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COMMUNITY



Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Knowsley Better Together in action

Through its Knowsley Better Together approach, Knowsley Council continues to bring people and organisations together for the benefit of its residents and the wider borough – helping us support local residents and businesses as we look towards Knowsley’s ambitious goals for the future.

Despite the significant financial challenges facing local authorities across the country, Knowsley Council’s longstanding Knowsley Better Together principles and robust financial management is continuing to help the Council and its partners work together to support local communities to thrive.

The work of Knowsley Council and its partners continues to be underpinned by the belief that more can be achieved when organisations, groups and individuals pool resources, expertise and ideas and work together in line with its Knowsley Better Together principles:-

- Be a strong community leader and always champion Knowsley.
- Build better partnerships and work with others co-operatively to improve Knowsley.
- Spend locally, invest locally and recruit locally to build social value.
- Help people to be independent, doing more for themselves and each other.
- Prevent problems occurring or stop them getting worse.



People-centred councils
driving social innovation
putting people first

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- Listen to the community when making decisions..
- Use the best way of delivering services that leads to improved outcomes for Knowsley.

This Knowsley Better Together approach demonstrates how true collaboration with partners and co-production with communities drives forward improvements in Knowsley. It ensures that services, support, investment and much more is aligned to local need. In practice, this approach is embedded throughout the Council in all its work: from budget planning and service delivery, to staff inductions and resident engagement.

These principles have been essential in the ongoing delivery of the Knowsley Council Plan – with its vision to support those in need, develop inclusive skills and growth, and tackle the climate emergency. Within this context (and that of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the national cost of living crisis), the Council, working alongside its partners and community groups, has offered an extended model of bespoke and targeted support to local communities. Advice, services and support have been aligned to local needs, identified through an extensive consultation carried out to develop “The Knowsley Offer” – a co-produced directory of information, services, advice, facilities and more accessible in one place, aiming to help residents to thrive and not just survive.

Some examples of funded support include: -

- Support for community organisations to provide community-based food and essentials to residents in need.
- Housing support offered to residents in both social and private sector rented housing. A Registered Social Landlord Social Impact Fund supports social housing providers to extend existing support, such as fuel, access to food, and hygiene packs.
- Funding for local community and voluntary sector groups to provide advice to residents on finances. This includes a bespoke advice offer for people who are engaged with local health services and debt management support.

This support has been funded by the Council’s own investment of over £4.9m in a Knowsley Better Together Hardship Fund (complemented by the application of the Government’s Household Support Fund) – with plans now being implemented to create additional long-term support for people in the borough struggling with the cost of living.

In March 2024, the Council set a balanced budget for 2024/25 and – through its robust financial management and decision-making – was able to permanently invest £30.6m in key services and initiatives for the future. The investment package is possible due to the sustained growth of the Borough, which as well as enhancing the housing offer and attracting more businesses into Knowsley, has also helped to create jobs for local people.

Supporting the Cost of Living

Over **5,000** residents supported each month with food and household essentials

Over **5,000** households received fuel vouchers

Over **8,500** pupils receiving free school meals during school holidays

Over **5,000** children and young people access free activities during Easter and Summer school holidays

Visit www.knowsleynews.co.uk/cost-of-living-support

Knowsley Council

BETTER TOGETHER

Cost of Living Support

Included in the investment package is permanent additional funding to meet the growing demand for Adult Social Care and Children’s Social Care services, whilst simultaneously delivering a range of prevention and early intervention initiatives – designed to address issues at an early stage and prevent escalation. In addition to the permanent funding, over £3m of one-off investments have been confirmed to support:-

- Extended library opening hours.
- Environmental enforcement including fly tipping.
- Support for children with special educational needs and their families.
- Support for healthy school meals.
- Climate change adaptations to Council buildings.

Delivering better outcomes for local communities is a key priority for the Council and its Knowsley Better Together partners. A strong partnership approach, and strong leadership, is pivotal to success which is evident in Knowsley, particularly with how it has responded to the pandemic and the cost of living crisis as well as being able to invest in local support and services that are aligned to local needs.

For further information contact:

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