



**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Stockport**  
**team**  
**ambition**  
**respect**

# Inclusive Neighbourhoods

## Portfolio Performance and Resources Annual Report 2021/22



[www.stockport.gov.uk](http://www.stockport.gov.uk)

**ONESTOCKPORT**

Date:	1 June 2022	Version	1.0 (Scrutiny)	Approved by	SMT
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# INCLUSIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS - PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW



## Portfolio Summary

We continue to build connected and inclusive communities through a variety of partnerships and investment approaches. This quarter has seen the re-launch of the One Stockport Local Fund with bid applications worth over £1.4m. We have further developed our training packages with partners to support the on-going development of the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector and continue to work with Sector3 to develop our shared VCFSE strategy. At the same time, our Community Champions programme and Volunteer Hub are growing strong. We are pleased to say that Stockport have also received a Silver Award under the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme and are currently working towards meeting the criteria for gold status.

We are continuing our work to develop the Stockport Food Network, help residents maximise their incomes through the Spend Well Live Well campaign, and increase digital inclusion with focussed work taking place in Lancashire Hill. We have also distributed more than £2m to support our most vulnerable households and those living on the lowest incomes as part of the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund. To help those in crisis access local welfare assistance more quickly and easily, we successfully launched a Trusted Partner pilot scheme to fast-track Support Funds applications. A new financial triage team has also been established to further support the council's financial inclusion and resilience projects.

We are continuing to support residents to take advantage of local economic opportunities through the ongoing development of our social value objectives and contracts. A new project that links social value offers with the council's Climate Action Now priorities is also underway. The importance of effective Social Value approaches and commitments in supporting inclusive economic growth priorities is also recognised in the Draft Stockport Economic Plan.

To further promote equality, diversity and inclusion, the new Equality Impact Assessment template has now been embedded in council processes. The council continues to support inclusive employment practices, driven forward by the council's inclusive employment workstreams.

We are progressing our One Neighbourhood partnership model to help empower vibrant neighbourhoods across the borough. Our Vaccine Inclusion Group and Community Champions programme have also continued to work with communities of interest to promote vaccine uptake along with health and wellbeing. Q4 also saw the Safer Stockport Partnership 2022-2025 plan signed off with work now underway to develop an annual delivery plan.

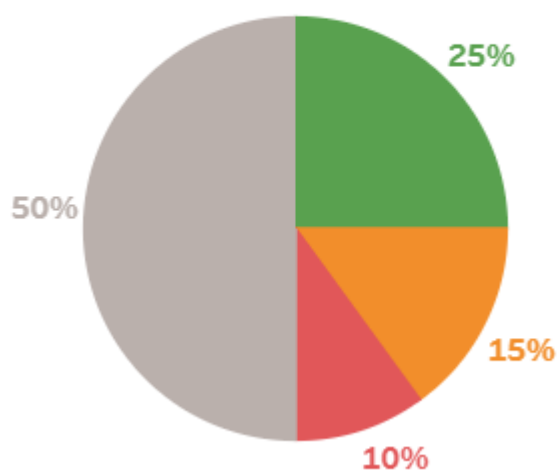
### Revenue Budget 2021/22 (Outturn)

	£000
Cash Limit	630
Outturn	630
(Surplus)/Deficit	0

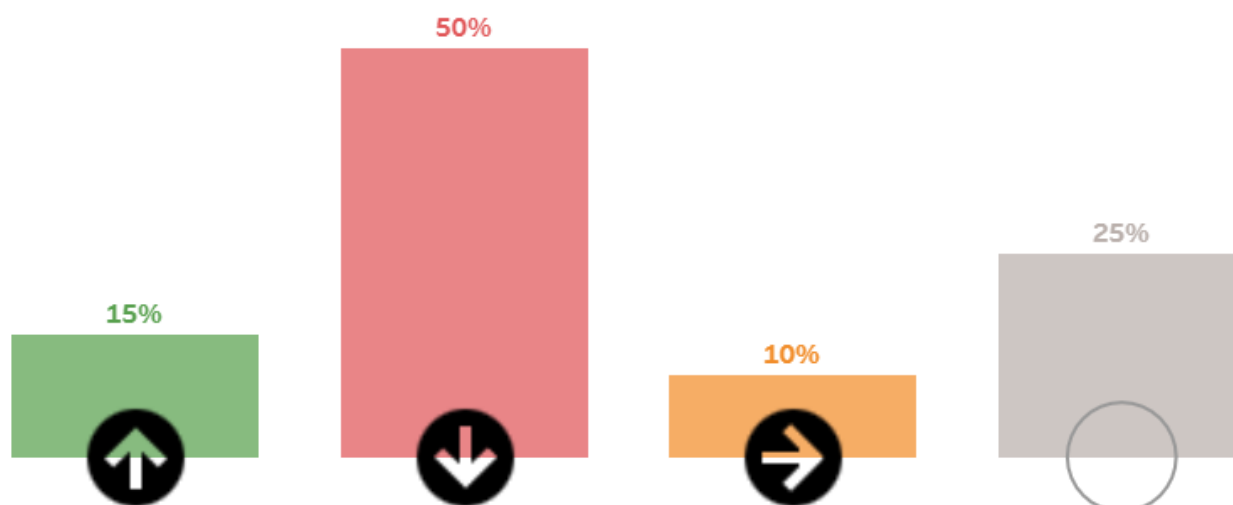
#### Reserves

Approved use of reserves balance is held at £0.743m; a net appropriation of £0.078m from them is included in the outturn, together with appropriations of £0.830m into reserves that are reported elsewhere.

### Portfolio Performance Summary – Inclusive Neighbourhoods Performance Against Target (RAG Rating):



### Performance Against Previous (Trajectory):



# 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 April 2022 where this is available.







**Performance measures** are reported for all measures included in the 2021/22 Portfolio Agreement. This will reflect the latest available data, which in most cases will be the 2021/22 out-turn. 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, setting out the key factors, including the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting restrictions, which have impacted on performance. As highlighted in the Agreements, it has not been possible to set annual targets for all measures, but 'direction of travel' will continue to be shown for these. For those measures reported quarterly, actual performance for Q4 is included where this differs from the full year out-turn figure.

The updated Portfolio Performance Dashboards are published 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 year-end position (forecast or actual) for this indicator is less favourable than the previous year-end.
	Amber; Indicator is performing slightly (<5%) below target		Stable; The year-end position (forecast or actual) 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 year-end position (forecast or actual) 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 led collaborative partnerships with the VCFSE sector and partners to support and encourage communities to help each other. Sector Connector events have supported this approach by bringing together partners from the public, private and voluntary sector to work together building on our One Stockport borough plan vision.

We received significant interest in the most recent round of the One Stockport Local Fund - an update on this is provided later in this section. A number of support areas wider than financial investment were identified through this process and we have been working closely with Sector3 to respond to feedback from the Sector about the wider support they would find useful. This has included developing training packages with partners to support the sector and delivered sessions on safeguarding and funding. We have also formed strong relationships with local training providers to ensure that training is co-designed with communities.

The commissioning of Sector3 is further progressing our aim of a shared VCFSE strategy and will help realise the full potential of the voluntary sector to achieve our shared priorities for Stockport. Strategy design work commenced in mid-May, with workshops planned for June and July 2022.

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

We are continuing to identify areas where voluntary sector involvement can add value while also building governance structures, relationships and strategies that will embed the VCFSE sector in our delivery to achieve better outcomes for communities in Stockport.

We are in the process of setting up forums to bring together groups with shared interests to discuss concerns, shape council policies and increase engagement. This will also allow us to strengthen relationships with Stockport residents so that services are designed by the people using them. The cross-sector VCFSE forum continues to meet bi-weekly with good attendance. Work to develop EDI networks has also commenced (further detail about our equalities work can be found under Priority 3). The council's Climate Action Now team are also working with Sector 3 to develop a climate and environment network with VCFSE organisations, which has thus far received strong interest.

Lancashire Hill Voluntary network meetings continue to run to support networking in the Lancashire Hill community.

The Homes for Ukraine Scheme is now looking to bring together public sector and VCFSE organisations to provide wrap around support to people arriving in Stockport from Ukraine. Additionally, on-going work continues to develop community support offers for evacuees and asylum seekers.

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

Funding is an essential component of voluntary sector growth, and we acknowledge that without investment growth the sector will stall. As such, we have worked to support the sector to improve knowledge of funding opportunities, providing advice and support through workshops and 'Meet the Funders' events.



We are regularly attending Social Value Steering Group meetings to identify ways in which the VCFSE sector can link in with our contractors and local businesses to develop investment and in-kind support for the VCFSE sector in Stockport.

Round 6 of the One Stockport Local Fund was heavily subscribed receiving applications for bids worth over £1.4 million. We have set out to support unsuccessful applications with funding searches, grant applications and advice on how to strengthen bids. Support for those with unsuccessful bids was also found by leveraging social value with contracted providers.

Review of the One Local Fund is planned for June and July 2022 when we will engage communities in the co-design of support and funding for future rounds.

Regular meetings funders, such as Lottery and Stockport Homes, also continue to identify opportunities for joint funding. Organisations who were not successful in the latest round of the One Stockport Local Fund have been offered ongoing support to develop their business models, identify opportunities for income generation and explore alternative sources of funding.

### **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 new Head of Fair and Inclusive Stockport has been recruited and began their post in February 2022. Priorities are now being developed to align with the One Stockport Borough Plan and the feedback gathered from the Fair and Inclusive summit held in December 2021. Initial priorities include:

- Leading the council's accreditation as a full member of the GM Good Employment Charter including accreditation as a Real Living Wage employer.
- Supporting the co-ordination of our financial resilience offer around welfare benefits, debt advice and food and fuel poverty. As part of this we are running a Pension Credit uptake campaign alongside our rollout of COVID-19 booster vaccinations for over-75s.
- Ensuring that fair and inclusive issues are fully reflected across a range of council strategies including the Economic Plan, Local Plan, and Stockport Local Transportation Plan.

Other areas being explored include school readiness and attainment as well as access to work and employment opportunities.

The Community Champions programme is led by the ASC and Health portfolio in close partnership with the Inclusive Neighbourhoods portfolio. As such, an update is provided here for information.

Community Champion anchor organisations continue to recruit Champions (staff, volunteers, and trustees). We have updated the Welcome Session Training to make it more concise and flexible. These training sessions are being delivered by organisations, not only to their own staff and volunteers but to other groups and networks. At least 790 Community Champions have been engaged with (as of February 2022) and at least 195 Community Champions have undertaken the Welcome training.

Champion organisations meet regularly in a lively network to exchange ideas on engagement, supporting people to share lived experiences, supporting Champions, and more. Anchor organisations continue to report their activities monthly using an online form to provide regular updates on the lived experiences they have captured, challenges faced and any additional support they require. Smaller projects also submit progress and monitoring reports. Monthly planning and progress meetings are held with partners such as PIE / Rising Stars who work with young people

on communications and media, as well as Starting Point / Stockport College who deliver the advanced Champions training.

A range of communications have been produced to raise awareness in Stockport about Community Champions and to recruit more volunteers. This includes an [animated video](#), written and video stories for sharing on the One Stockport website and social media. For example, you can learn more about Jade, a young woman who supports young people through Rising Stars, by clicking [here](#).

The Community Champions programme also produces a fortnightly newsletter. The focus of this has moved away from COVID-19 and on to wider health and wellbeing issues in Stockport, as well as featured stories from Champions.

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

In December 2021, volunteers supported booster vaccination clinics as stewards; supported Stockport Foodbank with food deliveries; and fulfilled various roles at Your Local Pantry sites across the borough. Local businesses have also shown an increased interest in Employee Volunteer Days.

On Average, 10 new volunteers signed up each week. In total, we now have 584 volunteers on record with more than 100 people waiting to be contacted and matched to roles. Recruitment has taken place by Sector3 for a Volunteer Hub Lead, and it is expected that this new post will be in place in early summer 2022.

### **Supporting our armed forces community**

Under the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme, we received a Silver Award and are currently working towards meeting the criteria for gold status.

Significant work has taken place this year to develop local networks among the armed forces community and service providers, promoting the role of the council as a facilitator of services that are led by the community itself.

Internal networks are being developed to ensure clear internal and external communication on issues and services relevant to the armed forces community including funding streams with the nomination of single point of contact for clarity and ease.




Work has started to build an Armed Forces Support Service Directory with information and points of contact for our partner organisations to be disseminated through partner and council channels. This tool, due to be completed later in 2022, will raise awareness between partners to promote joined up working while also providing information for individuals from the armed forces (or their families) seeking to access support. We are also currently working with partners to establish a regular veteran's event at the Stockport Foodhall with support from local small businesses.

Using a proportion of the cabinet one-off investment in the Armed Forces Covenant delivery, an Armed Forces Celebration Fund was established to support the implementation of events for Armed Forces Week (taking place from 22 June), enabling local organisations to add to their existing plans to promote and celebrate this important week raising awareness of our Armed Forces.

We continue to work alongside GM to promote a region-wide model for engagement including assisting with new training on the Armed Forces Covenant as well as the development of a 'no

wrong door policy' to ensure that service users are directed to the most relevant support to them, first time, every time.



## Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Partnership Measures								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Perform-ance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
IN 1.1a	Proportion of successful applications to the Stockport Local Fund (number of successful applications / total number of applications)	High	23% (54/231)	48% (42/86)	41.5% (47/113)	36%		
IN 1.1b	Number of successful first-time applicants	High	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
IN 1.1c	Number of successful repeat applicants	High	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	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)	78%* (14/18)	27%		N/A





Round 6 of the One Stockport Local Fund had a total of 113 applications equating to £1.4m. This is the largest number of applications we have received in a single round of the Fund. Regarding the trend for IN 1.1a and IN 1.2, it is important to emphasise that:




- These indicators are performing well and that the comparison figures for the 2020/21-year-end-position note significantly fewer applications in absolute terms. This is especially true with regards to micro grants.
- No trend marker has been given for IN 1.2 because the threshold for microgrants has changed from under £500 to under £1k. The reported figure for this report reflects the new threshold of £1k.
- Significantly more grants this year were for higher funding values than last year. With 95 of these for grants with a value greater than £1k. Of these, 37 applications were for funding exceeding £20k and 14 for funding between £10k and £20k. 26 applications worth more than £1k each were successful with their bid. There were 14 of 18 successful applicants in the micro grants\* round, totalling £19,172.90. An additional 7 of these applications were aligned to grant funding set aside for armed forces (as noted earlier in the PPRR)

Regarding IN 1.1b and 1.1c, 67 of the total applicants to the One Stockport Local Fund have been funded previously; however, we do not currently have figures for the number of these that were successful in the overall pool of applicants. We are currently reviewing the One Stockport Local Fund, including reporting mechanisms where this information will be collated in the future. This measure will also be reviewed as it would also be helpful to identify the amount of investment awarded to Stockport VCFSE organisations from other sources outside of the One Stockport Local Fund.

Partnership Measures								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Perform-ance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
IN 2a	Number of sector collaboration events held	High	N/A	10	90	10		



Partnership Measures (continued)								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Perform-ance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
IN 2b	Number of community networks representing communities of identity	High	N/A	N/A	1 umbrella network (40 individual networks)	N/A	N/A	N/A
IN 3a	Amount of external funding secured by VCSE organisations as a result of infrastructure support	High	N/A	£800,916	£868,349	£100k		
IN 3b	Organisations engaged with Sector3	Context-ual	N/A	N/A	50	N/A	N/A	N/A
<p>In Q4, sector collaboration events included: 6 x VCFSE forums; 1 x Equity Network meetings; 2 x Stockport Food Network meetings; and 6 x Cross-sector forums. No additional drop-ins for the Stockport Local Fund were held in Q4 as the applications were being assessed during this period. This brings the year-end total to 90 events (Q1 and Q2 = 32; Q3 = 38; Q4 = 20).</p> <p>As a new measure, the baseline for IN 2b is being calculated. There is one Equity Network representing communities of identity in Stockport, and this is comprised of 4 working groups. Additionally, initial mapping has identified over 40 networks currently operating in Stockport and that are supporting priority groups including disabilities, age, ethnicity, mental health and faith.</p> <p>In Q4, £250,000 of external funding was secured by VCFSE organisations as a result of infrastructure support. This brings the annual total for 2021/22 to £868,349.</p> <p>Sector3 now provides one-to-one support to 50 different organisations.</p>								
Contextual Measures								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Perform-ance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
IN.11	GM Community Safety Survey indicators: - <i>'My local area is a place where people with different backgrounds get on well together'</i>	High	Strongly agree - 33% Tend to agree - 45%	Strongly agree - 29% Tend to agree - 47% (March 2021)	Strongly agree - 28% Tend to agree - 50%	N/A	N/A	
IN.12	GM Community Safety Survey indicators: - <i>'My local area is a place where people look out for each other'</i>	High	Strongly agree - 35% Tend to agree - 49%	Strongly agree - 32% Tend to agree - 46% (March 2021)	Strongly agree - 33% Tend to agree - 48%	N/A	N/A	

Partnership Measures (continued)								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Perform-ance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
IN.13	GM Community Safety Survey indicators: - <i>'I feel a strong sense of belonging to my local area'</i>	High	Strongly agree - 38% Tend to agree - 39%	Strongly agree - 33% Tend to agree - 41% (March 2021)	Strongly agree - 33% Tend to agree - 44%	N/A	N/A	
The 2021/22 figures above are from the period covering April 2021 to March 2022. Compared to Q2 and Q3 interim figures reported earlier this year, all Q4 figures show a slight increase for all three indicators. Upper figures remain relatively stable compared those reported for 2020/21 and lower figures have increased 2-3%.								
Partnership Measure								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Perform-ance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
IN.14	Number of VCSE organisations	High	1630 (May 2020)	1672 (May 2021)	1672 (Oct 2021)	Aim to max- imise		
The most recent figures remain those previously reported in Q2 from the State of the Sector report (October 2021). These are available on the portfolio dashboard. The full State of the Sector report can be found <a href="#">here</a> .								

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

### Delivered by:

#### Financial Resilience

As we continue to move through the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued to develop our social media profile through the Spend Well Live Well Facebook page. The group now has more than 1,100 members that share tips and advice that support financial resilience.

Officers are supporting Lancashire Hill volunteers to run a coffee morning in the neighbourhood community centre. At these sessions, officers have supported the local community to connect to and access services on a regular basis, including alcohol and drug addiction advice, as well as benefits advice. Online safety training was also delivered with the support of Digital Bees – the voluntary arm of the Co-operative Bank. This was well received by those who attended and given immediate support to improve their internet security. Further collaboration with Digital Bees is also being explored to bring workshops to Friendly Friday events in the future and to facilitate partnership working with Starting Point.

To support our most financially vulnerable households and those living on the lowest incomes, we have delivered targeted support through the Department of Work and Pension's (DWP) Household Support Fund. The £500m national support scheme aims to support vulnerable households over the winter period (October 2021 to the end of March 2022) with the cost of food, energy, water, and other household essentials. Stockport was awarded £2.163m, which has been delivered through a 4-pillar approach that built and expanded upon previous DWP funded schemes.

Under Pillar 1, our Holiday Support Voucher scheme distributed more than £1m to children in receipt of means-tested free school meals and vulnerable 2-year-olds. Just under 15,000 holiday support vouchers were issued to eligible families. Our fuel support scheme, Pillar 2, distributed just under £50k to 531 households in the form of cash or fuel vouchers. Under Pillar 3, we distributed 17,500 vouchers to those in receipt of Housing Benefit paid by the council and/or Council Tax Support. This totalled just under £800k. Finally, under Pillar 4, we made strategic investments in our third sector partners such as Stockport Foodbank, Age UK, Citizens Advice Stockport and others, totalling nearly £200k.

DWP have announced further funding as part of Phase 2 of the Household Support Fund. Stockport has been allocated an additional £2.163m and plans are being drawn up by officers in consultation with Members to deliver funds between 1 April 2022 and 30 September 2022.

We look forward to resuming our face-to-face Money Maximising Roadshows in June 2022, commencing first in Woodley following postponement due to COVID-19. Planning is currently underway and conversations with around 20 partners and organisations will bring services, advice, and support on a wide range of topics to the community at this face-to-face event.

Work is also under way to develop a refreshed financial resilience strategy and performance framework that will bring forward a co-designed and more joined up financial resilience support offer. The strategy will draw on quantitative and qualitative evidence to identify those most vulnerable, alongside the key issues that they face, to then refine existing local offers and develop new ones where appropriate. Improvements to signposting, digital access and digital inclusion, as well as the establishment of a Financial Resilience Data Group will further support this work and help to deliver a coordinated and accessible support offer.

### **Sustainable Food Systems**

The Stockport Food Network (SFN) continues to evolve and develop, and now includes 11 members - Cherry Tree Project, Sector3, Cracking Good Food, Stockport Foodbank, Chelwood Foodbank Plus, Marple Foodbank, Gatley Foodbank, The Wellspring, Handy Ladies, Fresh, and Ebony & Ivory Community Organisation. A shared Statement of Intent has been agreed alongside key aims. Additional capacity to further the work of the SFN has also been created through the joint commissioning of the Cherry Tree Project and Cracking Good Food.

Investment in our food provider partners has been made through the DWP's Household Support Fund to bolster supplies, meet increasing demand and continue to deliver sustainable long-term access to affordable food through Stockport Homes' Your Local Pantry.

Stockport organisations continue to be represented on the Greater Manchester Food Security Action Network which facilitates further collaboration and learning from GM neighbours.

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

Support Funds has been able to pull on several budget streams to bolster core funding in Q4. Moreover, the Housing Support Grant has enabled the Support Fund team to support a tripling in applications from households hardest hit by the cost-of-living crisis. Funding from Local Council Tax Support budgets has been used to bridge the shortfall in funding for Discretionary Housing Payments from the DWP. This resulted in the core budget and additional funding reaching 95% spent in year. The remaining 5% of funding is carried forward to 2022/23. Additional funding for the Support Fund team staffing budget has also been approved and we have recruited a further Full Time Equivalent coordinator. This is an additional two days for an existing staff member and a part time person is due to join us shortly.

A Trusted Partner trial scheme was successfully launched to enable key partners to fast-track applications for fuel vouchers via a separate streamlined application process using Verint.

The full review of Support Fund's first year has been completed and briefed to councillors and the Corporate Leadership Team.

A financial triage team has been set up and has additional funding agreed for 2022/23 to enable high volume transactional support to be carried out cost effectively and at pace. We have also used the national apprentice Kickstart scheme to further boost the Financial Triage team and have offered an opportunity for a young person to gain work skills for their future chosen career. Thus far, the team have processed applications for trusted partners, the Holiday Activity and Food Programme, school uniform grants, and various FSM-linked vouchers. The financial triage team have processed the £45 fuel payment award for eligible households on qualifying benefits or Council Tax Support as part of the DWP's Household Support Fund.

Support Funds has supported the initial arrivals with the Homes for Ukraine Scheme (H4U) in processing the £200 payment to the arriving person for essential items.

An audit has been completed and had two recommendations which have been implemented – the first around securing budgets for the medium term and the other around establishing a clear audit trail for management oversight of award checking.

Support Funds and the Financial Triage team are now fully recruited and have budgets in place to manage the medium term demands on the service.

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

The Social Value Steering Group is now well established and continues to meet on a 6-weekly basis with good representation from across the council, Stockport Homes and Sector3.

Work has now started to identify the most prevalent needs of those individuals and communities who are represented in priority cohorts and themes so that contract can describe the ask with more specificity. This should help to ensure that Stockport is making the most out of the social value opportunities that are available, especially within some of our larger value contracts.

The Commissioning Toolkit has been updated to reflect priority areas, and more recently, work has begun to develop bespoke training for commissioners to support them to develop, evaluate and monitor contract specifications with social value in mind.

Work has also begun to develop an informal brokerage mechanism to understand where opportunities lie for communities in terms of receiving help or support from larger organisations. This has in part been developed in the context of the Stockport Local Fund whereby opportunities to obtain support or goods from our larger contractors has meant that the fund has been able to go further (see Priority 1 for further detail). Through Sector3, Stockport is also working with GM to identify capacity building opportunities for local organisations, for example, around financial, legal, other technical business advice.

As part of our external work around social value, the mayor has hosted two round table sessions that have brought together key leaders representing education, policing, business, the VCSE sector, health and the council to discuss social value opportunities. Not only have these been a forum through which to develop important relationships, they have also provided a basis on which to build ideas and make connections. For example, the local police will now contribute to the public service course that is hosted by Stockport College to attract local recruits into the service.

In addition, the Carbon Literacy Project will bring together local businesses to work with the council to create a carbon literacy course suitable for micro and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Stockport. Discussions are underway through the Mayor's Round Table to enable large-scale partnership and collaboration on Climate Action Now (CAN) priorities. Alignment of social value offers with the CAN strategy is being considered alongside priority cohorts to ensure social value is maximised.

The importance of effective Social Value approaches and commitments in supporting inclusive economic growth priorities is also being recognised in the emerging Stockport Economic Plan, for example, through Work and Skills Agreements, and local supply chain promotion. Council-led or supported regeneration projects such as the Transport Interchange, Weir Mill and Stockport Exchange are examples of how construction activity will support employment and skills outcomes, including a focus on priority groups such as young people that are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

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

A draft Economic Plan has now been developed and has been endorsed by the Economy & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet, and the Stockport Economic Alliance in March 2022.

The draft Plan sets out the key principles under 4 'pillars', one of which is 'Fair & Inclusive'. The evidence base that has helped shape the Plan has also been completed. Further work is ongoing to develop clear deliverable actions under the 4 pillars with lead organisations identified. This work to identify actions is planned to be completed during Q1, with further reports to the Economy & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and the Economic Alliance.



Further engagement has taken place with the All Age Partnership and the Cross-Party Fair & Inclusive Working Group. In addition, the Economic Alliance (who will own the development of the Plan) now have Sector3 represented on the partnership to ensure a strong VCFSE voice in local economic growth.

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

The Continuing Education Service is now leading on the provision of an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) advice service for Stockport, coordinating the access to GMCA Adult Education Budget (AEB) funded provision for all learners in Stockport looking for English language courses.

The Service is supporting digital inclusion in the borough through:

- 27 Chromebook (laptop) loans to learners;
- 3 tablets issued to learners through Starting Point and 10 issued to learners by the Continuing Education Service;
- Provision of a formal digital course for 24 learners;
- One-to-one digital support to access online platforms eg BKSb, Google Classroom, IDL either on a Chromebook or on mobile phones to 73 learners;
- Digital support to use Flash Academy (ESOL Speaking and Listening App) online delivered to 15 Afghan Evacuee families, in addition to issued Chromebooks (included in the 27 above);
- Access to a Chromebook for all learners accessing provision at the Hardman Centre at every session.

The Service is also working on employer engagement with 8 nurseries working collaboratively to develop plans to address skills and recruitment gaps.









Work was carried out during both National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week to promote apprenticeships to employers and potential apprentices as a good vocational training route. This included:

- The production of resources including video stories, employer featured apprenticeships and provider input for National Apprenticeships week. A booklet was also produced which was a complete guide to everything happening during the week – including 25 featured jobs (from 100+ advertised on Stockport Jobs Match), a raft of articles and tools for jobseekers of all ages, a full summary of all the events and career talks taking place, and a glossary of useful links.
- An 'Event Guide & Resources for National Careers Week' was created to signpost students, young people and jobseekers to the information, events and opportunities for #NCW2022.
- A Digital Careers Prospectus for Stockport was produced, providing an introduction to career pathways in Stockport with 20 sector guides featuring Labour Market Information, entry requirements, career prospects and employer insights.
- A 'Future World of Work' webinar for jobseekers was held to highlight current and future career pathways and inspire career changes and training opportunities.
- Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance, Continuing Professional Development Training Webinar and Labour Market Information Update for Careers Leaders helped to support schools, colleges, employment support and training providers to deliver the most up-to-date information to students and young people about future careers in Stockport.
- Sector-themed in-person job fairs facilitated connection between local employers and active jobseekers looking for entry-level opportunities to return to work or change careers.
- Recruitment videos and 'Featured Employer' profiles assisted with advertising and attraction campaigns now and in the future, whilst increasing employer awareness more broadly.

Stockport Jobs Match continues to be highly effective in supporting employers seeking to recruit, as well as promoting vacancies and job opportunities to those seeking work. By the end of Q4, the performance indicators showed:

- Total monthly job applications, which more than doubled since Q4 2021, have risen slightly again in March to 1,984 per month
- 58,314 jobs posted on the web site
- 9,377 jobs viewed
- 2,077 job seekers registered
- 267 employers registered
- 6,151 visitors to the web site
- 74 training partners registered
- 134 training courses listed
- 221 careers hub articles

## Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Partnership Measures								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
IN.16	Continuing Education – Classroom Based Learning Overall Pass Rate (number)	High	94.9% (1,653)	93.2% (1,350)	92%	97%		
IN.17	Continuing Education – Classroom Based Learning Overall Retention Rate (number)	High	98% (1,686)	96.3% (1,394)	96%	95%		
IN.18	Continuing Education – Classroom Based Learning Overall Achievement Rate (number)	High	93% (1,653)	89.7% (1,299)	91%	93%		
IN.19	Continuing Education – Learners from the borough's priority areas (number)	High	41.8%	39.8%	42%	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.*

To date, post-Covid recovery has been a challenge and whilst learner numbers are up (77) compared to the same period in 2020/21, they are significantly lower (137) compared with 2019/20. However, numbers are not too dissimilar to 2018/19 with 49 fewer learners. The service is working closely with the ESOL Advice Service to increase learner recruitment.

There has been a significant decline in referrals from Job Centre Plus for pathway programmes and full Level 2 and Level 3 provision. Level 3 is a cause for concern nationally with providers and colleges reporting a significant reduction in recruitment. The service has appointed an Advanced Practitioner for Quality and Skills to support the development of both existing and new growth opportunities to address skills and recruitment gaps across Early Years and Health and Social Care Sectors.

A shortage of Learning Support Assistants continues to be problematic resulting in some learners with identified support needs currently not accessing one-to-one support. Analysis of the impact on learner achievement will be completed once all results are in the system. Moreover, the service has not been able to maximise learning support funding and will need to work hard in the final term to meet the £60,000 target outlined in the funding profile. Recruitment of learning support staff is a GM area wide issue with both Colleges and Local Authorities reporting recruitment issues. A new Learning Support Assistant joined the service in April.

## **New measures being developed to reflect the wider aims of this priority**

Work is ongoing to ensure that performance indicators being developed for this priority provide meaningful insights and are appropriate for reporting purposes. At the same time, work is also underway to refresh the council's Financial Resilience Strategy and accompanying performance framework. The partnership measure identifying the number of VCSE partners providing local welfare support, as well as the contextual measure of households with an income below the borough average, are under review as part of this strategy refresh process.

We are continuing to monitor impacts resulting from our recent shift from the Stockport Local Assistance Scheme (SLAS) model to Support Funds. As an interim measure, 314 households were supported in Q3 by local welfare support schemes, and 424 in Q4.

Regarding the number of VCFSE partners working collaboratively to support sustainable food offer, there are currently 11 organisations engaged in Stockport's Food Network as identified in the narrative update above. As the network continues to grow and work in this area develops further, additional ways of refining this measure will look to add nuance that captures the work being undertaken by organisations of all sizes are undertaking to address food poverty in the borough.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 situation, no money maximising events were held in 2021/22. An event is planned for June 2022.

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

### **Delivered by:**

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

Recruitment to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead role was successful in May 2022.

A partnership framework to tackle inequality was launched at the Fair and Inclusive Summit in December 2021 (see Priority 1 for a more detailed update on the framework).

The Community Champions Programme has used new approaches to capture lived experiences that are now being used by other community champion organisations (see Priority 1 for more information). We plan to use the learning from this programme to further develop our approach to working with the VCFSE sector to better understand our communities and their lived experiences. Additional health and wellbeing volunteer roles are now being rolled out to organisations with Public Health and Sector3 support.

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

Working in collaboration with Sector3 and community partners, we are continuing work to identify potential networks representing different communities across Stockport. On-going work to develop the equality networks is seeking to formalise existing networks while also developing new structures and relationships. At present, 14 networks are in development. Working collaboratively with Sector3 and community partners, we are also developing action plans that align with the ambitions set out in the One Stockport Borough Plan and that will create additional opportunities to advance equality within policies, strategies and service design.

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

The council's Inclusive Employment workstreams have continued to progress. With regards to social value and the GM Good Employment Charter, officers in the Economy, Work & Skills team are working with colleagues from the GM Growth Company to promote membership of the GM Good Employment Charter to local businesses. The council is also hosting an event for introducing local businesses to the Charter.

The council now has a guaranteed interview and job access scheme in place to support young people experiencing disadvantage, specifically those who are care experienced and/or disabled. Furthermore, we have approved the adoption of a new Care Leaver Covenant and planning has started for a series of actions to increase opportunities for Care Leavers with local businesses in Stockport. A working group to support developments for neuro-diverse young people has also been established.

Kickstart placements and work experience opportunities have been successful with 20 young people previously claiming Universal Credit and at high risk of long-term unemployment now recruited into the council through this initiative. Additionally, further Kickstart placements have recruited other individuals into the council's workforce who may have struggled to find employment, for example care leavers and/or those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), mental ill health, and other characteristics such as those experiencing poverty. Work is now beginning to look at opportunities for our Kickstarters to undertake additional training, apprenticeships, and/or contracted employment.

We are currently undertaking work to map and align issues related to qualifications, provision gaps and apprenticeships while also working to improve arrangements for supported employees as part

of our SEND and supported employee programmes. The council has also refreshed and continued to roll out evacuation chair training to make sure that employees with Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) are fully supported. We are continuing to source suitable and meaningful placements, roles, and tasks for our Supported Employees. A full-time permanent post has also been created to support Employment Opportunities and Placements for care leavers, people with disabilities and people from priority neighbourhoods

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

The new Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) template is now embedded in council processes including being mandatory for all political decision-making reports. Feedback from council staff who have used the new template has been positive thus far. Officers responsible for supporting EqIA rollout attend meetings with GM colleagues which serve as a space to share best practice in equalities work, including EqIA work.

Regular informal training across directorates is ongoing and specialised support in completing EqIAs is being provided to teams who request this. This enhanced offer of support aims to promote and reinforce good practice as well as offering bespoke advice to ensure equalities analysis is thorough and completed to a high standard.

### **Performance Measures and Targets**

This priority runs through delivery plans, such as:

- Borough Plan • Economic Plan (in development) • Children and Young People's Plan • Health and Care Plan • Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy (planned) • Digital Strategy • Local Plan (in development) • Safer Stockport Partnership Plan (refresh) • Active Communities Strategy (refresh)
- Council One Team People 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

We are continuing to work closely with colleagues to develop our One Neighbourhood Model. Recent discussions have been progressing with colleagues from across the council and commissioned partners such as the community hub. A PBI review workshop has now taken place and further work is underway to develop the model moving forward.

The Vaccine Inclusion Group and the Community Champions programme have continued to work with communities of interest to promote vaccine uptake, aiming for equity for our local communities. Wider health and wellbeing, particularly mental wellbeing has increasingly been the focus of the Champions programme during Q4 (see Priority 1 for further detail).




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


During Q4, the Safer Stockport Partnership's (SSP) 2022-25 plan was signed off by the Partnership Board as well as the relevant council bodies - Communities and Housing Scrutiny, Cabinet and Full Council in March 2021. The first annual delivery plan associated with the 2022-25 plan is now being developed with SSP Theme Leads. The new plan is organised around three key themes:

- Protecting Vulnerable People
- Public Safety and Protection
- Preventing Offending and Reoffending

The 2022-25 Plan will be made publicly available via the council's website (and other media) and elements of its delivery will be reported to Scrutiny via the quarterly performance reports, as well as an Annual Report on overall performance and achievements.

## Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Partnership Measures (Contextual)								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
IN.5	Domestic abuse: re-victimisation	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	Aim to minimise	N/A	N/A
IN.6	Victim-based crime per 1000 population	Low	61.7	55.7	64.6	Aim to minimise	N/A	
IN.7	Violent crime per 1000 population	Low	20.1	22.8	28.2	Aim to minimise	N/A	
IN.8	Thefts per 1000 population	Low	30.1	22.5	25	Aim to minimise	N/A	

Partnership Measures (continued)								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
IN.9	Anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents recorded by Police per 1000 population	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	Aim to minimise	N/A	N/A
IN.10	Public Order Offences - per 1,000 population (number)	Low	6.7	8.3	12.4	Aim to minimise	N/A	
<p>Figures for IN.5 and IN.10 remain unavailable, but we will continue to report on action to address these issues accordingly. The figures reported for IN.6, IN.7, IN.8 and IN.10 should be viewed as contextual figures and are not being reported alongside recent historical figures.</p> <p>The report into the inspection of GMP's services to victims published in December 2020 found systematic under-recording of crime by GMP. In response to this, the new Chief Constable has introduced a range of measures; however, work is still ongoing to understand the impacts of these measures. In addition to this, crime patterns in 2021/22 (as well as 2020/21) will have been significantly impacted by a range of COVID-19 related restrictions. These Q4 figures will also therefore <i>not</i> be used to set targets for the next Portfolio Performance and Resources Agreement for the reasons explained above.</p>								

# INCLUSIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

## 2. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MONITORING



### 2.1 Revenue – Cash limit

	Previously Reported (Q3)	Increase/ (Reduction)	Budget at Q4
	£000	£000	£000
<b>Cash Limit Budget</b>	621	9	630

#### Budget Changes since previously reported at Quarter 3

The budget has increased by £0.009m since the previous Q3 PPRR Update Report. In February last, the National Joint Council for local government services (NJC) agreed the applicable pay rates for 2021-22 and resulted in a 1.75% uplift on most salary spinal points.

No other changes have been made to the budget.

#### Outturn Position

Net Cash Limit	Net Expenditure	Appropriations	Outturn
£000	£000	£000	£000
630	(122)	752	0

The Portfolio is reporting a break-even position on a budget of £0.630m. As previously reported, most staffing and other resources within the Portfolios activities have been involved in the Department of Health's and Social Care's (DHSC) Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) initiative, as well as supporting and administering other grant funded support schemes.

As these resources are otherwise cash limit funded for business-as-usual work (mostly paused) this has enabled an exercise to be undertaken that, as well as maximising the grant funding with qualifying expenditure, allows the council to continue with Covid-19 support and mitigation measures activity into 2022/23. This process is executed by way of appropriation to a specific earmarked reserve held in the Adult Care and Health Portfolio

## 2.2 Earmarked Reserves

Most 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	Usage & changes 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	Ringfenced funds	120	(78)	42
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>743</b>	<b>(78)</b>	<b>665</b>

In addition to the £0.078m appropriations above that are attributed to reserve balances in the Inclusive Neighbourhoods Portfolio, £0.830m has been appropriated into earmarked reserves held and reported elsewhere. Appropriated into the Corporate Capital Program Financing reserve (RCCO) of £0.150m, for part funding security works around public space CCTV, Control Room monitoring and GMP radio links. In addition, £0.678m has been appropriated into a reserve set up following on from the COMF programme. Finally, a £0.002m appropriation as part of a grant funding adjustment in respect of the council's costs incurred in supporting the Afghan Evacuee programme in the Borough.

## 2.3 Portfolio Savings Programme

There are no savings requirements affecting the services within this Portfolio for 2021/22. However, a number of the areas within this portfolio such as relating to support funds, financial inclusion, digital inclusion and community investment are supporting wider transformation activities across the organisation which is ensuring the council is able to be financially resilient.