

## **KEYHAM - A SUMMARY OF PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY – END OF PHASE 3**

### **1) INTRODUCTION**

It is now just over a year since the events of 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 in Keyham. The terrible events of that evening, and the trauma of the days, weeks and years that follow will never be forgotten.

Yet the response to the events in Keyham, from the community itself and the wider city of Plymouth and its partners has been inspiring, showing a collective desire to help and support. This report describes some of the projects and activity which have taken place. It also provides an update on the work of the Keyham governance group – A Healthier, Resilient and Safer Keyham and the proposed next steps.

We would like to thank everyone who has been involved in supporting the residents of Keyham and all those in the wider Plymouth community who have been affected by the events of 12<sup>th</sup> August. This includes the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and central government departments such as the Home Office and Departments of Health and Education, whose grant funding has enabled some projects to move forward at pace.

### **2) WHAT'S CHANGED IN KEYHAM?**

- 70 new street lights and two state of the art CCTV cameras have been installed
- £30,000 of natural play equipment has been provided for Alexandra Park and North Down Crescent
- The Shed in North Down Crescent Park has been brought back into community use
- As of 1st September, 2022 the Plymouth Together Fund has raised £101,178. The fund is ongoing so money raised will continue to be distributed to the families of the bereaved and the community
- Safe Families have been commissioned to work with 40 Keyham families over the next year via peer supporters/volunteers
- 5,000 copies of the second Safer Keyham newsletter were published and distributed to all residents in Keyham, Ford and the surrounding area
- Over £90,000 of funding to community activities and projects has been channelled via the Keyham Community Sparks Fund
- The Plymouth Together website <https://plymouthtogether.co.uk/> has been a source of information and updates for the community and partners
- Over 5,700 emails related to Keyham seeking advice or sharing information and offers of support have been sent to the Plymouth Together email address since August 2021.

There has been a broad range of other activity:

## **The natural environment**

The Keyham Greenspace Plan has seen the creation of a community orchard and hedgerow in Knowle Avenue, along with vegetation cutbacks and the installation of a new path; tree planting and the expansion of wildlife meadow areas in Knowle Avenue, Marley Park, Alexandra Park and North Down Crescent; a new wildlife flower area in Alexandra Park; and 'Mini-police' events with local schoolchildren involving wildflower seed sowing and daffodil planting.

## **Memorial**

In remembrance of those who lost their lives and the survivors a civic ceremony, vigil for the local community and a gathering for the wider Plymouth community took place on Friday 12th August 2022. The ceremony took place at St Andrew's Church. Family members of the bereaved, survivors and first responders on the scene were some of the attendees and the service featured music chosen by the bereaved families.

In the evening a vigil took place in Keyham in which candles were lit to remember the victims and the survivors. The first candle lit was made of recycled wax taken from some of the candles used at the first Keyham vigil. At the same time a gathering took place at the Hoe in which candles were lit and projections of young people's artwork from Keyham were displayed on the side of Smeaton's Tower.

## **Communications**

In advance of the 12-month anniversary the PCC comms team worked with local media outlets to discuss planned events and sensitivities, including the use of language. This followed expert advice from Victim Support. This resulted in a number of respectful and balanced news and feature items from local media.

On a daily basis the Plymouth Together website has been updated with additions to the Support and Care section, News and Events, Fundraising information and Safer Keyham updates.

## **Support**

The PCC communications team created a new webpage for young people <https://plymouthtogether.co.uk/whats-on-for-youngsters/> featuring forthcoming events in the Keyham and wider Plymouth areas along with links to help and support options.

Young Devon continue to work with young people impacted by the events – the project is running until well into next year. The service is open to taking referrals for any young person across the city aged 11-25 who has been impacted in any way.

Victim Support continues to offer support to anyone aged 18+ who feels affected by the events or any other trauma from crime within the area and the surrounding areas. The service links closely with other services, like Young Devon and Jeremiah's Journey, and the other support services around the community to make sure there is a 'no wrong door approach'.

## **Keyham Community Sparks Grant**

Three successful rounds of Sparks Grants have been awarded thanks to funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Devon and Cornwall. All of the successful applicants have been listed on the Plymouth Together website along with feedback from some of the applicants.

## **Community engagement**

A number of events have been held for the community. These have included a continuation of the Community Voices forums, a meeting to discuss the provision of activities for young people and workshops centred on the Keyham Greenspace Plan.

A Big Day Out event took place in April. Hundreds of residents attended a fun family day out featuring craft and sports events, children's activities, an Easter egg hunt, demonstrations from local groups, circus skills and face-painting. There was also an opportunity for residents to contribute to consultations on the future of the area. Similarly, many well-attended events for families took place over the summer.

## **3) LOOKING AHEAD**

As we move into the next stage of the Keyham Recovery Programme, and now we are passed the 12 month anniversary, it is proposed that the formal Recovery Programme is stood down; however with the clear intention that support for Keyham remains in place.

Strategic oversight of the Keyham recovery process will be maintained through the Community Safety Partnership, with the Service Director of Community Connections acting as the link Senior Lead Officer. Ongoing projects and pieces of work will, going forward, be built into the day to day life of the city and continue to be supported by key partners, making sure that residents can get help if they need it. These include:

- The Police continuing to have dedicated and enhanced resources operating in the area, at least until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023
- Neighbourhood Watch continuing to engage with and support local residents
- Wolseley Trust Wellbeing Hub to continue to offer support with a Wellbeing Hub Advisor, social prescribing, a counselling service, youth work and wider networks and activity in the community
- Community Voices Network to be held locally with local facilitation when/if necessary
- Safe Families will continue to work with up to 40 families until April 2023, delivering a new model of family support for those with a connection to Keyham
- The research team from the University of Plymouth will be working in the Keyham and Ford neighbourhoods during the autumn months to gather residents' feedback on the Home Office funded community policing and safety initiatives. The research will include a community survey, interviews and focus groups with community members, and workshop focus groups with young people. Any questions about the research can be sent to: [keyhamevaluation@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:keyhamevaluation@plymouth.ac.uk)
- The Plymouth Together Fund, hosted by Wolseley Trust, remains open and presently are dealing with live for support funding. As applications are still being received it has been agreed to keep the Fund operational until January, at which point the balance would be forwarded to the Drake Foundation (specifically their Children In Poverty Fund, for the Keyham area)
- The Plymouth Together website will be updated and maintained
- The Trauma Informed Plymouth Network aims to maintain a sustainable local network of trauma-informed practitioners to provide a supportive, reflective space for the key individuals who have been at the forefront of the community response in Keyham, Ford and North Prospect. Regular participants are from the local policing team, Keyham Neighbourhood Watch, Wolseley Trust, Victim Support and other local community groups. Over the next six months, there will continue to be monthly workshops. Participants have identified they wish to:

- Further develop their theoretical understanding of trauma
  - Continue to develop and practice mindfulness and emotional regulation strategies
  - Identify further creative tools for engaging with the community in trauma-informed ways
  - Consider the sustainability of the group.
- Keyham Green Places will continue to offer a range of activities and services:
    - Foodbank
    - Bingo
    - Martial Arts
    - WEA water colour painting
    - Dancing
    - Youth Groups
    - Elder Tree - Active Steps - gentle exercise sat down
    - Keyham Krafties
    - Pilates
    - Help with using Smart Phone, laptop or computers
    - Gardening.

In order to ensure support services remain cohesive, with information shared, the existing Healthier, Resilient and Safer Keyham Group will continue to meet as the Keyham Partnership Forum.

In respect of 17 Biddick Drive, the house clearance has been completed and Plymouth Community Homes is leading on the remedial works and then engaging with the local community and ward councillors as to future letting options.

The victims' families and other people impacted by the events in Keyham have clearly fed back that they do not wish to see a longer-term memorial in Keyham or the wider city and the Memorials and Remembrance Group has ceased to operate for now. If this situation changes and further memorialisation is required, this can be picked up through PCC Senior Lead Officer.

Finally, it is recognised that at key times (for example the inquests in January 2023) additional support services and infrastructure are likely to be required. The Council, led through the Community Connections team - but in close partnership and collaboration with Devon and Cornwall Police and the OPCC - will ensure planning meetings are convened and arrangements put in place.

It is acknowledged that communications will be essential over this period and the PCC Communications Officer, who has lead on the communications for the Keyham Recovery Programme, will remain in place until March 2023.

#### **4) CONCLUSION**

As we approach the end of the third phase of the Keyham Recovery Programme it is an appropriate time to stand down the formal recovery structures, with strategic oversight being passed to the Community Safety Partnership. It is fully acknowledged that the recovery process will be ongoing for many years to come and it remains of paramount importance that support services are accessible to the communities of Keyham now and in the future.