

Sub-group report to OSP

OSP sub-group theme: Stronger Communities

Date: 27th June 2019

Date of previous update: February 2019

1. Achievements since last update

The Stronger Communities sub-group of the Oxford Strategic Partnership (OSP) targets the areas of Oxford with the worst outcomes – whether these are outcomes for health, educational attainment, income or life expectancy. The aim of the sub-group is to bring partners together to improve those outcomes. The areas of focus for this work are;

- The Leys
- Rose Hill
- Littlemore
- Barton
- Wood Farm
- Northway

The group continues to meet regularly during the year and has good representation from partners including Oxford City Council Leisure, Communities and Policy teams, Oxfordshire County Council Public Health and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. Most recently OCVA have become engaged with the group and at the last meeting a representative from the DWP was invited to join our discussions on inclusive growth in preparation for how we might be able to support this agenda.

The Stronger Communities group provides a strong foundation for the local partnership work in the areas detailed above and consolidates learning and shares good practice from work across the City.

Some of the key areas of focus this year have included:

- Making Every Contact Count (MECC) – this has been our task and finish project for the year. A separate update has been appended to this report to give an overview of MECC activity across Oxfordshire which members of the group have contributed to.
- Barton Healthy New Town – updates and learning have been shared with the group during the year. The third year of the project has now been completed and an evaluation report has been completed which can be accessed via this link: http://www.healthempowerment.co.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2019/06/BARTON_HNT.pdf. The delivery group have committed to continue to meet to take forward shared priorities. The group are currently scoping future governance arrangements and action planning for future work streams.
- Community Impact Zone and Controlling Migration Fund projects - updates on progress have been shared with the group.

- Health and Wellbeing partnerships are continuing to meet, and to develop and take forward priorities in their action plans.

2. Plans for the next six months

The group will look to support the OSP Steering Group Inclusive Growth work and future commission, particularly around aligning the seminar in Blackbird Leys with existing work of the group as well as the regeneration programme. There is potential to add value to this work through the Community Partnerships and Health & Wellbeing Partnerships. The potential opportunities to support this work has been highlighted below:

- Asset mapping to inform LEP of what is already available to be built upon in these areas e.g. employment and skills opportunities Engaging with the DWP work with employers to support people finding work difficult to access – supporting “inclusive employers” who take on those who may be hard to place.
- Potentially taking feedback from the regeneration consultation to the Community Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Partnerships in localities for further discussion, inviting these partnership members to attend the seminars.
- Engaging with OSCA and the rural network for potential discussions about Inclusive Growth to include the VCS viewpoint. There could be a role for Parish Councils to also become involved.
- Potential to advocate for investment to increase the possibility of inclusion – e.g. support for those a long way from work (mentoring, befriending), community development workers, ESOL with crèche. The VCS could potentially deliver a lot of this but would need funding.

The group will meet in August to agree next steps as well as discuss any proposals for a new task and finish group.

It is expected that there will be on going work with the sustainability of the Barton Healthy New Town and that the group will continue to support the development of the Controlling Migration Fund, Community Impact Zone and City Health Inequalities work.

3. Challenges and/or blocks to progress

There are no particular challenges or blocks to progress to report currently.

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

- Continued support for the Stronger Communities focus on addressing inequalities.