Glasgow Life Service Update: Hillhead Ward

Report to: Hillhead Area Committee
Date: 3rd November 2026

---

1. Purpose of Report

This report updates Hillhead Area Committee members on Glasgow Life youth provision, library services at Hillhead Library and Woodside Library, and Woodside Glasgow Club provision relevant to Hillhead Ward.

2. Youth Provision

The youth updates below are taken from the North West Youth Update dated 9 October 2026 and cover the North West of the city.

2.1 North West Youth Bank

Youth Bank is a programme in which young people are in control. Glasgow's Youth Bank is made up of three groups of young volunteers aged 12 to 18, based in the North West, the North East and the South of the city. These young grant makers fund projects and ideas developed by other young people across the city, giving young people the power to develop their own projects and their local communities. The groups meet regularly to explore their local communities' needs and to make decisions about grants.

In partnership with the NHS and the Glasgow Communities team, Youth Bank will be providing micro-grants to support young people to run community activities. Young people are being supported to take the lead, either by applying for a small grant to help run community activities or by becoming involved in the group that makes the decisions.

Youth Bank is currently looking for young people who are actively committed to making change in their communities.

2.2 North West Violence Prevention Partnership (VPP)

The North West VPP Tactical Support Group was set up in response to the continued and significant level of violence in the North West of Glasgow City. Its intention is to move towards a public health approach using a contextual safeguarding system of support.

Following the inaugural multi-agency meeting, it became clear that a separate Operational Group should be formed to achieve the Partnership's main goal of reducing violence in the community. The main objective of the Operational Group is to drive forward operational activities by sharing data and intelligence, identifying areas to target, and identifying the most appropriate agency or partner to take on each task, ensuring a collaborative approach.

Vision: To reduce the harm caused by violence in the North West of Glasgow City, maximising the safety of our communities.

Aim: To provide an effective operational response to issues and concerns identified by the Tactical Group, using the most appropriate resource or member of the partnership in order to prevent or engage those involved in violence within the community.

Objectives:

1. Engage children and young people to build resilience and reduce future harm from violence.
2. Support prevention and engagement activity with those impacted by violence across the North West of Glasgow.
3. Minimise the impact of violence on our communities by targeting priority areas of concern.
4. Develop intelligence with our partners and formulate prevention and collaboration activity.

2.3 North West Event Planning Group

Over the past six months, 12 young people from the North West have planned and delivered an event, which took place on 5 June from 6pm to 9pm at Partick Burgh Halls. A total of 260 young people registered and up to 300 attended on the night.

The activities were delivered in response to the young people's requests and included:

- cricket skills led by an experienced coach at the Partick cricket grounds
- challenges on a 20-foot dart board
- a DJ from SWG3 and graffiti art using cubes
- food, mocktails, board games, a clothes swap and a 360 photobooth with props
- instruments, singing and an open mic system upstairs
- a chill-out zone with the happiness kit, bean bags, music and fairy lights
- marketplace stalls hosted by partners, including the police, the Glasgow Life libraries team and DRC Youth Club.

Members of the group have been put forward for wider accreditation in SCQF Level 4 (Assist with an Event) and a Level 5 Leadership Award, in recognition of their work planning the event.

Possible future activity: following the Partick Burgh Halls event, the group is looking to host monthly themed nights to encourage young people to take part in a safe space.

2.4 Partnership Working with Maryhill Police

A six-week Police, Fire and Ambulance programme with Maryhill police is confirmed and will start in November. 'Pizza with the Polis' has also been identified as potential future partnership working with Maryhill police and is not yet confirmed.

3. Hillhead Library

Hillhead Library provides a programme of activities and cultural opportunities for children, young people and adults across the West End. Regular provision includes:

- Kids Craft Sessions for children aged 4 to 12
- a Teenage LEGO Club
- colouring activities for children and adults
- a monthly E-Offer and App Drop-In, which supports digital inclusion by helping customers access Glasgow Libraries' online resources.

3.1 Byres Road Book Festival

During 2026, the library took part in the Byres Road Book Festival, hosting 14 events over three days. Footfall over the festival weekend was 2,710. The programme brought authors, writers and audiences together and included:

- children's activities
- an appearance by Glasgow crime writer Callum McSorley
- creative writing activities connected to the Agnes Owens Archive
- an arts and culture discussion featuring Nicola Meighan and musician James Grant.

3.2 Bookbug and Summer Reading

Bookbug sessions have continued throughout the year, with strong family attendance. The library also delivered a summer reading scheme in partnership with the Scottish Book Trust, which was particularly successful.

4. Woodside Library

Woodside Library delivers a programme of activities supporting reading, creativity, learning and social connection across different age groups. Regular provision includes:

- children's LEGO and arts and crafts sessions
- Storytime for younger children
- seasonal holiday activities
- the weekly Cosy Crochet group, which provides opportunities for creative development and informal social interaction.

4.1 Glasgow Science Festival

During the summer, the library hosted a Glasgow Science Festival event led by Emily Dodd. The event used readings, demonstrations and songs to engage schoolchildren in exploring sound and musical instruments.

4.2 Collections for the Ukrainian Community

The library is taking steps to ensure its collections better reflect the needs and interests of the area's significant Ukrainian community. This includes developing access to relevant books and reading materials that support language, literature and cultural connections.

5. Woodside Glasgow Club

5.1 Swimming

The pool is 22.5m long and 11.5m wide. The swimming programme includes:

- recreational swimming
- lane swimming
- Family Float Sessions on Saturdays at 1pm
- free family swimming sessions during school holidays
- aqua aerobics, Monday to Saturday at varying times (see website).

Woodside is currently the only Glasgow Life pool to offer women-only swimming sessions.

5.2 Gym and Classes

The gym has recently been modernised with the latest Technogym equipment. The current class programme consists of Yoga, Pilates, LBT, Body Balance and Dance Fit.

A Ying Yoga class is in development and could be introduced in early November 2026.

6. Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Submitted by:	Jonny Howes
Job title:	Community Services Officer (Community Development)
Team:	Youth and Community Development Team
Wards:	10 Anderston/City/Yorkhill; 16 Canal; 11 Hillhead; 15 Maryhill.