

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Christine Jones
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to her portfolio.

WIRRAL RESIDENTS LIVE HEALTHIER LIVES

I want to start my update to Members with important news about blood pressure levels in our borough. So far this year, an additional 1,613 blood pressures were checked via various community events. Of these, 1 in 3 were 'raised', with 3% (almost 50 people) of all tests falling into the 'urgent intervention required' category.

The Blood Pressure Beacon Practice pilot comes to an end in December 2018. This has been running for 2 years and was set up in order to drive improvement in the management of high blood pressure within a GP setting.

All health partners in Wirral are reviewing the findings and will be updating services and support to improve this important health issue.

I want to make Members aware of the Balls Road Extra Care Housing scheme, a development of accessible one-bedroom apartments in Birkenhead. These apartments are designed for individuals who require specialist, individualised and person-centred support. Assistive Technology is provided for each apartment and is tailored according to the individual needs and requirements of each tenant. Services are offered to people with disabilities to support them to live independently, with around the clock support, and with their own front door. Balls Road opened in July of this year and the majority of apartments are now occupied.

This is one of a number of developments, which are planned to ensure that people with a disability in Wirral have access to a greater range of supported accommodation and can achieve greater independence.

Our community connector service continues to do great work across the borough. Just in the past few months, 644 community groups have been supported, 7 sparks funds been awarded and 204 community events organised.

38 people have entered volunteering, 34 have gone into further education and 23 people have entered employment.

On 17th October, Connect us hosted the 'Wirral Soup' event, which allowed six community groups whom have previously received a sparks fund the opportunity to pitch their ideas to a groups of professionals, stakeholders and fellow community members.

During Alcohol Awareness Week, the Council's public health team have announced a significant reduction in the proportion of alcohol test purchases that resulted in the sale of alcohol to an actor pretending to be intoxicated.

The results come from Drink Less Enjoy More (DLEM), a multi-agency initiative aiming to prevent excessive alcohol consumption and related harms in nightlife settings. Read more in [Wirral View](#).

As part of a national campaign, Public Health England are warning that taking antibiotics when you don't need them puts you and your family at risk.

Antibiotics are essential to treat serious bacterial infections but they are frequently being used to treat illnesses such as coughs, earache and sore throats that can get better by themselves. Public Health England has relaunched the 'Keep Antibiotics Working' campaign to raise awareness of inappropriate antibiotic prescriptions. Read more in [Wirral View](#).

Finally, I would like to congratulate everyone involved at Healthwatch Wirral, which has won a national award recognising its Infobank service for providing health advice to patients and their families.

Developed in partnership with Wirral University Teaching Hospital, the Infobank service offers information on a wide range of services – from help quitting smoking to finding a care home for a loved one.

Now the valued service has been honoured at the 2018 Healthwatch Network Awards, which received a record-breaking 170 entries from over 100 Healthwatch teams this year.

Read more in [Wirral View](#).