

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SOUTH AREA COUNCIL

25th April, 2014

51. **Present:** Councillors Stowe (Chair), Andrews, Dures, Frost, Lamb, Morgan, Saunders, Shepherd, and R. Wraith.

52. **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

53. **Wellbeing Navigator Pilot**

The meeting welcomed the Chief Executive of Rotherham and Barnsley MIND, and Senior Health Commissioner from Barnsley Council and NHS Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group.

Members heard of the background to the project; that there was a risk of GPs medicalising social problems and over prescribing medication such as anti-depressants. A need for more early intervention and prevention was noted and a pilot was suggested to trial this way of working.

It was noted that two pilot areas had been selected, one in the North Area alongside South. MIND had won the contract for South and a brief resume was given of the work in which MIND is currently involved.

It was noted that the provision to be provided in the South Area will be guided by GPs, but it was envisaged that this could include one-to-one support, peer support, and signposting to universal and preventative services.

It was noted that this was a 12 month pilot, with a worker starting imminently working 25 hours in the area. Due to time constraints and due to the desire to build self reliance, levels of support would necessarily be limited. Given its pilot status it was noted that a full evaluation will be undertaken to assess its impact.

The meeting considered which GP practices would be involved in the pilot and it was noted that this included some outside the boundary but which would serve the South Area.

Members noted the need to ensure GPs had their full quota of staff; concern was expressed gaps in current resources could leave support lacking for initiative such as this.

Members discussed the need to link to existing provision, through the Mental Health Provider Forum, the Neighbourhood Networks, and to link to the 'One Stop Shop' project commissioned by South Area Council.

The meeting expressed their support of the project, but expressed their concern that, should the pilot finish abruptly, the needs of service users should be taken into account and appropriate support given. The meeting also requested that ongoing evaluation of the project feeds in to the Area Council at an appropriate juncture.

54. **Minutes of the meeting of South Area Council, held on 7th April, 2014**

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting of South Area Council on 7th April, 2014. It was noted that Cllr Lamb was also present.

RESOLVED:- that, subject to adding Cllr Lamb to the list of attendees, the minutes of the South Area Council, held on 7th April, 2014 be accepted as a true and correct record.

55. **Notes of the Ward Alliances**

The meeting received the notes from Wombwell, Darfield and Hoyland Milton & Rockingham Ward Alliances held in January and March, 2014.

RESOLVED:- that the notes of the Ward Alliances held in January and March, 2014 be received.

56. **Report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds**

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, referring to spend to date from Ward Alliance Funds and Devolved Ward Budgets.

It was noted that an approval had been given by Hoyland Milton Members to Springwood School from Devolved Ward Budgets. However it was noted that the school was actually in the Rockingham Ward. Hoyland Milton Members confirmed they were happy to support the project from their Devolved Ward Budgets.

RESOLVED:- that the report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds be noted.

57. **Community review**

A presentation was given by the Senior Local Support Officer and Local Support Officer for the South Area. The meeting heard about the outcome of Community Mapping in each of the Wards.

In Darfield around 40 community groups/organisations had been identified, 75% of which had been contacted, and with the exception of 1 group, all wished to be part of the Neighbourhood Network. The Neighbourhood Network for this area was hosted by Darfield Cricket

Club, who had held a 'Come and meet your community' event in November, 2013 and were developing a community website.

In Hoyland Milton and Rockingham over 50 groups/organisations had been identified and 50% had been contacted. All bar 2 groups, with another unsure, wanted to be part of the Neighbourhood Network. Forge Community Partnership had been agreed as the network host, and a 'Come and meeting your community event' had been held in February, 2014. It was noted that due to the limited success of the event a further event would be held. A community website was in development and community drop-ins were being arranged.

In Wombwell in excess of 40 groups have been identified and 50% had been contacted by the Area Team, with all but one wanting to be part of the Neighbourhood Network. It had been agreed that the network host would be We Love Wombwell, who were in the process of developing a website, had a social media presence and had developed an action plan. It was noted that a 'Come and meet your community' event had been held in January, 2014.

Members discussed how the use of a system of issuing Neighbourhood Alerts could issue messages via email, SMS or telephone, to keep residents regularly updated.

The meeting heard how 'What's on' guides were being developed for each of the Ward Alliance areas and would be finalised for distribution towards the end of May, 2014.

It was noted that within the South Area, 21 Ward Alliance meetings had been held, and 33 Ward Alliance representatives approved. Funding had been committed to 10 projects to the value of £12,605 with a social value added of £13,127 estimated.

The meeting heard how 38 projects had also been committed from Devolved Ward Budgets to a value of £40,512.

Members discussed the progress to date and gave thanks for the committed Area Team staff who had supported the work. Consideration was also given to the organisation of community awards events. These were thought to be very successful in recognising the work of volunteers, but Members noted the significant commitment of resources required to organise.

58. **Area Council priorities and commissioning update**

The South Area Council Manager introduced the item and provided an update on progress in delivering the priorities of the Area Council.

With reference to the 'One Stop Shop' project, Members were made aware that interviews had been held for the CAB Generalist Advice

Worker post, which had subsequently been offered to the preferred candidate. Recruitment of the Welfare Rights Worker was expected to take place in late May and it was hoped that the project would commence in early June, 2014.

The meeting discussed the proposed timetable for the drop-in sessions to be held as part of the project. Members recognised the need for the project to support individuals, whilst promoting self sufficiency.

Members considered the timelines for progression of the Tidy Team projects, noting that the tenders were currently out to advert. A start date in July, 2014 was expected.

It was noted that part of the specification included some capacity for the tidying of the gardens of the elderly and disabled. Concern was expressed about the criteria used to decide which gardens may receive the service. It was agreed for a number of Members to meet to discuss this in more detail. Cllrs Saunders, Frost, Stowe, Shepherd and Andrews expressed an interest in being part of this discussion.

With regards to the Environmental Enforcement project, Members heard that the project was now out to tender and a mid July, 2014 start was expected.

The meeting considered the finance allocated and noted an expected figure of £49,000 remained for 2014/15. The meeting discussed a proposal for a 'thought bubble fund', where smaller organisations would be invited to suggest new and innovative ways to deliver against the priorities within the Area Plan. It was made clear that the intention was that this would not be a small grants regime to continue existing work.

The suggestion was discussed in some detail, including how such a fund would work alongside, and be complementary to, Ward Alliance Funds and Devolved Ward Budgets.

It was agreed that a workshop session be arranged for Members to discuss options for the allocation of remaining Area Council funds for 2014/15, the outcome of which would feed into a future meeting of the Area Council.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the progress made in implementing the various projects to deliver the Area Plan be noted;
- (ii) that a workshop session be arranged for Members to discuss options for the allocation of remaining Area Council funds for 2014/15.

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Chair