

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet
Date: 28 February 2023
Subject: Wellbeing and Community Partnerships Portfolio
Portfolio Holder: Councillor A Patel

Recommending:

That the report of the Wellbeing and Community Partnerships Portfolio Holder be noted.

Ninefields Community Initiatives

Community Engagement Officers consulted with over 1,000 residents during December, including local primary school pupils and the wider community, to help determine the successful tender for the new play equipment and multi-use games area for Ninefields estate in Waltham Abbey. The new equipment will be installed in March with a fun launch event planned for the Easter school holidays.

£1,139 additional funding has been secured with support from the Essex Youth Service to add value to the fantastic work already taking place at the Ninefields Youth Group. The Community & Culture Team will lead on the delivery of a food education programme for young people attending the Thursday evening sessions. The eight-week programme will teach how to cook on a budget, energy saving tips and healthy eating. Each young person will be able to take home and keep the equipment they have learnt to cook with, i.e. an air fryer or electric wok. Self-defence sessions have been established once a month at the Youth Club equipping the young people with the awareness and skills to keep themselves safe.

On the 23rd January staff from CCW organised a recruitment event at Hazelwood Children's Centre on Ninefields estate. The aim of the event was to raise awareness of employment and training opportunities amongst the Ninefields community as part of the wider programme of reducing health inequalities by having a positive effect on the wider determinants of health. Support for the event was strong with 10 partner organisations attending including Qualis, Essex Police, Essex County Fire & Rescue, Herts & West Essex Training Academy, Herts Good Care Group, New City Collage, VAEF, Active Essex, Essex Child & Family Wellbeing Service, Adult Community Learning and Rainbow Services. Outcomes were very positive with the majority of residents feeding back that they would apply for roles in one of the sectors represented. Two attendees were offered 'speed interviews' with a view to be recruited into the Health & Care sector.

Successful Grant Application - The Wild Escape

Working in partnership with the Heritage & Venues Team and CountryCare, the Community & Culture Team has successfully secured £2,750 funding from Art Fund and Arts Council England to run a creative project, working with primary school children on the Ninefields Estate around the issue of Climate Change.

Limes Farm Youth Club

Working in partnership with Youth Unity CIC, a new youth club opened at The Limes Centre in Chigwell on 27 January. Heart FM Radio attended the launch event along with a number of local organisations.

Crucial Crew

Crucial Crew 2023 will be piloted in its newly configured format between 28-30 June 2023 at the Civic Offices. The sessions will engage Year 6 pupils from six local primary schools in workshops delivered by the CCW team and local partners covering topics such as physical activity and nutrition, road safety, positive mental health, and healthy relationships.

Epping Forest Disability Inclusion Project

The Epping Forest Disability Inclusion Project has been chosen by Tesco to be part of its Community Grants scheme with the chance to secure £1500 towards activities. Residents can vote for the project at the Epping, Ongar and Theydon Bois Tesco stores between now and 16 March, to help secure the cash. Funding would go towards purchasing more specialised sports equipment to support children into activities.

The Disability Inclusion Project is a designated SEND Hub for ActivAte in the district and £2038.33 was secured from Essex County Council to offer free activities and a meal for young people with special educational needs who are eligible for benefits-based free school meals, and 'low income' working families during the Christmas school holidays. Four sessions ran at 'The Box Epping', and a celebration event took place giving children the opportunity to visit Santa's Special Train at Epping Ongar railway. Children with SEND and their siblings were also provided with the opportunity to attend a free Pantomime trip funded by the Rotary Club of Epping.

RideLondon 2023

After an extensive event review and community engagement, Essex County Council and London Marathon Events have agreed the route for the 2023 mass participation ride on 28th May. The route will remain the same as last year but with the addition of a range of enhancements and improvements including improved local access plans for communities on the route and increased provision of managed vehicle crossing points.

Countywide, groups across Essex are able to apply for funding from the London Marathon Charitable Trust to support physical activity and sport opportunities. To date, Epping Forest District Council has secured £3,692 from the "Find Your Active Fund" to support children's Bikeability (cycling proficiency) sessions and adults' walking football, and £2,366 from the Essex Cycle Grant for delivery of adults 'fix and learn' cycling and Bikeability events. Additionally, to date, 18 further "Find Your Active Grants" have been awarded across the Epping Forest district totally £50,252, with a further 17 applications in the pipeline awaiting approval.

LifeWalks

With the support of the Lee Valley Park Authority, LifeWalks will be run as a volunteer led programme from March 2023 enabling current and new walkers to continue to benefit from the physical and mental health benefits of the scheme.

Epping Forest Youth Council

In recognition of how successfully the Young Persons' Officer is facilitating the Jack Petchey Achievement Award scheme in the district, Epping Forest Youth Council has received an AA Recognition Award of £1,000.00 to spend on activities. The award is a one-off additional grant for youth organisations who have applied for a Leader Award and Leader Award Grant in the past year and who have also provided consistent, timely and clear reporting about how they have used their funding.

The EFYC 2023 Project 'Repair My Pocket' Cost of Living Survey has now been shared with all local secondary schools. Findings will be presented at O&S in April 2023.

Secondary School Head Teachers have met with the Leader, Cllr Chris Whitbread, and the Young Persons' Officer to talk about the role of the Youth Council and the Council's work in the community.

Buddy Up Project

The Buddy Up Project continues to grow. To date, the project has supported 57 adults with learning disabilities and/or autism across West Essex. The types of support offered have included assisting with volunteering opportunities to developing social groups. The Project has also supported three different organisations to access funding to develop new services from cooking skills to supported gym sessions. Officers are now working in partnership with Essex County Council to develop a Reverse Training Fair to support adults with additional needs into employment.

Epping Forest District Museum

A pop-up exhibition focussing on "Homelessness" has opened at the Museum and features lived experiences of individuals told through photography, oral history and an art installation. The Cultural Engagement Officer has worked with over 100 people of all ages and from all backgrounds to create artwork for the exhibition. Contributions have come from children and young people from the Ninefields estate, visitors to the Dementia friendly community café and residents from Norway House temporary accommodation in North Weald. The exhibition will run until the end of April.

The Museum has been accepted onto the Heritage Lottery Fund's Innovation Programme with £25,000 initial grant funding to identify creative ways to explore the Museum's exhibition design and build programme and broaden commercial opportunities. Following the initial grant further rounds will be available to develop this piece of work.

The heritage education programme had its busiest autumn term to date engaging with 3000 pupils via workshops in the Museum and school in Q3. Another successful Father Christmas event in December attracted over 400 visitors come to the Museum for the event and 140 children and young adults paying a visit to see Father Christmas himself! The event brought in over £1000 revenue income.

Epping Forest Health & Wellbeing Board and Action Groups

The refreshed structure of the district's multi-agency Health & Wellbeing Action Groups has been successfully implemented and all Groups are undertaking mapping exercises to identify existing work and projects being delivered across the extensive partnership landscape. The mapping exercise will help identify gaps in relation to the delivery of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy's priorities and enable resources to be directed strategically to meet need. Work is already underway to explore supporting local schools with "active travel" plans to increase physical activity levels in families. Additionally, further recruitment and training fairs are planned for the district.

Epping Forest Public Health Community Grant Funding

In the current financial year, a total of £22,000 has been awarded from the Epping Forest Public Health Community Grant Fund, which is overseen by the Epping Forest Health & Wellbeing Board. Funding has been invested in the district to support new projects including a new youth session in Ongar supporting young people with positive mental health, training for SPARK staff so that they may offer mental health and wellbeing support in Epping Forest secondary schools, and funding to support Warm Places across the district.

What's on in Epping Forest

The latest edition of "What's on in Epping Forest" is available on the Council's website at: <https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Whats-On-Jan-23.pdf>

The brochure includes a programme of wellbeing workshops for adults, keep fit classes, indoor bowls, Museum Movers, Toddler sessions, school holiday activities and more information about the Council's Community, Culture & Wellbeing Service.