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**REPORT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTOR PLACE**

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**TO: The Community and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel**

**ON: Monday 21 November 2022**

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**TITLE: Eccles, Barton & Winton and Higher Irlam/Peel Green & Cadishead/Lower Irlam Neighbourhood Resilience Forums Update.**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS: The Community and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel is requested to note the information.**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The purpose of this report is to share the work of Eccles, Barton & Winton and Higher Irlam/Peel Green & Cadishead/Lower Irlam Neighbourhood Resilience Forums.**

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**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: N/A**

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**KEY DECISION: NO**

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**DETAILS:**

**Background**

Neighbourhood Resilience Forums (NRF) were established in each of the city's eight neighbourhood areas in April 2020 in response to the covid 19 pandemic with the purpose of:

- Developing civil resilience in Salford at a neighbourhood level.
- Being the multi-agency tactical tasking and co-ordinating group for each Neighbourhood area.

When the Neighbourhood Resilience Forums were launched in 2020, the Eccles, Barton & Winton and Higher Irlam/Peel Green & Cadishead/Lower Irlam forums met on a bi-weekly basis. In the last few months, the cycle for both areas have moved to a monthly meeting to run in line with the rest of the city.

**Neighbourhood Resilience Forum Membership**

Neighbourhood Resilience Forums have a diverse membership, with a wide range of partner agencies playing a key role, alongside Elected Members. This incorporates housing, GMP, GMFRS, Public Health, Youth Services, Health Improvement, Regulatory Services, Salford CVS and other internal and external partners who join meetings when required to input on specific issues and priorities.

## **Focus/Priorities**

The Neighbourhood Resilience Forums for Eccles, Barton & Winton and Higher Irlam/Peel Green & Cadishead/Lower Irlam have been at the forefront of driving forward improvements to both areas by focusing on issues that impact on the quality of life for residents within these neighbourhoods and setting priorities that matter most to local residents. Some of the key priorities over the last 12 months have included the following:

### **Community Safety**

The Neighbourhood Resilience Forums have been an effective mechanism to update partners on neighbourhood and city-wide police operations, including Op Sycamore (knife crime) and the annual Safe 4 Summer response to anti-social behaviour. Priorities such as burglary and car crime are brought to the forums for discussion with partners and Cllrs. This has helped in spreading target hardening messages throughout the neighbourhood to assist residents and to also feedback on progress in tackling these issues.

Following the significant increase in burglaries within the Southwest of the city in the second quarter of 2022, there was a big focus from GMP on targeting suspected offenders and through close partnership working via the Resilience Forums and Community Safety Referral Team (CSRT), suspects were identified and warrants executed. This resulted in a key offender from the Eccles area being arrested and charged and a significant reduction in burglaries and car crime was achieved.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour:**

The Neighbourhood Resilience Forums have played a key role, alongside the CSRT, in targeting hotspots where anti-social behaviour is impacting on communities across the Southwest of the city. The forums have provided a fully joined up approach for partners and Cllrs to both identify where issues are occurring and develop solutions to tackling the issues. Some examples of key hotspot areas that forum members have come together to tackle include the following:

- Cadishead Railway Embankment
- Cadishead Park
- Monton Veterans Shelter
- AJ Bell Stadium (Football Pitches)
- Ivy Street Park

When hotspots of anti-social behaviour have occurred across the area, the forums have been at the very forefront of tackling the issues. Youth service detached teams have visited these locations when directed from information shared at Neighbourhood Resilience Forums by partners and Cllrs. This has led to positive engagement of many young people, in particular on the Brookhouse Estate and in Monton, both at the Veterans Shelter and Duke's Drive.

The forums have linked in effectively with CSRT, to ensure problematic individuals and hotspot areas identified are referred to CSRT for discussion so that multi-agency plans can be put in place. This process has enabled Cllrs, housing providers and police partners to feed back to complainants regarding the actions taken. Issues including the need for additional CCTV in hotspot areas, such as Bray Avenue and the Veterans Shelter, have been identified and discussed via the forums and then CCTV units have been secured via devolved budget and standing together monies.

In May 2022 the Higher Irlam/Peel Green & Cadishead/Lower Irlam forum helped identify a number of issues that were occurring on the Cadishead railway embankment with youths throwing stones and ballasts at houses, which resulted in multiple police reports and significant community anger. In response to this issue an agenda item was added for discussion at the Higher Irlam/Peel Green and Cadishead/Lower Irlam resilience forum. Colleagues from Network Rail were invited to attend to discuss the issues and solutions were agreed, including assistance from Youth Service detached teams, patrols from local PCSO's and physical improvements to the site by Network Rail. No new reports have been received following these actions.

The Eccles, Barton & Winton resilience forum has also been pivotal in tackling issues of anti-social behaviour in and around the veterans shelter in Monton. Issues have been brought to the forum, discussed in detail with partners including GMP, SCC Youth Services and regulatory services colleagues, before agreeing a robust and successful approach to resolving them. Detached teams from youth services were deployed, engagement took place with local schools and patrol plans focused on attending the shelter at key times when ASB had been reported were put into action by the Neighbourhood Inspector.

### **Resident Engagement**

The Eccles, Barton & Winton Neighbourhood Resilience Forum played a key role in establishing the new 'Eccles Connects' networking event, which launched in June this year. The event was aimed at anyone living, working or just with an interest in the Eccles, Barton and Winton wards. The initial idea for the initiative was first brought to the resilience forum for discussion with partners and Cllrs with a view to it providing an opportunity for stakeholders to come together to network and share information on services, local projects and groups. The idea was well received and members of the forum committed to playing key roles in the event and it's planning.

When the event took place in June there were in excess of 20 stalls featuring local partners such as GMP, housing providers and SCC services, alongside community organisations including Tindall Street Allotments, Barton Athletics and local Councillors. A number of local residents visited the event and feedback from residents and stallholders was that it was a great success and planning is underway for 2023.

### **Primary Care Networks (PCN's)**

Neighbourhood Resilience Forums have facilitated a much closer working relationships between Public Health and the neighbourhood partnership. Public Health attended the forums throughout the last two years, initially to provide support through

the covid pandemic, sharing regular data updates for partners to fully understand the picture at city, neighbourhood and ward level. More recently the Public Health representative has been important in clarifying the vaccination process and testing arrangements, this has enabled forum members to seek guidance and ask questions ensuring that the correct information is relayed wider and into the community. In conjunction with public health, partners and Cllrs contributed to identifying local testing sites and any local issues surrounding those sites were addressed.

Following the recent implementation of the new Primary Care Network's across the city, close links have been established between the PCN and Neighbourhood Resilience Forum in each neighbourhood. Public Health Engagement and Inclusion Leads (PHEIL) now represent Public Health at the forums and provide detailed updates, using an evidence-based approach. The link between the PCN and the forum allows key health messages to be conveyed to members and then onto the wider neighbourhood and the collection of information at ward level to identify gaps in knowledge to reduce health inequalities.

### **Health Improvement Team**

Both the Eccles, Barton & Winton and Higher Irlam/Peel Green & Cadishead/Lower Irlam Health Improvement teams are represented at the forums by their Health Improvement officers. They share information on key initiative's such as smoking cessation, weight management, getting active and linking residents with special interest groups.

Recently the team linked in with partners through the forum for Eccles, Barton and Winton to help promote their work to assist people within the area to quit smoking as there had been a big upsurge in the area. Following promotion of their targeted programme via social media and through various partners online comms, targets set by the health improvement team have already been met.

Other initiatives promoted via the forums and various partners include the Holiday Hunger scheme, summer activity programs and the Warm Home Investment scheme, which has subsequently been running weekly sessions at Brookhouse Community Centre for older residents and their families across Higher Irlam and Peel Green.

### **CVS outreach & support**

In a similar approach to the Health Improvement Team, CVS first linked into the forums in the early stages of the pandemic, playing a key role in delivering outreach and support across all wards within the area, offering support to vulnerable and elderly residents. Attendance at the forums enables CVS colleagues to update partners and Cllrs on work including their support of Community Champions, hard to reach groups including disability awareness, BME community and LGTBQ groups.

CVS attendance at Resilience Forums has also led to new initiatives being developed, including the establishing of new groups within the area. A recent example of this has been the collaboration between the Neighbourhood Management Team, CVS colleagues, GMP, Cllrs and residents living around Winton Park, to address issues of

safety and security within the park. This has resulted in a new constituted group of residents being established to support volunteering within the park and potential access to funding for future events within the park.

## **Housing providers**

The forums for Eccles, Barton & Winton and Higher Irlam/Peel Green & Cadishead/Lower Irlam have benefitted from attendance by all of the key local housing providers, these include:

- For Housing
- Salix
- Great Places
- Irwell Valley

Extensive discussions have taken place at both forum meetings between key housing providers, wider partners and Cllrs regarding issues such as anti-social behaviour, serious criminality and environmental concerns. An example of this is the work undertaken through the Higher Irlam/Peel Green & Cadishead Lower Irlam forum to tackle issues that have occurred around Tiger Moth Square. There have been a number of reports of anti-social behaviour, drug dealing and problem drinking, so these issues have been discussed at the forum and plans put in place with input from the housing provider and wider partners including GMP, youth services and SCC officers.

A number of measures were deployed for Tiger Moth Square, including repairs to bollards that prevented access by vehicles alleged to be dealing drugs, this was part of a wider plan for target hardening. Lighting around the square was also reviewed and subsequently improved and increased patrols put in place by GMP, alongside youth service detached teams who visited the square to engage with any young people at risk of getting involved in anti-social behaviour. Colleagues from GMP also sent letters to a number of young people found to be frequenting the square and this resulted in a steep drop in reports of anti-social behaviour over the following weeks.

## **Youth Engagement / Providers**

Eccles, Barton & Winton and Higher Irlam/Peel Green and Cadishead/Lower Irlam have an established youth partnership and lead officers from the partnership attend the forums for both areas. Forum members link into the youth partnership, highlighting where gaps exist in provision for young people and discussions have taken place at the forums that have led to partners pooling resources to provide a proactive approach to engagement with young people across the area, targeting hotspots in an ever changing environment. Some of the projects that have formed as part of this link between the forums and the Youth Partnership include the very successful bike maintenance project and work around knife crime in schools across the Southwest of the City.

The Neighbourhood Resilience Forums have also informed and directed where youth engagement and outreach has been taking place over the last year, with hotspots being identified by officers and Cllrs and detached teams being directed to those areas

to engage with young people. Some examples of where this guided engagement has been successful has been in Cadishead Park, Eccles Interchange, Caroline/Dixon Street and Monton Veterans Shelter.

### **Standing Together Funding**

Each Neighbourhood Resilience Forum has a neighbourhood grants budget based on the principles of building community resilience, keeping people safe and reducing harm and offending. The forums have invited applications and awarded funds based upon the criteria and what it identifies as the neighbourhood priorities. Funding has been awarded to projects that focus on several themes, including:

- Sports Programmes.
- Diversity.
- Environmental Initiatives
- Young people's outreach

### **Partners/Cllrs Feedback**

As the Neighbourhood Resilience Forums have progressed over the last year the Neighbourhood Management Team for Eccles, Barton & Winton and Higher Irlam & Cadishead/Lower Irlam have regularly asked forum members for feedback on both the format and impact of the meetings, to ensure that changes and improvements can be made where possible. Feedback from partners has always been positive as they have found real value in the model for several reasons:

- Frequency: holding monthly meetings enables a fuller understanding of neighbourhood issues as they arise.
- Pace: forums have been between 60-90 minutes in length and useful information has been shared in a concise manner.
- Actions: emerging issues have been discussed and enabled partners to respond with quick resolve and joined up planning.
- Partnership: partnerships have been strengthened due to regular meetings and increased and effective joint working across a range of issues.
- Communication: information from all partners has been shared regularly so there is an improved understanding of the work each service is delivering.
- Support: a virtual team of people have come together regularly and feel supported and trusted in the work they do
- Where required key issues that have been brought to the forums have been the focus of subsequent multi-agency meetings that have enabled detailed action plans to be put in place (for example the issues around Cadishead Railway Embankment).

There is a shared sense of purpose amongst Neighbourhood Resilience Forum members as there is recognition of the role each partner contributes to improving lives within the immediate neighbourhoods and the wider City.

## **Next Steps**

The youth partnership for Eccles, Barton & Winton and Higher Irlam/Peel Green & Cadishead/Lower Irlam was recently refreshed and has been going from strength to strength, with new partners joining the partnership and working together to produce a co-ordinated youth engagement plan and a fresh terms of reference for each of the two youth partnerships in the Southwest of the city.

During the last 12 months key partners have pooled resources to provide a proactive approach to engagement with young people across the areas, targeting hotspots in an ever-changing environment, this will be further developed to ensure any gaps in provision are covered. This work will take in closer working relationships with key community facilities such as the Brookhouse Community Centre in Higher Irlam/Peel Green and the Castle Community Centre in Eccles. It has recently been agreed at the Eccles, Barton and Winton Resilience Forum that a visit will be undertaken by Cllrs and partners to the Castle to take a look at the facilities and identify new possible collaborations between the centre and partners.

Discussions have also taken place with Brookhouse Community Centre regarding an open day during the summer months to promote the centre, increase engagement and recruit volunteers. This will be supported by the Resilience Forum and the Southwest Neighbourhood Management team.

Another big focus for the remainder of 2022 will be to continue the fantastic work around recruitment of street champions within the area. There are currently over 150 street champions across the southwest locality. This work, co-ordinated through the Neighbourhood Management team with support from resilience forum members, has gone from strength to strength and the project will continue to be a priority moving forward.

## **Conclusion**

Eccles, Barton & Winton and Higher Irlam/Peel Green & Cadishead/Lower Irlam Neighbourhood Resilience Forums have established themselves as an effective multi-agency partnership and have delivered tangible outcomes that have made a real difference to the lives of residents in the area.

From their early inception as a vehicle to discuss and tackle the many issues caused by the pandemic, through their natural progression to incorporating wider neighbourhood issues, the forums have strengthened the neighbourhood partnership structures and created a joined up and cohesive approach. The frequency and tone of the meetings has allowed issues arising to be actioned quickly and proactively in response to the priorities in the neighbourhood at the time.

The consensus is that Cllrs and partners feel the Neighbourhood Resilience Forums should continue to grow and develop and this is demonstrated by the continued buy in and attendance from Cllrs and partners.

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**KEY COUNCIL POLICIES: Community Safety Strategy and Emergency Response and Recovery Plan**

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**EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND IMPLICATIONS: N/A**

**ASSESSMENT OF RISK: Low**

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**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: N/A**

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**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: N/A**

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**PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: N/A**

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**HR IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: N/A**

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**CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: N/A**

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**OTHER DIRECTORATES CONSULTED: N/A**

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**WARDS TO WHICH REPORT RELATES: Eccles, Barton & Winton and Higher Irlam/Peel Green & Cadishead/Lower Irlam**