

Sub-group report to OSP

OSP sub-group theme:

Stronger Communities: Health & Wellbeing Partnership food projects

Date: January 2020

Oxford City localities Health & Wellbeing Partnerships

There are five Oxford city localities which have Health & Wellbeing Partnerships: Rose Hill; Barton; The Leys; Wood Farm and Littlemore. They are multi-agency partnerships comprising statutory and voluntary sector organisations, which meet quarterly. Each partnership has a health and wellbeing plan. The plans capture the local assets that enable health in that area and actions identified through Public Health data, as well as local intelligence from Partners, around issues that affect the health and wellbeing and life expectancy of residents.

The plans cover a range of health and wellbeing themes. This update specifically focusses on food projects which are amongst the following partnerships headline priorities.

1. Achievements since last update

a) The Leys Health & Wellbeing Partnership:

Community Fridge

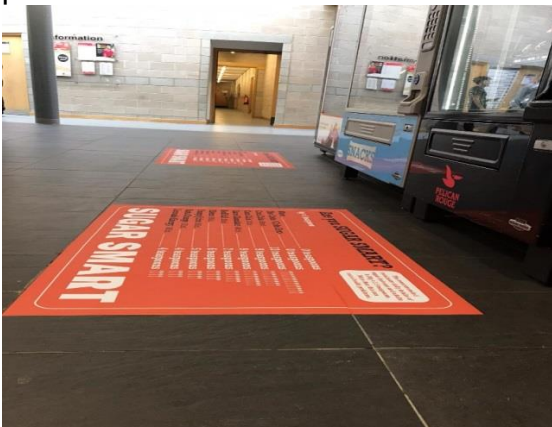
A community fridge has been set up in Blackbird Leys community centre and is progressing well with several additional grocery stores donating food which is near its use by or best before date. Recruiting local volunteers to support it is an issue and non-perishable donations rather than fresh fruit and vegetables predominate.

Leys Community Larder Scheme

A community larder has also been set up, which takes place every Wednesday using over ordered or excess stock supplied by SOFEA. Unlike the community fridge, the community larder is a membership which in return for £8.66 per month gives people access to ten items of high-quality food and additional fresh fruit and vegetables, access to events, a café and children's activities. Over 50 local people have already signed up and recruiting local volunteers has not been an issue.

Sugar Smart

In partnership with Fusion Leisure and Good Food Oxford, Sugar Smart vinyls have now been laid in front of vending machines at the Leys Leisure Centre as can be seen in the photo below.



Leys Fruit and Veg Market

A local resident has been scoping the potential to replicate the weekly fruit and vegetable market stall at the Kassam site in the centre of Blackbird Leys. Unfortunately, the trader who was approached declined to provide the service. Other providers are being approached.

Big Lunch event

The Friendleys group once again hosted the Big Lunch event in the Summer. Unfortunately, numbers of new people attending were lower this year, so Friendleys will seek support from Age UK and OCVA for a potential event in 2020.

b) Barton Health & Wellbeing Partnership

Sugar Smart

A small sub group of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership met to take forward the actions for Sugar Smart and cooking skills courses, from the Health Plan. The Sugar Smart aims are well supported by Barton Community Association (BCA) and Eatwell's Café, in the Barton Neighbourhood Centre (BNC). Having the water fountain in BNC has made a positive difference in people's behaviour and the BCA accessed some water bottles from Public Health and Cities4People to issue. The sub group suggested that BCA could have its own branded re-usable water bottles for sale, to further reduce the use of disposable cups and/ or one-use only plastic bottles. BCA will research this.

In terms of sugary drinks, mostly no-sugar or low-sugar drinks are stocked and sold. A few full sugar Coca Cola drinks are stored, but as they are more expensive, fewer are sold. BCA is aiming to phase them out totally. No Lucozade drinks are stocked, and only small size cartons of fruit juice are stocked.

Once the BCA has implemented a traffic light rating for drinks that are stocked, which is visible for members of the public, the BCA would meet the criteria to qualify for the Sugar Smart Golden Teaspoon Award. Good Food Oxford will support the BCA to achieve this.

The BCA plans to hold a 'sugar game' as part of activities being held in the February 2020 half term, where participants have to match the measured bags of sugar to the correct drink. The Community Dental Team will also be invited to be present to talk about dental care.

Cooking Skills Courses

Some ad hoc cooking sessions have taken place in Eatwell's Café, but the BCA is aiming to source funding to hold regular courses for parents and children together at weekends and/ or courses for just parents, targeting those families that attend the Breakfast Club.

c) Rose Hill Health and Wellbeing Partnership

Sugar Smart

A collaborative project part funded by Oxfordshire Health Watch helped develop a healthy tuck shop at Rose Hill Primary School where children can buy sugar free snacks for only 20p. This initiative attracted media attention:

<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/16998345.rose-hill-primary-school-launches-low-sugar-tuck-shop/>

Rose Hill Lottery Project

Strong links have been forged with the local community and the lottery project continues to tackle food poverty by distributing high quality food to vulnerable people in the community and providing over 100 healthy meals each week for children attending Rose Hill Junior Youth Club. Food is supplied by Oxford Food Bank and Fairshare.

Rose Hill Community Centre Café

Rose Hill Junior Youth Club Catering now runs the Community Café with all profits going to the Rose Hill children's charity. The café offers a range of healthy foods including hot meals every weekday. It also provides catering for meetings and events by using surplus, homemade food. This now also includes the weekends when Rose Hill Junior Football Club play at home.

d) Community Impact Zone

- Outreach work and door knocking, leading to Cowley lunch project
- Active Oxfordshire partnership – bringing funding into the zone for physical activity
- Public Livingroom – A place for families to go to and take part in activities. Through this space we are able to have meaningful conversations with young people and their families about what they would like to see in their neighbourhoods.

2. Plans for the next six months

As detailed above in the updates

3. Challenges and/or blocks to progress

- Sourcing local volunteers for the Leys Community Fridge.
- Sourcing a regular, valid and reliable market trader for the fruit and vegetable market stall in the Leys.
- Sourcing funding for tutor costs for the Barton cooking sessions.
- Finding the most effective ways to evidence the impact of the Community Impact Zone work – currently working with our funding partner ESAP (Enabling Social Action Programme) to develop tools for assessment.

4. Requests for OSP support/advice/action/intervention (if required)

- To request the OSP to continue to support the work of the health and wellbeing partnerships within the city locality areas.
- To signpost to/advice on any potential sources of funding to support the development of food projects.