

	Policy Panel		Item 7
	10 January 2024		
Report of	Head of Health Partnerships & Wellbeing	Author	Tom Tayler (CCC) Todorina Hammond (Community 360) 07890 397164
Title	Asset Based Community Development and Asset Mapping Update		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Within this Policy Panel report is an overview of the ongoing work in relation to Asset Based Community Development / Communities Can within Colchester City Council. This includes actions that have taken place and consideration for future actions and use of training we have access to. Alongside this there is an overview of the Asset Mapping work which has been undertaken in a system wide space – this overview has been provided by Todorina Hammond (Community 360) detailing progress to date and how this information both links to Asset Based Community Development / Communities Can as well as the future plans for implementation within Neighbourhood / Domain & Place Partnership work.

2. Action Required

- 2.1 For the Policy and Public Initiatives Panel to consider the current work programmes in place and planned activities and provide feedback where appropriate.

3. Reason for Review

- 3.1 As a key priority for the Council, Policy and Public Initiatives Panel requested an overview of work carried out and plans going forward.

4. Background Information

- 4.1 Colchester City Council (CCC) received funding as part of the Active Essex Local Delivery Pilot (LDP) programme administered by Sport England & Active Essex with a key aim to ensure that Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) was built into each of the pilot areas to explore sustainable community led initiatives. Colchester City Council wanted to specifically use this resource to explore how this concept could be embedded throughout the organisation across service delivery to enable a consistent approach from the local authority.
- 4.2 As part of the package from Sport England & Active Essex, Nurture Development were commissioned to work with Colchester City Council to embed this work through a range of training packages suited to a variety of audiences. This training began in 2021 and has continued until mid 2022 where it was decided that it should be paused in line with the organisational restructure until a more settled period. To date over 80 members & officers have received training from Nurture Development.

- 4.3 There is still a considerable amount of resource left in relation to training packages on offer with Nurture Development and discussions are ongoing with both SLB and neighbouring authorities to explore the best way to utilise this in a now restructured and reorganised local authority. As part of this we would like to ensure that this training is varied in terms of delivery style and output and including staff, councillors and system partners where appropriate.
- 4.4 Colchester City Council officers have used the “Communities Can” ethos, which is a system wide initiative to embrace Asset Based Community Development principles, and brand to package up Asset Based Community Development Training to make this more accessible to staff and partners whilst creating stronger links between the training objectives and outcomes for our communities residents. An example of this in practice is Community 360 have hosted a “Communities Can Officer” to work with residents, community groups and charities to encourage sustainable grass roots initiatives through the physical activity lens to encourage improved health and wellbeing. (Active Essex Local Delivery Pilot Funded). We are also aware of numerous system partners embracing this ethos through their own individual methods as well as sharing within the community.
- 4.5 Staff feedback to date has been varied with some dependencies on the format / method of training however there have been largely positive accounts from some of our front facing staff (Community & Partnerships / Digital Access Teams) as to how the training has helped to shift mindsets for how we work with our residents and communities.
- 4.6 Ongoing monitoring and evaluation is taking place to assess the effectiveness of this ABCD training, most recently staff and system partners have undertaken Ripple Effects Mapping workshops to identify the direct impacts, outcomes and links to the training and there is a follow up workshop in February 2024 to assess the results.
- 4.7 We feel that there is a need to be clear that this approach is not CCC abdicating responsibility by including these concepts within their practices and service delivery but instead enabling residents and communities to design and deliver their own change assisted by us as CCC where appropriate. The ability to harness the community power and spirit as shown during the Coronavirus pandemic evidenced why hyperlocal decision making and ownership capability is so essential to our communities. This approach is not a short term one with instant financial benefits or solutions however, this is a long-term behaviour change approach which if implemented effectively can lead to sustainable benefits to hyperlocal areas, communities and residents to improve the sense of place and ownership.
- 4.8 Asset Mapping
Asset Mapping information provided by Todorina Hammond (Community 360)
- 4.9 What is Asset Mapping - The Community Assets Mapping report, commissioned by the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance, highlights the strength of the community through the numerous assets found across our three neighbourhoods – Colchester Central; Colchester South and Colchester North. The intention of the map, which was refreshed in 2020, was to acknowledge the valuable role that assets play in the lives of local citizens but with particular reference to their health and wellbeing. Assets, as defined by the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) model, can be individuals, associations, institutions, place-based, and connections. By understanding the assets, local commissioners are better placed to support community organisations, build partnerships and consider funding options.
- 4.10 The Alliance is committed to the ABCD approach, ensuring work is done with, not to local citizens. Consequently, understanding the strength and resilience of these assets, as well

as acknowledging those areas requiring support or help with sustainability, is fundamental to achieve the Alliance objective – to work together to help everyone live well locally. C360 is working in partnership with Healthwatch Essex and Tendring CVS on a series of reports to be published as companions to the Community Assets Mapping refresh of North East Essex, published in Spring 2021. These companion reports, also known as deep dives, have been created in collaboration with a steering group, including representatives from district and county councils, Essex Fire and Rescue, the Local Delivery Pilot, North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group and ESNEFT. The aim is to gain a deeper understanding of what facilitates and what presents barriers to access to services and how to address them.

- 4.11 Where / How / Why is it done - A clear outline for the reports was shaped through consultation with the Steering Group and the Domains – Start Well, Stay Well, Feel Well, Be Well, Age Well and Die Well. It was agreed that the work would consider key drivers and influences on people, using learning from the last 12-18 months and gathering information through a literature search and primary research which accurately reflects:
- A deeper understanding of what facilitates and what presents barriers to access to services and how to address them
 - key challenges facing the specific groups that the reports are exploring
 - local cultural factors and limitations

It was agreed to focus the citizen's voice work in specific areas, taking into account demographics, levels of deprivation, etc.

Start Well – *Children & young people have the best start in life.*

Prioritised Children, Young People and Families as the first area for analysis by supporting commissioners and local organisations to build on the strengths of what already exists, and fill identified gaps in services. The scope was agreed in consultation with the Children and Young People's Partnership Board, the Start Well Domain Workstream and the Community Assets Steering Group.

Stay Well – *Adults with health or care concerns are supported to maintain health, productive and fulfilling lives.*

This report follows the 'Right Care, Right Time, Right Place' principles and considers key drivers and influences on people who are living with long-term conditions or awaiting hospital treatment.

Work to underpin this report found a range of issues which are highlighted within. The need to improve communication, information, and language to support people to be able to take better care of themselves including more support to help people to adjust to living in a more digital world. The need to involve and support carers and other peer led groups and more generally a need to increase awareness of community assets and how to access them.

Be Well – *Adults are empowered to make healthy lifestyle choices.*

The report provides case studies and spotlights examples of good practice. It has a particular focus on quality of housing standards; the impact of physical activity on health and wellbeing; and access to sustainable, affordable and healthy food.

Feel Well – *People enjoy mental wellbeing.*

The aim was to gain a deeper understanding of what facilitates and what presents barriers to access to services and how to address them, the key challenges facing people with mental ill health (especially those aged between 18 and 55 years of age), local cultural factors and limitations, and transitioning from children to adult services.

Age Well – People live safely and independently as they grow older.

As we age we are more likely to be faced with age-related conditions, increased isolation and challenges with physical and mental wellbeing. The Age Well report aims to highlight the strength of the community through the numerous assets found across our neighbourhoods.

Die Well – Individuals nearing end of life have the choice around their care.

Highlights the strength of the community through the numerous assets found across our neighbourhoods. This individual report considers key drivers and influences on people determined to be at or near end of life. There are a range of report findings, some of which include: the need to improve communication information and language around end of life; awareness and death literacy to remove stigma around dying and encouraging people to plan ahead.

Findings So Far – Each report has an extensive list of Call to action/Recommendations specific for Domain. However, the cross-cutting themes that appear through each report are: transport, unpaid carers, community safety, a general awareness/understanding of what is available, advocacy (especially for people with LD and sensory disabilities)

The details from these asset mapping reports are available to system wide partners to utilise the databases, spaces and information on clubs and groups for signposting and supporting as part of engagement work, as well as system initiatives such as the neighbourhoods programme being able to utilise this mapping work.

The asset mapping work is due to be reviewed in line with the Colchester & Tendring place based plans which are being drafted currently to be implemented within the coming months. Place based plans are a new health alliance-based initiative currently in development that will integrate with the Domain & Neighbourhoods way of working to provide a location focused plan to improve health outcomes using the wider determinants of health and system partners as part of this in a non-clinical approach.

5. Recent Actions and Next Steps

ABCD / Communities Can

- SLT Presentation of progress made to date with training roll out withing CCC through staff and members (September 2023)
- Ripple Effect Mapping sessions facilitated by Active Essex Evaluation Team conducted in November 2023 and planned for February 2024 follow up.
- Planning and scheduling of remaining ABCD content to take place early 2024. This will include working with Nurture Development (Training Organisation) to ensure that courses are bespoke to CCC and place based system need.
- CCC Induction Information Development – Officers will work to pull together information to become part of the onboarding process for new staff / members to ensure they are aware of the approach at the commencement of their employment. This will include a refresh of the current internal video to include all recent information / changes.
- There is a desire within CCC to use the current Community & Partnerships Team to support with cascading this information internally whilst also supporting this work to assist in embedding within service delivery to increase community engagement and ownership through the ABCD lens. This work will be part of a refocusing of priorities for the current Community & Partnerships Team who have current strong links with organisational partners as well as numerous CCC service areas.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications

- 6.1 Although there are no particular references to equality, diversity and human rights. The work to support residents will be promoted as widely as possible, with a particular focus on groups that would previously not engage with or needed support from the Council and wider systems partners.

7. Standard References

- 7.1 There are no particular references to the Strategic Plan; consultation; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 We have strong evidence and support from system partners around the benefits of Asset Based Community Development and Asset Mapping and through the work we do as a Community & Partnerships Team with residents, communities and system partners (such as SNEE ICB / Community 360) we are testing and learning directly with these approaches throughout our places. We are always striving to coproduce with our residents and communities and opportunities through resident panels, ward member discussions and community engagement work provide us with platforms and insight to help tailor our methods to ensure they are appropriate.

9. Publicity Considerations

9.1 *Communications and Website*

- 9.2 Currently the majority of our work is ongoing internally with staff and members within Colchester City Council and the publicity of this has been to a minimum. An area of development for this work is how we share the learning and awareness of this more widely using the channels we have at our disposal and from our partners.
- 9.3 Asset Mapping communications is shared through Alliance / System partners with the sharing of the planning, reporting and evaluation of findings. These communications are then to be distributed through organizations as and where necessary to support ongoing work and programmes.

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1 Colchester City Council has received external funding from the Active Essex Local Delivery Pilot for this specific work on Asset Based Community Development to the sum of £35,000 which is commissioned to be delivered through an organisation called Nurture Development who have an ongoing relationship with Active Essex.

Asset Mapping work is funded through the North East Essex ICB and has been undertaken by Community 360 and Alliance system partners.

11. Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications

- 11.1 This work is aimed at supporting residents and communities by enhancing their local places and spaces and utilising the assets (buildings, institutions, people, skills) to create stronger more active communities. Colchester City Council and system partners support this collaboratively through awareness raising, networking and building in the principle of ABCD and Asset Mapping into our ways of working as BAU.

12. Appendix

Please see the below listed appendices to provide additional background information.

Communities Can Information Document (September 2021)