Community Recovery Plan

Our priorities and actions to support our resilient communities to effectively recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Background

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on all communities, including those within South Ribble, with some challenges presenting immediately (i.e. need for food and essentials) and others worsening over time (i.e. debt).

To effectively recover from the pandemic, the community recovery action plan must focus on both reactive and preventative interventions, ensuring that quality of life is improved for those facing immediate challenges, whilst building the infrastructure for more resilient future communities.

This will be achieved by focusing on clearly set out priorities, that are driven by local insight, and broken down into tangible and measurable outcomes. The identified priorities are:

- Financial hardship
- Social isolation and social anxiety
- Diet and physical health
- Early years development and socialisation
- Community clean up

- Mental health
- Digital inclusion
- Community Infrastructure
- Employability and financial inclusion

All of these priorities are already being addressed by both the council and partners, however this plan will outline what is being delivered, and what additional resource may be needed to do this more effectively.

Each area of priority cannot be tackled in isolation, as when looking at the health of our communities, we must also consider the wider determinants, particularly those linking in the economy, as there is a clear link between improving life opportunities and improving health outcomes, not just for the now, but also for future generations.

The Approach – Locality Model

The Council cannot effectively deliver a community recovery plan in isolation, therefore working closely with partners is essential to ensure that we have a holistic view of our community's needs, taking an integrated approach to locality working. South Ribble Borough Council are core to a successful locality model, as District Councils have the most touching points with our communities, from statutory services through do community development. It is important that we look at what partners are delivering when developing action plans for any of the identified priorities, this ensures that we optimise community assets and resource, avoid duplication, and improve customer experience.

Strategic Alignment

These Community Recovery priorities should directly align with the priorities of the Council's Communities Directorate, particularly those of the Community Development Team, supplemented by health contributions from Active Health, and community clean up contributions from Environmental Health.

The Community Development service plan is broken down into borough wide thematic projects (with each officer having a specific theme), and Community Hub Action Plans. Both are reviewed annually to ensure that they remain aligned to the community's current and emerging needs. This plan should directly feed into this annual review, and be the primary driver for borough wide thematic projects, with Community Hub Action Plans being informed by Neighbourhood Intelligence Profiles, ensuring that these actions plans target issues that are more pressing within each locality.
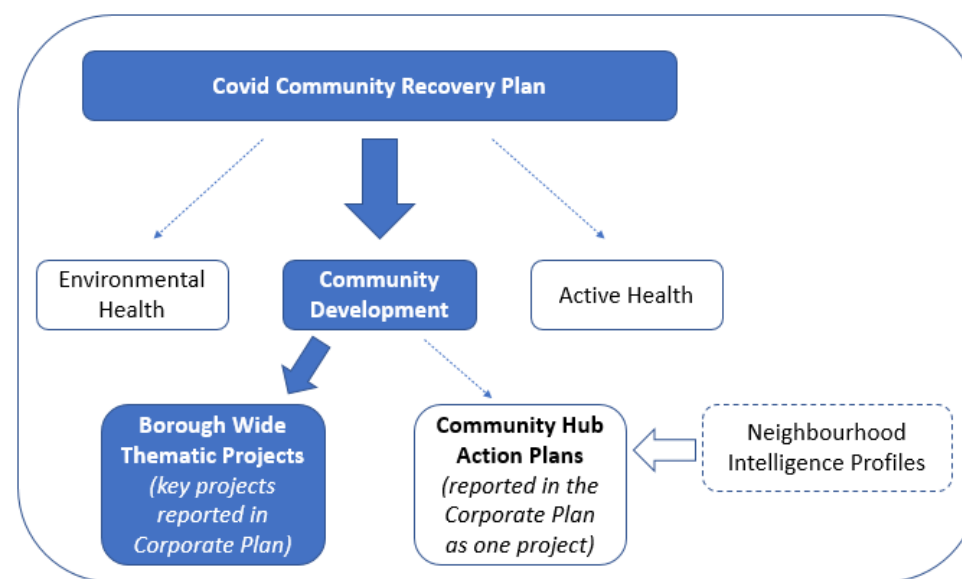
Financial Hardship – Immediate Interventions

Evidence:

The use of food banks, council food parcels, holiday hunger programmes, and school uniform banks has significantly increased, demonstrating the worsening financial inequalities gap that has been caused by the pandemic, driven by increased unemployment, extended furlough, and consequently rising debt.

Outcomes:

- Sustainable foodbanks with robust systems and integrated access to support services.
- Efficient and effect VCFSE infrastructure in place to deliver projects such as holiday hunger and school uniform bank.

Officer Resource:

- Sam Jones – Community Development Officer
  Supported by Digital and Community Coordinator (funded via CCG through Central Lancashire Covid Vulnerable project)

Additional Resource Needed:

Not currently, however Digital and Community Coordinator is only a 12-month post. Dependent on level of support needed by VCSFE, this may need to be extended.

KPIs:

- No. of schools engaging in holiday hunger scheme (higher = better)
- Ratio of pupils that require support through holiday hunger scheme from engaged schools (lower = better)
- £x wastage in holiday hunger scheme (lower = better)
- No. of families accessing school uniform bank (contextual)

Action Plan:

Action	End date	Measure
Work with foodbanks to identify long-term premises	Apr 22	All foodbanks in sustainable premises
Work with foodbanks to develop community hub models	Dec 22	All foodbanks offering wrap around services i.e. community shops and referrals
Work with foodbanks to improve digital skills and access to require hardware and software	April 22	All foodbanks provided with required training and digital investment
Explore models for sustainable delivery of holiday hunger/school uniform projects	Dec 21	Models identified and evaluated
Embed new model *(period of gradual handover required)*	Dec 22	New model in place, led by VCFSE
Use £10,000 step up grant from Central Lancashire Covid Vulnerable project to fund life improvement interventions that other funding will no	Dec 21	Case studies

Key Partners

Partner	Context
Food Banks	Ongoing foodbank delivery
Community Shops/Cafes	Free and discounted food
Tippy Toes Baby Bank	Used baby clothes
Key Unlocking Futures	Supporting Progress tenants at risk of losing their accommodation, and young people experiencing homelessness to maximising income.

Financial Inclusion and Employability

Evidence:
The pandemic has led to an increase in unemployment across the country, particularly in sectors such as hospitality and retail, consequently impacting those aged 18-25 most severely. Further to this, lockdown has made it increasingly difficult to engage NEET, and across the board redundancies mean that individuals are seeking careers changes later in life.

Outcomes:

- To have an inclusive economy, where there are opportunities for all, not limited by social mobility.
- To reduce the number of long-term unemployed through building confidence and aspirations.
- For there to be clear and easy to access pathways for upskilling and career change.
- Establish a Credit Union for accessible saving and future building.

Officer Resource:

- Jack Barnes – Community Development Officer
- Howard Anthony (Credit Union)
  Working closely with the Investment and Skills team.

Additional Resource Needed:
Funding will potentially be available from the DWP to hire a Youth Employment Hub Coordinator.

KPIs:

- Working age employment rate (higher = better)
- Long-term unemployment rate (lower = better)
- No. of individuals benefiting from new opportunities (higher = better)
- No. of individuals using the Credit Union (higher = better)

Action Plan:

New Action

Action	Timeframe	Measure
Establish DWP Youth Employment Hub (UEH) – tackling 18-24s at risk of long-term unemployment	Oct 21	No. of individuals supported in year 1. Determined by bid outcome
Hire YEH Coordinator	Jan 22	
Establish Credit Union	Aug 21	Onboard 200 new savers in year 1
Set up Financial Inclusion Network (FIN) with key partners	Nov 21	Engagement from partners
Map employment pathways for different situations (i.e. long-term unemployed, career change etc.), and develop and raise awareness of these through FIN	Apr 22	Number of individuals supported via improved/awareness of pathways
Carry out targeted population health management intervention to raise aspirations and create opportunities for those from disadvantaged background	Apr 22	Number of individuals benefited (dependent on cohort size)

Key Partners:

Partner	Project/Service
DWP	Employment advice, Youth Hub, Kickstart
Citizen's Advice	Debt and financial advice
Christians Against Poverty	Debt and financial advice
Progress Housing	Progress Futures and financial inclusion support for tenants
Runshaw College	Training and upskilling

Mental Health:

Evidence:
The mental health of all ages has been impacted throughout the pandemic, with many working age people having reduced job security and less social interaction due to working from home, older people spending extended periods of time in isolation, and younger people spending limited time in schools. When referring to young people, local insight suggests that mental health has not worsened for the majority, however, has become much more complex for those with existing needs.

Mental health was a key challenge identified within the Central Lancashire Covid Vulnerable project, where population health management was used to define a cohort of those most in need. In this project, Chorley's in-house social prescribing model proved significantly more successful at improving issues such as loneliness, anxiety, and life satisfaction, in comparison to South Ribble where external referrals were required.

Outcomes:

- Network where partners can effectively collaborate and share insight on mental health issues and project.
- A referral system in place for schools to make simple referrals into mental health services.
- Scheme in place for local employers to support their employee's mental health.

Officer Resource:

- Hanna Latif – Community Development Officer
- Suzanne Cubbon – Active Health Manager (Business Health Matters)

Additional Resource Needed:
South Ribble do not currently have an in-house social prescribing team. Two officers would be required to replicate Chorley's successful model.

KPIs:

- No. of schools using the referral system (higher = better)
- No. businesses with mental health support in place (higher = better)
- No. of individuals supported via social prescribers (contextual)

Action Plan: New Action

Action	Timeframe	Measure
Establish a mental health network/forum	Dec 21	Network established (opportunity to build on South Ribble Together)
Work with schools to embed a referral system	Sept 22	All high schools signed up to referral system
Work with local businesses to support employee mental health through 'Business Health Matters' project	Apr 22	X number of businesses signed up
Establish an in-house social prescribing team in South Ribble to carry out targeted interventions.	Dec 21	Able to carry out 50 assessments per week (10 per day)

Key Partners:

Partner	Context
Primary Care Networks	Social prescribers and clinical support
Lancashire Mind	Mental health referrals

Community Infrastructure:

Evidence:

The VCFSE sector have been hit hard throughout the pandemic, with many community groups choosing not to operate throughout the lockdown period. There have been a combination of challenges, including but not limited to, loss of volunteers (lack of working age volunteers), reduced opportunity for fundraising events, and increased competition from new 'pop-up' groups, who do always adhere to good practice.

The third sector are a key part of a successful locality model, and it is important that we support them to be sustainable.

Outcomes:

- For the local VCFSE sector to have a sector led infrastructure, with a network for collaboration, relationship building, and learning.
- For a 'Community Charter' to be established, outlining a code of conduct that must be adhered to, to receive support from the council and other key partners.
- To have a central location for volunteering opportunities to be listed.

Officer Resource:

- Sam Jones – Community Development Officer
  With support from the Digital and Community Coordinator

KPIs:

- No. community groups within community group network (higher = better)
- No. community groups in Community Charter (higher = better)
- No. community groups that believe to be sustainable (higher = better)

Action Plan:

New Action

Action	Timeframe	Measure
Establish Community Group Network	Jan 22	10 groups engaged in year 1
Develop Community Group Charter	Apr 22	8 groups engaged in year 1
Onboard partners to the Employer Led Volunteer Scheme to create more working age and skilled volunteers	Apr 22	Onboard 5 employers in year 1 and 100 volunteers
Use Tempo Time Credits to support community groups to attract new volunteers	Apr 22	Onboard 20 groups and 100 volunteers
Central location for listing volunteering opportunities	Apr 22	20 organisations list opportunities

Key Partners:

Partner	Context
Our Lancashire	Database of community groups that operate within South Ribble
Lancashire Volunteer Partnership	Database of volunteers
Tempo	Administrator of Time Credits
Community Futures	Governance support for community groups and administrator of Compass system
Lancashire County Council	Communities team
Progress Housing Group	Involvement team
VCFSE	Local community groups

Social Isolation and Social Anxiety:

Evidence:
A significant number of individuals have experienced extended period of social isolation through the pandemic due to social distancing restrictions, consequently we are seeing reduced confidence across our communities. Social anxiety was highlighted as a key theme within the Central Lancashire Covid Vulnerable project.

Outcomes:

- A community where residents feel confident to live their lives, whether that is socialising, hobbies, volunteering, or going to work.

Officer Resource:

- Louise Davies – Community Development Officer
  Supported by other Community Development Officers through to Community Hub Action Plans.

Additional Resource Needed:
£20,000 has been allocated to resocialisation interventions through the Central Lancashire Covid Vulnerable project.

Chorley's model of having an integrated social prescribing team proved more effective at reducing loneliness within the Central Lancashire Covid Vulnerable project. If South Ribble invested in its own social prescribing team, targeted interventions could be carried out using population health management (PHM) to identify those most at risk.

KPIs:

- No. of individuals attending resocialisation events (contextual)
- % of individuals who report improved confidence after attending interventions (higher = better)
- % of individuals who report feeling less lonely after attending interventions (higher = better)

Action Plan: New Action

Action	Timeframe	Measure
Establish resocialisation interventions within each of the Community Hub areas	Oct 21	Number of attendees and reported levels of increased confidence
Targeted PHM and social prescribing intervention to identify and support those most at risk	Jan 22	Social prescriber able to carry out 50 assessments per week (10 per day)

Key Partners

Partner	Context
Primary Care Networks	Social prescribers and referrals
Age Concern Central Lancashire	Support for the older generation
Friends for You	Befriending service
Lancashire Volunteer Partnership	Over the phone befriending service
Our Lancashire	Access to wide range for community groups

Digital Inclusion:

Evidence:

With an increasing number of services moving to an online model, it has never been more important for individuals to have the skills and devices required to get online.

Outcomes:

- For all residents, regardless of situation, to have the opportunity to access digital services.
- For all VCFSE groups and organisations to have the skills and equipment needed to utilise digital, making their operations more robust, efficient, and effective.

Officer Resource:

- Jack Barnes – Community Development Officer
- Digital and Community Coordinator

Additional Resource Needed:

Digital and Community Coordinator is only a 12-month post, therefore may need extended depending on the next year's position. Dependant on capacity, this work may be able to be picked up by other team members.

KPIs:

- No. of community groups provided digital support (contextual)
- No. of individuals provided with digital training (contextual)
- No. of individuals provided with digital devices (contextual)

Action Plan:

Action	Timeframe	Measure
Get Online project – to provide individuals who are digitally excluded with the skills, devices and data required to access online services	Mar - Dec 21	15 devices and 15 data SIMs purchased through South Ribble Partnership. 9 of each issued. Exploring using for refugees.
Work with schools to provide pupils who are digitally excluded with the data and devices required to complete homework	Sept 21 - Apr 22	£20,000 was granted to support schools in 2020. Second stage of project to be confirmed through scoping with schools.
Support local community groups to make better use of digital	Nov 21 - 22	Support 15 community groups in year 1

Key Partners:

Partner	Context
Schools	Access to pupils
VCFSE	Local community groups
Lancashire Adult Learning	Digital training courses
Runshaw College	Digital training courses
Preston College	Digital training courses
Lancashire Digital Skills Partnership	Collaboration on digital inclusion initiatives

Diet and Physical Health:

Evidence:

In South Ribble 72.6% of adults are classed as obese or overweight, higher than both the regional average of 65.9% and the England average of 62.8%. Further to this, the proportion of children who are classified as obese at Year 6 has increased slightly from 19.5% to 20.2% in South Ribble, although this does remain below both the regional and national averages.

This data is from 2019/20, with extended periods of working from home and not being in school since then, it is expected that physical health has got worse.

Outcomes:

- To have an inclusive local infrastructure for active health and wellbeing, where activities are accessible to all, regardless of personal circumstances.
- To raise awareness across the borough of ways to simple and accessible ways to improve physical health and wellbeing.

Officer Resource:

- Suzanne Cubbon – Active Health Manager **(delivered as part of the Leisure Local Programme)**

Additional Resource Required:

- In-house social prescribing within South Ribble Borough Council

KPIs:

- Overweight and obesity rates in adults and children (lower = better)
- % individuals able to access the physical activities that they want to do (higher = better)

Action Plan: New Action

Action	Timeframe	Measure
Deliver leisure local action plan	2021-24	KPIs defined in plan
Deliver PHM and social prescribing intervention targeting those most vulnerable due to physical health (i.e. BMI)	2022	Social prescriber able to carry out 50 assessments per week (10 per day)

Key Partners:

Partner	Context
Active Lancashire	Collaboration on active projects
Sports England	Funding
Primary Care Networks	Access to patient BMI data

Early Years Development and Socialisation:

Evidence:

It is estimated that there could be significant development delays caused within infants who's start to school was delayed due to the pandemic, both due to delayed socialisation with other children, and lack of exposure to foundational education.

Outcomes:

- To have an infrastructure in place that supports young people and their families to accelerate learning and social development.
- To have a clear understanding between the council and schools of the needs of schools and their pupils.

Officer Resource:

- Hanna Latif – Community Development Officer

KPIs:

- No. of schools engaging with the Council (higher = better)
- No. of children and families supported (higher = better)

Action Plan:

Action	Timeframe	Measure
Prepare and send out school readiness packs	Sept 21	Sent to x number of schools
Establish school's member task group (healthy schools)	Nov 21	Member buy-in
Liaise with schools to understand their needs	Nov 21 – Feb 22	School engagement
Deliver interventions	Apr 22	School engagement

Key Partners:

Partner	Context
Lancashire County Council	Team around the school and setting
Schools	Access to pupils

Community Clean Up:

Evidence:

The Council has seen a 131% increase in complaints relating to accumulations of waste and refuse from 2019/20 compared to 2020/21, whilst also seeing an increase in noise complaints, planning consultations and food hygiene applications.

The Environmental Health team have the knowledge skills and equipment to deal with these cases, however capacity and restrictions can affect the response times, which could in effect lead to wider determinants of health. Waste can have an aesthetic effect around degrading of people's homes and impact wellbeing, this can also lead to wider public health risks including infestations of pests and rodents.

Noise nuisance can have a significant impact on mental health wellbeing and sleep deprivation, and cause neighbourhood disputes and unrest. Whilst food businesses unrated or not inspected could lead to poor hygiene establishments – this can lead to food borne illness and communicable diseases.

Outcomes:

- Restore South Ribble to its pre-pandemic state; by reducing wastage, noise nuisance, and unrated food businesses, all of which are wider determinants of health.

Officer Resource:

- Laura-Jean Taylor – Environmental Health Team Leader

Additional Resource Needed:

- To appoint a food consultant to complete the back log of food inspections of the lower risk D and Unrated business to allow further capacity of the officers to assist with the increase in Environmental Protection duties.
- Staffing Resource required for planning and facilitating community clean-up day(s)

KPIs:

- No. of residents to use waste collection service (contextual)
- No. of complaints relating to waste, noise nuisance and food hygiene (lower = better)

Action Plan: New Action

Action	Timeframe	Measure
Hire consultant to complete backlog of food inspections	Dec 21	Backlog completed
Carry out community clean up days	Dec 21	Less complaints about waste

Key Partners:

Partner	Context
LCC	Recycling Centre