

# **Wellbeing Project Update**

## **Town Council Report 17.3.2021 – Item 5**

### ***Portishead Wellness Partnership and North Somerset Wellbeing Strategy – the role of Portishead Town Council in system wide transformational change***

*This paper is for information only – no recommendations included.*

## **1. Background**

The Portishead Wellness Partnership (PWP) was presented as part of the Budget and Precept Presentation in December 2020.

The vision for the PWP is to improve access to community wellbeing and non-clinical mental health support services for all Portishead residents. The PWP aims to support and facilitate integration of Portishead's community wellbeing amenities into the wider health and wellbeing network of commissioned and voluntary organisations across North Somerset, and the newly forming Integrated Care System (ICS).

This paper provides an update on the status and context of the PWP. This update has been jointly produced by:

Portishead Town Council

- Councillor Polly Shepperdson - PTC (Wellbeing Lead Councillor)
- Councillor Janet Davey – PTC (Wellbeing Lead Councillor)
- Sarah Jackson – PTC Development Manager (PTC Officer)

## **2. Portishead Wellness Partnership key stakeholders**

- Richard Blows - Strategic Partnerships Lead, North Somerset Council (NSC)
- Fiona Cope – Chief Officer, Citizens Advice North Somerset (CANS)
- Paul Lucock – Chief Executive Officer, Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS)

## **3. Overview**

- Originally, pre-covid and pre-lockdown, the PWP was forming to support access to early intervention and preventative wellbeing services for Portishead residents. The pathway for residents who are unwell, ill or need medical support or intervention are relatively transparent – residents can access these interventions via established health services e.g. their GP, Minor Injuries Unit, by dialling 111 etc.
- For residents who are not unwell or ill but who may feel lonely, isolated, unsupported, unconnected and or just a little 'lost', the referral pathways and access to support are not as clear.

- PWP is forming to facilitate and support access to community wellbeing services and through partnership, 'link up' these type of non-clinical services to the wider network of services for the benefit of residents. Preliminary engagement highlighted that access to 'social prescribing' services in healthcare is one of the key gateways and referral pathways for residents who need wellbeing support while there is no corresponding signposting for non-medical amenities.
- When the pandemic happened and lockdowns began, the community wellbeing priority for residents became covid-related immediate community support e.g. help with shopping, prescription deliveries and phone support with volunteer 'buddies' etc. This community support became, and still is, a huge priority for residents as they tried to navigate new obstacles to wellbeing support and retain good mental health and strong community connections with friends, neighbours and families. The wellbeing needs of residents in Portishead also became more tangible and visible as a result of the pandemic.
- The Portishead Wellness Partnership is evolving to align with these mix of resident needs – the more urgent and localised short-term community support activities (e.g. shopping and prescription deliveries) but also the still prevalent and now increasing ongoing long-term wellbeing support needs (e.g. access to social prescribers, wellbeing advisors for benefits, debts or employment rights queries, mental health support etc.)
- This mix of resident needs has been explicitly noted in the development of a number of regional North Somerset wellbeing support initiatives e.g. North Somerset Together, NSC Public Health Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Sirona Locality Partnerships for Weston & Worle locality and Woodspring locality (which includes the Portishead area.)
- The PWP has been working collaboratively with these other initiatives and strategies to ensure joined up thinking and a place and a 'voice' for Portishead in the discussions, development and decisions of other wellbeing strategies.
- This mixture of 'drivers' and the changing external context of wellbeing services provision means that the PWP now sits within a complex but collaborative framework of 'partners' who share the objectives of minimising duplication of effort, and also follow the 'working in partnership' principles of the PWP.
- A number of these key PWP stakeholders have therefore kindly offered to present an update on their partnership working and how it relates to the PWP, Portishead Town Council and its role as a partner in the North Somerset wellbeing strategy.

#### **4. General update on the PWP**

a). Portishead has received interest from several organisations wishing to form partnerships and work together as part of the PWP. These include smaller, more local based community groups and organisations e.g. Wellspring Counselling, and larger community and voluntary sector organisations e.g. Curo; Alliance Homes.

b). Portishead Town Council, as a member of the North Somerset Together network, has been allocated £7.5k of funding from North Somerset Council for the covid response support PTC provided for Portishead residents. The terms of the funding state that the funding must be used as investment into the ongoing development of community-based support in the context of the emerging Portishead Wellness strategy.