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Craven services and their contribution to health and wellbeing in the district

Environmental Health

Environmental health has an educational and regulatory role, all contributing to improved public health. Regular and routine inspections and audits of food related businesses as part of the National Food Hygiene Ratings, investigating cases and outbreaks of notifiable diseases, inspecting private sector housing, risk assess private water supplies, flood prevention work and support to properties both commercial and domestic when flooding occurs by deploying sandbags and finally the Clean Neighbourhoods Team respond to incidences of fly tipping, dog fouling, littering, abandoned vehicles, barking dogs, stray dogs

Planning

The Council through the development of the Local Plan and planning decisions identifies the need and seeks to help provide the necessary infrastructure for public health in the district.

The Craven Open Space, Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Assessment approved by Members earlier this year is a key policy document in the developing local plan and looks at the playing pitch and sport and leisure provision across Craven and is used as the evidence base in planning gain negotiations with developers for community facilities.

Another key document is the Infrastructure Delivery Plan which sets out future infrastructure needs including health care facilities associated with housing growth. The local Clinical Commissioning Groups (Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven CCG and Lancaster North CCG) have historically been difficult to engage with although some progress has now been made.

Finally the Strategic Housing Market Assessment also focuses on specialist housing provision e.g. extra care facilities across the district.

Sport and Leisure

Craven Pool and Fitness Centre and Aireville Park are key sport and leisure facilities in the district.

In 2015/16 there were 220,000 visits to the pool and fitness centre with the provision of 1,200 swimming lessons for children and 2,550 hours of exercise classes. A number of clubs operate from the centre including Skipton Swim Club, local triathlon club Craven Energy, Skipton Karate Kids and Skipton Running Club. The centre and park also plays host to Skipton Triathlon one of the largest pool based triathlons in the North of England, hosts a very successful Junior triathlon that is oversubscribed every year and Go Tri, an entry level triathlon 4 times a year for people who are new to the sport

There has been a rising number of GP referrals per year. 2015/16 saw 400 referrals an increase from the 80 referrals across the past three years) The pool and fitness centre are now running a The Healthy Lifestyles Weight Management programme with funding from NYCC Public Health, a 12 week plan with free access to advice and support to help people to maintain a healthier lifestyle including weekly nutritional advice and physical activity. Currently there are 40 people a month signing up to this programme.

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The park is a well-used community facility. It is home to Skipton Parkrun which has been running for the last two years with on average 150 people per week taking part. The park also hosts school and running club cross country competitions and for the past two years has hosted the Yorkshire Cyclocross Championships. Friends of Aireville Park run Explorer sessions (orienteeing for children) and also hosts the annual Santa Fun run which raises money for local charities. Last year 1,600 people took part in the event.

Staying active is important to health and wellbeing and the Council has been directly involved in a number of events to provide opportunities. The Skipton Cycle Races included junior races with the aim of linking with the local cycling club and Le Petite Depart is a cycling sportive on the route of the Tour de France organised in conjunction with Skipton Cycling Club had 650 participants.

Arts and Culture

Skipton Town Hall is at the moment undergoing a major refurbishment and transformation programme. The new brand that has been developed for the Town Hall has been developed taking into account dementia friendly guidelines. Throughout 2016, the museum and gallery team have been working with community and arts-based charity Pioneer Projects, to create an innovative new exhibition, Artyfacts featuring work of art designed and produced by people living with dementia.

Working with the museums art and social history collections, museum staff have supported creative sessions for people living with dementia and their carers to develop the work that is now on show until 24th December 2016 and is part of the resilient museums project. The museum and gallery hold a number of interactive workshops throughout the year in addition to their exhibition programme and during 2015-2016 there were 64,798 visitors to the museum and gallery.

The Main Hall, Kitchen and Annexe are key community facilities that are often hired by community groups in order to raise money, hold events etc. The Main Hall is currently undergoing a major transformation programme to both develop and refurbish the main hall as an entertainment venue and extend the programme of events that are held there. Both aspects contribute to economic and social well-being.

Communities

Craven District Council has distributed a range of Community Grants and during 2015/16, 25 groups were awarded community grants totalling £21,072. Each £1 of grant funding awarded by Craven District Council was matched by £17 of funding from other sources, bringing in additional funding of £359,149 to support community projects in Craven. A pilot Ward member grant programme is now being run with each ward member having a budget of £1,000 to distribute in their area. Craven District Council also directly funds the Citizen Advice Bureau to enable an office to be maintained in Craven.

Support has been given to the South Skipton project, an innovative partnership projects established to address identified issues on the Greatwood and Horse Close estates identified

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as a lower super output area and this area is also within the 20% most deprived areas in England for children and young people in terms of educational attainment and access to further and higher education, income and employment and health and well-being. This project was driven initially by CDC and results are now emerging in changing statistics and breaking the curve on trends for young people. Initial results are showing impact and a more detailed evaluation is about to start as we are aware there is still a long way to go. There is a specific task group focusing on health and wellbeing and this is targeting the health inequalities on the estate especially with regard to the differences in life expectancies.

A Settle Dementia Action Alliance was launched in May 2015 and an action plan for the town launched to make the town as dementia friendly as possible. A dementia action alliance is being developed for Skipton with a view to launching in 2017 and as part of the alliance we are planning to work towards becoming a dementia friendly authority with training for front line staff.

The service has also worked in conjunction with Friends of Aireville Park which has resulted in a new skate park and pump track in Aireville Park, extremely well-used new facilities for young people. Other community groups are also supported e.g. in Ingleton where a new Pump Track has been installed and work with Ingleton Village Team over developing plans to develop Riverside Park.

If people feel unsafe it can affect deleteriously their health and well-being. The Craven Community Safety Partnership (CCSP) is a multi-agency partnership working in Craven to reduce crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, in which the council plays a central role.

Economic Development

Promoting economic growth by supporting local businesses to succeed and helping local people to get jobs all contributes to health and well-being.

Other projects with a direct impact on health and well-being are:

Superfast broadband - Being able to access fast broadband is now seen as an essential service for businesses and residents and a number of community led broadband projects have been supported to deliver access to superfast broadband to some of the District's remoter communities.

Improvements to Canal Tow Path - The Council has invested directly in accessibility improvements along sections of the Leeds-Liverpool canal running through the district, this is in addition to securing external funding for the project. The long term aspiration is to improve the canal all the way to Gargrave to improve connectivity with YDNPA and to enable the canal tow path to be used as a cycling commuter route.

Housing

A decent place to live is one of the key components for good health. Insecure, unsafe, cold/damp accommodation can have a negative impact on peoples' health and well-being.

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The Council fulfils a vital role in meeting the housing and welfare needs of residents in Craven. Through the Housing Options it assists in finding accommodation to prevent homelessness. Where residents find themselves homeless and are in priority need, the Council provides safe emergency accommodation. The number of households in Craven accessing the Housing Options service remains high with 322 approaching the service in 2015/16. There has been a substantial increase in the number of households approaching with issues relating to renting accommodation (37% compared to 20%) over the last year.

CDC also administers the Disabled Facilities Grant which is used to pay for essential housing adaptations to help disabled people live an independent life and stay in their own homes.

CDC is a participating member of the Better Homes Yorkshire Project, Better Homes Yorkshire was created to help residents across Yorkshire pay less for energy and live in healthier, warmer homes. The project links eligible residents with the Government funding schemes to make energy efficiency improvement works to their homes. Take up of the funding has been low, last year there were 122 enquiries to Better Homes although only 11 commissioned work.

Private Sector Housing

The Council gives advice and support to private landlords and owner occupiers experiencing financial difficulties in keeping their home warm or if their home is affecting their health. Advice is given on emergency fuel payments, financial advice and support available or steps that can be taken to improve the situation. Where private tenants are living in unsafe accommodation, CDC works with the landlord to get them to recognise the impacts of poor standards. CDC is launching a new scheme in Nov 2016 offering free insulation (cavity, wall and roof) and interest free loans for other works including boilers funded by the Leeds City Region Local Growth fund and Regional Housing Board.

Affordable Housing

Collaborative work takes place between the housing team and planning to ensure a balanced market that provides accommodation for people at all income levels. The Council works with registered social housing providers to ensure there is a range of accommodation on offer including extra care facilities.