

## **Portfolio Holder Report to Full Council – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

### **Community, Culture & Wellbeing**

#### Externally funded Social Prescriber and Health & Wellbeing Coach

The Community, Culture & Wellbeing Team has secured funding totally £83k from the Epping North Primary Care Network (PCN) via the NHS Additional Roles Reimbursement Fund to pilot overseeing two partnership roles for a 12-month period: a Social Prescribing Link Worker and a Health & Wellbeing Coach.

The aim of these innovative roles is to help improve residents' health and wellbeing by motivating and supporting people into non-clinical services. The post holders will be community based whilst linked with the six GP practices which make up the Epping North PCN, and will work closely with the Council's CCW service and Public Health Improvement Officer.

#### Children's Summer Holiday Activity Programme 2022

The CCW service once again provided a full and varied Holiday Activity Programme for the district's children and young people this year. Including the Disability Inclusion Programme and Play in the Park roadshows, 91 sessions were delivered district-wide with a record number of 2,880 children and young people taking part over the six-week period. Particular highlights included the Musical in Two Days, Multi-Sports Days, Science Camp, an Animation Workshop and Bounce & Swim sessions, all of which ran at 80% capacity or over.

#### Ukrainian Information Support

Over a hundred Ukrainian guests and host sponsors attended an information support event organised by the Community & Wellbeing directorate and VAEF at the Civic Offices on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Alongside EFDC's Housing Needs, Private Sector Housing and CCW staff, practitioners from Epping Forest Citizens Advice, Epping Forest Foodbank, the Department for Work and Pensions, Epping Forest College and a wide range of local community groups were on hand to offer expert advice, support and guidance. NHS colleagues offered free health checks and Covid vaccinations on site. A comprehensive "Frequently Asked Questions" resource pack was provided, both in Ukrainian for guests and in English for hosts. Children attending made friends whilst engaging with the craft activities on offer and guests were able to find out more about CCW's district-wide activity programmes and the free 3-month passes provided by Places Leisure to the district's Leisure Centres.

#### Safe, Well & Secure event for Ninefields Estate in Waltham Abbey

In support of the Epping Forest Health & Wellbeing Strategy's place-based approach, three days of community engagement took place on Ninefields Estate in Waltham Abbey between 30<sup>th</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

By adopting a joined-up partnership approach staff were able to knock on over 1,900 doors to engage directly with residents and discuss a range of topics. Multi-agency teams were each allocated sections of the estate by a lead officer from the Essex County Fire & Rescue Service. Along with members of the Ninefields Resident's Association partners involved included CCW, Community Safety and Housing Teams, Essex Police, New City College, NHS, EPUT, Peabody, Epping Forest Citizens Advice, Rainbow Services, Essex County Council and the Children's Centre service.

Residents were asked a series of questions that had been provided by the key agencies involved with the aim of signposting those in need to local services whilst also identifying and mobilising willing local volunteers in the form of Court or Road Champions. Along with existing Community Champions, the new local volunteers will enable community capacity to

grow whilst directly supporting key aspects of the Council's successful 'Safer Streets' funded initiatives.

Over the 3 days approximately 60 direct referrals were made to the Home, Fire & Safety Check Department of the Fire Service and over 80 referrals were made to wider partner agencies to follow up on other issues. The middle day saw partners set up information market stalls in the Waltham Abbey Leisure Centre café area, and Covid vaccinations and health checks were also available. Full evaluation of the event will be made available in due course from the ECFRS.

#### Epping Forest Youth Council (EFYC)

The next project to be undertaken by the Epping Forest Youth Council will focus on the cost-of-living crisis. Youth Councillors will aim to share their own newly acquired learning into topics such as budgeting, financial scams, and support services like Epping Forest FoodBank, with their peers. They plan to produce a training pack for School Councils and cascade their learning through school assemblies and classroom talks.

Youth Councillors have been selected to sit on the Safer Epping Independent Advisory Group for Epping Forest and Brentwood and have participated in local consultations including the development of the local Health & Wellbeing Strategy and work related to the Harlow & Gilston Garden Town. A youth debate was held in the Council Chamber with members of Southend's Youth Council covering free education for over 18's.

#### Crucial Crew 2022

Mobilised by CCW in partnership with Community Safety, the Crucial Crew community safety awareness event for children in Year 6 will take place between Monday 3rd and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October this year with three sessions available each day. To date, 16 schools from the Epping Forest district are booked onto the virtual event, with 672 pupils participating. Children will first watch a bespoke film called 'Lines' raising awareness of County (drugs) Lines. This will be followed by interactive workshops on Zoom, which pupils join live from their classrooms in order to engage with the characters from the films. This allows live discussions to take place covering the issues raised in the film. This will again be produced by TikTok productions and delivered in partnership with Chelmsford City Council across Essex.

#### Epping Forest District Museum

Over the summer the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition attracted over 5,500 visitors to the Museum throughout its three-month run. Donations totally £2,600 were made via on-site contactless card readers, an online facility set up as part of the booking process and cash donations. Additionally, over £2,000 was generated in shop income during this period. On 17 September the Animal Mummies exhibition opened featuring objects and stories focusing on the history of animal mummification and the scientific work that has been done to uncover their hidden stories.

The Museum was recently approached regarding the acquisition of two early Medieval gold coins known as *tremisses*, which had been found by a metal detectorist near Chipping Ongar. The Museum has been successful in securing all the funding to acquire these coins, which will be an important addition to the district's collection. An event is being planned involving the key funders and the wider community to mark the objects going on display.

The Museum service has developed and submitted a number of funding bids in the last month. A bid for £3000 has been submitted to SHARE Museums East to support a marketing video and online exhibition space on the museum website, and a bid for £10,000 has been submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to support a specific project focussing on commercialisation and generating income.

The Rationalisation Project continues at pace with over 9,500 objects reviewed to date. A review of social history items was completed at the end of September and work recently began to commence the review of the Archaeology and Photographic collections. Over 500 items have been put forward to the Steering Committee and 200 items have found new

homes via other museums, groups or community use, or have been removed because they have been found to be hazardous.

Volunteers have been working on clearance and design plans for the Museum Garden with the Community Development Officer. They recently planted twelve varieties of herbs in a new herb raised garden area along with a new lavender sensory hedge.