



# Workington Together Community Panel Update

**Meeting Date – 12 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:
  - Empowering our Children and Young People
  - Supporting Communities to Help Themselves
  - Reducing Food Poverty

## **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 Members note the contents of the report.
- 2.2 Members to approve a Public Participation Scheme for this Panel - **appendix 1**.

### **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 Mossbay, Moorclose, Harrington, Seaton, St Michaels, St Johns & Great Clifton

#### **Network Events and Network Activity**

3.3 The Workington Together Panel Community Development Officer will be attending a variety of local groups active in the Workington Together Community Panel area. The intended outcome is to promote the work of the Panels, engage the community and encourage collaborative ways of working with partners and stakeholders.

#### **Workington Youth Partners**

3.4 The Community Development Officer has set up a group for youth organisations and service providers in the Workington Together Community Panel area with the aim to:

- Understand the current youth offer including, future plans, challenges and gaps.
- Encourage joint working and collaboration.
- Share best practice and information.

3.5 11 organisations attended the first meeting and membership of the group will increase as the group develops.

#### **Youth Pop Up Events**

3.6 In partnership with other youth organisations the Community Development Officer arranged 2 youth pop up events in the Carnegie Theatre, Workington to engage with young people and listen to their ideas while also providing them with a place to meet friends and use games consoles. The pop up events were held on:

- Saturday 10 August 12pm – 4pm
- Saturday 31 August 12pm – 4pm

#### **Operation Respect**

3.7 The Community Development Officer attended Operation Respect on 8 August at Westfield, Workington. The event was attended by a range of local partners offering support and information including budgeting, housing, health and wellbeing, and fire safety. It was good opportunity to speak to residents and young people and find out the issues in the area.

#### **Other Activity**

##### **Youth Parliament**

3.8 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. This year, Cumberland young people voted Culture, Media and Sport as their top priority but a full list of the results is shown below. 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 and Sport</b>	1182
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	1164
<b>Jobs, the Economy and Benefits</b>	1024
<b>Crime and Safety</b>	830
<b>Climate Change and the Environment</b>	572
<b>Education and Learning</b>	469
<b>Transport</b>	460
<b>Rights, Equalities and Democracy</b>	363
<b>Youth Work and Young People's Services</b>	227
<b>International Relations</b>	176
<b>Total number of MYM votes recorded</b>	<b>6467</b>

### **Workington Adult Learning**

- 3.9 The 2023/24 academic year finished on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024. We successfully enrolled learners onto Skills provision, which includes Functional Skills in Maths and English, (ESOL) English for Speakers of Other Languages, Health and Wellbeing, and Digital courses.
- 3.10 In addition, 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.
- 3.11 We continue to support 'Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities' (LLDD), providing opportunities to learn new skills and develop their independence. In the Workington area, we currently work with COSC in Cockermouth, West House and Carlton Rd/Bankfield Day Centre.
- 3.12 Most learners accessing face-to-face provision live in Workington and surrounding areas.
- 3.13 Over the last academic year, Workington Adult Learning have successfully created and delivered Wellbeing courses to partnerships within the community including the Oval Centre. 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.
- 3.14 New provision for the 2024/25 academic year went 'live' on 1 August 2024 and brochures were sent to every home in Cumbria from 5 August 2024.
- 3.15 Adult Learning now has access to the Multiply programme. A government initiative to help transform the lives of adults across the UK this is being delivered through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- 3.16 Cumbria has been allocated £2.3 million to be used over three financial 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 brush up and develop their numeracy skills for everyday life.

- 3.17 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.
- 3.18 Workington Adult Learning now offers 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.
- 3.19 The Adult Learning team would welcome thoughts and suggestions for incorporation within their planning. The provision is available to find, book, and enrol at <https://adultlearningcumbria.org/>

### **Capital Programmes Update**

#### **Oldside Site at the Port of Workington**

- 3.20 A planning application has been submitted to improve the Oldside site at the Port of Workington ahead of future development.
- 3.21 Cumberland Council is managing the project which aims to use the location to create a clean energy and logistics hub. Around £4.5 million of funding is being provided by the Government as part of the Workington Town Deal.
- 3.22 The land has already been assessed for pollutants which could be a legacy of its industrial past and the stability of the land has been assessed to inform the design of a land remediation scheme.
- 3.23 The planning application involves remediation works which will consist of the excavation of topsoil, processing of excavated materials, compaction of the earthworks and landscaping to prepare the site for future development.

#### **Workington Gateway Project**

- 3.24 Work is underway on the project and the former Henry Curwen pub at Ramsay Brow will be demolished. Work has started inside the building.
- 3.25 Removing the building will ease the pinch point where the A66 and A596 meet, improving access for HGVs and reducing traffic impacts on nearby communities. The demolition is a critical part of the £10 million Workington Gateway project, which will also enhance pedestrian and cycle routes around Hall Park, add a new horticulture centre and café, and feature a lighting scheme for the historic hall.
- 3.26 Workington Gateway is part of a larger regeneration effort fuelled by £33 million in external funding, which also includes a Sports Village, Innovation Centre and public realm improvements. Further information on all the projects can be found on the Cumberland Council website: <https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/regeneration-project/workington-projects>

### **Library Update**

- 3.27 The 2024 annual Summer Reading Challenge “Marvellous Makers” is well underway across Cumberland Libraries, with good engagement with young people across the Workington Together panel area.
- 3.28 From July to September, regular free activity drop in sessions have been taking place in all libraries, as well as a number of special events.

- 3.29 Participants have until 14th September to complete the challenge. Any completers get entered into a prize draw to win a kindle, kindly donated by the Cumberland Building Society.
- 3.30 Library members are now able to access an expanded offer on Borrowbox, the digital library service available to all of our library members. It now includes e-magazines and e-newspapers in addition to e-books and audio books, meaning they are benefitting from a one stop shop with a user-friendly interface. Access is through the Borrowbox App or website using library membership number and password.
- 3.31 Workington Library is now hosting the newly launched Community Hub pilot. This new initiative by Cumberland Council to increase public access to services, both its own and those in the third sectors sees space set aside for different groups and organisations to meet with and help members of the community in many different areas.
- 3.32 The hub has been live since mid July and has already seen great success with Macmillan Cancer Support, the Social Prescribing team offering free health and wellbeing support, as well as the Council's customer service team offering help with blue badge applications and other funding all seeing lots of interest from the public. The timetable continues to expand, with many more services going live in September and October.
- 3.33 Library staff attended the Wellbeing Festival at Workington Academy in August to promote the library offer, particularly around health and wellbeing and the newly opened Community Hub to local residents.
- 3.34 Workington Library has welcomed Cumbria Safe Haven as part of the regular events offer. They are running a weekly mental health drop in session on Friday afternoons from 1.30pm to 4pm. This is open to anyone aged 18 and over, offering a safe environment to talk and get advice and guidance where needed.

### **Citizens Advice**

- 3.35 A summary of the support provided to the residents of the former Allerdale area from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 is at **appendix 2**.

## **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 Workington Together 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 Workington Together Community Panel is £78,619

#### **Impact Assessments**

- 4.8 An impact Assessment has not been used.

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

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

Appendix 1 – Public Participation

Appendix 2 – Citizens Advice Report