South Area Board

Neighbourhood Governance
Progress Report: March-June 2014

Date: 23 June 2014
Name of Chair: Councillor Tafheen Sharif
Reporting Officer: Shohir Uddin (on behalf of South Area Partnership and Officer Group)

This report gives an overview of progress on community priorities for south Luton agreed with local people, councillors and council partners as part of the ‘Your Say, Your Way’ programme.
**Participatory Budgeting update**

The successful projects from the 2013 ‘Your Say, Your Way’ programme are all concluded and monitoring and evaluation has already been carried out.

As for 2014, a total of 42 projects were submitted by local community groups and organisations at the recently held Decision Days (Dallow on 9 February, Farley on 15 February and South ward on 22 February). Of these, 28 projects were successful in their bids – nine in Dallow, nine in Farley and 10 in South ward.

Almost 215 South Luton residents from a diverse range of backgrounds voted in the recent Decision Days. Each successful project has now signed an agreement and been assigned with Council, Luton Culture and Adult Learning project leads who will be proactively providing targeted support to help them achieve their set objectives. They will also be ensuring the groups make linkages with community priorities and enhance partnership and opportunities for the neighbourhood.

Some of the exciting projects to look forward to include community festivals, a dependency support programme, a dads’ club, astro football, a women’s health and wellbeing project, a fireworks display, youth clubs, lantern making, carnival band, an area spring clean and more.

**Targeted youth service update**

The Targeted Youth Development team is pleased to report that Barnfield South Youth Zone saw more than 1,000 visits by young people, children and families between January and March 2014. These activities are provided by a voluntary organisation called FOBE (Friends of Bright Eyes) which runs a session for young people with disabilities as well as Barnfield South Academy and the Targeted Youth Services team.

The Targeted Youth Work team is working intensively in the evening and weekends with 12 young people and their families who are some of the most vulnerable in South Luton.

**Bedfordshire Police close down brothel**

Officers executed a warrant at Paradise Sauna Club in Wellington Street recently following complaints about noise and continuous antisocial behaviour. Three women, aged 29, 34 and 37, were arrested on suspicion of managing a brothel. Sgt Melissa Cunningham said: “My team had received numerous complaints about the activity taking place at the location. As a result we were able to obtain a warrant to enter and search the premises. A closure order was then granted by the court to keep the premises closed for three months.”

“Action can be taken against people making life a misery for others and anyone with information can contact Bedfordshire Police on the 101 number, or text information to 07786 200011. Alternatively you can contact independent charity Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111, or online at crimestoppers-uk.org.”
South Luton project updates

Community action against drug dealing
After a successful event last year, another dedicated week-long campaign against drug dealing in which the local community and partners come together to tackle drug issues in Dallow has been organised between 16-20 June.

The week will conclude with a dedicated Drug Action Day at Bury Park Community Resource Centre on Friday 20 June where local residents will be able to find out about the support that is available in the community and how everyone can work together to prevent drug dealing in the neighbourhood.

Local media are supporting the event with daily live radio shows on Inspire FM about the consequences of drug dealing and trying to prevent young people getting involved.

The event is a response to issues raised as part of the ‘Your Say, Your Way’ programme and is led by the community with support from the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Council, Bedfordshire Police and the health authorities.

World War I commemoration day
An event which marked 100 years since the start of the Great War attracted a packed crowd at Farley Community Centre in May. The event included songs and dances from both world wars performed by entertainer Pete Wayre. There were also cakes baked using a special 1914 recipe alongside a variety of cultural foods.

Farley Junior Youth Club
More than 30 children aged 6-12 years have registered for the club which is held every Friday evening from 5.30-7pm at Farley Community Centre.

More choice for young people
Barnfield South Academy have organised a number of activities with partners to increase opportunities and choices for young people across Luton. The young people have really excelled by participating positively and embracing each other’s religion and cultures, whilst sharing experiences through discussions and debates within groups.

Easter playschemes
More than 500 children enjoyed fantastic activities this Easter with the ‘Your Say, Your Way’ funded Playschemes at Dallow Primary School, Foxdell Infants and Park Town Community and Children Centre. Activities included healthy cooking, sports, arts and craft.

Next Generation
Aldwyck Housing’s ‘Next Generation’ project, which offers a range of free activities as well as a healthy eating cafe and volunteering, was re-launched in South ward recently with up to 12 young people aged 7-14 years taking part.

Tennyson Road Primary’s carnival costume band
Thirty pupils from Tennyson Road Primary attended four afternoon sessions at the UK Carnival Arts Centre to make their costumes for this year’s carnival.
Health and Wellbeing

Coming together to reduce loneliness and social isolation in Luton

Most people understand the emotional pain that loneliness can cause, but evidence shows it can also harm our physical and mental health too. In fact, research reveals that the impact of loneliness and social isolation on early death is equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

A pilot project designed to reduce loneliness has recently started in Luton. Initially focusing on Biscot and Stopsley, it aims to engage the wider community and develop community-led solutions to the problem.

The project will involve community volunteers researching the nature and extent of loneliness in their local areas and working together with their communities and local organisations to identify actions to reduce loneliness.

In addition, we are already evaluating a number of ‘Your Say, Your Way’ initiatives across the town to look at how they contribute to reducing loneliness. The lessons from this project will help us understand how we can extend the work across Luton in the future.

For more information or to get involved contact Joe Biskupski on 01582 54 87 74 or joe.biskupski@luton.gov.uk

Hatters Dads’ Group

The Hatters Dads’ Group continues to grow and develop with recent these sessions having included a sports event, nature walk and IT session. The group have been visited by Transport for Luton and Luton Stop Smoking Services.

Local Dads have requested a swimming trip which is being arranged at Bedford Oasis which will be a great way of promoting physical health and wellbeing for members. A trip to the seaside is also booked for August and Hatters Dads’ Group members are looking forward to spending quality family time together.

The group meets the first Saturday of the month and new members are always welcome.

For more information call 01582 616604.
Youth café doing well
The Youth Cafe at Hilltop is going very well with an average of 10 young people taking part in a range of weekly activities such as healthy food. Two young volunteers have now been recruited and are learning how to take the lead on sessions.

‘Your Say, Your Way’ funding allowed the café to purchase cookery equipment and staff to be allocated to support young people. The community are seeing young people engaging in the café and new activities are being planned.

Healthwatch Luton
Review of GP Services: the patient experience

A recent survey on GP services in Luton show that nine out of 10 people had confidence and trust in their Doctor. Nine out of 10 people also said they found staff were helpful and understanding. However more than half the people interviewed said they could not get an appointment when they needed one, while a third had difficulty getting through to the surgery on the phone.

The review was conducted by Healthwatch Luton with the support of volunteers and organisations from the local community. In total there were 962 patient surveys carried out across Luton and staff visited and assessed all 39 doctor surgeries in the town.

The results also showed that 26 practices do not have easy access for wheelchair users and 28 do not have a hearing loop system in place. Only four were judged to have sufficient privacy in the reception area.

A report for each GP surgery has been created and includes a response from the surgery along with their timescales for implementing the recommendations issued by Healthwatch Luton. For a copy call Healthwatch Luton on 01582 817060 or view online at www.healthwatchluton.co.uk/gp-report
Environment and Economy

Clean up day in South Ward

More than 50 people from the local community came together in April for a tidy up day in the local neighbourhood. Volunteers were split into nine teams to work on different areas around Bute Street and neighbouring streets in High Town.

Activities included litter picking, planting, painting, weeding, removing graffiti and general tidying up. Two Council trucks were completely filled with the waste collected on the day. Another benefit of the event was seeing local people coming together, meeting new people and taking pride in their neighbourhood.

In the feedback form completed by almost half of the attendees, 63 per cent stated that what they enjoyed most was team working and meeting people. Every one of them said they would do it again. The whole community are now benefitting from a tidier, cleaner and more looked after environment.

Refreshments provided to volunteers from close by retailers is the proof that many people appreciate the work being done and respect it.

Future of community centres

In order to meet challenging spending targets required by the Government, it is no longer affordable for all 11 of the town’s community centres to continue operating as they are now.

The Council therefore carried out a comprehensive review of the Council-owned community centres which are operated by Luton Culture, analysing the current state of the buildings, usage levels and local demand for services.

Given that there is a nursery operating at Park Town Community Centre, and also high demand for additional children’s services in Park Town, the Council is confident it will be able to retain the building – albeit with a different role.

The review also found that there is a significant and unfunded backlog of critical repairs required at Saints Community Centre.

In addition to user group meetings, the Council held two Public Consultation events with users and residents to gauge their response to the options available.

There are a number of proposals which were consulted on through a survey and these public consultation events.

The consultation came to an end at the end of last month and the Council is currently analysing the hardcopy and online data which will be presented to elected members for a decision at a future Executive.
LETS
Luton’s next Employment, Training & Skills (LETS) Fair is taking place on 18 September from 10am-3pm at Venue Central in Chapel Street. The aim of the event is to ensure that potential candidates can meet local employers, careers advisors as well as education, training and apprenticeship providers, all under the one roof.

For more information contact 01582 547337.

South Ward Community First Panel
So far the South Ward Community First Panel has supported 12 local groups and projects with funding between £500 and £2,500. The projects funded all contribute towards the ward priorities and help to improve quality of life for local people.

The panel is in its final year so local groups in South Ward are being encouraged to apply for funding.

For more information visit www.lutonsouth.wordpress.com Alternatively contact Ashuk Ahmed on 01279 71 24 74, Mob: 07771831091 or email: southward.luton@gmail.com

New parks resolution

Meet people
Have fun
Learn something new
Get fit

If you are looking for a fresh, healthy and active start to 2014, then join in our programme of healthy outdoor events running from January to March 2014.

For details of the full programme including dates, times and venues contact Jayne Maddox, Luton parks service, on 01582 546735

www.luton.gov.uk/parks
### Your Local Councillors

#### Dallow Ward

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Councillor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cllr Mohammed Ashraf</td>
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#### Farley Ward

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<tr>
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<td>Cllr Mahmood Hussain</td>
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<td>Cllr Keir Gale</td>
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### Upcoming community events in South Luton

#### Dallow ward
- **Stay and Play sessions at Hatters - Dallow:**
  - Mondays, 10am – 12pm, Foxdell: Fridays, 1–3pm.
- **Family fun events at Dallow Primary School:**
  - Every Wednesday 1–3pm activities such as picnics, parties, world cup football extravaganza. Download our app by searching ‘Hatters Childrens Centre’ on your app store.

#### Farley ward
- **Luton Youth space summer programme 4 - 22 August 2014** - funded through Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation (LAL). For more information contact Barnfield South Academy on 01582 811571
- **Farley Festival** - Saturday 5 July at Farley Community Centre from 12-4pm. Contact Farley Community Centre on 01582 736812

#### South ward
- **Bedfordshire Police event** - 7 July at Matalan carpark. Offering crime prevention advice and conducting an operation where we can change the screws that secure vehicle number plates to ones that cannot be removed.
- **South festival Saturday** - Saturday 12 July, 12-4pm at Park Town Community and Children’s Centre.
- **Park Town Playschemes** - Monday 28 July to Friday 15 August with usual fun activities including cooking, crafts, games and a trip.
- **Park Town junior youth club residential trip to Caythorpe Court** - Friday 1 – Monday 4 August. Activities including areoball, quad bikes, archery, abseiling, high wires and much more.

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### Luton South Local Policing Team

**Local Policing Community Team, Luton Police Station, Buxton Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1SD**

Email: LPTCommunityLuton-SouthEast@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk • Web: www.bedfordshire.police.uk

Call: 101 for non emergencies

### Looking for more information?

For further information on this report or the “Your Say, Your Way” programme call us on 01582 54 87 76 or email: YourSayYourWay@Luton.gov.uk

South Area Manager: Shohir.Uddin@luton.gov.uk • Community Involvement Manager: Emma.Colclough@luton.gov.uk