

13) Councillor Bird to the Executive Councillor for Communities

Can the Executive Councillor update Council on anti-poverty initiatives that aim to make children and families from low-income households more active, and to confirm what additional work in this area is to be proposed?

The Council has supported several physical activity projects, which aim to improve the health and wellbeing of low income residents. These include:

- Free swimming lessons for low income families funded from 2015/16 to 2017/18 through the Council's Sharing Prosperity Fund. In 2016-2017 free swimming sessions for toddlers and parents at the Kings Hedges and Abbey swimming pools attracted 2,864 total attendances by families on low incomes.
- Free exercise referrals for low income residents funded in 2017/18 and 2018/19 through the Council's Sharing Prosperity Fund. As part of the scheme, GPs at 7 surgeries (Arbury Road, East Barnwell, Nuffield Road, Cherry Hinton, Mill Road Surgery, York Street and Cornford House) can refer patients on low incomes to free exercise sessions at local gyms and leisure centres.
- Informal sporting activities have also been provided in Abbey and Arbury wards for the past 5 years with funding from the national Street Games programme. In 2016-2017 the programme attracted 5,673 total attendances by young people aged 11-24 years.

At Community Services Committee on the 15 March 2018, the Executive Councillor for Communities agreed to fund a number of further activities from the Sharing Prosperity Fund:

- Subsidised or free swimming opportunities – continuing the programme of free swimming lessons. This will include providing: 8 weekly sessions during term-time for toddlers and parents promoted through Surestart centres; top-up funding for school groups attending Abbey Pool, Kings Hedges Learner Pool and Parkside Pool to support beginners swimming by low income pupils; and swimming and water confidence lessons for BAME women on low incomes.
- Free exercise referral service – expanding the existing service to an additional 4 surgeries (Trumpington, Lensfield Road, Petersfield and Red House Surgeries) in 2018/19, bringing the total number of surgeries supported to 11.

- Street Games – continuing existing provision in Arbury and expanding into Kings Hedges and Trumpington. Weekly sessions will be provided for young people (11- 24 years) at leisure sites and multi-use games areas (MUGAs) in these wards. The sessions will provide opportunities in tennis, basketball, multi-sports, netball, gym, fitness classes, gymnastics, baseball and football.

In addition to these projects supported by the Sharing Prosperity Funds, the Active Lifestyles team have been at all the local neighbourhood festivals promoting sport and activities families and children can do within their local green spaces, and will be doing the same this coming community festival season.

Additional new opportunities are currently being finalised for family engagement as part of the Countywide engagement programme “Let’s Get Moving – Cambridge” to be rolled out in targeted neighbourhoods over the summer.