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# Inclusive Neighbourhoods

Portfolio Performance  
and Resources  
Mid-Year Report 2021/22



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**ONESTOCKPORT**

Date:	12 Nov 2021	Version	1.0 (Scrutiny)	Approved by	AP
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# INCLUSIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS - PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW



## Portfolio Summary

I am pleased to present the Q2 portfolio performance and resources report, which has grown in scope and depth with great work continuing to develop.



As we now continue to work towards COVID-19 recovery, we also face new challenges which have been met by dedicated partners, officers and communities. To all of those who have demonstrated their commitment to achieving this portfolio's ambitions, and who continue to adapt to these challenges, meeting them head on – thank you. The on-going teamwork across sectors continues to make such an important difference to our borough and its communities.

Our VCFSE sector continues to thrive and grow, while our work to distribute DWP grant monies has supported 24,000 of our most vulnerable residents. Our commitment to tackling the inequalities faced by many people in our borough is paired with an equally strong commitment to promote equality – within our own organisation and externally through partnership working and collaboration. Last, our One Neighbourhood partnership model continues to develop and is exemplified by the newly formed Community Champions programme that co-ordinates support for people and local places.

A key strength of this portfolio continues to be its cross-cutting nature, working in tandem with other portfolios to address issues that are important to Stopfordians - school holiday hunger (C&F), tackling inequalities (AS&H) and inclusive growth (E&R) to name only a few. This PPRR highlights all of the positive work that we continue to do, setting the foundations for further success throughout 2021/22.

### Cllr Amanda Peers, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Neighbourhoods

#### Revenue Budget 2021/22 (Forecast)

	£000
Cash Limit	621
Forecast	621
(Surplus)/Deficit	0

#### Reserves

Approved use of reserves balance is held at £0.668m.

# INCLUSIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

## 1. DELIVERING OUR PRIORITIES



This report is based on the **2021/22 Portfolio Agreement**, considered by the Communities and Housing Scrutiny Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> June and approved by Cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The link to the Agreement can be [found here](#).

Updates on **key programmes of work and other activities** are referenced within the Portfolio Priorities within this section of the report, alongside the latest available **performance data**. This report reflects the picture as at the end of October where this is available.

**Performance measures** are reported where new data or forecasts are available since the Portfolio Agreement. Latest data across all measures is available via the Portfolio Dashboard and will be included in the Annual Report. These are categorised to reflect the Council's influence and responsibility as Council, Partnership or Contextual. These categories are used to determine the type of target used as numerical, comparator, direction of travel or if no target is set. Definitions for these categories and target types are included within the Agreement.

**Highlight and exception commentary** is provided for performance measures. Where performance or progress in delivering priorities has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting restrictions, this is reflected within the commentary. As highlighted in the Agreements, it has not been possible to set annual targets for some measures due to these impacts, but 'direction of travel' will continue to be shown for these. For those measures reported quarterly, a full-year forecast is included where possible, based on actual performance to date as well as any other factors that are expected to affect performance in future quarters.

The Portfolio Performance Dashboards are being launched alongside these reports, and the Inclusive Neighbourhoods Portfolio Dashboard can be [found here](#). This contains further historical trend data in addition to comparative data (where available) the latest of which relates to 2020/21.

The criteria for RAG rating and direction of travel status is shown below. The rationale for any variations to this will be clearly highlighted within the commentary.

### Key to symbols used in tables

	Red; Indicator is performing significantly (>5%) below target		Getting worse; The forecast year-end position for this indicator is less favourable than the previous year-end.
	Amber; Indicator is performing slightly (<5%) below target		Stable; The forecast year-end position for this indicator is within 1% either side of the previous year-end.
	Green; Indicator is on track or performing above target		Getting better; The forecast year-end position for this indicator is more favourable than the previous year-end.

**Bold measures** are included in the Greater Manchester Strategy outcomes framework and/or suite of 'headline' measures included in Corporate Report  
*Data in italics is provisional / forecast*

## **Priority 1: Building connected and inclusive communities**

### **Delivered by:**

#### **Supporting our VCFSE sector, including developing a shared VCFSE strategy**

We have developed and re-designed the framework of the Stockport Local Fund (SLF) to improve access to smaller grants and make larger investments in our third sector. Funding awards of up to £30k will be made in future rounds to support sector resilience and to sustain activity. The revised One Stockport Local Fund will launch in Q3. The fund will launch under the banner of One Stockport and will showcase the impact of previous SLF investments and the impact of the sector.

#### **Continuing to build strong networks and developing capacity - VCFSE support and engagement**

The VCFSE and Cross Sector forums continue to meet bi-weekly with good attendance across 40 agencies from across sectors. Quarterly Sector Connector events have also been held, bringing together voluntary, community, private and statutory agencies focusing on the shared challenges of resilience and inclusion.

We have connected with a number of multi-agency thematic networks, bringing their work in view of wider stakeholders and have engaged the sector on a range of key corporate and strategic priorities – from the Local Plan and Economic Plan to climate change and prevention recommissioning.

We have made strategic investments in the third sector infrastructure agency, Sector3, to support core running and the volunteer hub model that developed under covid, totalling £310k with further investments planned in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and food networks.<sup>1</sup>

We have developed our Learning Pool facility to support VCFSE training needs, giving access to third sector partners through an initial pilot.

We have engaged our Cross Sector Forum in developing and shaping local social value priorities.

#### **Investing in innovative ideas developed through the Stockport Local Fund and bringing in external funding opportunities**

Following review and a redesign of processes, the One Stockport Local Fund will launch in Q3.

The number of partners working as part of the funding forum has increased to include all Registered Social Landlords and the next Funding Forum event will take place in early Q3.

We have agreed a process for Sector3 to support the delivery of our small grants programme from Q3 to increase the support available to applicants.

We have connected our planned Partnership Investments strand of the OSLF more systematically with services and undertaken engagement across services to ensure fund alignment with strategic and transformation priorities.

Alongside the recent launch of the OSLF, we have also been developing support, including funding, for communities to commemorate the pandemic within their local area. This work has been led via a cross party working group and recognises the different ways communities may want to

<sup>1</sup> [Community Investment Annual Report \(Communities and Housing Scrutiny Committee, September 2021\)](#)

commemorate the pandemic, whether this is as a memorial to lives lost or impacted or a celebration of how local people have come together. This work will be further progressed during quarter 3 and we will be working closely with local groups (such as Mutual Aid organisations) and elected members.

**Developing a shared framework with One Stockport partners to tackle inequality, with a particular focus on the impact of the pandemic across our communities**

A draft framework has been developed. This framework will provide an easily accessible model for all organisations in Stockport – no matter their sector – to consider how they can build approaches to tackle inequality into the way they work – either as a provider of goods or services; a purchaser or commissioner; an employer; or as a leader or role model in their sector or local community. It will form the basis of a campaign or “movement” to encourage small changes that add up to make a big difference. The framework has been shared at two bitesize workshops with a range of organisations and further shaped as a result of the input and feedback at these sessions.

The framework will be underpinned by a more detailed action plan. Work to develop this has started by mapping all existing plans (planned and underway) against the recommendations of the GM Independent Inequalities Commission Report and the GM Marmot report – which were both published in late 2020/21. Plans are also underway for a “Fair and Inclusive” summit in December this year.

As part of our commitment to fair and inclusion we are currently recruiting for a Head of Fair and Inclusive who will be crucial in leading and implementing the ‘Fair and Inclusive’ priorities within our recently adopted Borough Plan. They will work with colleagues across the council, public sector partners and community leaders, to influence and drive change – proactively making connections across wider strategic objectives, emerging research and best practice and ensuring people remain at the heart of how we change and new delivery models. This role will champion restorative ways of working and collaboration across our One Stockport partnership.

The Stockport community champion programme, which also supports the Adult Care and Health portfolio, was co-produced with the VCFSE and other partners. There are now 18 community champion organisations and a further 26 organisations who have benefitted from micro-grants to support community activity through the scheme. At least 45 champions have received the first level of champion training since it began in August (this number will increase as cascade training takes place within champion organisations), and over 100 individuals are receiving the regular newsletter. In total, over £374,650 has been given out in grant funding through this scheme to Stockport based organisations.

Community champions are volunteers who seek to support those who have been most affected by the pandemic through sharing information and supporting a range of activities with a core focus on health and wellbeing, including older people, disabled people and people from ethnic diverse communities. Champion organisation activities including targeted engagement to increase vaccine take up, COVID-19 awareness and community-led initiatives to improve health and wellbeing.

**Encouraging volunteering through the development of a volunteering strategy and volunteer hub**

The Stockport Volunteer Hub platform was formally launched in volunteer week, June 21, 2021. The dedicated web platform now allows volunteers to register and search for opportunities and for agencies to advertise their opportunities. More than 300 volunteers are registered on the hub and funding is now in place to facilitate dedicated recruitment to support the hub.

In Q1 and Q2, mobilisation to support COVID vaccinations has remained a priority. More than 50 volunteers are supporting COVID-19 vaccination clinics, alongside staff and community flu clinics. Volunteers have supported 62 sessions in total.

### Supporting our armed forces community

Our refreshed Armed Forces Covenant priorities focus on four key areas: supporting transition; connecting to available support; promoting our armed forces community; and finally leadership and advocacy. These priorities will shape our efforts moving forward, ensuring that veterans are able to effectively transition back into civilian life, are aware of and are able to easily access any support services they may require, feel supported and valued by the wider community, and are given due consideration and access to opportunities. These priorities were shaped by both the Armed Force Covenant Group through a series of workshops as well as responses to a survey that sought views from the armed forces community and those organisations that support our veterans, serving personnel and their families. This approach has been acknowledged in GM as good practice to be shared with other districts.

The final versions of the Summary of Achievements 2018-2021 and our Covenant priorities for 2021 – 2024 have been endorsed by Cabinet. Partners have been encouraged to take these priorities through their own governance processes where appropriate.


The Armed Forces Partnership Group has gained more traction, with a range of new organisations seeking to join the group, bringing a range of voices in the community together to shape discussion, improve communication and inform the implementation of existing and future initiatives designed to promote veterans’ access to services. This group currently includes representatives from across Stockport Council, Pennine NHS Care Trust and a range of stakeholders from across the VCSE sector with a dedicated focus on support from ex-service personnel and their families.

## Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Partnership Measures								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Q2 Interim	Target	Status	Trend
IN.1.1	Proportion of successful applications to the Stockport Local Fund (number of successful applications / total number of applications)	High	23% (54/231)	48% (42/86)	N/A	36%	N/A	N/A
New measure	Number of successful first-time applicants	High	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBC	N/A	N/A
New measure	Number of successful repeat applicants	High	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBC	N/A	N/A
IN.1.2	Proportion of Stockport Local Fund awards made as small grants (under £500)	N/A	22% (12/54)	100% (2/2)	N/A	27%	N/A	N/A

The Stockport Local Fund did not run in Q1 and Q2 of this financial year. The Fund will relaunch in Q3 as the One Stockport Local Fund.

Partnership Measures								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Q2 Interim	Target	Status	Trend
IN.2	Number of sector collaboration events held	High	N/A	10	32	10		
New measure	Number of community networks representing communities of identity	High	N/A	N/A	1	TBC	N/A	N/A
IN.3	Amount of external funding secured by VCSE organisations as a result of infrastructure support	High	N/A	£800,916	Q1 = £486,557 Q2 = £34,329	£100k		
New measure	Organisations engaged with Sector3	Contextual	N/A	N/A	Q1 = 46 Q2 = 21	N/A	N/A	N/A
In Q1 and Q2, 32 sector collaboration events have been delivered. These include: 2 x Sector Connector Events; 2 x Food Network meetings; 13 x Community Champions workshops; 3 x Public Health Q&As; and 12 x Stockport Equity Group meetings.								
Contextual Measures								
IN.11	GM Community Safety Survey indicators: - 'My local area is a place where people with different backgrounds get on well together	High	Strongly agree - 33% Tend to agree - 45%	Strongly agree - 29% Tend to agree - 47% (March 2021)	Strongly agree - 28% Tend to agree - 48%	N/A	N/A	
IN.12	GM Community Safety Survey indicators: - 'My local area is a place where people look out for each other'	High	Strongly agree - 35% Tend to agree - 49%	Strongly agree - 32% Tend to agree - 46% (March 2021)	Strongly agree - 31% Tend to agree - 47%	N/A	N/A	
IN.13	GM Community Safety Survey indicators: - 'I feel a strong sense of belonging to my local area'	High	Strongly agree - 38% Tend to agree - 39%	Strongly agree - 33% Tend to agree - 41% (March 2021)	Strongly agree - 32% Tend to agree - 43%	N/A	N/A	
Q2 forecast is the average across the four quarterly surveys undertaken in the year from July 2020 to June 2022								

Partnership Measure								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Q2 Interim	Target	Status	Trend
IN.14	Number of VCSE organisations	High	1630 (May 2020)	1672 (May 2021)	1672 (Oct 2021)	Aim to maximise	N/A	
<p>The State of the Sector report (Oct 2021) identifies that there are 1672 VCSE groups in Stockport and around 17,000 across Greater Manchester as a whole. In Stockport, 77% are micro organisations with an annual income under £10k compared to Greater Manchester where 71% of the VCSE sector are micro-organisations. 11% of the sector, 184 enterprises, in Stockport now identify as a Social Enterprise compared to 3% in 2017/17.</p> <p>63% of organisations in Stockport have at least one source of non-public sector funds, which is slightly lower than GM where 75% of organisations have at least one source of non-public sector funds, bringing significant value to the economy. This indicates a slightly higher dependency on public sector funding within Stockport.</p> <p>57% of organisations work across specific neighbourhoods and communities across Greater Manchester, whereas in Stockport, 48% indicated that they worked across specific Stockport neighbourhoods and communities.</p>								



## **Priority 2: Enabling all residents to benefit from local economic opportunities**

### **Delivered by:**

#### **Financial Resilience**

We have distributed £1m Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) funding to our most vulnerable households through a package of support comprising: holiday support vouchers for families in receipt of means tested free school meals (FSM); discretionary support for other vulnerable households; and investments our third sector partners including foodbanks and the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). Pilot investments have tested how we can use resources to support residents in debt with £10k investment in the CAB supporting residents to clear £141.5k of debt. Investments made through the DWP grant have benefitted 24,000 residents.

Government announced a national £500m Household Support Fund to support vulnerable families over the winter period (October to the end of March 2022) on 6 October. The funding allocation can be used to support identified families with the cost of food, energy, water and other related essentials over the winter period. The Council's funding allocation is £2.163m. Officers in consultation with Members are working up the details of the proposed scheme which will build on previous DWP funded schemes during the pandemic including: the continuation of support to our Free School Meal (FSM) families; enhancement of existing discretionary support administered by Support Funds; further targeted support to identified vulnerable families in the borough; and third party investments with the Council's partners such as Stockport Homes' Your Local Pantry and foodbanks.

We have had a presence at a range of local events such as Stockport Homes roadshows to promote the support and services available to those on low incomes and have developed a clear services guide to support agencies to refer their financially vulnerable clients. This includes developing approaches for signposting and referral for our most grassroots organisations where need can be identified and supported early.

More targeted identification of vulnerable households will begin in Q3 as we explore the potential of single view systems to identify those in need who may not be actively seeking support.

We continue to collate and analyse data from a range of sources and partners to understand the financial impact of the pandemic on our residents.

#### **Sustainable Food Systems**

We continue to consolidate Stockport's Food Network, supporting food partners to connect their clients with onward support through connections and knowledge including linking our food banks with Information Advice & Guidance (IAG), Adult Social Care (ASC) and Mental Health agencies. We will be exploring referral system enhancements in Q3 to smooth customer journeys and improve partnership working.

We have invested £30k in our food provider partners to ensure they have the infrastructure to cope with increasing demand, with a particular focus on enhancing the Stockport Homes Your Local Pantry offer which provides a more sustainable long-term solution to food poverty.

Stockport organisations are represented on the new Greater Manchester Food Security Action Network which will facilitate further collaboration and learning from GM neighbours.

### **Stockport Support Fund and Local Welfare Assistance**

The Support Fund Team have leveraged funding from several funding streams brought about in response to the pandemic. These have included resources from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF), and Humanitarian Aid Grant (HAG), and has enabled enhanced support through the core offer in addition to cash awards to cover up to five weeks basic living costs in households experiencing financial hardship due to loss of income brought about by the pandemic.

Support Funds has worked in collaboration with financial inclusion, Stockport Family, and business intelligence colleagues to deliver the Local Government Support Grants which have made cash payments to various cohorts of families with school age children to support them with food costs during school holidays.

Additional funding has been made available through central government for Local Council Tax Support and the Support Fund team act as the front door to this scheme.

Discretionary Housing Payments have seen a cut in budget year-on-year by the Department for Work and Pensions. This shortfall has been topped up to 2020/21 levels through HAG funding which sits within Revenues and Benefits.

A Financial Triage team has been created and sits alongside Support Funds to offer Information, Advice, and Guidance and to process high-volume administratively focused awards such as Local Government Support and the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme.

The full twelve-month review of the Support Fund team is complete and is due to be briefed. The review includes service redesign brought about considering the Greater Manchester Poverty Action Local Welfare Toolkit that aims to help local authorities and partners enhance their local welfare assistance schemes and measure their effectiveness.

Support Funds is currently in audit as part of the corporate support services audit programme. The findings of the audit and twelve-month review will form the basis for recommendations about the future funding models of the scheme and the offer to financially vulnerable residents in crisis.

### **Social value, including corporate social responsibility**

Following a period of activity and engagement with the steering group and VCFSE partners, a number of priority areas of focus have been identified, primarily related to capacity building and commissioning from both an internal and external perspective.

Training packages in relation to carbon literacy and social value have been developed and tested with the steering group. Roll out of this training commenced with an input to Stockport's looked after children provider forum, which was well received. The purpose of the training is twofold; initially to understand and develop the capacity of organisations to respond to social value requests in tender documentation; and secondly to ensure the council is articulating the social value requirements effectively within the tender process. Building this consistency in approach will enable us to better measure and understand the local impact of social value investment.

Priority themes and cohorts have been identified and are currently going through a sign off process with senior leaders and will subsequently be agreed at the STAR Procurement Board in November 2021. Again, identifying key areas of focus based on Stockport's needs will enable a clearer narrative to be developed in terms of social value impact.

The Stockport Mayor is also keen to maximise the opportunities in relation to social value and in particular is focussing on building and developing relationships and conversations across all of our sectors. Dialogue will be encouraged through a round table discussion forum in November. Aligned to this work will be the emerging Stockport Cross Sector Forum.

### **Supporting the development of the Economic Plan**

Following a consultation period with local stakeholders to agree the brief for the Economic Plan, Hatch Consulting have been appointed to lead the work on developing the Economic Plan, including:

- Developing an evidence base
- Local stakeholders engagement to support ongoing co-design
- Production of the Plan

The Evidence base is now almost finalised, and engagement has been happening with local partnerships such as the Cross Sector Forum and the All Ages Partnership. Ensuring Inclusive Growth is a key focus for the Brief.

### **Routes into employment, adult education and apprenticeships including local access programme and jobs match**

The Council's Continuing Education Service is well aligned to support people to achieve improved Maths, English and digital skills so that they are able to gain employment and contribute towards meeting employers' needs.









Funding for delivering Level 3 qualifications in Social Care is available and recruitment to courses will commence now that pandemic restrictions have eased. Further work on this through the Council's representation on the GM Skills and Work Executive Board is ongoing, as well as through the local Stockport Provider Network.

The pandemic stalled the promotion of apprenticeships as the Apprenticeship Store was closed thus allowing the Council's staffing resource to be diverted to work on the administration of COVID business grants. Work on this initiative resumed in August 2021, with planning for a virtual post-16 careers and information event delivered in October.

The business support team also resumed the promotion of apprenticeships to employers and the GM grant funding support of £3k to employers taking on new apprentices will be resumed. The tender for a 2-year contract for the long-term provision of Stockport Jobs Match has been finalised and has gone out on the Chest procurement portal in October. Further development of the offer has been completed so that job seekers who do not have a CV are able to use the system to request contact for support with this. The online platform has also been changed to be clearer and more accessible when using mobile phones as some residents only have access through this kind of device.

The work on a new Economic Plan for Stockport is due to be completed in early 2022. This plan will inform the new Skills and Employment Programme to address the needs of local businesses and where employment growth opportunities will align skills, training and qualifications for young people. Green Economy development will be a key part of this work.

## Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Partnership Measures								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
IN.16	Continuing Education – Classroom Based Learning Overall Pass Rate (number)	High	94.9% (1,653)	93.2% (1,350)	94%	97%		
IN.17	Continuing Education – Classroom Based Learning Overall Retention Rate (number)	High	98% (1,686)	96.3% (1,394)	97%	95%		
IN.18	Continuing Education – Classroom Based Learning Overall Achievement Rate (number)	High	93% (1,653)	89.7% (1,299)	92%	93%		
IN.19	Continuing Education – Learners from the borough's priority areas (number)	High	41.8%	39.8%	41%	45%		

*Pass rate* = proportion of learners who have stayed on a course to the end who achieve their learning aim.

*Retention rate* = of all people starting a course, how many stay to the end of the course.

*Achievement rate* = proportion of everyone starting a course who successfully achieves their learning aim.

These indicators show the overall performance of the Continuing Education Service (no subcontractors) on its Adult Skills Budget funded provision. This is largely externally accredited qualifications in English and Maths.

The 2020/21 data is for the academic year August 2020 to July 2021 – a period significantly affected by the pandemic. The year-on-year change of -2% represents 61 fewer learners.

The majority of adult learning for this period was delivered through remote/online learning and the recruitment of learners was challenging, particularly for those from priority areas. The Service has a number of partnerships with agencies and organisations that provide services and support to people living in priority areas, and a lot of our learners are recruited through referrals from these partners. However, the pandemic meant that a lot of the partner agencies had closed or reduced their face-to-face contact with potential learners and this led to a reduced number of learners coming through into learning with the Service. As we start to recover from the effects of the pandemic, partner agencies and organisations have resumed their usual service offer and so we expect to see a recovery in the numbers of learners recruited from priority areas.

The nature of the target learners that we try to recruit is that they are low on self-confidence and self-esteem; they have low levels of literacy and so are unlikely to navigate their way to adult learning through online or written information and the enhanced support offered through personal contact in face-to-face settings makes a big difference to their willingness to engage and participate.

A number of measures are being developed to reflect the wider aims of this priority, including;

- VCSE partners providing local welfare support
- Number of households benefiting from local welfare support
- VCSE partners working collaboratively to support sustainable food offer
- £ saved/ secured by local residents from money maximising events
- Contextual measure of households with income below borough average

### **Priority 3: Embracing and celebrating equality, diversity and inclusion**

#### **Delivered by:**

#### **Equality Objectives – to underpin the Borough Plan**

This objective includes both an internal focus and an external focus in order to ensure that promoting equality, celebrating diversity and embedding inclusion is at the heart of how we work with our communities. Four new employee engagement networks (BAME, disabled employees, carers and LGBT+) have been established – they all now have chairs appointed and have met a number of times. Recruitment of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead is underway and will lead on developing this work further.

#### **Community VCFSE Equality Networks**

As part of our commitment to building strong relationships we have agreed a strategic investment (as outlined under priority one of this PPRR) Sector3 for VCFSE based Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) coordination. These roles are supporting the ongoing development of the VCFSE based Equity Network which works to better connect EDI voices and organisations across Stockport. To complement this investment the Council is also recruiting to a new EDI lead. This role will report into the new Head of Fair and Inclusion (as updated within priority one of this PPRR) and work with colleagues across the organisation as well as with partners including Sector3.

#### **Promoting and supporting inclusive employment practice**

Through the work of the Corporate Equality Steering Group, the Council has started a number of workstreams with a focus on Inclusive Employment.

The workstreams include:

1. Social Value & GM Good Employment Charter Supporter/Membership
2. Guaranteed Interviews and job access for young people experiencing disadvantage
3. Kickstart placements and work experience opportunities
4. Qualifications, provision gaps and apprenticeships
5. SEND and supported employee programmes
6. Looked after Children/Care Leaver focus

The intention of the work is to ensure that the Council is doing the right things with regard to Inclusive Employment and this will provide a credible foundation for officers to then work with Stockport businesses to encourage and support them to do the same, for the benefit of the borough and its residents.

Progress has been made with the initial work to baseline what the Council is already doing, and initial actions are being developed to:

1. Meet with the Work and Skills Director at the GM Combined Authority to discuss and agree what can be achieved on addressing potential qualification gaps that could undermine social mobility
2. Increase the leverage through the Council's social value arrangements to get more work opportunities for target cohorts of young people
3. Offer 30 Kickstart placements in the Council for young people
4. Develop a policy paper to go to Cabinet proposing further measures to support young people through ring fenced opportunities in the Council, and specific social value requirements through the Council's procurement contracts for goods and services

Further actions across the workstreams will be developed over the next few months as more work is done on this.

Within our own organisation, we have continued to work to establish and embed employee engagement groups within the organisation. We are also promoting equalities training through the Chief Executive's e-mails and have updated our webinar training using feedback given from the Corporate Equalities Steering Group and employee engagement groups. Work with Sector3 leads is also underway to collaborate on equalities month (October) and support the recruitment of a new equalities manager role.

We have launched new job profiles to reduce the complexity of applying for role across the Council and therefore appealing to non-Council employees. To support young people into work, we are preparing our Kickstart programme which will offer 6-month placements.

We have been working to enable our supported employees to come back into the office and have a long-term plan in place. We are also delivering our workforce Let's Talk questionnaire and have plans in place to support reasonable adjustments for staff coming back into offices.

### **Developing and embedding approach to Equality Impact Assessments**

The council's new Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been trialled in all directorates and launched across the organisation. Enhanced support was offered to those trialling the approach and as a result of this and their feedback a comprehensive guide to the approach has been developed. The support offered, as well as the new guidance developed, reinforces the importance of relevant data and engaging with communities of identity in order to provide accurate and high-quality equality analysis that reflects residents' lived experiences.

A training session is planned for all Heads of Service and above, focusing on the Public Sector Equality Duty and the role that Equalities Impact Assessments play in ensuring that we demonstrate due regard to this duty when designing and delivering council services.

Work is ongoing to embed the EqIA process into all council decision-making, and the offer of support and introduction meetings will reinforce the importance of equalities throughout decision-making processes. The recent inclusion of an equalities section on all political decision-making reports will ensure that equalities impacts are highlighted and can be fully considered by decision-makers.

### **Performance Measures and Targets**

This priority runs through delivery plans, such as:

- Borough Plan (existing)
- Economic Plan (in development)
- Children and Young People's Plan (existing)
- Health and Care Plan (in development)
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy (planned)
- Digital Strategy (in development)
- Local Plan (in development)
- Safer Stockport Partnership Plan (planned refresh)
- Active Communities Strategy (planned refresh)
- Council People Plan (in draft)
- One Workforce Plan
- Other organisations' workforce or people plans and strategies

## **Priority 4: Working together across services to empower vibrant and safe neighbourhoods**

### **Delivered by:**

#### **The ONE Neighbourhood partnership model – interface with communities and inclusion**

Working with the Cabinet Member for Commissioning, Resources and Governance, as well as all Cabinet Members and partners, we will continue to develop stronger neighbourhood working to co-ordinate support for people and local places. The Inclusive Neighbourhoods Portfolio continues to focus on the interface between public services and priorities relating to communities and inclusion, including:

- We have worked with VCFSE organisations and community groups to develop and implement Stockport Community Champions, recognising and developing individual champions as well as champion organisations. Prioritising work with communities most impacted by COVID-19, we are working with communities of interest, including members of Stockport Race Equality Partnership, Signpost for Carers and local communities through groups such as the Heaton Norris Community Centre and ACE in Bridgehall. Working together, we are addressing vaccine uptake, COVID safety and wider health and wellbeing issues.
- We have used the successful Team Around the Place model to quickly establish a Team around the Hotel in September in response to Afghan evacuees coming to Stockport, ensuring they are connected to local community services, activities and support while they are in Stockport.

#### **Development and delivery of the Safer Stockport Partnership (SSP) Strategy**

Work is underway to develop SSP's next three-year strategy (2022-2025). An initial engagement event with SSP Board members took place on 15<sup>th</sup> July, and a further event, a One Stockport "bitesize session" took place on 7<sup>th</sup> October with a broad range of partners from across sectors. These sessions identified a range of issues that participants felt should be addressed in the new strategy.

Work on the strategic intelligence assessment has begun. This uses data and intelligence from a range of sources and will provide the evidence base that will underpin the strategy. It is anticipated that the Strategic Assessment will be completed during October/November 2021, with an initial draft of the new strategy being drawn up by the end of 2021 with a view to a final version being agreed and launched in April 2022.

An All-Party Member group was convened to provide political oversight of the strategy development process, and its first meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Key activity during April to September 2020 includes the following:

- There has been an increase in numbers of referrals to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) along with an increase in the complexity of domestic abuse cases. Additional resources have been identified to reduce waiting times for Stockport Women's Aid services.
- A Domestic Abuse Programme Board has been established and consultation with stakeholders has been completed. This will enable the council and its partners to deliver responsibilities outlined in the new Domestic Abuse Act and make best use of the additional funding (£0.5m) made available to deliver these responsibilities.

- A peer-review of the Channel process was completed in July and the report's findings are currently being considered.
- Police, the Youth Offending Service and Stockport Homes have been working together to on targeted interventions aimed at addressing antisocial issues.
- 77 Afghan evacuees have arrived in Stockport and are currently being supported by a range of partners while their longer-term accommodation and other issues are addressed.
- Police operations have taken place to address organised crime and a cross border traffic operation with Cheshire Police is underway.

### Performance Measures and Targets

Partnership Measures								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
IN.5	Domestic abuse: re-victimisation	Low	30	N/A	N/A	Aim to minimise	N/A	N/A
IN.6	Victim-based crime per 1000 population	Low	67.15 (19,543)	N/A	N/A	Aim to minimise	N/A	N/A
IN.7	Violent crime per 1000 population	Low	21.5 (6,259)	N/A	N/A	Aim to minimise	N/A	N/A
IN.8	Thefts per 1000 population	Low	33.1 (9,626)	N/A	N/A	Aim to minimise	N/A	N/A
IN.9	Anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents recorded by Police per 1000 population	Low	21.2 (6,175)	N/A	N/A	Aim to minimise	N/A	N/A
IN.10	Public Order Offences - per 1,000 population (number)	Low	7.9 (2,310)	N/A	N/A	Aim to minimise	N/A	N/A

Issues with GMP data supply following implementation of a new force IT system have meant that the police recorded crime data needed to report on these measures has been unavailable in 2020/21 and is still unavailable to report at this time. These measures remain the most relevant measures and will be updated as soon as the data becomes available to publicly report again.

Although data on incidents reported to and recorded by GMP has been unavailable, tactical data and intelligence is being shared by Divisional Police providing insight into local crime and disorder patterns to the SSP Board.



# INCLUSIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

## 2. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MONITORING



### 2.1 Revenue – Cash limit

	Previously Reported (Q1.5)	Increase/ (Reduction)	Budget at Q2
	£000	£000	£000
<b>Cash Limit Budget</b>	573	48	621

#### Budget Changes since previously reported at Quarter 1.5

The cash limit budget has increased by £0.048m and includes a £0.002m reduction relating to a previous staffing related adjustment. A realignment of the budget in Adult Social care and Health, aligned to the agreed Support Funds service structure, has led to a budget increase of £0.050m into the Support Funds.

#### Outturn Forecast

Net Cash Limit	Forecast Net Expenditure	Forecast Appropriations	Forecast Outturn
£000	£000	£000	£000
621	621	0	0

The Portfolio is reporting a breakeven position. Most of the services within the Portfolio, including Support Funds and Neighbourhood Inclusion, are engaged in administering and distributing various grants to vulnerable citizens and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector.

In many cases staff and resources, are being deployed in the Councils response to the Department of Health's and Social Care's Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) initiative. This programme is aimed at reducing the spread of Covid-19 and supporting a broad range of public health initiatives. It is also anticipated that awards made through the One Stockport Local Fund initiative will be eligible for COMF funding.

### 2.2 Earmarked Reserves

The majority of earmarked reserves are held at a corporate level and services produce a business case to drawdown funds, which is approved through Corporate Leadership Team and Members. This strategic approach is designed to provide financial resilience for the Council and to ensure that Council reserves are used on an invest-to-save basis and to support Council priorities. The exceptions to this are ringfenced reserves and the Directorate Flexibility Reserve.

The table below reflects any approved revised balances in reserves, aligned to the 2021/22 Reserves Policy report approved by Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Reserve Category	Reserve Narration	To be used for	Balance of Reserve/ "Approved Use" £000	Planned use of Reserves / "Approved Use" 2021/22 £000	Balance of Reserve/ "Approved Use" £000
Strategic Priority	Community Investment fund	One Stockport Local Fund	623	0	623
Corporate Reserve	Revenue Grants	Emergency Assistance Grant C/Fwd.	45	0	45
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>668</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>668</b>

## 2.3 Portfolio Savings Programme

There are no savings requirements affecting the services within this Portfolio for 2021/22.