



# Workington Together Community Panel Update

**Meeting Date – 18 March 2025**

**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 agree that the following Co-opted Member candidate is formally invited to join the Workington Together Community Panel from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026:

- Harvey Benson

### **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

### **4.0 Co-opted Members**

- 4.1 The Constitution provides that Community Panels can appoint up to three co-opted members for each panel. At the first meetings of each of the Community Panels, a report was presented which referred to co-opted members and reminded the Community Panel of this option. The relevant extract of the report is set out below:

*Community Panels are currently made up of the Cumberland Council Members that represent the communities in this Community Panel footprint. The Executive has encouraged membership to be extended to allow for up to three additional members that are not elected. These co-opted members can bring a different perspective, knowledge, best practice and potentially resources. They will contribute to the discussions, bringing their experience and expertise and be able to ask questions.*

*These co-opted members will not be paid an allowance or have voting rights as part of the panel meetings.*

- 4.2 At the December 24 meeting, members agreed to proceed with the recruitment of an additional co-opted member.
- 4.3 Advertisements went out on 9 January 25 with closing date of 9 February 25. Members of this Community Panel received applications from potential co-opted members which they shortlisted based on what applicants felt they could offer to the panel in relation to the Empowering Children and Young People priority. This was followed up with informal interviews conducted by the Chair and Vice Chair, supported by the Area Planning Manager.
- 4.4 Following the interviews, all Panel Members were subsequently informed of the outcomes of those interviews and with their agreement, the successful candidate for this post is shown below:

Harvey Benson
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### **Network Events and Network Activity Workington Youth Partnership update**

- 4.5 The Partnership brings together Youth Providers in the Workington Together Panel areas of Mossbay, Moorclose, Harrington, Seaton, St Michaels, St Johns & Great Clifton.

- 4.6 The Area Planning Manager and Community Development Officers attended the partnerships meetings on 13 January 2025 and 13 February 2025.
- 4.7 Discussions included considering applications to this Community Panel to deliver Youth Provision collaboratively or individually, activities taking place in half term week, signposting opportunities between providers, 10p swims initiative, training opportunities and sharing best practice.
- 4.8 Expertise from the Partnership indicated young people would like to see social activities which were broadly around culture, media, and sports.
- 4.9 Active Cumbria attended the Partnership meeting on 13 February 2025 to offer a presentation on Active Cumbria's Place Expansion Programme [Let's Move - Active Cumbria](#)
- 4.10 Members of the Community Development team will continue to attend the Youth Partnership meetings and offer support with investment applications and development of projects.

### **Other Activity**

#### **Active Cumbria workforce session**

- 4.11 Members of the Community Development Team attended a workshop at Penrith Rugby Club on 30 January 2025. The professional workforce session was aimed at supporting Cumbrian clubs and community organisations to succeed by using the online tool Buddle.
- 4.12 Buddle is a Sport England Lottery funded programme offering free learning and support resources to sporting clubs and community organisations. For more information visit [www.buddle.co](http://www.buddle.co)

#### **Community Health and Wellbeing Conference**

- 4.13 Members of the Community Development team attended the Community Health and Wellbeing (North) conference held in Wigton on 12 February 2025.
- 4.14 Hosted by Cumberland Council and CALC, the conference was a chance for CALC members to meet representatives from local agencies and services who support health and wellbeing in the community.
- 4.15 Presentations from keynote speakers included the Leader of Cumberland Council, the Director of Public Health and Communities and Cumbria's Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.
- 4.16 The event provided an opportunity for the team to promote the community panels.

#### **Dream Placement**

- 4.17 On 20 February 2025 members of the Community Development team met with three students age 16-18 and studying A-levels.
- 4.18 The Community Development team representatives offered an overview of the work of the team, the Community Panels and the approach to community engagement followed by a Q&A session led by the students.
- 4.19 The students were hosted as part of the Dream Placement scheme ran by the Centre for Leadership Performance. The focus was on leadership with the three students having expressed a specific interest in Community work and making a difference where they live.

- 4.20 The students were based in Allerdale House with a visit to the Family Hub, the Port of Workington and culminating with a presentation from students at Cumbria House based on the tag line 'Your Future Starts Here.'

### **Libraries Update**

- 4.21 A new weekly warm welcome social group was launched in February at Workington Library and takes place every Wednesday 10am-12pm. The group was created to help support people feeling lonely because of social isolation and offers friendship, activities, refreshments and an opportunity to meet other people.
- 4.22 Other new groups to promote socialisation and help reduce loneliness started in February including Scrabble club, every Monday 4-5.30pm and board games every Tuesday from 10.30am.

### **Social Prescribing Day**

- 4.23 Cumberland Libraries Outreach Project Officers are working with the Cumberland's Social Prescribers to deliver a celebration event at Workington & Whitehaven libraries in support of Social Prescribing Day.
- 4.24 Social Prescribing Day is an annual celebration recognising the work of Social Prescribing and takes place Wednesday 19 March 2025. A wide range of partners, organisations and local community groups have been invited to support people's health & wellbeing by showcasing their service to the public. There will be lots on offer including mini health checks, arts, crafts & planting activities, wellbeing support and free refreshments. Both events run from 11am-2pm.

### **The Big Question**

- 4.25 As part of the recent public engagement to support the development of the Cumberland suicide prevention strategy, Workington Library hosted "the Big Question" public drop-in sessions, to help researchers involved in the project to understand the reasons behind the high incidence of suicide in Cumberland and how best to support residents with their mental health.

### **Community Hub**

- 4.26 The Community Hubs pilot continues to demonstrate significant progress.
- 4.27 The integration of a hub within Workington Library offers a multi-agency approach with daily support from various partners. These include the council's Customer Service team, NHS social prescribers, financial wellbeing coaches, Citizens Advice, and Macmillan Cancer Support, among others.
- 4.28 The pilot's success is evident not only in the increased footfall and engagement with partner organisations but also in the strengthened connections between council services and the third sector.
- 4.29 The "no wrong front door" approach has proven highly effective, providing the community with greater access to multiple agencies in one location while increasing awareness of available support and resources.
- 4.30 As the Hub offer continues to grow, community feedback and views are welcomed. Cumberland residents can share their thoughts and ideas on how the hubs should evolve and what additional services they would like to see offered, either via the

website: <https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/your-community/community-hubs> or on a community hubs comments card, available at Workington Library.

### **Active Cumbria's Active Travel to School Parent and Carer Survey**

- 4.31 This report presents data from Active Cumbria's *Active Travel to School Parent and Carer Survey* (ATTSPCS), which ran for a five-week period in November to December 2023. This report provides headline data and key findings from the ATTSPCS as well as location-based insight for the local authority footprints of Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council. The survey will be conducted at two year intervals.

**The full report is at appendix 1**

### **Make a splash this half-term - 10p swims for Cumberland children**

- 4.32 All schoolchildren aged up to 16 years old from the Cumberland area were able to go for a swim in a choice of five indoor pools for only 10p over the February half term school holidays.
- 4.33 The discounted scheme will be available between Saturday 15 and Sunday 23 February and has been put in place by Cumberland Council, with the support of GLL and Wigton Baths Trust.
- 4.34 The council scheme will offer discounted swimming opportunities throughout the week with some locations offering free sessions on a weekend.
- 4.35 It was available at the following leisure sites at allocated times during the school holidays in the Workington Together Panel areas:
- Workington Leisure Centre: 2pm - 2.50pm, Monday 17 - Friday 21 February.  
11am - 11.50am on Saturday 22 February.
- 4.36 The swimming initiative is funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- 4.37 Following evaluation, data will be reported to the Workington Community Panel in Junes report.

### **HDRC Update**

- 4.38 HDRC offer a Research, Evidence, Evaluation and Learning (REEL) Training Programme designed to generate learning about evidence and how to create it. It is open to all staff, elected members and community organisations as continuous professional development and career advancement. The training provided by the HDRC team is funded by the National Institute of Health Research.
- 4.39 The REEL Capabilities Framework has set out and defined eight domains of capability necessary for comprehensive research training and knowledge acquisition for Cumberland Council staff who would like to develop their evidence gathering and research skills. These are:
- Health Inequalities and the Determinants of Health
  - Theory of Change Methodology
  - Using Evidence
  - Performing Service Evaluations
  - Planning and Delivering Research
  - Ensuring Continuous Quality Improvement

- Strategic Research Leadership
- Co-production and co-research

- 4.40 The team also offer a webinar series focused on research - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/cumberland-hdrc-96124271553>.
- 4.41 In January the team launched their Research Plan and Research Governance Framework which is stored on the Observatory. They are also currently working on the methodology.
- 4.42 The next big step is the planning of community roadshows where they will be offering a range of drop ins, presentations and workshops across Cumberland to talk about the HDRC. They will also be offering online options as well. The aim being to:
- Begin building relationships to later use to recruit community co-researchers and participants for research.
  - Build public understanding about the HDRC and its aims. It is important that expectations are managed.
  - Strengthen partnership working with third-sector organizations and community groups to improve community engagement.
  - Create an open, accessible environment for the community to learn, discuss, and ask questions about HDRC.
- 4.43 15- 20 community co-researchers will be employed (paid or voluntary) for a duration of 2 years, from June 2025 to June 2027, to conduct and facilitate research in the community.
- 4.44 As part of going out into the community, the team would value any insight from Community Panel Members with regards to hotspots in their areas which they feel the team should, or would like the team to, visit, or where panel members feel the team should put up posters or leaflets. To feed in any information, or if you would like further information from the team, please contact them at: [hdrc@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:hdrc@cumberland.gov.uk)

### **National Apprenticeship Week**

- 4.45 In celebration of National Apprenticeship week, the Early Careers and Apprenticeship team engaged with young people across Cumberland to showcase opportunities.
- 4.46 The week included an Apprenticeship Open Evening at Cumbria House on Monday 10 February, where visitors explored apprenticeship pathways at Cumberland Council.
- 4.47 Events in Workington and Carlisle focused on Care Experienced young people, in partnership with the Virtual School, Children's Services, Cumbria Youth Alliance, and Inspira.
- 4.48 Participants identified key skills, explored career opportunities, and received support with applications and interviews. Special guests were in attendance to share experiences which included Cumberland's Senior Managers and Elected Members.
- 4.49 The team also partnered with Inspira for speed interview prep at Richard Rose Morton Academy and visited Lakes College in Workington with two apprentices to promote career opportunities.

As part of the 18th National Apprenticeship Week celebrations, Gen2 hosted a Grand Final on Friday 14 February.

## **Partnership meetings led by the Community Development Team**

### **Thriving Communities**

- 4.50 The Thriving Communities Partnership met on 4 February 2025. The Partnership has now expanded to include the Food and Financial Resilience (West) Group, which previously met independently. This has created greater efficiency and removed duplication where several attendees sat on both groups. Merging the groups has also resulted in an increase of expertise within the Partnership.
- 4.51 The Partnership discussed the findings and emerging issues from the Rural Working group and where they could affect and influence impactful measures.
- 4.52 There were updates from the Children and Young Peoples Partnership, the Refugee Locality Group and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Partnership Manager who shared a roundup of recent DWP announcements.
- 4.53 Key points of discussions included The Household Support Fund, HAF provision, general funding opportunities, BT digital switch and Social Housing support.

### **Refugee Locality Group Update**

- 4.54 The group met on 14 January 2024. A presentation was received on PREVENT from Cumberland's Safer Communities Manger.
- 4.55 Discussions included Housing Provision and an update from the Resettlement Team Manager covered Refugee and Guest Programmes in Cumberland.
- 4.56 This group has brought together the former Copeland and Allerdale Groups into a single Partnership. The Carlisle group remains an independent group based on the different needs identified.

### **Children and Young People Partnership**

- 4.57 The Children and Young People Partnership met on 8 January 25. The partnership has now expanded to cover the wider Cumberland footprint as it formerly only included organisations from the former Allerdale and Copeland areas.
- 4.58 Key points of discussions included:
- DrugHubUK - an online services run by the councils Substance Misuse Team and is a safe space for young people to access information, advice and support to reduce risk around drug and alcohol use. The team have a dedicated email address and social media pages which young people can use to access support.
  - Family Help and Prevention Roadshow events – The Family Help and Prevention team have run a series of roadshow events to engage with partners on the new Family Help and Prevention Strategy.
  - Salterbeck Youth Group – a new youth group started in Salterbeck in September 2024. Sessions run on Monday evenings, 6:30pm at the Oval Centre.
  - Community Grants - Cumbria Community Foundation provided a summary of funding streams they have available which specifically support Children and Young People. For more information visit: [www.cumbriafoundation.org](http://www.cumbriafoundation.org)
  - Theatre by the Lake – are in the process of developing a project to support young people in exploring and expressing their feelings through creative media.

- Northern Fells – spoke to the group about the work Northern Fells carry out to support young people in rural communities. For more information visit: [www.northernfellsgroup.org.uk](http://www.northernfellsgroup.org.uk)

## **5.0 Consultation**

- 5.1 Cumberland Council launched a consultation on the proposed new Home Adaptations and Assistance Policy on 16 January 2025.
- 5.2 The proposed policy outlines how Cumberland Council will offer support and includes three key proposals:
- Establishing a Home Improvement Agency for Cumberland
  - A wider range of discretionary offers across Cumberland
  - The use of deferred payment loans (via a land charge) for some homeowners where costs exceed the mandatory Disabled facility grant level
- 5.3 The aim of the policy is to support residents across Cumberland to live well at home with the support and advice of a service helping to make their homes safe, warm, and accessible.
- 5.4 The consultation closed on Thursday 13 February 2025.

## **6.0 Options**

### **Alternative Options Considered**

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

### **Risks**

- 6.2 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.*

- 6.3 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**

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

### **Legal Comment**

- 6.5 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**

- 6.6 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.
- 6.7 The 2024/245 budget allocation to the Workington Together Community Panel is £78,619. In addition, a carry forward of budget underspend from 2023/24 of £43,271 was agreed at executive increasing the total budget for 2024/25 to £121,890.
- 6.8 A further allocation of UKSPF Funding of £56,126 was allocated from Workington Together in 2024/25

### **Impact Assessments**

- 6.9 An impact Assessment has not been used.

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

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

Appendix 1 - Active Travel to School Parent and Carer Survey