering.
- 3.13 Whitehaven Tidy Town Committee, in partnership with Whitehaven Harbour Youth Project are in the final stages of completing a new mural on a wall at School House Lane in Whitehaven which has been designed to celebrate authors and books which all relate to the Whitehaven area. The group are responsible for a number of wall murals which can be seen in different parts of the town.

### **Make Your Mark**

- 3.14 Make Your Mark is the largest youth consultation, giving young people aged 11-18yrs the opportunity to vote on the topics that are most important to them.
- 3.15 This year Cumberland young people voted Culture, Media and Sport as their top priority. Cumberland Youth Council will be taking this topic forward, campaigning, listening to what young people want and making change.

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Results</b>
<b>Culture, Media &amp; Sport</b>	1182
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	1164
<b>Jobs, the Economy &amp; Benefits</b>	1024
<b>Crime &amp; Safety</b>	830
<b>Climate Change &amp; the Environment</b>	572
<b>Education &amp; Learning</b>	469
<b>Transport</b>	460
<b>Rights, Equalities &amp; Democracy</b>	363
<b>Youth Work &amp; Young People's Services</b>	227
<b>International Relations</b>	176
<b>Total number of MYM votes recorded</b>	<b>6467</b>

### **Cumberland Adult Learning update**

- 3.16 The 2023/24 academic year finished on 31 July 2024. 342 learners were enrolled onto Skills provision, which includes GCSEs and Functional Skills in Maths and English, (ESOL) English for Speakers of Other Languages, Health and Wellbeing, and Digital courses.
- 3.17 In addition, 1205 learners were enrolled onto non-accredited digital, maths (funded via Multiply funding), languages, arts and crafts, and health and wellbeing courses during 2023/24. These courses enabled learners to acquire new skills and prepare for further training or employment.
- 3.18 The figures above also include provision delivered to 67 learners regarded as 'Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities' (LLDD), providing opportunities to learn new skills and develop their independence. In the Whitehaven area, we currently work with COSC in Cleator Moor, Hensingham Day Centre and Richmond Annex.
- 3.19 Most learners accessing face-to-face provision live in Whitehaven area and surrounding areas. Learners living across the county can access provision offered by Whitehaven Adult Learning via an online delivery platform.
- 3.20 Over the last academic year, Whitehaven Adult Learning have successfully created and delivered Wellbeing courses to partnerships within the community through Centres in Parton, Bigrigg, Red Lonning and Richmond. Also in sheltered housing associations in Egremont, Cleator Moor and Mirehouse.
- 3.21 Courses can help to improve confidence and social interaction, support and improve wellbeing, help individuals feel more able to cope with everyday life, reduce stress and anxiety levels and improve fitness and mobility. The wellbeing courses are a good foundation for learners, to support them back into learning and education. The courses also build confidence and self-esteem, avoid social isolation and encourage participants to engage in their local community.
- 3.22 New provision for the 2024/25 academic year went 'live' on 1 August 2024. Brochures were sent to every home in Cumbria from 5 August 2024.
- 3.23 During the summer months learning opportunities continued for ESOL learners, offering various workshops covering spelling and grammar, arts and crafts, and language acquisition through games.
- 3.24 Adult Learning now has access to the Multiply programme. A government initiative to help transform the lives of adults across the UK which is being delivered through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Cumbria has been allocated £2.3 million to be used over three years. The free numeracy courses are for Cumbrian residents aged 19 plus, individuals that have not achieved a maths GCSE of at least a Grade C or equivalent, individuals who may want to develop numeracy skills for work or progression and individuals that want to improve their numeracy skills for everyday life. People who improve their numeracy skills are more likely to be in employment, have higher wages,

and better wellbeing, and will be more able to progress to higher levels of free training to secure a skilled job in our economy.

- 3.25 Whitehaven Adult Learning now offer free Skills courses to employers, providing huge benefits to their organisation. Learning and development in the workplace motivate and upskills the team and the organisation benefits in terms of efficiency, morale, and staff retention.
- 3.26 Details of the provision is available here: <https://adultlearningcumbria.org/>.

### **Citizens Advice – Copeland**

- 3.27 A summary of the support provided to the residents of the former Copeland area from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 is at **appendix 1**.

## **4.0 Options**

### **Alternative Options Considered**

- 4.1 No other options considered as this report is to note only.

### **Risks**

- 4.2 The associated corporate risk is as follows:

*There is a risk that the Community Panels and Community Networks do not effectively engage with and/or represent the views of local residents, partners, businesses and third sector organisations.*

- 4.3 The activities outlined in this report and the associated recommendations help to mitigate this risk. There are no further risks associated with this report.

### **Consultation**

- 4.4 There has been no consultation associated with the recommendations of this report.

### **Legal Comment**

- 4.5 No legal issues arise directly from the report. Any legal issues arising from the delivery of specific projects will be dealt with as they arise.

### **Finance Comment**

- 4.6 The Whitehaven & Coastal Community Panel is one of 8 Community Panels which are funded from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund which is part of Communities and Localities within the Public Health and Communities Directorate.
- 4.7 The 2024/25 budget allocation to the Whitehaven & Coastal Community Panel is £70,486.

### **Impact Assessments**

4.8 An impact Assessment has not been used.

**Contact Officer:** Lee Thorburn, Area Planning Manager

### **Appendices attached to report:**

Appendix 1 –Citizens Advice Report