



Local Community Network

Levels and Moors LCN meeting notes – Thursday 5th December 2024, held online

Attendees:

Cllr Sean Dromgoole	LCN Chair
Cllr Tim Kerley	LCN Vice Chair
Cllr Emily Pearlstone	Somerset Council
Cllr Mike Stanton	Somerset Council
Cllr Richard Wilkins	Somerset Council
Kate Walsh	Community Council of Somerset
Cllr Amanda Chuter	High Ham Parish Council
Cllr Andrew Flower	Muchelney Parish Council
Claire Searle	Community Council of Somerset
Cllr David Vigar	High Ham Parish Council
Cllr Elizabeth Parfitt	Westonzoyland Parish Council
Fodo Higginson	SALC
Gerard Tucker	Langport Parish Council
Helen Barrington	Lyng Parish Council
Julia Gadd	Huish Episcopi Parish Council
Cllr Paul Baker	Middlezoy Parish Council
Cllr Steve Lawrence	Compton Dundon Parish Council
Viv Fouracre	Fivehead Council
Xanthe Waite	RSPB
Kate Hellard	LCN Development Manager
Emily Window	LCN Project Officer
Emmaline Kay	LCN Link Officer

1. Welcome and introductions

Chair of the LCN, welcomed everyone to the meeting, he advised the agenda for the evening and then invited apologies from those who could not attend.

2. Notes of the last meeting

Apologies were given on behalf of the LCN team, for the significant delay in distributing the notes taken at the Levels and Moors LCN meeting on the 18th September 2024. The notes were circulated just prior to the commencement of this meeting (5th December 2024) and so it was decided that at the next LCN meeting (6th March 2025), members will be invited to feedback on these notes, should anything have arisen that needs to be clarified.

3. Presentations from Health and Wellbeing (SALC) and from Community Council for Somerset (CCS)

Health and Wellbeing – Fodo Higginson

Fodo, the Community Health and Well-being Officer from the Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC), began by explaining that the funding for their initiatives comes from Somerset Council's public health money. The primary goal is to support and encourage local communities to engage in and deliver health and well-being projects.

Fodo identified several factors that can impact people's health and well-being, including culture, employment, education, environment, equality and diversity, health services, finance, housing, food and nutrition, physical activity, social connections, and transport. She emphasized that if any of these factors are lacking, it can negatively affect individuals and communities.

To encourage participation, SALC has secured funding and offers various grants:

- **Seed Grants:** These are small grants to help scope out ideas and identify local needs. For example, a recent seed grant was given to the Hestercombe Local Community Network (LCN) to explore youth provision across their area.
- **Smaller Grants:** These grants are up to £2,500 and are intended for smaller projects.
- **Larger Grants:** These grants can be up to £35,000, will require more evidence of need and collaboration.

Fodo highlighted that eligible projects must focus on health and well-being, identify a local need, and be new initiatives. She mentioned that existing projects could be expanded to new areas or address gaps in current services

Actions from this agenda item:

- Communities could identify local needs through surveys or consultations.
- Apply for seed grants to explore ideas and gather more detailed information.
- Collaborate with other organisations and stakeholders to strengthen grant applications.
- Ensure that projects are new or address gaps in existing services

Community Council for Somerset – Claire Searle

Claire from CCS provided an overview of the various roles and services offered by CCS, including village agents, social prescribing link workers, and support for unpaid carers.

She also discussed the new "Help Through Winter" agents, who assist individuals struggling with winter-related financial hardships.

Claire emphasised the importance of community engagement and the wide range of support services available through CCS. She provided insights into various health challenges and discussed potential collaborative efforts to address these issues.

The use of data to understand the health and well-being needs of the community highlight several key areas that can be particularly useful:

- Identifying health disparities and areas of need within the community.
- Tracking the progress of health and well-being initiatives.
- Informing the development of new projects and programs.

Actions from this agenda item:

- Share information about the CCS services and village agents with all LCN members to increase awareness.

4. Health Data profile from Sean Dromgoole

Sean presented data he had compiled from publicly available sources, covering health-related topics. He shared the sources of the data for further reference and encouraged a discussion on how to tackle the challenges faced by the community.

Health and Well-being Data:

Sean presented data on the health and well-being of the LCN area, highlighting the older average age of the population and the implications for health services. He discussed the deprivation index, noting that while the LCN does not have areas classified as severely deprived, it still faces significant challenges related to geographical barriers and living environment.

Primary Care Networks:

Sean explained the structure of Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and how the LCN is divided among four different PCNs. He provided links to detailed reports for each PCN.

He highlighted key health issues in the area, such as atrial fibrillation, cancer, dementia, depression, diabetes, heart failure, and osteoporosis, which are prevalent in the LCN.

Loneliness and Social Isolation:

Sean emphasised the severe impact of loneliness on health, equating it to smoking 15 cigarettes a day. He presented a map showing areas at high risk of social isolation within the LCN.

He called for a discussion on how to address loneliness and social isolation, suggesting that any community event could help mitigate these issues.

Actions from this agenda item:

- Review the data sources shared by Sean to gain a deeper understanding of the health disparities and social determinants of health within the community.
- Use the data to identify specific health needs and develop targeted interventions.
- Collaborate with other organisations and stakeholders to address these health challenges and improve community well-being

5. Working group updates:

The working groups will be meeting in the new year. Please see dates below.

Highways Working Group

16th January 2025, 11am online

27th February 2025, 11am-1pm at Langport Council office

Active Travel Working Group

16th January 2025, 7pm Online

6. Date and Venues of future meetings

Thursday 6th March 2025 – Venue to be confirmed

Thursday 19th June 2025 – Venue to be confirmed

Date	Action	Completed by
5/12/24	Set up Health and Wellbeing working group to discuss SALC seed funding by focusing on the below: - - Communities could identify local needs through surveys or consultations. - Apply for seed grants to explore ideas and gather more detailed information. - Collaborate with other organisations and stakeholders to strengthen grant applications. - Ensure that projects are new or address gaps in existing services - Use the data to identify specific health needs and develop targeted interventions - Collaborate with other organisations and stakeholders to address these health challenges and improve community well-being	LCN Link Officer/Health and Wellbeing working group

5/12/24	Share contact and information sheet from CCS	Claire Searle/LCN Link Officer
5/12/24	Review the data sources shared by Sean to gain a deeper understanding of the health disparities and social determinants of health within the community.	Health and Wellbeing working group/all