

**LEIGHTON LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**13 February 2013**

**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE**

**Purpose of report: - FOR INFORMATION**

**1 COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**1.1 Crime data update**

Between January 2013-December 2013 there were 1761 recorded crimes, compared to 1517 for same time period the previous year. This is an increase of 244 recorded crimes – 16%.

Between January 2013 - December 2013 there were 160 recorded domestic burglaries, compared to 92 in the same time period in 2012, this is an increase of 68 offences or 74%.

The main hotspot area for crime continues to be the Lake Street area, with crimes here mainly relating to the night time economy.

Between January 2013-December 2013, 18% of all recorded crimes were violence against the person offences, 15% domestic abuse and 14% criminal damage offences.

Between January 2013-December 2013 39% of all recorded crimes in Leighton Linlade were in the All Saints area, 22% in Grovebury and 15% in Planation.

**1.2 Burglary Week of Action**

During the week of action partners engaged in various locations across Central Bedfordshire

- crime prevention stands were held in supermarkets, town market squares and train stations.
- information and advice was displayed at train stations, libraries, and supermarkets.
- the public were engaged through social media sites and through local Town and Parish Council websites.
- local Policing teams undertook door to door knocking to deliver advice to residents.

- The Bobby team and Fire Service were available for home security checks and improvements.

The Table below summarises the key actions undertaken by all partners during the burglary prevention week of action specific to Leighton Buzzard.

Location	Organisation	Actions
All householders in Central Bedfordshire	Central Bedfordshire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good neighbour campaign displayed in A-Z, delivered to 100,000 homes</li> <li>• Good neighbour campaign displayed in News Central delivered to 100,000 homes</li> </ul>
Leighton Buzzard	Central Bedfordshire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 good neighbour leaflets and poster distributed at the library</li> <li>• 100 good neighbour leaflets and poster distributed at leisure centre</li> <li>• 100 good neighbour leaflets and post distributed at train station</li> <li>• Communications team tweeted and posted information on Facebook about campaign and supermarkets event</li> </ul>
	Local Policing Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime prevention stand at Tesco between 1000-1115 – 100+ prevention packs issued</li> <li>• Crime prevention stand at Morrison's between 1130-1230 – 80 prevention packs issues</li> <li>• Crime prevention stand at Waitrose between 1300-1400 – 55 prevention packs issued</li> </ul>
	Neighbourhood Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint crime prevention stand at Church Square between 1000-1500</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100+ leaflets distributed</li> <li>• Possible people to sign up, lots of enquiries/interest shown</li> </ul>
	Bobby Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint crime prevention stand at Church Square between 1000-1500</li> <li>• Bobby referrals</li> </ul>

	Fire Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• available to carry out immediate home security checks/improvements</li> </ul>
	British Transport Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• present at train station marking bicycles</li> </ul>

### 1.3 Waste Minimisation Team

The Waste Minimisation Team have educated the following flats in Leighton Buzzard:

Tiller Court (Meadow Way)  
 Monarch Way  
 West Side  
 Drakes Avenue

## 2 LEISURE

### 2.1 Leisure Contract

Our Leisure Services team has recently awarded an innovative leisure management contract for four of the council's six leisure centres –to Stevenage Leisure Limited again following an open competitive process.

This is a different type of contract one that is modelled on the newSport England framework which is designed to help us deliver our priorities around public health and getting more people, more active, more often, as well as being extremely good value for money. We want to help people make those little changes that can have a big impact on their lives.

### 2.2 Central Bedfordshire Council Leisure Strategy (no change)

The Leisure Strategy Consultation ended on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013, and the responses are currently being analysed and the documents amended where appropriate. Details of the comments will be available on line together with the amended documents in early January prior to their presentation to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Council is investing heavily in its entire leisure provision which includes six leisure centres. As part of its Leisure Strategy, it has allocated more than £20m to enhance its leisure offer for residents

### **2.3 Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre (no change)**

Central Bedfordshire Council is transforming its leisure offering to local residents with a £2m refurbishment, including a wall-to-wall installation of Technogym's ARTIS Line with the revolutionary new Renew energy harvesting technology.

Tiddenfoot is the first local authority site to invest in the market leading eco-friendly line, a sign of the Council's commitment to eco-sustainability. As the third site in the world with ARTIS Renew, Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre will cement its reputation as a world-class leisure facility.

Five years in the making, Technogym's ARTIS range is a collection of 30 fully integrated cardio, strength and functional equipment that offer the best in biomechanics, connectivity and sustainability. Its cardio equipment contain patent-pending technology that harnesses human energy and feeds it directly into the facility's grid power system, significantly lowering the cost and environmental impact of running a fitness centre as gym members work to power the centre.

Through UNITY, Technogym's industry-leading swipe-screen cardio console, users can track the energy value they generate as they work out on the ARTIS line. The console records and displays the wattage produced as well as visualises a household appliance (such as a kettle or light bulb) that uses the equivalent power value, motivating them to work out more to power larger appliances. UNITY also displays how much of their carbon footprint each user has offset based on their exercise session.

ARTIS also reduces energy consumption – a ground-breaking new brushless motor in the ARTIS Run treadmill reduces energy usage by 30% over other best-in-class treadmills – and reuses energy – users power their own display console and TV during their workout.

TIS is cutting-edge, it is also the most eco-friendly line of exercise equipment today, which is very much in line with the Council's commitment to sustainability. With growing pressures on CBC budgets, this provides a real spend-to-save opportunity. Not only will residents be more active, which is a really key priority they'll also be helping to cut the centre's running costs and reduce carbon footprint.

## **3 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION**

### **3.1 Junction of Stanbridge Road/Billington Road**

We are currently working around the junction of Stanbridge Road / Billington Road. This work involves finishing the footpath widening and installation of the new fence system to the bridge. We have made considerable effort to complete this work, but due to the nature of the works site where we need to ensure that there is safe pedestrian routes round our works we are limited on

the areas that we can work on; which means we can't open too much work at once. The weather post-Christmas has not been favourable either.

The anticipated completion date (wk 27<sup>th</sup> Jan) is for the all the civil engineering and electrical works connected with the entire scheme to be done. The only item of work left outstanding is the last 600m<sup>2</sup> of carriageway resurfacing which is going to be undertaken overnight on 21<sup>st</sup> / 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

## **4 SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING**

### **4.1 Greenfields Extra Care Facility**

Aldwyck's full planning application for the construction of 82 extra care flats for older people with communal areas, support facilities and associated parking has been submitted to CBC's Planning Department.

Aldwyck has also gone out to tender for the design & build of the facility with bids also due back at the end of January. Subject to planning permission and the award of the design & build contract, construction of the scheme should commence March/April 2014 with practical completion anticipated late 2015.

We have been consulting on a draft Housing Allocations Policy which ended 31st Jan, to determine the criteria for entry onto the social housing register..

Feedback is welcomed: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations)

We have also been consulting on our Mobile Park Home Fees Policy which proposes to introduce fees to Mobile Park HomesSite owners to cover the costs that will be incurred by the Council in fulfilling its new duties as a result of the Mobile Homes Act 2013. There was a Park Homes resident's stakeholder event on 22nd January at Priory House, Chicksands that will help shape an overarching Park Homes Strategy.

## **5 YOUTH SERVICES**

### **5.1 Commissioned Youth Work**

CBC and the Town Councils of Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Leighton Linlade have established quarterly meetings at which commissioned Youth Service providers will present progress as well as ensure that we have an integrated approach to meeting the needs of young people. The next meeting will take place early November 2013.

### **5.2 Update on NEETs**

The levels of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training continue to be low across Central Bedfordshire (4.3% from year 12-14 cohorts in December 13).

### 5.3 NEET Overview – Leighton Linslade – December 2013

At the end of December there were 72 young people (Years 12-14) living in the Leighton-Linslade area that were not in education, employment, or training. This is an increase from the 60 young people reported as NEET in October.

### 5.4 Characteristics of the NEET Group in Leighton-Linslade

The following information provides an overview of the characteristics of the current NEET group in relation to the:

- spread of young people across the Leighton-Linslade wards;
- gender and age breakdown;
- NEET status of young people in relation to whether they are currently available to the labour market (actively seeking EET) or if they are currently unavailable for EET due to their personal circumstances;
- length of time young people have been NEET;
- previous destinations in relation to what young people were doing immediately prior to becoming NEET.

Wards	October	December
Heath and Reach	3	3
Leighton Buzzard North	28	31
Leighton Buzzard South	16	19
Linslade	13	19

Gender	October	December
Male	27	35
Female	33	37

Age	October	December
16 years	5	7
17 years	17	24
18 years	27	29
19 years	11	12

NEET Status	October	December
<b>NEET – Available to the Labour Market</b>		
• Seeking education, employment, or training	47	52
<b>NEET – Not Available to the Labour Market</b>		
• Illness	2	6
• Pregnancy	2	4
• Teenage Parent	9	9
• Not available – Other	0	1

Length of Time NEET	October	December
Less than 3 Months	32	24
3-6 Months	8	32
6+ Months	20	16

Previous Destination (immediately prior to becoming NEET)	October	December
Apprenticeship	2	1
Educated at home	2	2
Foundation Learning or Re-engagement Provision	6	5
MaintSchool	21	27
College	17	22
SixthFormCollege	9	12
Unknown – New To Area	3	2
Employment	0	1

## 5.5 Update on NEETs

The levels of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training continue to be low across Central Bedfordshire (4.5% from year 12 -14 cohorts in October 13).

### 5.5.1 NEET Overview – Leighton-Linslade – October 2013

Currently there are 60 young people (Years 12-14) living in the Leighton-Linslade area that are not in education, employment or training.

## 5.6 Characteristics of the NEET Group in Leighton-Linslade

The following information provides an overview of the characteristics of the current NEET group in relation to the:

- Spread of young people across the Leighton-Linslade wards;
- Gender and age breakdown;
- NEET status of young people in relation to whether they are currently available to the labour market (actively seeking EET) or if they are currently unavailable for EET due to their personal circumstances.
- Length of time young people have been NEET;
- Previous destinations in relation to what young people were doing immediately prior to becoming NEET.

Wards	Number of NEET YP
Heath and Reach	3

Leighton Buzzard North	28
Leighton Buzzard South	16
Linslade	13

<b>Gender</b>	
Male	27
Female	33

<b>Age</b>	
16 years	5
17 years	17
18 years	27
19 years	11

<b>NEET Status</b>	
<b>NEET – Available to the Labour Market</b>	
• Seeking education, employment, or training	47
<b>NEET – Not Available to the Labour Market</b>	
• Illness	2
• Pregnancy	2
• Teenage Parent	9

<b>Length of Time NEET</b>	
Less than 3 Months	32
3-6 Months	8
6+ Months	20

<b>Previous Destination (immediately prior to becoming NEET)</b>	
Apprenticeship	2
Educated at home	2
Foundation Learning or Re-engagement Provision	6
MaintSchool	21
College	17
SixthFormCollege	9
Unknown – New To Area	3

## 5.7 Youth Work

4YP, the commissioned provider of locality youth work in Leighton-Linslade and Leighton Buzzard, are delivering 3 sessions at Leighton Buzzard Youth Centre. These are on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings with a regular attendance in the mid 30s. On the last Friday of each month 4YP are delivering provision in the Sand Hills Estate. Detached youth work is taking place at regular intervals in the Town Centre, Pages Park and the skate park.

Cedars Upper School have asked 4YP to deliver a project for pupils around confidence and self esteem. 4YP and Tactic are in the early stages of exploring a town wide Youth Action Team.

## 5.8 Voluntary Community Action



Voluntary Community Action continues to provide volunteering opportunities for young people in the Linslade and Leighton Buzzard area. These include working with Mencap and supporting residents in Tudor Court to learn how to use computers.

## **5.9 Raising Participation Age**

We are working in partnership with the schools in the area to share destination data on their year 11 and 12 pupils who left this summer. We are beginning to receive data from schools and colleges of current year 12 and 13 pupils who have left in order that we can offer IAG support to move them back into an education destination.

## **5.10 Schools**

### **5.10.1 Greenleas., Kestrel Way**

A new Lower School site was delivered at the end of August on Kestrel Way , Leighton Linslade. This is a second site for Greenleas Lower School and is named Greenleas., Kestrel Way. The school are currently in the process of progressing a Nursery provision on the site, in conjunction with Children's Services but this is subject to funding.

### **5.10.2 Leighton Middle School**

Leighton Middle School – refurbishment of two plant rooms including new boiler plant, circulating pumps and automatic controls.(No change)

### **5.10.3 Linslade Lower School**

Linslade Lower School – Complete refurbishment of the heating system including new boiler plant, circulation pumps, pipework, radiators and automatic controls. ( No change)

### **5.10.4 Troubled Families**

The Troubled Families programme target is to work with 305 families by the end of March 2014.

A proportion of our Troubled Families reside in the Leighton-Linslade area. These families along with their local communities are experiencing multiple problems associated with either persistent truancy from school, anti social behaviour and worklessness . In some cases all three criteria. The difference early and multi agency intervention can make to families experiencing such problems is vital and over a sustained period result in the family being less dependant on benefits, childrens' potential at school being realised , less crime and safer neighbourhoods. This results in less pressure on public finances.

Recently a 4<sup>th</sup> criteria - the trio of Mental health, Domestic Abuse and Substance Misuse have been included to enable more families to be helped at

an early stage. Ultimately this will prevent severe consequences occurring and more costly interventions at a later stage.

A mid term review of the programme has revealed the desire for greater partnership working particularly at the grass roots level. We will be seeking a further discussion with the Town Council and other local partners to explore involvement in the programme.

## **6 COMMUNITY REGENERATION AND SKILLS**

### **6.1 Leighton Buzzard Work Club**

Due to a high level of demand Central Bedfordshire Council is now running a further work club session in the Library on a Thursday afternoon. Clients are able to search for jobs, improve their interview techniques and apply for a 1-1 session with a National Careers Advisor.

### **6.2 Leighton Buzzard Library and Theatre**

Capital investment in the building will continue this financial year with an upgrade to the heating system and the installation of new windows. There will also be improvement made to the safety and security of the building, including CCTV and improved fire precautionary measures. In the Theatre plans are in place to re-furbish the bar and box office areas, install a new lighting rig in the theatre and re-furbish public meeting rooms and toilets. This work will commence in Spring 2014, with customer notices being made available in the Library and Theatre advising customers of the forthcoming changes.

## **7 PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **7.1 Armed Forces Day event : Sunday 22 June**

Following the proposal to the Partnership Committee in October to hold an Armed Forces Day event in Leighton -Linslade both Central Bedfordshire Council and the Town Council are supporting SSAFA, who will lead on the organisation of the event, planned for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at Parsons Close Recreation Ground. SSAFA are preparing an Event Management Plan incorporating Health and Safety and Risk management issues. A Working group is being set up to support SSAFA to deliver the event.

### **7.2 Town and Parish Council Conference April 29<sup>th</sup> 2014**

Is the date for the next Town and Parish Council Conference. In response to feedback, the theme for this event will be sharing good practice between parishes. Other suggested topics include: management of cemeteries and burial grounds; and defibrillators and emergency response measure.