

REPORT TO	ON
Scrutiny Committee	9 July 2020



TITLE	REPORT OF
South Ribble Partnership Update	Chief Executive

Is this report confidential?	No
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PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide the Scrutiny Committee members with an update on the progress made with the Community Strategy, led by South Ribble Partnership.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That Scrutiny Committee note the report as an update from South Ribble Partnership.
3. The committee is asked to note that a full update will be provided in January 2021, based on the recommendations of the Committee earlier this year, when the Partnership attended Scrutiny Committee.

CORPORATE OUTCOMES

4. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Excellence, Investment and Financial Sustainability	
Health, Wellbeing and Safety	✓
Place, Homes and Environment	

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

Our People and Communities	✓
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BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

5. The South Ribble Partnership last provided an update on delivery of the Community Strategy to the Scrutiny Committee on 29th January 2020 and was due to report back in 12 months' time. However due to the impact of Covid 19, the approach to delivering the Community Strategy Action Plan has been reviewed and therefore the Partnership's Leaders and Executive Board wished to provide an update to the Scrutiny Committee.

6. Prior to the onset of Covid 19 the Partnership had made positive progress in delivering the actions in the Community Strategy. Since the on-set of the crisis, the Partnership have re-grouped and realigned delivery activity to ensure a coordinated response to community recovery.
7. The focus is now on a collaborative approach to support longer term sustainable support for communities, making best use of collective partnership resource and capacity. A revised action plan has been developed including an evaluation stage to review outcomes for communities and also to consider how partners worked together differently to inform wider public service transformation.

PROPOSALS (e.g. RATIONALE, DETAIL, FINANCIAL, PROCUREMENT)

8. Pre Covid 19 Progress

Between January and early February 2020, good progress was made against the Action Plan agreed by the Leaders and Executive Board in December 2020. Three thematic groups were established under the Partnership's structure to focus around the core areas of the action plan. Progress from those groups are summarized below:

9. Connected Communities

- a) Tempo Time credits: This was formally launched at the end of January 2020, and the mobilisation period of the scheme was completed and a number of training workshops delivered to key partners including design of time credit notes, a unique design for both Leyland and Penwortham.
- b) Implement an approach to enable employee volunteering: A drafted scheme was developed and due to be presented and discussed by the group in March 2020.
- c) Utilise a central platform for volunteering opportunities across South Ribble: Initial work had taken place to identify potential products and platforms and presentation were due to be held in March 2020.

10. Health

- a) Provide Infrastructure to Support the South Ribble Integrated Team (SRIT): Support has been in place since January 2020 and significant progress was made in stepping up the capacity available to the team to manage more cases.
- b) Implement Refernet: Progress was made in supporting organisations to join the Refernet platform, with a total of 18 organisations/services that operate in South Ribble live on the system before lockdown.
- c) Identify Current services available across the borough and map pathways: A productive mapping session took place and a significant number of different organisations and services were identified. The group was due to move to the second phase of mapping at the end of February 2020 to assess each service. However due to Covid 19 the meeting was suspended.

11. Education and Skills (Growth)

- a) Identify the current services available across the borough and map these as pathways in the form of an interactive infographic: A number of pathways had already been recorded via the Lancashire Skills Partnership through their online platform 'Escalate'. The second workshop with the group was planned to look at Escalate and review to ensure there was no duplication. However this had to be postponed due to Covid 19.
- b) Local Government Association (LGA), 'Work Local' scheme, to gain funding to support a programme focusing on improving opportunities for those within South Ribble who are furthest away from employment: The initial piece of work with the Local Government Association has been completed and the report produced with recommendations that can be taken forward. However it is expected that the recommendations may not be taken forward at this point by the lead organisation due to capacity and a priority focus

on Covid 19. The Partnership will consider which recommendations it can take forward to make progress.

12. Effective Partnerships

- a) The Executive Board had received a draft version of the programme management and communication frameworks. Each of which have been approved. Work was ongoing to define key performance indicators to evaluate and measure the impact of the Partnership. A report was due to the Executive board in March 2020, however this meeting did not take place due to the suspension of Partnership meetings due to Covid 19. The measures are being revised in line with the varied action plan and the Leaders and Executive Board will be updated, July 10th.
- b) Data Dashboard: Discussions had taken place with Barking and Dagenham Borough Council to consider developing a data dashboard. The right to use the Social Progress Index model requires significant funding to purchase the rights for use. A report was being prepared, and further discussions are taking place on how the Partnership can use a data dashboard to look at 'local performance' with a particular view to narrowing the gap between communities.

13. Reaction to Covid 19

Following the government's advice and guidance in February, many partner organisations began to restrict attendance at meetings. Following the escalation of the spread of Covid 19, the decision was taken to suspend all of the Partnership's programmed thematic group meetings and both Leaders and Executive Boards.

14. The Leaders and Executive Board reconvened on 30th April to consider how it moves forward. The meeting enabled partners to share the immediate experiences and pressures caused by Covid 19. The emerging areas of focus identified by Partners include:

- ▶ Potential for Increase in Debt and need for support;
- ▶ Potential Increase in social and domestic issues impacting on mental and physical wellbeing;
- ▶ Homelessness;
- ▶ Unemployment and re-engaging people in to the job market;
- ▶ Access to Digital technologies for those who may be digitally excluded.

15. In response the Partnership agreed to take forward the Community Recovery Task Group to develop practical and operational led solutions to sustain longer support for communities impacted by Covid 19 and provide an early action and prevention approach, as well as having to respond to immediate pressures.

16. The Community Recovery Task group met on 14th May and was tasked to identify the key issues and priorities, and how the existing Community Strategy can be aligned to support recovery. A subsequent report was provided to the Leaders and Executive Board on 21st May where they agreed to implement an interim new structure and Action Plan. The body of the main report is attached at Appendix A.

17. As part of the recovery work, the Leaders and Executive Board have directed the Community Recovery Task Group to undertake an initial evaluation of the impact of Covid 19 on organisations and to identify any key issues and lessons learned. The scope of the evaluation is to be agreed at the next meeting of the Leaders and Executive Board and seeks to align closely with similar work being undertaken by Chorley's Public Service Reform Board.

18. Interim Action Plan and Next Steps

The interim action plan, takes forward a number of existing projects from the Community Strategy Action Plan where they have been refocused to address the impact of Covid 19. There are 3 key priority areas:

a) One Front Door, (South Ribble Together Hub)

This work strand takes forward the Partnership's existing commitments around expanding the use of Refernet and the South Ribble Integrated team. Since the start of Covid 19, the number of cases dealt with by the SRIT has dramatically increased and as a result the original 8 hours allocated has increased to a full 37 hours.

The One front door approach is about strengthening and building on the work of the South Ribble Together Hub, principally by directing requests for support through a single point to triage and signpost to relevant services. The purpose of this is to:

- ▶ Alleviate pressures on the need to have staff redeployed;
- ▶ Ensure quality advice services through trained triage call handlers;
- ▶ Services are able to focus on their expertise and provide those services to those in need.

b) Digital Resilience

The increasing use of digital services has the potential to exclude those who lack digital skills or access to equipment or connections. The Digital resilience Sub Group is tasked with:

- ▶ Supporting the Lancashire Digital Skills Partnership through developing a local response to digital exclusion focused around:
 - Providing devices with appropriate support for develop and learning digital skills that supports those who are at risk of being digitally excluded (this may be focused on accessing local services or improving employment prospects);
 - Address issues of access to connectivity and devices;
- ▶ Explore how digital employment opportunities could support people back into work. i.e. remote working and impact on mental health could provide the opportunity to consider new models of working. This directly relates to the work undertaken as part of the LGA Work Local.
- ▶ Review current data and intelligence to identify those who are at risk of digital exclusion. Using intelligence gathered through One Front Door and South Ribble Together (Covid-19 related support), to identify beneficiaries for the work strand who need a device and connectivity due to their risk of being digitally excluded.

c) Volunteering and Community Resilience

The impact of Covid-19 has made it more imperative that there is effective infrastructure and support for communities, so that they have the resilience to respond in times of crisis or need. The Partnership's existing plans have been carried forward as a priority within the recovery work, in some cases accelerating and expanding the areas of benefit. This includes widening the Tempo Time credits programme to all areas of the Borough (previously just Penwortham and Leyland as pilot areas). Using Tempo Communities platform it will provide a central space for all groups to register and post volunteer opportunities, irrespective of them being a time credit member.

The key objectives of the group is to:

- ▶ Take forward the Time Credits project to build on and complement the work of partners in building a sustainable community infrastructure in South Ribble, where:
 - Community groups can easily access any training and development required for volunteers.

- Volunteers can easily identify volunteering opportunities that align with their interests and skill sets.
- Community groups can easily access specialist support such as risk assessments and marketing, whether that being through a digital toolkit or skilled volunteers from partner organisations.

19. A detailed action plan for all the activities outlined above is due for review and approval by the Leaders and Executive Board on 10th July 2020. The Partnership will be happy to provide this for the committee in full once approved.

20. The detailed action plan will set out a range of key measures and evaluation to understand the impact of the Partnership’s recovery plan and response. Once approved by the Leaders and Executive Board this can be made available to the committee members.

CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

21. N/A

AIR QUALITY IMPLICATIONS

22. There are no direct Air Quality implications as a result of this report. The impact on air quality and carbon dioxide emissions should be considered for all future activities.

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

23. The financial implications of the Council’s corporate plan projects have been incorporated into the budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy. A number of these are linked with the work of the Partnership as explained in the body of the report. The balance of Performance Reward Grant has been ring-fenced for delivering Partnership projects.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

24. There are no issues of concern from a legal perspective.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

<p>► Risk</p> <p>► Equality & Diversity</p>	<p>The Leaders and Executive Board are meeting at least once every two months and will convene monthly meetings where necessary. This ensures that the Partnership can respond to changes quickly and effectively which in turns manages risk with respect to delivery of key programmes and activities.</p> <p>Each activity will have its own risk assessment recorded.</p> <p>Covid 19 has the potential impact to widen inequalities even further. The objectives of the Partnerships initiatives all seek to address that widening gap and provide solutions to mitigate and support people who may be adversely impacted.</p>
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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (or There are no background papers to this report)

There are no background papers to this report

APPENDICES (or There are no appendices to this report)

- ▶ Appendix A – Recovery Report 21st May 2020 (Report to the Leaders and Executive Board, *without* Appendices)

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