

<b>Date:</b>	15 June 2023
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Communities and Public Protection
<b>The Report of:</b>	Councillor Aicha Less, Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Protection
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**1. Key decisions made in the preceding period since the last Policy & Scrutiny report dated 25 April 2023:**

No decisions have been made during this period.

**2. The following report includes my priorities and delivery progress to date:**

**2.1 Public Protection**

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

A funding bid has been submitted into Public Health to fund a pilot project looking to employ a mental health navigator within the ASB team. The purpose of this will be to provide mental health support and guidance to victims and perpetrators of ASB and to support case managers working on cases.

Pedicabs

Further operations have been carried out since with the latest being on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May. A joint operation with police saw 8 pedicab riders stopped for playing amplified music past 9pm. All 8 will be submitted for prosecution. In addition, a number of riders were moved on from obstructing the pavement.

Night stars / safety

The council is continuing to support our Night Star volunteers recently arrested by the police during the Coronation weekend. We continue to work with the police to resolve any outstanding issues. The Night Star operation continues to provide outstanding support to women and young girls within the Night Time Economy. The Night Safety programme has also completed three Night Safety walks identifying areas in the West End that women find unsafe to visit. This work has been supported with an online survey that can be completed to identify these areas.

The council continues its efforts to recruit volunteers for the Night Star service with a view to increasing the number available for deployment. To carry out their duties fully the Night Stars conduct a range of mandatory training which includes:

- The role of the Night Stars
- Basics of Safeguarding children and adults
- Alcohol and Drugs and its affects

- Communicating in difficult situations/conflict resolution
- Infection control
- Operational procedures
- Equipment and Uniform
- Confidentiality
- Emergency on street first aid
- The range of benefits and support for volunteers

Our successful “It’s Her City Too” behavioural change programme was launched across Westminster in April focussing on transport routes. The next stage of the campaign will include a highly impactful film and additional publicity from mid-June.

## **2.2 Communities**

### **Windrush**

On Windrush Day, 22 June the Westminster Global majority Network, Westminster City Council supported by Westminster UNISON in partnership with Windrush Caribbean Film Festival will host a film festival at Picturehouse Leicester Square that celebrates the contributions of the Windrush generation.

Invitees are members of ELT, Councillors, the Lord Mayor and the Chief Executive. Tickets will also be allocated to all contributors and performers at the event, as well as community groups who are involved. There will be a number of tickets available for Westminster residents to attend -TBC.

Also, The Caribbean Living Room, an exhibition by artist Michael McMillan and Museum of the Home will also be open to members of the Public, as The Windrush Window exhibition on 35-37 Church Street in 11- 27 June.

Plus, Carl Gabriel, Carnival sculptor and creator, will be displaying his artwork in the front window of Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP, from 2nd of June.

### **Westminster Connects**

- For 2022-2023, 1,120 volunteers contributed 17,113 hours of volunteering. This is not the final figure for the year as we are still collecting data from some of our community partners about the number of hours delivered.
- A number of changes have been made to improve the offer to volunteers. Monthly introduction sessions are held for volunteers, and have been established for English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners in WAES to create a pathway into volunteering. Bi-monthly online Feedback Forums will started in April to provide a regular route to provide feedback.
- The #Give16 staff volunteering programme offers a range of volunteering opportunities, including Street Counts with the Rough Sleeping Team, Language Café in partnership with WAES, Digital Friends with the Digital Inclusion Team plus Homework Clubs, Mentors and Reading Volunteers. A closer relationship with Night Stars has been formed.
- Working with RBKC on a joint bi-borough opportunity where staff can volunteer to help local care homes with various activities during ‘Care Home Open Week’ from 26th June – 3rd July. Intro sessions for WAES are 05 July at Lisson Grove. Dates for the Pimlico campus are TBC. Volunteering for care homes during the week of 26 June to 03 July

- The Comms team are promoting volunteers week from 1 – 7 June, highlighting the volunteers stories and promoting the volunteering opportunities available.
- **Mini Marathon**
- We were one of six organisations invited to provide volunteers for the Mini Marathon. Volunteers were located at St. James Park and positioned at the finishing line of the race, distributing around 3,000 medals to children who set out from Horse Guards Parade. It was a fun and rewarding day for the volunteers.
- “All the volunteers were so kind, friendly and good spirited about helping each other. It truly feels like a family experience when volunteering together, come rain or shine. We all had such an enjoyable, fulfilling and positive experience and would recommend it as an amazing volunteering opportunity event”. **Fatima Kouira - Westminster Connects Volunteer**
- **St George’s Day Parade**
- Westminster Connects volunteers were thrilled to be part of the Royal Society St. George’s Day parade in Whitehall, providing stewarding support for the march to the Cenotaph. The volunteers welcomed visitors and after the ceremony, directed guests on route to the short service at Westminster Abbey. The organisers were impressed by the volunteers support and their welcoming and friendly approach to the public.
- “We were paired with new members of the team and deployed along Whitehall. It was a very moving and enjoyable experience. We chatted to visitors, those going to the Mini Marathon and Climate Change groups explaining about the service and Westminster”. **Sue Wood - Westminster Connects Volunteer**

#### Engagement and Consultation

- The Consultation Hub is now live on the Council’s website and features a number of current consultations.
- A list of key stakeholder organisations across each ward has been produced and will be shared with Councillors shortly.
- Teams are engaging regularly with the Quality Improvement Board with an officer level operational meeting ahead of the Board to provide additional support.
- A Consultation How To guide is being developed with the Consultation Institute. This is guide has key principles for staff to follow when approaching consultation.
- The consultation on the Charter for Community Participation has been completed and a resident's working group is being established with residents to create the Charter for launch in summer 2023.

#### Community development

- Community Priorities Programme - £600,000 has been awarded to 43 organisations (and 8 individuals) in 12 wards. 20 residents and community organisations were part of the panels reviewing the bids and recommending the awards. The projects funded include activities such as boxing, steelpan workshops, community planting, Zumba, children’s pottery, etc. 84% of the funding went to organisations, and 16% to individuals developing new projects.
- Our Westminster (the Register of Active Residents) since its launch (end of March 2023) have 102 residents signed up.

- Next step is to draft a training package to support their participation in council decision making. This will include safeguarding, how decisions are made in council/ governance and unconscious bias.

#### North Paddington & Maida Hill)

- The Programme has made good progress is on the verge of finalising its first year of project delivery.
- The May Partnership session of the North Paddington Partnership Board will focus on the proposed year one projects, which the Council has prioritised in partnership with the board members.
- A subgroup from the Partnership board will also focus on the community engagement to establish a clear framework and set of principles for the delivery of the programme.
- Works on the Maida Hill Market project are scheduled to commence in September 2023 after carnival, following a good indication of community support for the designs in the recent March/April consultation (82% of respondents either strongly supported or supported designs).
- The Council has also listened to feedback from the MET Police and external Partners to ensure safety suggestions were factored into designs.
- The Maida Hill Market Community Steering group held its 2<sup>nd</sup> in person session on 15 May 2023, focused on listening to community views on the ASB and management of the area. A host of actions were taken from the session and there was strong support to both continue session and widen the group to more members of the community.

#### Changing Futures

- Changing Futures is a DLUHC funded 3-year project in its final year.
- The team presented at the 'Making Every Adult Matter' conference to promote the systems change work being undertaken with the projects.
- The projects include the specialist team providing multiskilled support to young people experiencing multiple dis-advantage, blue light project which is working with change resistant drinkers and VAWG looking at systemic changes required to enable women experiencing multiple disadvantages to access domestic violence services.

#### Equalities

- Workshops are underway with services across the council to provide support around understanding who uses their service, and how to engage the community to improve access for all.