

CASE STUDY —

Peartree Steering Group

On the 29th of November 2023, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and Herts Sport and Physical Activity Partnership (HSP) held the inaugural Peartree Steering Group meeting at the Council offices. The objective of this gathering was to facilitate collaborative efforts through the Peartree partnership, with a particular focus on promoting physical activity. The aim was to identify any gaps in current provision, gain an understanding of the existing offerings, and establish referral processes for services and projects. Additionally, the group planned to determine the frequency of their future meetings. A steering group helps direct a project and is typically made up of representatives from partners. Represented partners for the Peartree Steering Group included;

- Herts Badminton Association
- Red Kite Support
- Herts Welcomes Refugees
- Herts Constabulary
- Peartree Councillors
- Sporting Inspirations CIC
- Herts Young Homeless
- Stevenage Football Club Foundation
- Hatfield Hyde Cricket Club
- Living Well with Isobel
- Community Safety, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
- Domestic Abuse, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
- Healthy Hub, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
- Tenancy support, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
- Sport Development, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
- Herts Sport & Physical Activity Partnership

The Steering Group began with a presentation delivered by Charlotte the Active Local Officer for Peartree from HSP, offering a comprehensive outline of HSP's strategy for Active Local and its role in empowering specific communities to identify their strengths. Additionally, it addresses local requirements and identifies areas where additional support, intervention, or capacity building can contribute to fostering a more unified approach to tackling inactivity. Afterwards, Milan Johnston, Sports Development Officer at Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, provided an update on the Council's activities and highlighted the opportunities for interested individuals and organisations to access grants and funding.

The outcomes of this meeting were quite significant. One notable outcome was the invitation extended by the Police Community Safety Officers to attend community events. This gesture aimed to enhance community engagement and foster trust and safety for the community. Moreover, Hyde Cricket Club gained valuable insight into the various measures that the Community Safety Team could implement in order to support communities and organisations dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour. Another positive outcome was the discussion of accessible mapping resources for organisations. This resource would enable these organisations to effectively utilise and direct residents to the necessary services. Additionally, a new partnership was formed between Stevenage Football Club Foundation and Herts Welcomes Refugees. This collaboration aimed to address issues related to physical activity needs in refugee populations and provide support to those in need.

Furthermore, there was a call from Councillors for partners to send promotional materials. These materials would be distributed among Peartree residents, promoting various services and opportunities available to them. From this initial meeting, important lessons were learnt. It was recognised that hosts should deliver less content in order to allow more time and space for partner updates and networking. This approach would ensure better engagement and collaboration among attendees.

Overall, the meeting yielded positive outcomes such as enhanced community involvement, improved support systems for organisations and the establishment of new partnerships. The learnings from this meeting will undoubtedly contribute to future meetings and foster continued growth and development within the community.