



## **DEARNE APPROACH STEERING GROUP**

### **Notes of the Meeting held at the Salvation Army Hall Goldthorpe: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Members Present:** Derek Bramham (Chair), , Cllr Noble, Claire Dawson, Alison Sykes , Helen Jaggar, Gemma Cobby , Dianne McQueen, Carl Hickman, Jenni Hobson, Sarah Cartwright, Cllr Gollick, Cllr Phillips, Michelle Kaye, Mark Fisher, Amy Dixon, Jayne Mchugh, Lorna Lewis, Anna Tummon

**Apologies:** Cllr Gardiner, Alison Vint , Tom Smith, Cllr Johnson, Carrienne Stone, Wendy Lowder, Suzanne Story, Toni Allen

<p><b><u>Welcome and Introductions:</u></b> - A round of introductions took place</p> <p><b><u>Apologies:</u></b> - As listed above</p>	<p>Action By</p>
<p><b><u>Notes of Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> January</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Matters Arising –</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Big Local CCTV are now located on Straight Lane, High Street, Lacewood and St Andrews Square. The Scheme will be handed over to Steve Leonard at BMBC has the people that were previously monitoring the cameras had been contacted directly and this caused issues for the group. Referrals with regards moving the cameras have to be based on need but people could request moves as 10 more moves have already been paid for.</li> <li>2) After the Dearne Approach letter was sent out to GP practices one of the practice managers had not been in touch with BewellBarnsley.</li> <li>3) Cllr Noble is still hopeful with regards the return of the bin scheme to the Dearne</li> </ol>	

## **Discussion Items**

### **Michelle Kaye**

Michelle discussed welfare reform and the changes with regards universal credit. She also spoke about the responsibilities of her team, the homeless housing options team and some of the issues that the team deal with:

- Benefit cap has been lowered again,
- Spare room subsidy
- Council tax

The team have written to everyone that these elements had an impact on, some families have been impacted on all of the above.

HJ and SC working on an exemption policy and once complete will go to a members briefing

MN suggested that there needs to be a strong message going out to those having difficulties and getting into debt. HJ to provide a contacts sheet to be shared with the community

There were already 600+ people on universal credit in Barnsley and there have been no major issues. However nationally rent arrears etc have gone up. Universal Credit will be rolled out to all new claimants on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July. It takes about 6 weeks to do a new claim and all claims are paid 4 weeks in arrears. However BMBC do have an SLA with DWP to assist with budgeting and getting applicants online.

Homelessness- an increase in people accessing the service. The "housing advice service" main focus is on prevention so its key that people access the service early as more can be done for the individual. Its far harder to stop the eviction process at the latter stages, so the key message is to get people to the service early. MK to attend the landlords meeting.

### **Housing**

**Regeneration** - SC informed the group regarding progress in Goldthorpe. Its hopeful that the houses on Beever Street will not have to go through the compulsory purchase route, the team are just waiting for written confirmation of this. The team are working with Bernslai homes in order to re house the tenants. Bungalows will go on the site with a start date of October.

**Housing growth**- There is an increase of interest in empty properties within the Dearne. Two areas have been identified for redevelopment and the team are currently looking at funding options. The development of the Washington road site is on hold at the moment whilst the viability gap is looked at. SC to keep the group updated.

**H.Jaggar**

**M. Kaye**

**S. Cartright**

**Bernslai Homes**- supporting tenants and the “ you tenants your say” initiative is going well. From the 24<sup>th</sup> of April the team will be doing the 100 worst garden scheme. They will be looking at the gardens that most need attention and liaising with the occupiers to get them cleared. The service are also doing some youth safety events. The team are working with the scouts at Goldthorpe in order to get them integrated into the community. They are also working with low level anti-social behavior and doing a lot of joint agency working.

### **Environment**

Amy and Jayne presented their performance report in relation to private sector housing. They had made contact with 232 premises the last quarter. Identified 18 vulnerable households, 8 of which needed further support from other agencies. They also supported 62 households with waste on their premises.

### **Bewell Barnsley**

Suzanne tabled a programme of events that Bewell would be delivering over the coming weeks. Carl also informed the group about the letter that had been sent out to the GP regarding referrals to the service. One practice contacted the service and have now established links. Group members said that this needed flagging higher up, and Carl stated he had been asked to compile a report for the SSDG.

### **Healthwatch**

Lorna has taken over this project from Carrienne. The project is aimed at examining the DNA rates to Doctors surgeries. She's compiled a couple of surveys and is aiming to get around 350 filled out. A report will be ready by the 9<sup>th</sup> of August based on her findings. She asked the group to feedback any suggestions to the document.

### **Salvation Army**

Alison flagged that there were many younger people that were not claiming benefits and did not really know what to do with this. She was still receiving surplus food from Morrison, Greggs and Tesco. The next working families foodbank is 9.30-11am on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March.

### **Big Local Goldthorpe**

The housing project is still going well and they have their first tenants in already. They have assisted the Broadwater group, snap tin café and held drop ins at the library. Mark passed around the Dearne community Arts festival flyer which will take place 1 & 2 of September at the Dearne Playhouse 11am-5pm

### **Big local Thurnscoe**

They have purchased two houses in Thurnscoe and intent to refurbish then sell straight on, but will rent out if the market is not right.

BCB are holding an apprenticeship training programme information day on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March at Thurnscoe library. They are also in the process of purchasing some outdoor gym equipment for Houghton Road running track

They will be holding a celebration event on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April at the community centre on Houghton Road. The coal tub they have purchased still needs to be installed but they are having issues regarding permissions so are waiting for assistance from highways

They will be planting saplings at Thurnscoe Rezza with DVLP hill school and Thurnscoe east angling club. They are also doing their annual fishing competition on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July for 4 weeks. The Big Local beech party will also be on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August.

### **CRT**

The Dementia project is going well and Gemma is working with local businesses in order for them to become dementia friends. Gemma been speaking to community members with regards the enabling fund but no one has come back with any ideas as yet.

### **Area Council**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of August the team have been working with health providers and will be hosting an health event at the renaissance center. Twiggs have been successful in winning the contract for the environment, education and volunteer service from April onwards. A meeting has been arrange to meet a landscape architect in order to provide drawings for the access route on to the site. The Dearne development fund panel continues to fund some great projects in the Dearne area. Such as GDG health events, the allotment, CAB, Dial, Alzheimer's society and more

### **Phoenix Futures**

Snap tin café is now in operation. There is also a group talking about doing some mindfulness sessions. Disc are taking over from April the 1<sup>st</sup> but there will be a link into this meeting

<b>Any Other Business:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landlords event on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 6-8pm at Barnsley Metrodome</li> <li>• Well done to Ward alliance across Barnsley for winning the community involvement award</li> </ul>	
<b>Date of Next Meeting – 15 May 2017</b>	
<b>Date of Future Meetings– To be held at 4pm in the Salvation Army Hall</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2017, 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017, 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2017, 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2018, 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	