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**TITLE OF REPORT:**           **Monitoring of OSC (Overview and Scrutiny Committee) Review of Locality Working**

**REPORT OF:**               **Strategic Director, Housing, Environment & Healthy Communities**

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### **Summary**

Report is intended to update Councillors on the implementation of locality working.

### **Background**

1. Locality working is the creation of a new operating model for all council services. The intention of locality working is to:
  - a. Focus our resources where they are most needed
  - b. A preventative approach to reduce demand “upstream” in higher intensity, higher cost services
  - c. Place based, rooted in communities
  - d. Strengthened, multi-sector approach – both operational and strategic
  - e. Shared prioritisation and deployment of resources
  
2. Since our last report to OSC, several strands of work have emerged that complement the Councils locality working, including Family Hubs, Housing Hubs, Mental Health Hubs and Learning Disability and Autism Hubs. It is recognised there is there is a need to bring these four strands of work together.
  
3. To develop further the cross council and partner approach that will bring these strands together it is proposed to take a report to CMT with a view to establishing a Programme Board led by CMT in place of the existing Locality Working Group.

### **What has happened since last review by OSC?**

4. The following progress has been made:

- a. The methodology, principles and budget for locality working agreed by Cabinet
- b. The South of the Borough has been identified as the first implementation area which includes the following wards High Fell, Low Fell, Chowdene, Birtley and Lamesley.
- c. We have an implementation plan for the South starting in the Autumn.
- d. A project lead has been appointed and is in post. The role of the project lead is to deliver the milestones set out in the Implementation Plan.
- e. The Locality Strategic Lead for the South has been appointed, the employee joins Gateshead Council mid-September. The Locality Strategic Lead is responsible for strategic partnerships, service budgets and resources as well as local planning.
- f. Recruitment for the Locality Co-Ordinator has started, the advert has been circulated and interviews will happen mid-September. The Locality Co-Ordinator is responsible for operational partnerships and co-ordination of day-to-day activity.
- g. An offer of employment has been made to recruitment a data analyst, start date to be agreed. This is a key role, essential for reflective practice and iterative service redesign.
- h. We have identified several community buildings where we anticipate having a presence and working with partners, to include but not limited to the Birtley Library Building, Wrekenton Community Centre, Birtley Hub and HARRAS Bank in Birtley (former Adult Training Centre)
- i. Strategic conversations have started with key partners to include, but not limited to, the Primary Care Networks, the Mental Health Transformation Lead, Birtley Youth Partnership, Library staff, Children's Services, Early Help, Edberts House and the team at Birtley Hub.
- j. Conversations have started with the DWP (Department for Work and Pensions) and others about co-location of service provision and sharing resources.
- k. Advice, information, and guidance resources have been identified to support casework in the South and are in place up until 31 March 2023.

#### **What impact has this had for users?**

5. While we are not yet delivering to service users this on track to commence with the appointments of the Locality Lead and Locality Coordinator.
6. The aims of locality working are:
  - a. Support the delivery of the Councils Thrive ambitions
  - b. Reduce inequalities across our population
  - c. Improve the standard of places where residents live
  - d. Enable our communities to be more resilient
  - e. More effective and efficient ways of working

#### **What will we do next?**

7. Appoint Locality Connectors to support community development activity, building networks and trust. (End of November 2022)

8. Establish Data Lab to support with developing measures, data collection, reflection, learning and service re-design (end of October 2022)
9. Transition the existing Neighbourhood Management Team into locality roles incrementally (ongoing)
10. Continue to build strategic and operational partnerships
11. Implement new ways of working (ongoing)
12. Identify funding for implementation in other areas (ongoing)
13. Plan for the second stage roll-out in the West

### **Recommendations**

- OSC is asked to note the proposal for CMT to discuss the merit of establishing a Programme Board overseen by the Corporate Management Team.
- The views of the OSC are sought on whether the OSC is satisfied with progress against actions to date.

Contact: Alison Dunn

ext. 2710