

LEIGHTON LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**11 April 2019****CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE****Purpose of report: - for information****1 COMMUNITY SAFETY****1.1 Anti-social behaviour and Statutory Nuisance**

The Community Safety Operations Team has carried out the following work in the Leighton-Linslade area from the November 2018 – January 2019:

There were 9 cases open to Community Safety Operations Team:-

- Flytipping – 1
- Nuisance Neighbours – 1
- Pollution/Light – 1
- Pollution/Noise – 3
- Pollution/Odour – 2
- Rowdy/Inconsiderate Behaviour – 1

1 prosecution file has been sent to Legal team regarding Breach of Criminal Behaviour Order.

Summary of recorded CCTV Incidents

This report contains data gathered by the Council's CCTV Control Room located at Watling House, Dunstable. It includes details of CCTV monitored incidents and arrests by the police in the towns of Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard. It does not include details of the police response to any particular incident where an arrest is not made, nor does it include incidents not captured by CCTV; for this reason, the data will not reflect the overall picture of crime and disorder in any area.

Date	Time	Location		Type of Crime	Arrests
02.11.2018	02:18	Lake Street		Domestic	0
12.11.2018	18:33	High Street		ASB	0
12.11.2018	17:49	Waterborne Walk	Group of youths abusing the staff of Waitrose	ASB	0
16.11.2018	22:04	Market Square (Top Bell)		Assault	0
17.11.2018	21:13	Waterborne Walk	2 Males rolling and	Drugs	0

			smoking drugs		
22.11.2018	18:03	Waterborne Walk	Youths riding a moped	ASB	0
25.11.2018	02:07	Lake Street		Offensive Weapon	0
27.11.2018	21:25	North Street		Street Drinker	0
29.11.2018	04:54	North Street (Halfords)		Burglary	0
02/12/2018	10:13	High street		Vagrancy	0
02/12/2018	12:15	Multi storey Car park/Waterborne Walk		ASB/ Group of youths on the roof one of them throws a glass bottle down into Waterborne walk	0
03/12/2018	18:53	Waterborne Walk		ASB/Group of youths harassing a Waitrose worker	0
04/12/2018	20:21	High Street		ASB/ 4 Youths throwing eggs	0
05/12/2018	20:28	Waterborne Walk		ASB/4 males pulling the netting off Waitrose netting machine then one of them urinates in the High street.	0
05/12/2018	19:50	Waterborne Walk		Drugs	0
07/12/2018	14:50	High Street		OP-METEOR	0
07/12/2018	22:48	The Swan		Criminal Damage	1
08/12/2018	16:10	Waterborne Walk		Theft of Bicycle	0
08/12/2018	23:01	High Street		Affray	0
08/12/2018	03:49	The Lancer		Criminal Damage	0
09/12/2018	21:33	Swan/Picture House		Fake I. D	0
15/12/2018	16:04	Peacocks		Shoplifting	0
16/12/2018	03:16	The Lancer		Assault	0
16/12/2018	21:15	North Street		Decamp	0
20/12/2018	00:42	Lake Street		Assault	1
21/12/2018	16:03	Waterborne Walk		ASB/Group of youths on bicycles	0
25/12/2018	02:00	Picture House		Assault	0
31/12/2018	14:04	Multi Storey Car Park		ASB/Youths Drinking on roof	0
31/12/2018	23:14	High Street		Affray	0
01/01/2019	01:24	Waterborne Walk		Smoking Drugs	0
01/01/2019	02:44	Waterborne Walk		Snorting Drugs	0
01/01/2019	03:56	Lake Street		Fight	1
02/01/2019	15:17	Multi Storey Car Park		ASB / Youths climbing on the roofs of the car park	0

03/01/2019	10:12	North Street	Street Drinkers	0
04/01/2019	14:29	Waterborne Walk	ASB / Youths stopping people from entering Superdrug's	0
04/01/2019	14:59	Multi Storey Car Park	ASB / Youths on the roof with a Waitrose Trolley	0
05/01/2019	14:47	Leston Road	Missing Person	0
09/01/2019	12:57	High Street	Miscellaneous	0
10/01/2019	19:23	North Street	Alcohol Related	0
12/01/2019	13:47	Multi Storey Car Park	ASB / Youths climbing on the roof	0
12/01/2019	14:25	Parsons Rec	ASB/DRUGS /Group of youths smoking drugs near the BMX park	0
12/01/2019	14:42	Waterborne Walk	ASB / Group of youths on bikes doing wheelies	0
12/01/2019	15:26	Waterborne Walk	ASB/ Group of youths Causing ASB issues in New Look	0
12/01/2019	15:49	Waterborne Walk	ASB / Group of 15 + youths some on bikes outside M& Co causing problems	0
13/01/2019	10:18	Waterborne Walk	Shoplifting	0
13/01/2019	14:17	North Street	ASB/ Group of youths refusing to leave Halfords	0
13/01/2019	15:52	Bell Alley	Burglary	0
13/01/2019	13:19	Multi Storey Car Park	Criminal Damage	0
14/01/2019	21:42	Waterborne Walk	Smoking Drugs	0
19/01/2019	11:12	North Street	Robbery	0
19/01/2019	13:51	Waterborne Walk	ASB/ Assault Group of youths one with a Balaclava on pushes a member of the Street Watch Team	0
19/01/2019	15:49	Multi Storey Car Park	ASB / Group of youths on the roof spitting down at people in Waterborne Walk	0
19/01/2019	16:12	Lake Street	Shoplifters x 3 / Various Shops	0

20/01/2019	14:16	Waterborne Walk	ASB / Youth doing wheelies in Waterborne Walk	0
22/01/2019	09:06	North Street	Robbery	0
22/01/2019	18:12	Boots	Theft	0
22/01/2019	22:25	Lake Street	Alcohol Related	
24/01/2019	01:36	Lake Street	Concern for Safety	0
26/01/2019	03:21	Lake Street	Assault	0
30/01/2019	21:29	Waterborne Walk	Drugs/2 Males rolling and smoking Drugs in the seating area	0

2. Business, Investment, Employment & Skills

The Business Growth Team are helping to organise the 7th annual Business Networking Event, which will be held at the Leighton Buzzard Golf Club on Wednesday 24th April (6pm - 8.30pm). We have continued to work with a range of partners to deliver this event and are using our marketing channels through BeCentralBedfordshire to help promote the event.

Innovation Bridge provides free support to SME businesses looking to innovate & grow through linking them to a university for research support and innovation grants. We have 9 businesses in Leighton Linlade who have completed 12 hours of support with the University of Bedfordshire and completed Innovation Bridge Action Plans to support their business ideas. One of these businesses has received a grant for design and build contact infrared (IR) temperature sensors for industrial users. The grant supported the process to launch these new IR sensors by purchasing cable preparation equipment, dual extrusion 3D printer and implementation of an MRP software system.

The Leighton-Linslade area continues to attract a range of commercial property enquiries. For the period Nov 18 to Feb 19 we have received 9 new enquiries for the area. Five of these enquiries were for larger (10,000sq ft +) industrial / office premises including an overseas enquiry via the Department for International Trade for a large manufacturing plant. The remaining four smaller enquiries were for local relocation or start-up businesses.

The hybrid planning application received for Clipstone Park/East of Leighton is still out to consultation due to revised plans having been submitted. At the time of writing this report a decision had not been reported.

The Crossing on the A505 is now complete offering just over 50,000sq ft of warehousing space. There have been few enquiries for this site which have been forwarded on the commercial agents.

The long-anticipated Marks & Spencer (M&S) Foodhall in the Grovebury Road Retail Park in Leighton-Linslade is now open, bringing with it 46 new local jobs.

Bedfordshire Employment & Skills Service

So far this academic year, 81 Leighton-Linslade residents (54 of whom were unemployed) have attended Employment and Skills Service (BESS) courses which include basic skills in ICT, English and maths.

The Service works with its subcontractor partners to deliver general employability programmes, supporting people without jobs get back into employment e.g. “Creative Confidence for Work & Life”, a Hospitality Academy, “Live Smart into Work”, “Moving Towards Work” and “Smart Job Search”. These all cover different aspects of preparing for work, finding employment and the expectations of employers both at interview and on starting.

Other courses are aimed at specific sectors include Hospitality programmes and those aimed at residents wishing to work in schools and nurseries. The YOU Programme supports people who are experiencing a range of mental health challenges, which can affect their mental, physical, social, professional, spiritual and emotional wellbeing. Accessible venues used for the delivery of these programmes include the Friends Meeting House, Leighton Buzzard Library, the Tactic Centre and the Royal British Legion. Courses in Dunstable also attract Leighton-Linslade residents.

Further information on courses offered by BESS can be found on the Council’s website: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/jobs/adult-learning/about/courses.aspx>

Residents have also had access to locally delivered National Careers Service information, advice and guidance through 1:1 appointments. You can find out more about the support the team offers for people who are both employed or unemployed and how to make an appointment by visiting here: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/jobs/adult-learning/about/national-careers-service-team.aspx>

Cafe Connect peer support sessions have been taking place at the TACTIC Centre in Leighton Buzzard. The project, running from March 2018 to March 2019, has supported 32 local residents. As well as providing one to one support to residents, the Connect project has also enabled BESS to find out more about residents learning and skills needs. Moving forwards, this information will inform further commissioning by BESS as part of continuing programme development aiming for workshops and courses that meet local residents needs to run in or near the TACTIC Centre.

High Street Vacancy Levels

According to Springboard, in collaboration with the BRC, the national town centre vacancy rate in January 2019 was 9.9%. The rate is now at the highest it has been since July 2016. (BRC- Springboard footfall and vacancies monitor, January 2019).

On average, Town Centres in Central Bedfordshire have a vacancy rate of 3.7% (November 2018). This is a 1.0 percentage point decrease from August’s 4.7%. The overall vacancy rate for Central Bedfordshire town centres at November 2018 was 6.0% (there were 890 recorded town centre units and 54 of these were vacant). This

is a welcome reduction from the 7.0% figure recorded for August 2018. During the last quarter there has been a notable reduction in the overall number of vacant units within Central Bedfordshire. Reductions in vacant units have been seen in Biggleswade, Dunstable, Flitwick, Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard. Vacant units have become occupied by food and drink establishments and businesses offering services such as hair and beauty etc.

Town Centre vacancies (%) in Central Bedfordshire, May 2017 – November 2018

Town	May 17	Aug 17	Nov 17	Feb 18	May 18	August 18	November 18
Ampthill	2.2	3.3	4.4	4.4	5.6	5.6	6.7
Arlesey	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Biggleswade	8.3	6.9	5.5	8.3	9.7	4.8	3.5
Dunstable	13.8	13.4	13.4	13.4	14.6	13.4	12.6
Flitwick	0	2.6	2.6	0	0.0	5.1	2.6
Houghton Regis	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	6.9	0.0
Leighton Buzzard	3.9	4.9	3.9	3.4	4.9	4.4	3.0
Sandy	9	4.5	3	1.5	3.0	4.5	6.0
Shefford	2.5	2.5	5	0	2.6	2.6	2.7
Stotfold	0	5.6	5.6	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Average vacancy rate	4.3%	4.7%	4.7%	4.0%	4.4%	4.7%	3.7%

Source: Central Bedfordshire Council November 2018

2.1 Enabling Delivery in Leighton-Linslade, Regeneration and Business

HSIS: The High Street Improvement Scheme is now nearing completion in Leighton Buzzard with the final businesses currently going through the snagging stage. This will see an investment of circa £65,000 from CBC with the following businesses providing a total contribution to their improvements of £26,000:

- Shan Shui – snagging issues to be resolved with business
- Ollie Veas – awaiting confirmation re installation of awning sides
- Smile Creations – final checks
- Genaro's/A Touch of Class – final checks

MTRF: The Market re-launch and electronic signage has finally been installed and is operational, however there is an issue with regards to the mounting used for one of the signs which needs to be resolved between Ringway Jacobs and the signage supplier. The Town Council and CBC Highways are attempting to facilitate discussion to come to an agreement on the best route forward. The Town Council are making progress with the architectural lighting element of the project.

Future High Street Fund: All the Town Council's in Central Bedfordshire have expressed an interest in working with CBC to explore and develop possible projects that could form part of an Expression of Interest for Round 2 of the fund, due to be submitted in 2020 (MCHLG have yet to confirm dates). The first step of this will be

to put in place benchmarking across all towns to ensure that there is a consistent evidence base in place. This is something the Town Council have regularly done and CBC will be working directly with them on the refresh of this.

3 COMMUNITY SERVICES

3.1 Active Lifestyles

New Path/s

After long discussions we have finally completed and signed a permissive path agreement with Rockwell Collins regarding putting a new footpath and bridge across southern Meadows – linking Tiddenfoot Waterside Park to Grovebury Road. Contractors are currently designing the Bridge and identifying a work plan of installation. New path has been installed in Grovebury Quarry / Southern Meadow that connects to the newly to be installed path / bridge, this links effectively to Sandhills to Tiddenfoot Waterside Park as connecting path.

Tree Works

Considerable surveying and follow up tree safety works have been undertaken along the Riverside Walk (River Ouzel), Appenine Way (Clipstone Brook) this autumn and winter.

3.2 Rushmere Country Park

Gating and Fencing.

Bollards are to be installed around the shed and wooden gates at the track entrances.

Due to previous reported break-ins the centre CCTV system has been upgraded and systems introduced for the new workshop and also for Stockgrove building.

Education visits to Rushmere continue despite traditionally being a quieter period for learning in the park. A total of 12 accompanied visits were recorded engaging 287 young people. Education visitors came from Houghton Regis, Heath and Reach, Milton Keynes, Leighton Linlade and Dunstable and ranged in age from 4 year olds to post 16 NVQ students at Central Bedfordshire College undertaking survey work and practical tasks on Lords Hill helping to restore the heathland habitat.

Conservation

The Oak Wood Habitat Restoration Project continues with ongoing volunteer tasks and vegetation management works following on from the significant habitat restoration works, part-funded through the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership (through to the end of 2020). Funding has been secured for the production of a Trail leaflet, which includes family fun activities, plus a small number of low-level waymarking posts to aid navigation.

Car Park Barriers

The new contactless payment system at Rushmere exit has been installed. Testing of operation has resulted in software having to be reconfigured. All seems to be working ok. CCTV at the barriers is to be improved subject to a new line being installed.

New permit only barrier system at Shire Oak Heath has been installed. Communications and signage now being put in place and the barrier is operational.

Toilet block at former Stockgrove Park entrance have been refurbished

Key issues:

- Identifying a programme of works with CBC Highways regarding drainage ditch and tree works along Linslade Road

Looking Forward:

Key Priorities over the next 3 months:

- To promote / open access to Grovebury Quarry (open space) and Southern Meadows new bridge and path installed – after works are completed.
- Options appraisal of Tiddenfoot Waterside Park – derelict stable block – options available March 19, regrettably this has not been undertaken, will be looking to invigorate project in next three months.
- 3 phase power - UKPN have completed 50% of works, but are now delayed due to complications with transformer poles and earthings. Expected to return to site to complete works in late July, but further delays evident. Due to delays UKPN have promised to closely liaise and coordinate with Greensand Trust and our electrical engineers to ensure downtime is as limited as possible.

Key Messages:

- Continue to support the friends of TWP and Linslade Wood – a valuable volunteer resource

3.3 LEIGHTON BUZZARD LIBRARY (@ Feb 7th 2019)

Leighton Buzzard Library reopened fully on June 12th after a 6 month closure of the ground floor due to flooding.

Staff were thrilled to welcome back our many customers who had continued to visit our 'mini' library during our closure and who could now enjoy our refurbished ground floor!

Through the summer months we have taken part in the national Summer Reading Challenge for young people as well as putting on children's craft events, Lego club, story time and rhyme time.

In October the library hosted a Family Learning Festival and put on numerous events including children's author visits, a back stage theatre pass and an introduction to wool crafts including spinning.

Since the refurbishment of the ground floor the centre has continued with its improvement programme and new internal doors have been fitted throughout the building. We have seen new signage fitted, both internal and external, highlighting and signposting the centre in our local community.

In recent weeks CBC Customer Services have moved in to the centre and have a staffed desk twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays on the first floor.

3.4 LIBRARY THEATRE

The Theatre continues with its varied programme of film, music, event cinema, comedy, Movies for the more mature, Leighton Babies (an exclusive parent/guardian screening) and live theatre.

January will see the introduction of Theatre Thoughts, inviting customers to share their thoughts, feedback and comments on our work, to help us to understand how we can provide a better service, enhance our current offer and expand our offer.

In January we welcome back the ever popular Leighton Buzzard Drama group in Panto! This year they will be performing Puss in Boots....Oh no they won't I hear you cry.....Oh yes they will!

This has been an eventful year for the centre and we look forward to the New Year and the possibilities it offers.

There are many easy ways to book your favourite films, theatre performances, plus stand-up comedy at Leighton Buzzard Library Theatre. Visit <https://centralbedfordshire.ticketsolve.com/shows> to see what's on and book a show.

3.5 TIDDENFOOT LEISURE CENTRE

Looking back

We achieved:

- Completed in a global exercise challenge Technogym's Lets Move For A Better World. Tiddenfoot LC coming 36th in the country. This is the highest amount of MOVES the leisure centre has done and the best result the leisure centre has had in this challenge.
- In January and March over 50,000 customers used the facility and 3,000 access the AquaEd programme.
- Increased the amount of under 16 enter the leisure centre Jan-March 2019 compared to Jan-March 2018.
- Also increasing the amount of over 65 into the leisure centre between the same period as last year.

Key highlights:

- Had a charity bake sale for The Brain Tumour Charity which has been a successful.
- SLL's Managing Director - Ian Morton came to site to deliver customer nominated WOW! Awards to Heather Reading - Aqua & Body Balance instructor, Mandy Bruce - Swimming Teacher, Lucy Gregory - Gym Manager
- Successfully hired a New Centre Manager and we have also hired new Duty Managers at the Leisure Centre.
- Crash courses are going to be running again at Tiddenfoot from February half term. We are also working on restructuring our Aqua Ed swimming lessons to reduce number sizes to give a better quality of lesson and increase the number of classes that are offered. This is giving us the opportunity to increase our capacity and also improve service.
- Working in partnership with CBC & ELFT Tiddenfoot are hosted a new mindful yoga session which will be followed by tea and coffee and chats with ELFT professionals. Only people with mental health issue will be invited to attend through the council, ELFT and GP referral scheme.

Looking forward

We are planning:

- Running a lifeguard course, to have more lifeguards at the leisure centre.
- At Easter there will be NO JOINING FEE at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre if you bring in a boxed Easter egg when joining in centre! We'll be donating all eggs received to charity to help those less fortunate

Key messages:

'SLL will continue to improve the health and wellbeing of its local communities by providing the best leisure and cultural opportunities for all.'

3.6 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TEAM

Xplorer – Rushmere park - February Half Term 191 Participants

Active Lifestyle Referrals - 16 patients referred via the GP into exercise

Yoga – Fridays 2pm – 3pm at Astral Park. Approx 8-10 participants per week

Seated Exercise & Boccia sessions running in the following settings:

- Hamilton Court
- Tudor Court
- Finches crescent

Walking Football

- Approximately 10-15 attending per week. Currently looking for a Football Coach to cover the session. Wednesday Evenings at Cedars Upper School.

Mental Health

ELFT – East London Foundation Trust has launched a programme in partnership with Stevenage Leisure Ltd. Mindful Yoga sessions have been organised to promote physical and mental wellbeing. The sessions are delivered by a qualified yoga instructor working alongside coaches trained in mental health first aid.

Participants are encouraged to stay after their exercise, enjoy complementary refreshments and speak with Trust staff who will offer advice on mental wellbeing and signposting to other services and support networks.

Mindful Yoga takes place every Wednesday at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre in Mentmore Road, Leighton Buzzard. It is from 1.45pm-3.15pm

Waste

Looking back

Key highlights:

Several litter/dog waste bins around Leighton have been replaced and/or reinstated.

The High Street and surrounding main roads have been steam cleaned.

As in previous years, the Council is providing assistance for Town & Parish Councils taking part in the Great British Spring Clean 2019. An email was sent out to in February giving details. Once again our contractor will be available to remove any bags of litter collected and bags from Keep Britain Tidy will be available for collection from our offices. If you require further information or wish to arrange collection of any bags please email WasteServices@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Key issues:

Dog warden patrols for dog fouling have been carried out in: Bassett Road, Billington Road, Kestrel Way and Vandyke Road.

Looking forward

The garden waste collection has now restarted as per dates below, initial problems with contamination and confusion around collection days are anticipated based on previous years' experience.

The Grounds Maintenance Service also recommenced on Monday 4th March (weather permitting).

Initially this will be in the rural areas but moving out to the Towns shortly thereafter. We have negotiated a service improvement in respect of the South Grounds Maintenance Service and, again weather permitting, we anticipate a 14 cut cycle this cutting season.

Garden Waste Suspension

Garden waste collections resumed on Monday 4 March 2019 and all residents should have received a bin hanger giving full details. All garden waste must be contained with the wheelie bin we provide only. All large branches, trunks and plants should be cut down to fit inside.

Full details of what can and cannot go into your garden waste bin can be found on the Council's website.

For more information about changes to your garden waste collection please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/garden-waste

4. HIGHWAYS

4.1 Jetpatcher

Following a cold winter where the snow, sleet and ice has caused damage to our roads we have bought back in the Jetpatcher to help get our roads back to a good condition.

We will be taking the Jetpatcher all around the area and it will be visiting Leighton Buzzard and surround areas throughout the beginning of April.

You can keep up-to-date with the progress of the Jetpatcher by following the highways twitter account @CBC_Highways.

4.2 Gully cleaning

You can keep up-to-date with the works by following us on Twitter @CBC_Highways

We will be repairing streetlights in the area in the near future so if you would like to report a broken streetlight please do this through our website.

4.3 Resurfacing Plan online

The council's resurfacing plan is now online, providing details of which roads will be resurfaced. Dates are still to be confirmed but the roads from Leighton Buzzard are available on our website, here:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/transport/service/about.aspx>

4.4 Report Issues Online

Our Highways team would like to remind people to report any issues they see on the roads online, via their website.

You can report most highways problems online including [potholes, faulty streetlights, damaged pavements, faulty traffic lights, drainage problems, damaged signs and much more.

If you report a problem online your report will go straight to an engineer and you will also be given a unique tracking number so that you can keep up-to-date with your report.

You can report issues online by visiting www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/reportit

4.5 Winter Maintenance nearly over

The winter maintenance has nearly come to end with the council doing over 60 runs throughout this winter period. This has been a slightly milder winter than last year where the highways team had to battle the 'Beast from the East' but the council still, for the most part, kept people moving throughout the colder weather.

Whilst the gritters are unlikely to be back out again until October our winter maintenance team members will be keeping an eye on the conditions should they take an unexpected drop in April

4.6 Parking enforcement

The following works in Leighton, Linslade and surrounding areas have been put forward for completion:

Bassett Court, off Dogget Street	Mary Basset Lower School	School markings need to be repainted
Dudley Street	Disabled Bay	Needs repainting
Victoria Road, near The Gables	Disabled Bay	L/W sign needs to be moved to within the L/W bay
High Street, Leighton Buzzard	o/s All Seasons dry cleaners	2 additional signs for 'disabled badge holders only' parking added to the end bays and also road markings painted for both end bays 'Disabled'
Mill Street, Leighton Buzzard	Up to house no. 15	DYL's and SYL's need refreshing

North Street	All limited waiting bays nr. Halfords	Need repainting
Brooklands Drive nr. Junction with South Street	SYL needs post and sign: No waiting 7 am – 7 pm.	(next to house no. 83 sign and post needs to be on Brooklands Drive)

Key

L/W: Limited Waiting Bay

SYL: Single Yellow Line

DYL: Double Yellow Line

D/B: Disabled Bay

O/S: outside

From 1st November 2018 to 28th February 2019 1,057 PCN's have been issued in Leighton Buzzard and 266 issued in Leighton Linlade.

2281 visits have been made to Leighton Buzzard and 762 visits have been made to Leighton Linlade.

5. YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES

The figures presented below are based on the data stored within the Youth Support Service's CCIS database for young people who are currently not in education, employment or training (NEET) recorded at the end of February 2018. Since tracking is an on-going process, the numbers will fluctuate throughout the month as information is received and recorded.

1) Update on NEETs within the wider Central Bedfordshire area

Headline Figures for the whole Central Bedfordshire area			
Cohort	Total number of young people	Positive destinations (EET)	NEET destinations
16 year olds / Year 12	2809	2714	79 (2.8%)
17 year olds / Year 13	2859	2681	105 (3.7%)
Combined cohort	5668	5395	184 (3.2%)

2) Overview for the Leighton-Linslade area compared to other local areas

	Dunstable	Houghton Regis	Leighton-Linslade
Total YPs in area	797	456	864
EET	761 (95.49%)	428 (93.86%)	829 (95.95%)
NEET	29 (3.64%)	23 (5.05%)	29 (3.36%)

Unknown/Refused	7	(0.88%)	5	(1.1%)	6	(0.7%)
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3) Characteristics of the NEET Group in the Leighton-Linslade area

a) Summary of the individual Leighton-Linslade wards

Ward	Total number of YPs in the Year 12-13 cohort	Total number of YPs recorded as NEET	% of NEET within ward
Leighton Buzzard North	297	13	4.38%
Leighton Buzzard South	268	12	4.48%
Linslade	212	3	1.42%
Heath and Reach	87	1	1.15%
Total	864	29	3.36%

b) Summary of the Leighton-Linslade NEET cohort by age, time and their current status

Actual Age (Year 12 & 13)		Length of Time NEET		Gender	
16 years old	12	Less than 3 months	15	Male	17
17 years old	10	3 - 6 months	12	Female	12
18 years old	7	6+ months	2	Other/Refused	0

c) Summary status of the Leighton-Linslade NEET cohort

Status		
Seeking Employment or Training	22	(75.87%)
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances'	7	(24.14%)

6 SCHOOLS

School Organisation & Capital Planning

School Organisation

We continue to monitor and adjust the forecast for school places required in the towns as a result of planned housing developments in Leighton Buzzard and Linslade. Our School Organisation Plan (2018 – 2023) is available on our website [here](#).

A need for new school places in Leighton Buzzard from housing developments to the west of the town resulted in the Council's Executive giving their approval (on 5 February 2019) for the proposed expansions of Gilbert Inglefield Academy and Vandyke Upper School (academy). The academies are to be expanded to provide an additional 2 forms of entry each from September 2020.

Central Bedfordshire is on the verge of significant growth over the next 15 -20 years as illustrated in the draft Local Plan. Our School Organisation Plan is already

forecasting significant pupil growth over the next five years, so we are seeking to develop a more strategic, long term plan, namely 'Schools for the Future', to map out how we best meet this growth in terms of school expansions, new school requirements or any other changes, to align our educational provision with the growth identified in our local plan. You can read more about the plan and follow its progress on our website [here](#)

School Admissions

Parents of children transferring to upper school in September 2019 were notified of the outcome of their application on 1 March (national secondary offer day). Across Central Bedfordshire 97% of applicants were offered their first preference school.

Parents of children starting school or transferring to middle school in September 2019 who applied by the closing date will be notified of the outcome of their application on 16 April (national primary offer day).

7. PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

7.1 Cheering Volunteering 2019

Nominations and grant applications for Cheering Volunteering 2019 closed on 8 April and the winners and highly commended will be revealed at the event at the Grove Theatre, Dunstable on Tuesday 4th June. The event is more than just awards it is full of exciting entertainment and a thank you to all volunteers for the time they give to helping others and their communities.

Photos of volunteer activity for the screenshow would be most welcome.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH

8.1 NHS Health Checks

The NHS Health Check programme aims to prevent heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and kidney disease, and raise awareness of dementia, both across the population and within high risk and vulnerable groups. Delivery of NHS Health Checks are being reported by 8 of the 10 Chiltern Vale GP Practices to eligible residents, aged 40-74 years.

GP practices continue to be the sole provider of the NHS Health Check programme; however, performance varies. As patients are entitled to one Health Check every five years, Practices have a target to invite 20% of their eligible population each year.

Due to a number of technical and data collection issues an update of current performance data is not available at the time of writing.

8.2 Stop Smoking Services

Public Health-commissioned Level 2 Stop Smoking Services are delivered in-house by Salisbury House GP Surgery. CBC Specialist Level 3 Support is delivered in Bassett Road, and Leighton Road are just referring in to the Level 3 Service.

From April to November 2018/19 inclusive, a total of 113 smokers set a quit date through these 3 services, which resulted in 71 successful quits. Bassett Road (150%), exceeded their set quitter target for the period, with Salisbury House at 78% and Leighton Road 57%.

Extended treatment programmes are available to residents with a Mental Health diagnosis or COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder). The Smokefree Baby and Me programme is also available for pregnant smokers.

Call one of our advisors free on 0800 013 0553 (press 1 for Central Bedfordshire)

Fax: 0300 300 8285

Email: stop.smoking@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

<http://www.smokefreebedfordshire.org/>

9. SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING

Integrated Health and Care Hub

Significant progress has been made since the last highlight report. Work on the strategic outline case and an overarching estates review to inform the Hub and Spoke approach is due to be finalised in March. The estates review document will help to identify key areas where there is insufficient capacity and what would be needed to meet the demands of the growing population.

There has been some local publicity on the Hub programme for Leighton Buzzard highlighting the current challenges for the GP surgeries in the area. CCG colleagues are managing the communication on this.

Housing

The Housing Service held an action day where they helped residents including with some decluttering of the storage sheds at Plum Tree Lane in late February and the Housing Service have booked a stall where we will amongst other things be promoting our tenant app at the Leighton-Linslade Carnival in July 2019.

10. LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

A summary of the work undertaken by the Pollution Team (part of Public Protection) in the Leighton Buzzard area from October 2018 to March 2019 inclusive:

We have responded to 15 complaints about commercial premises in the area, 27 of these were in relation to noise from commercial premises, from a variety of sources, the main culprits being pubs and construction sites. We also received and responded to 1 light nuisance complaint and 1 general service request.

The noise related in the main to one particular construction site and contractors working out of hours. This initially involved the councillors for the area and a number of complainants who had concerns with the mud on the road and contractors parking on the highway, and the relevant departments were passed their relevant concerns. We also served an enforcement Notice for the noise and the issue ceased.