

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	26 th August 2022
Report Title	Isolation/Loneliness Within the Community (2022 Community Choices)
Agenda Reference	12
Author	Caroline Hunt, Community Development Officer

Officer's Recommendations:

1. To note the Isolation/Loneliness Within the Community (2022 Community Choices) Committed Activities & Spend to Date.
2. To note sustainable partnership options with third party organisations to address isolation and loneliness are ongoing.
3. To consider the list of suggested activities through to the end of the year.
4. To note the attached appendix listing details of costs for each suggested new project.
5. To approve the suggested new projects at an estimated cost of £5,334.00 to be met by Community Choices 402/4629.

Background

The Community Choices initiative for 2022 showed that reducing isolation and loneliness to be of upmost importance to our residents. To achieve this, opportunities and activities need to be created to reduce isolation within the community. The budget for this project is £12,000.00.

Committed Activities (Spend to Date: £4,570.40)

1. **Quiz Night** – held on 15th July 2022.
2. **Draycott Sports Camp** – support for children from the HAF project to attend afternoon sessions during the summer programme
3. **Community Choir** – signposting residents to the North Swindon Community Choir, which is starting at St John's Church Hall on 8th September
4. **Skate Jam** – hosted in association with ATB skate shop 3rd September
5. **Soft play mother and toddler session** - at Jungle Kingdom 19th September 2022 – provide transport and food for parent and children
6. **Allstarz football skills** - sessions for 6 weeks at Trent Road starting 5th September 2022
7. **Allstarz walking football** - sessions for the over 50s for 6 weeks at Trent Road starting 5th September 2022
8. **Connie the Covid Snake** – setting into concrete in the skate park in October half term 2022
9. **Exercise Classes** - Supporting exercise classes for over 40s by offering the room hire for free
10. **Graffiti workshop** – graffiti artist's time, plus support from youth worker and casual youth worker. Attendees create artwork over 4 workshop sessions then re-create artwork on graffiti wall in the skate park.
11. **Community Plot** - Cultivate the community allotment plot at Ventnor Close and plant spring crops during winter/ Spring 2022/23
12. **Curry, karaoke, and quiz evening** – 7th October 2022 provide a 3 course Indian meal, plus quiz and karaoke entertainment. Suggestion is to subsidise the cost of this



to allow residents to purchase tickets at a cost of £5 a head (instead of £10 a head). When residents book for the event their address and postcode will be taken to ensure they reside within the Parish.

13. Children's Christmas party at the Haydon Centre. Entertainment provided by Razzamatazz, refreshments will be provided for the children, along with a small gift.

Working Towards (Expected Cost £360.00)

1. **Ukrainian café** – setting up a twice monthly café at the Council Offices from October providing refreshments only initially

Suggested Activities for Consideration (Estimated Total £5,334.00)

1. **Park Yoga** – offer a 6 week introduction to yoga in one of our parks and open spaces. To be provided by Buzz Gym.
2. **Soft play session** - at a Swindon soft play centre for February half-term. The children's food would be provided by the soft play centre, as all Swindon soft play centres are part of the Holidays Activities and Food programme.
3. **Cream tea** - at the Council Offices for the over 60s
4. **Halloween event** – suggestion of purchasing pumpkins, families collect them from the office, carve them and send us a photo. Prizes will be offered to the winning entries.
5. **Christmas gifts for children on HAF funding** – advertise this opportunity, children come into the office to collect a gift
6. **Friends of Mouldon Hill** – help with room hire, refreshments, tools, etc.
7. **Christmas Parcel** - Provide an extra special Christmas gift for people eligible for food parcels.
8. **Introduction to martial arts** - for those over 50, provided by BEST
9. **Christmas lunch** - at the Toby Carvery for the Over 60s.