



Councillor Christopher Pearson - Executive Member for Housing, Health, & Culture

Report to Council on Tuesday 18 December 2018

Selby District Council Lifeline Team up-date

On 2 August 2018 the Executive supported an 18 month trial of a reconfigured Lifeline service following the loss of £111k funding from NYCC. This vital service is an integral part of delivering the Corporate Plan, enabling the Council to play a key role in supporting better outcomes for individuals, help reduce isolation and help manage demand across the wider health and social care system, supporting more people to remain independent in their own home.

The reconfigured service was launched on 14th December 2018. The service will;

- Operate 24/7 with an emergency out of hour's service available to customers. Each week a member of the team is on call. The council has provided a van which will be branded to promote the service.
- A new simpler pricing structure is in place that includes a unique offer of support via 'companion visits' if required by the customer.
- Promote Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) applications (following the integration into the Lifeline service) Performance in processing DFG applications has improved and is expected to out turn at 100% higher than last year.
- The service has achieved growth of 52 customers since April and has successfully retained 82% of customers who previously received Supporting People funding

The service has been restructured with no compulsory redundancies, 1 voluntary redundancy was accepted. The service is already growing with a net gain of 7.5 new customers a month. If this trend continues the service will generate a surplus by June 2019, eight months prior to the end of the trial period.

This month we will launch a comprehensive marketing plan which has been developed including promotional campaigns in council publications, the website, social media and targeted marketing through leaflets and posters.

(Leaflets will be available to handout at Council)

Compulsory purchase of an empty home

In January 2018 our Empty Homes Strategy and action plan was approved the action plan set out Selby's approach to tackling empty homes and how we planned to bring them back into use and improve the supply of housing across the district.

Officers aim to encourage those who own empty homes to bring them back into use voluntarily and so the approach is focused initially on engaging with the owners offering support, advice and, where appropriate, offering grants or the opportunity to make use of leasing schemes or other arrangements with housing providers.

Where, after repeated attempts we are unable to enter dialogue with an owner or where an owner refuses to consider bringing back their property to use, we will consider taking enforcement action.

The ultimate sanction is a Compulsory Purchase Order and a report requesting authorisation to progress with the compulsory purchase of a long term empty property was approved by the Executive.

The Property has been empty for over 20 years and complaints have been received from adjoining property owners and other members of the public concerning its derelict condition and its negative effect on neighbouring dwellings and the surrounding area. Bringing this property back into use will allow the property to be used as a much needed family home.

Tour de Yorkshire

Selby DC has successfully bid to host a stage of the Tour de Yorkshire in early May 2019 to shine an international spotlight on the town as part of the Selby950 celebrations. Work has begun on developing projects which engage the community and plan for widespread participation. Welcome to Yorkshire will bring their roadshow to Selby Abbey on 9th January, which will provide detailed route information and give advice to businesses and residents about how to make the most of the event. Representatives from SDC will also be on hand to provide information about the plans for Selby 950 celebrations and to talk about the opportunities to participate as well as what people's appetite about the range of arts, heritage and cultural events that will take place in 2019.

Selby 950

Next year is set to be a great year of celebrating the foundations of our fantastic Abbey and encouraging community pride. As part of this, SDC have agreed to deliver three highly participative and ambitious arts events as well as the Tour. The projects include – a mass singing event “Selby Sings”, a community parade to celebrate St Germain and an illumination of the Abbey. We will be working with a high quality, very experienced artist known for Hull City of Culture and York Curioser projects who has wonderful ideas for the event. There will also be a number of heritage events which we will deliver – these include a programme to share Selby's Hidden Histories. Funding applications to the Arts Council England and Heritage Lottery Fund have been submitted to enhance the projects. If all applications are successful, and including SDC's investment through Programme For Growth and local business commitments, the events should see investment of over £270,000 into SDC coordinated 950 events.

We want to encourage the community themselves to develop great ways to celebrate our place and a community engagement toolkit with Selby950 branding will be launched and can be seen by Members after the council meeting. There is already an exciting programme of arts, heritage and cultural activity which is being planned by our many partners, including music, dance, theatre, comedy and community events. Participating organisations include (although not exhaustive!) Selby Library, Selby Civic Society, Selby College, Drax, Selby Football Club and, of course, the Abbey. The Council will hear a poem at the meeting associated with Selby 950.

UCI World Road Race Championships and Para Cycle Event

2019 is not only a year to showcase the town but also the district. SDC has also been successful in securing UCI road race routes through the west of the district for the Women's Junior and Men's U23 races. The 9 day racing event also includes Tadcaster hosting a unique and highly inclusive para cycle event which will see para-riders from all

classifications of para-cycling race for the first time in a point to point competition, including those qualifying for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Tadcaster should see approximately 150 riders start from the town on Saturday 21st September 2019. Local community groups and Tadcaster Town Council have also joined the planning to make this a unique and inclusive day to remember. Further information is available on the UCI website and will be cascaded to Parishes about how to get involved in due course. SDC has committed £65,000 into supporting the para cycle event after a decision was made at the Executive meeting on 6 December 2018.

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