

## **Item 313 - Place Based Working**

### **A Presentation by Ms Lynn Prescott (Wigan Council's Service Delivery Footprint Manager – Wigan North) and Ms Lucy Murphy (Wigan Council's Community Capacity Officer – Wigan North)**

#### **Council Meeting - 28 October 2020**

Ms Lynn Prescott explained that Wigan Council had been the front runner in relation to working within the community through the place-based working model for almost three years. Wigan had been divided into areas called Service Delivery Footprints and Ms Prescott was the manager for Wigan North, which was one of those areas. As 'Service Delivery Footprint' was something of a mouthful, the areas were going, in future, to be called 'Neighbourhoods'.

Wigan North was both large enough to provide sufficient variety and small enough to be compact and relatively easily managed. All the areas were designed to be like this. Ms Prescott's role was to act as a conduit between the LA and its partner organisations in the venture, e.g. the Police and GP practices. Since the start of the Covid crisis her role had included supporting communities. She had been helped in this by re-deployed Wigan Council staff and volunteers. Shevington Library was currently being used as an administrative hub at present.

During lockdown the hub had received referrals of residents who for a variety of reasons needed help with things like shopping. One of the roles of hub workers was to ensure that people were connected. Amongst the things they discovered was the fact that some people found themselves needing benefits cheques for the first time in their lives.

Ms Lucy Murphy had started in her role of Community Capacity Officer two weeks before lockdown. As such one of her responsibilities was to have been to co-ordinate the 'in Bloom' groups in their competition entries. With the advent of Covid the RHS had cancelled the 'in Bloom' competitions and Ms Murphy had found herself thrown in at the deep end in relation to providing support for the local community during lockdown.

In Shevington it had been the Community Association that had stood out and they had been contacted to see if they would help. The response was immediate and positive. Ms Prescott and Ms Murphy had worked with Parish Councillor Vicky Galligan, Vicky Little and Rev Jenny Brown, who between them had set up Shevington Community Pantry. This organisation now had more volunteers and was working together with Fur Clemt. It was quite sustainable.

Cases of Covid in Wigan North were currently very high. The area had the second highest number in the Borough and Standish was the worst hit community within the area. The highest levels of infection were currently in the 50 to 59 year age group. There were plans in the pipeline to run a campaign locally to raise awareness of the levels of infection and to encourage people to socially distance and act in a manner which protected themselves and others.

People who had previously been shielding were known to the team and would be encouraged to contact them if they needed further help in the future.

During the brief spell of quiet that had begun in July Ms Murphy had tried to meet as many local volunteers as possible. Once the second Covid wave had abated she would love to get

**Appendix A**

involved in local projects. One of her responsibilities was to co-ordinate volunteers and there were quite a few of them in Shevington.