

Appendix B

December 2023



Levelling-Up North Northamptonshire Progress Summary

Levelling Up Recommendations – Collated Highlight Reports information – December 2023

		Recommendation		Date	Project/Milestones Achieved	Key Project Progress and where reports to	Risks/Issues/Challenges
1	Priority - Immediate Recommendations	Improving engagement and communications (immediate)	Communication and information sharing were highlighted as weaknesses at times and the council should engage with communities around the preferred ways that key information can be shared	July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comms re the new round of grants under Well Northants Comms re the Rural Share Prosperity Funding Messages to Local Area Partnerships (LAP) and Community Wellbeing Forum (CWF) networks Surveys on LAP priorities being undertaken in targeted areas Young People’s (YP) engagement event run on 10th August on the Grange 4 Active Family Fun Days run during August, one in each locality where lots of residents could take part in activities but also engage with local services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well Northants (WN) reports to WN Oversight Board Refer to reports to Place Delivery Board Refer to North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) reports to Members’ Oversight Group on grant programmes 	
				Aug to Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of grants available through Household Support Fund – 4th wave of funding (HSF4) Workshop held across various themes 13 September 2023 to discuss Levelling Up Plan - ‘As is’ position statement notes taken As is position statement report being drafted to cover what has been achieved under this recommendation from such programmes as Well Northants, A New Sense of Place (Integrated Care System Place Programme), Kingswood and Hazel Leys (KHL) Big Local in Corby, Northamptonshire Sport (NSport) Place Based Approaches, Culture, Tourism & Heritage offer, Library service offer. Active Communities Awards event held November 2023 involving VCSE as well as sports clubs and leisure providers FreshFest event held in Wellingborough in Sept 23 through the LAP to promote local offer to young people. 63% of young people were from left behind areas (Hemmingwell, Kingsway, Queensway & Victoria) Cost of living crisis event held at Avondale Grange to promote what support is available for residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Well Northants reports to Oversight Board Refer to reports to Place Delivery Board Refer to NNC reports to Members’ Oversight Group for grants programmes Refer to report on HSF4 progress 	
1a		Businesses, communities,	There are opportunities to work closer with local businesses on community	Jul 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed strategic governance for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations across the Integrated Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to reports to Place Delivery Board 	Risk: Business not sufficiently engaged in LAP or Well Northants (WN) work

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		networking and problem solving	projects and issues and setting up a forum or networking		<p>System (ICS) for both the North (N) and West (W) Northamptonshire place delivery areas. North VCSE governance already in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICS Place Programme- VCSE Strategic and Operational engagement and LAPs (ongoing) and LAPs. LAP task groups for first round of priorities mobilised and work underway • Business & Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) programme for start-ups and Small to Medium Enterprises (SME) - ongoing • Well Northants Programme delivery in the 3 left behind neighbourhoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Well Northants reports to Oversight Board 	Mitigation: Engagement on Place through North Northamptonshire Business Network (NNBN) and other networks to be considered
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCSE engagement event held 27 September 2023 re co-production of new Communities Strategy and new Infrastructure and strategic grant arrangements (110 orgs involved) • ICS Place Programme- VCSE Strategic & Operational engagement and LAPs (ongoing) and LAPs- 2nd round of LAP priorities agreed • Business and Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) programme for business start-ups and SMEs (ongoing) • Wellingborough LAP event Freshfest held • Kettering Well NH engagement event held 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to reports to Place Delivery Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk: Business not sufficiently engaged in LAP or Well Northants work • Mitigation: Engagement on Place through NNBN and other networks to be considered • Risk: staff vacancies in WN programme limiting delivery at present • Mitigation: Staffing restructure proposal for Communities and Wellbeing team being developed with Public Health (PH) funding to embed WN and Place programme for future
2		Pride in our neighbourhoods	Consider how to improve street scene in left behind areas both through council services but also community partnership approaches including fund raising	Jul 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with housing providers to remove focal points for environment crime. (communal containers / insecure storage) • Commenced pilot project with Probation Service on Rapid Deployment Project – to target resources for cleansing, graffiti removal, vegetation clearance and removal, ditch clearances etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council approved Strategy for Tackling Litter & Fly-Tipping approved by EXECUTIVE 26th August 2021 	
2a	Long Term	Safer Streets - thriving communities	Consider how to develop a strategy to improve street lighting and CCTV and how this	Jul to Nov 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Streets Government funded programmes delivered during 2021-2023. Have seen new Closed Circuit Television 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Community Safety Partnership Board 	

		could be piloted in Levelling up communities on the theme of “Safer Streets”		<p>(CCTV) cameras installed on both Hemmingwell and Queensway estates in Wellingborough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole review of NNC’s CCTV infrastructure including cameras, networking, monitoring arrangements, repairs and maintenance arrangements, contracts and costs is underway and an as is position statement is being pulled together to inform future options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports as part of NNC Transformation Programme 	
2b	Communities at the heart of Levelling Up	Consider a longer-term approach to monitor and update on outcomes and successes specifically related to this agenda in ways that engage our communities	Jul to Nov 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well Northants Programme which is delivering bottom-up community development work across the Left Behind neighbourhoods: Queensway, Avondale and Grange, Kingswood and with some inclusion groups. Each area has a community profile and an action plan • New round of Well Northants Participatory Budgeting grants for community led projects held during 2023 • Ongoing delivery of previously funded projects • ICS Place programme- function of Local Area Partnerships as networks which bring together statutory partners, VCSE organisations and community members to problem solve issues of local importance based on data and local intelligence. LAPs cover all areas but include the Left Behind neighbourhoods • LAP action plans finalised for presenting to CWFs in Sept. Multi-Agency task groups in place for LAP priorities. • Wellingborough: engagement of YP to enable their voice to be heard and substance misuse • Kettering urban: engagement with YP re their Mental Health (MH) and wellbeing and access to services • Corby: Community Transport and access to essentials through cost of living crisis/low level mental health and wellbeing support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Well Northants Oversight Group reports • Refer to Place Delivery Board papers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk: Staffing issues as of 3.5 Community Development Workers (CDW) only one working full time at present due to staff leaving and long-term sickness • Mitigation: Longer term proposal is to align the WN work with the Place Programme • Risk: Partners in LAPs do not own actions • Mitigation: regular communications to be provided to LAP network members and CWF partners re progress. LAP Co-ordinators liaise with key partners
3	Supporting EM Knife Crime to install more bleed boxes -	Consider how to support and raise funds for additional bleed kit boxes in priority areas across North Northamptonshire	Jul to Nov 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is now a list of all bleed boxes installed across the area. This data is being collated for sharing. https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1Hs-ohqsA8Q-tjK_PMR2OaDG0k2M2lpIS&hl=en_US&ll=52.29135417751705%2C-0.8733280500000085&z=9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Community Safety Partnership Board 	

Priority - Immediate

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities are regularly made aware of funding opportunities through NNC grant programmes. Most in NN have been funded from the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. 		
4	Medium Term Recommendations	<p>Supporting Community and Voluntary groups to write bids and develop projects</p>	<p>The council should consider how to work with partners to produce guidance to enable small, medium & large organisations to develop ideas sufficiently to be ready to be included in bids when funding is available</p>	<p>Jul 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current VCSE infrastructure Support is in place covers funding support but is limited Funding information shared at least monthly by VCSE Infrastructure Organisations VCSE Engagement forums in place Previous completion of Communities in Sheds project Corby and the new Pump Track at Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre, both community led projects during 2022-3, supported by NNC <p>Aug-Nov 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work for Community strategy development, grant review and VCSE engagement scoped in Aug 23 2023 Funding Fair for VCSE held Community Strategy development and new VCSE Infrastructure Arrangements to ensure VCSE get the right support to access funding support, encourage collaboration and ability to sector to make more strategic funding bids to large external funding pots. Strategy co-produced with Sector, via an engagement event held end of September 2023 and liaison with VCSE Oversight Group. Strategy drafted and coming to Exec in Feb 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities Strategy once adopted will report to Public Health SLT and to the VCSE Oversight Group 	
4a		<p>Crowd funding to deliver great outcomes</p>	<p>The council could explore procuring a crowd funding platform to enable organisations to leverage other funding, sponsorship and support to get behind projects they wish to progress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not yet progressed will form part of new VCSE Infrastructure arrangements from Autumn 2024- will be included in the Contract tender specification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be monitored as part of new VCSE Infrastructure contract arrangements from Sept 2024 	

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5		The return on investment of strategically investing in local youth works	Youth work was seen as a priority & the scrutiny review group recommend that a cost-benefit exercise could be undertaken to determine return on investment of strategically investing in local youth work	Jul 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practice review to see what can be done and meet with Childrens and other NNC colleagues. • To meet with interested leads, eg from Northamptonshire Children’s Trust (NCT)/Voluntary impact and the emerging Youth Collaborative that West Northamptonshire Council is working on. • Get clarity from the Levelling Up (LU) steering group on "return on investment" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An outline of a youth strategy/approach has been drafted following a best practice review. • Liaised with Childrens Services consulted NNC Leisure Services manager who had previously been contacted by interested colleagues in NCT, Voluntary Impact and the University. • Made links with WNC colleagues who have already started looking at a Youth Collaborative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk: capacity to do this work • Mitigation: interim capacity allocated until September
				Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop completed – 06 December 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted terms of reference for the youth offer working group. • Liaised with Children’s re: governance, priorities and way forward. Family Hubs to consider a youth sub-group • Developed workplan for stakeholder workshop for December 6th. • Developed business case for funding for the youth offer for Public Health Senior Management Team (PH SMT) and looked at evidence on return on investment. • Made links with Regional Coordinator of youth voice for youth council. • Workshop for stakeholders on the youth offer booked for 6th December and invitations sent out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk: funding not allocated • Mitigation: business case developed; involving wider stakeholders
6		Assessing current strategies and approaches to address county lines, drug	All partners should work together to review and update the current strategies and approaches to address county		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knife Angel visit and awareness programme delivered in Corby and Wellingborough during 2022 • As part of the new Serious Violence Duty, a partnership Strategic Needs Assessment has been 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports to the Community Safety Partnership 	

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		dealing and knife crime	lines, drug dealing and knife crime		<p>completed of which Knife Crime forms a key part. Once finalised a Partnership action plan will be developed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer streets lite has seen additional improvements in various areas across North Northamptonshire including improved lighting and CCTV 		
7		Developing a community hub strategy	The council will benefit from working closely with partners and communities to develop a community hub strategy that focuses on the needs of those communities rather than a one size fits all approach	Jul to Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This work has not specifically started yet although there are many positive connections with VCSE led community hubs, and NNC support for them such as the Grange in Kettering, Communities in Sheds at Hazel leys in Corby. A number of community hubs are delivered from NNC devolved community centres which continue to receive funding support for core costs from NNC and will continue to do so in 2024-5, these include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Victoria Centre, Wellingborough • Glamis Hall, Hemmingwell, Wellingborough • Kingswood Community Centre, Corby • Danesholme Community Centre, Corby • Beanfield Community Centre, Corby • Funding opportunities to be explored to support a co-produced piece of work with the VCSE on what is a community hub, what works currently within NN or elsewhere, best practice and how to apply a community hub strategy within the context of place within NN. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity to undertake this work and ability to secure external funding to support it
8		Developing an estate regeneration strategy	Poor quality of housing was identified across the wards where this work was undertaken and a strategy that considers larger scale ambitious regeneration of some of these estates could be considered	Jul to Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional funding agreed for 2023/2024 financial year to reduce repairs backlog • Housing strategy development underway 		

Update– September 2023 Workshop re community and VCSE engagement, business engagement, funding		
<p>Well Northants</p> <p>Happening now and since 2022:</p> <p>Public Health funded programme. Well Northants aims to empower communities so they can become more connected, more resilient and improve their wellbeing. This is key to addressing health inequalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 targeted areas, public health funded include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Queensway - Wellingborough ○ Kingswood – Corby ○ Avondale Grange – Kettering • 3 full time community development officers communicate and engage with residents in the key areas, in cafes, out on the streets (door knocking) and community groups • Consultation events in the community and running of local events, Participatory Budgeting voting events where residents vote on funding for the ideas that can help their well being • University of Northampton are involved in the research and validation of outcomes, ongoing evaluation on the engagement of residents • Residents have a say in the action plans – Resident Voice – Residents at the heart - (CSEAD model London) – Information collated and added on to the Local profile for each area. • Receiving lots of good intel and information form the residents • Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAG) – engaging directly asking how we can help and what projects they are able to take on long term? What do they want? <p>Challenges, Questions, Observations from the communities in the WN areas:</p>	<p>Integrated Care System Place Programme - LAPs (Local Area Partnerships) and Community Wellbeing Forums (CWFs)</p> <p>Happening now and since early 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 LAPs across NN. • LAP profiles developed by Public and used to help inform LAP priorities • Wide engagement with local partners and stakeholders has led to identification of priorities in LAP areas and development of LAP action plans, which are now being delivered through LAP task groups. • LAP networks established for sharing of information across a wide range of organisations from across the sectors • LAPs have led on asset mapping of buildings and services delivered from them across NN, information has been GIS-mapped onto an interactive map which will be available to local services and partners. • 4 CWFS established to act as local strategic partnerships between statutory partners ae VCSE and community representatives. • CWFs have a focus on sharing organisational priorities with LAPs, helping LAPs unblock barriers ti progress and on how partners collectively and collaboratively engage with communities. <p>Challenges, Questions, Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Mapping - How can we effectively communicate this out? How can we make it publicly accessible? How best to keep up to date? How to link to emerging Family Information Service platforms? 	<p>Culture, Tourism and Heritage</p> <p>Happening now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover Northants (DN) tourism hub at @ Rushden lakes • 11 interactive screens for public use • Promotes the local offer such as around events, days out, accommodation, town and village centres, under the premise of ‘Where to Next’ to encourage people to explore more of what Northamptonshire has to offer • Providing opportunities for businesses and communities to collaborate on local projects <p>Challenges, Questions, Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for everything to be on the same directory, access to all services as a community point of contact • Digitally excluded – looking at physical prints, rare in paperless environment, essential for affordability of residents (printing costs) and reduction are carbon footprint for those using the service – Paperless world impact <p>Kingswood and Hazel Leys Big Local (KHL) Corby</p> <p>Happening now and since 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 year Lottery Funded programme since 2014, have supported to set up community hubs and facilities – fully community driven – Learning from established engagement methods on what can be scalable and adopted across the areas. • Key achievements since 2021 are the Community in Sheds project at Hazel Leys and the new pump track (Kingswood Active) project at Kingswood Community Centre

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apathy with the council, negative feelings, and language from past council projects • Time it takes for projects / projects not being completed • Sustainability after council initial set up, leaving a positive legacy • Heard this before (Well Northants, have been able to show some positive impacts) • How do we dispel the “myths” of nothing here, nothing to do and no money? • We need to get past the immediate issues in the community, CCTV and lights, Anti-social behaviour, and cost of living crisis, before tackling the Health and Well Being aspects. How do we push past these barriers? • Is the Council best placed to engage on this? Do we need to outsource to the voluntary sector? 	<p>Family Information Service and Family Hubs</p> <p>Emerging programme happening now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family hub engagement – SEND strategy co-production charter, developed from SEND perspective but is going to be adopted across the board • Family hub development has helped to understand the communities overall • New roles and recruitment in family information service taking place to bolster efforts • For ages 0-19 (25 with SEND needs), asset mapping and public facing FIS portal is being investigated for family and children’s activities as this is a DofE requirement • Looking to go digital in 2 years, where partners can update – small internal team to drive it forward and create suitability and sustainability • Communication and marketing strategy - lots of engagement happening, collective not knowing what is going on, difficult internally and how this is perceived internally and externally – this project is to pull that all into one and celebrate success • Voice of the child project, how the young people interact with the community (links into work also being done with LAP’s and young people) • Website is being updated with the goal to share information effectively and all coming from the same directory <p>Challenges, Questions, Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different routes into asset mapping information necessary for residents to access the information, parents/careers and the children included. How is this achievable? • Understanding and information on the grants that are available • Does the name family hub alienate residents for tapping into this resource? Alternate names? • What is the current youth offer? Voluntary? links to asset mapping • Youth worth / offer strategy - County wide & link in? • One stop shop increase • A rise in young children presenting to Accident and Emergency (A+E) for substance misuse • What do young people really want? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingswood and Hazel Ley’s estates have Neighbourhood Centre’s, which create a central hub for the community, Hazelwood Neighbourhood Centre is managed by North Northants Council. Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre is leased and managed by Linwood Co-Operative Ltd, with grant funding from NNC, to assist with core running costs of the facility.
<p>Library Service:</p>	<p>General Comments</p>	<p>Businesses, communities, networking, and problem solving</p>

<p>Happening now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assists those who are not online to get online fill in forms and surveys, also help them to print if needed - Integral point of contact in the community especially for the aging population Libraries are more affordable for a lot of people during the crisis Libraries as community hubs Warm Spaces <p>Challenges, Questions, Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paperless impact with the aging population, digitally inaccessible in a paperless world. How to keep this support and remain cost effect, efficient and carbon neutral? 	<p>Challenges, Questions, Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Care System (ICS) Portal has been set up to capture all consultations from all teams Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) engagement portal (knowledge Hub) established for partners to share what community engagement they are undertaking and the outputs of such engagement Family Hubs Engagement and consultation team, small team but expanding, funnel information through them – A draft strategy has been submitted Communication digital v traditional - social media and press releases, older population, digital not fit for purpose – Affordability and access During covid foodbanks and supermarkets were good for advice. Can we use these sorts of touchpoints in local communities? Community champions, local corner shop attendant, the childminder etc - Fonts of knowledge, untapped sources Making every contact count – Example - refuge collection officers, any frontline staff being approached with questions from the public and knowing where to signpost Frontline staff in all sorts of roles are eyes on the ground, they know the community, they can see unusual behaviours and can report – They need empowering Offer on the Highstreet a one stop shop for assistance, advice, and information How we brand? Trusted brands display the family hub kite mark How do the different generations get their information? 	<p>Happening Now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good business networks but need to cover a wider geography, need a focused geography strategy BIPC work is expanding in NN now. Rushden lakes, recruit lakes, Job centre is actively involved See information re DN Tourism Hub Vision 50 conference identified the youth and employment issue, with linking businesses, also identified in LAPs work <p>Challenges, Questions, Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we engage and reach out to businesses? Use of North Northants Business Network Local shops and businesses are more likely to engage in LAPs due to being local residents Could connect businesses via the NNC website Environmental issues are a big draw for businesses Perceptions of youth for jobs, comparison of jobs and which life paths to go down How do we connect businesses to communities? Voluntary brokerage i.e., business to Wellie Wombles Planners to be involved with businesses & Social Return on Investment (SROI) & pride in area/maintenance
<p>Supporting Community and Voluntary sectors (Funding)</p> <p>Happening Now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic grants to VCSE and community centres LAP funding available to kick start projects and deliver events NN Discretionary (small) grants programme, always oversubscribed. Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) providing additional investment into VCSE via small grants in 2023-4 and 2024-5, a significant amount of which is being targeted to the left behind neighbourhoods Member Empowerment Funds (MEF) – Could contribute – crowd funding potential, could be used as an accelerator 	<p>NN Leisure</p> <p>Happening Now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leisure outreach with young people and families. Several new PH funded projects- Active Families, Wellbeing Walks co-ordination, Active Buddy programme to support people who want to get active but want someone to be active with Family Fund days over the summer (Feedback on summer 2023 were incredible) Free swimming during school holidays Public Health funded for a year - has been evaluated 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSF4 - grants to VCSE to support most vulnerable groups during 2023-24 • WN Participatory Budgeting (community voting days) • Dignity in crisis project - helps people who have not been in crisis before e.g. setting up payment plans for furniture, so it does not feel like a donation and discreet conversations on food parcels • Kettering General Hospital (KGH) project – In work poverty <p>Challenges, Questions, Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding where the links are across services and local projects • Link in centrally for VCSE • Funding support i.e., bid writing, form completing • Crowd funding has been positive in other areas, NNC possible to implement, 'seed' funding? - Crowd funding platform • Assuming literacy skills and ability to understand the information • Proportionate grants infrastructure to the value amount • Consider change in grant framework, grant applications • What legacy are we going to leave? • Building community connections • Does the funding need to be looked at and altered, re-distribution? • More promotions on projects like Dignity in crisis, HSF4 and warm spaces • More signposting for the grants that are available? • Reaching out to the communities, did they receive the funding? Have they seen an impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) – DFe funded and delivered by NSport in partnership with many local organisations across NN • Development of new Active Communities Framework, has involved public and VCSE surveys to understand what stops people being more active 	
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